

Princess Kayla- part II

Kayla looked out the window of the carriage as it crossed the drawbridge away from the castle and headed down the dirt road. She was leaving the castle to think things over and as the carriage moved slowly down the road, she turned and looked out the window for one last look at the castle before it disappeared behind the bend in the road.

As the carriage jostled down the road, Kayla's mind wandered back to a few days before, when her and Prince Kristopher were walking in the Queen's garden. The Queen's garden reminded Kayla of her first home, long ago. She remembered tall gray stone walls, a fountain that tinkled with the music of water cascading over the sides, and flowers of all kinds.....but there was one flower in particular.....sweet pea's. Kayla's eyes filled with tears as she remembered her first Mom picking sweetpea's and telling Kayla that she was her "Sweetpea". All the memories were so vivid, yet so distant. Her first home had long halls, big rooms, and draperies that moved in the breeze. Kayla was only a puppy when she lived there, but she remembered the love her first Mom showered on her, reading to her, teaching her tricks and teaching Kayla how to dance. All that had changed though, when one night, one of the servants had snuck into her room and taken Kayla from her safe haven.

The new people she went to live with loved her too...just not like her first Mom. Then one night, the evil Ludwig had come to her second home. Ludwig killed her second Mom and Dad and had snatched her up and taken her to his puppymill. There were lots of yorkies there and the evil Ludwig had thrown Kayla into a cage with several other yorkies. Like her, the other yorkies were scared too. Evil Ludwig would come around and hit the cages with a big stick and laugh when the yorkies cowered and flinched. Food and water was scarce.....and there was not much of it when Ludwig did give them something to eat or drink. The yorkies got skinny and sickly, and their coats began to fall out from filth and neglect. The light in Kayla's brown eyes slowly began to diminish.

Kayla shook herself free of her daydreams, and looked at the scenery around her through the carriage windows. The grass was lush and swaying in the breeze, the trees were filled with fruit, and the sky was clear and blue...it was a beautiful day. Life was changing, and Kayla could only hope it was for the better. She loved Prince Kristopher so much, and Queen Karyn and King Marc treated her as one of their own...yet something was still missing.

Kayla's journey was taking her to the home of Lady Lee, Lord Ern and Tara. Tara and Kayla had become friends since they were captured by the evil Ludwig, and Kayla was going to spend a few days with Tara. Kayla was hoping the time away from the castle would help her find out who she truly was inside. The four of them would return in a week's time as King Marc and Queen Karyn were holding an engagement gala for Prince Kristopher and Kayla.

Kayla and Tara spent the next several days together, talking about Prince Kristopher and Kayla's doubts about who she really was. The time was relaxing and the calm and quiet filled Kayla's heavy heart. The days were passing quickly and soon it would be time to return to the Kingdom of King Marc and Queen Karyn. Kayla had made her decision...she was not worthy of Prince Kristopher and she could not marry him. Now, she had to break the news to Prince Kristopher.

Meanwhile, back at the castle, the preparations were in full swing for the Engagement gala. The servants were rushing about from room to room polishing and cleaning everything, and fresh flowers began to fill the rooms with their heavenly scents. Heady smells of roasted pork and beef permeated the kitchen, mingled with the smell of freshly baked apple and cherry tarts, roasting potatoes, and freshly baked bread. Some of the invited guests had begun to arrive, including Prince Ian and Princess Anna. Prince Ian had kept his promise to King Marc when they had met outside of the village of Mill to search for Prince Kristopher. Prince Ian and the King had been friends for years, and the two enjoyed each other's company.

Queen Karyn and King Marc greeted Prince Ian and Princess Anna at the entrance to the castle. King Marc hugged Prince Ian and kissed Princess Anna's hand, "We are so glad to see you both. Please come in!" Prince Ian placed his hand on the back of Princess Anna's waist as they moved into the royal hall. Princess Anna smiled and said, "Thank you, your highness, it is an honor and a privilege to be in your home." Queen Karyn graciously moved forward and offered to escort Princess Anna to her suite for a short rest while the King and Prince moved off to the study. Queen Karin's sharp eye noticed that the once beautiful Princess was unusually pale and her eyes were sad. The two women walked slowly down the hall and up the sweeping staircase, talking as they made their way to the chambers the Prince and Princess would occupy. Princess Anna asked the Queen, "Is it true, that his Highness found Prince Kristopher and freed him and many other yorkies from an evil puppymiller?" I seek my own precious yorkie who was stolen from me, perhaps my missing Kaylen is among those you have rescued?" There was a desperate note in Princess Anna's voice, and Queen Karyn tried to soothe her, "When you have rested, we will go and see all the

yorkies. If your Kaylen is here, she is safe with us. Come, get some rest first, then we will go and look. I will have refreshments brought to you so you can quench your thirst from your long trip". The Queen escorted Anna into her chambers, and promised to come back for the Princess in an hour's time.

Queen Karyn went back downstairs and ran into her husband and Prince Ian. The men were deep in conversation, but looked up when they saw Queen Karyn. King Marc explained to his wife, "Prince Ian is worried about Princess Anna. She has been so sad ever since Kaylen was stolen, and her heart is broken. We must try and cheer her up. The Princess is hoping that Kaylen is among the yorkies that we brought back from the Evil Ludwig's....but the Prince has already looked, and Kaylen is not here. Queen Karyn nodded, "Yes, Princess Anna is hoping that her Kaylen is here. It will be very difficult to break the news to her, that her beloved yorkie is not here." The Prince replied, "I am not sure that my Princess would even recognize Kaylen as she was taken from us so long ago – when she was a puppy. We had a suspicion that one of the servants had taken Kaylen, but we were never able to find evidence to support that theory. Perhaps my Princess will open her heart to one of the yorkies that is here, and find that special one to bring back the shine in her eyes." The Queen nodded, but she knew that Princess Anna's heart would not be mended so quickly.

Lady Lee, Lord Ern, Tara and Kayla were in the carriage on their way to the castle. Lady Lee had sensed Kayla's reluctance to return to the castle, and had spent the last hour coaxing Kayla to attend the Engagement Gala. Lady Lee patted Kayla comfortingly, "Everything will be all right Kayla, just wait and see. Kayla nodded her head, a dreaded feeling in the pit of her stomach. Tara reached over and gave Kayla a big kiss, "Mother is right, it will all be okay!!"

The guests were beginning to gather in the Grand Ballroom. King Marc and Queen Karyn were dressed in their finest and looked every bit of a royal couple. Queen Karyn's gold ball gown glimmered when she walked, the light reflecting off the cascades of silky like material. Both mingled with their guests, smiling and making small talk as they went around the room. Queen Karyn spotted Princess Anna and Prince Ian coming into the room and walked toward the young couple, "Princess Anna, you look beautiful", exclaimed the Queen, as she reached forward and gave Anna a small hug. "I'd like the two of you to meet my son, Prince Kristopher", as she flagged Prince Kristopher from across the ballroom. "Prince Kristopher walked regally over to his mother, "Mom, have you seen Kayla?" The Queen replied, "Not yet my son, but I'm sure she will be here shortly!! I'd like you to meet Prince Ian and Princess Anna, they are

very special friends of ours.” Prince Kristopher bowed, and put his paw upward, “Prince Ian, Princess Anna, it is wonderful to meet you both.”

Prince Kristopher scampered off to try and find Kayla. He was excited to see his beloved after a week’s time, and when the dancing started, he wanted to show everyone the new dance Kayla had taught him in the garden earlier. He looked around the ballroom and spotted Tara. “Tara”, Prince Kristopher called, “Where is Kayla?” Tara curtsied to the Prince and replied, “She is coming, what and see!!” A hush fill over the room, and everyone turned to see Kayla coming down the staircase followed by Lady Lee. Her coat was full and shiny and her eyes sparkled as she looked over the ballroom. Never had she seen such a magnificent room filled with so many people. Kayla spotted Prince Kristopher among the guests, and despite her resolve to break the engagement off, she felt the tremor in her heart when she looked at her handsome Prince. Prince Kristopher came up to Kayla and kissed her paw, “You look beautiful Kayla....I am so happy to see you”. The Prince leaned over and gave Kayla a kiss on her ear.

The ballroom was a buzz once more as people started to mingle and talk. The laughter and merriment was evident in the room, as people and yorkies together shared in the festivities. Dinner was served on long tables covered in white cloths. Platters of pork and beef surrounded by roasted potatoes, fresh bread, and roasted corn filled the tables as guests ate heartily of the fare. The wine flowed generously, and crystal bowls of clear cool water were put out for the yorkies. Once dinner was complete, the servants rushed to remove the tables so that the guests could spend their evening dancing together.

Kayla was getting anxious as she still had to break her engagement from Prince Kristopher. The Prince was very attentive to Kayla, but he had not let Kayla get a word in edgewise as he excitedly talked about their upcoming marriage. Kayla touched Prince Kristopher on the shoulder, “My Prince, I need to talk to you.” “Prince Kristopher smiled, “Later Kayla...please let’s dance. I want to dance with you like you showed me in the garden.” Kayla smiled as she remembered Prince Kristopher in the garden trying to learn the complicated dance steps she knew...the poor Prince had four back feet instead of two...but by the end of the lesson, he had gotten the dance to perfection. Kayla and Prince Kristopher went out on the dance floor and began to move in rhythm with the music. Prince Kristopher showed off his newly learned dance steps, and together the two danced gracefully across the ballroom. The dance floor cleared as people stopped to watch the two yorkies.....in awe..except

for one person...Princess Anna. Princess Anna grabbed her husband's arm and pointed to Kayla and Prince Kristopher, "Look, she exclaimed, that is the dance I taught my precious Kaylen!!!" Prince Ian turned to watch the two yorkies on the dance floor, and his Princess was right..those were indeed the dance steps Anna had taught Kaylen as a puppy. Tears started to trickle down Princess Anna's face as she exclaimed, "I miss my Sweet Pea so much."

Kayla stopped on the dance floor in mid swing, and Prince Kristopher toppled over as he went to grab Kayla, and she was not there!!!! He tumbled several times before sliding to a halt, and when he looked up he saw Kayla standing in the middle of the ballroom with a strange look on her face. She had heard someone say, "I miss my sweet pea" but she could not find that person in the sea of people and yorkies. She ran to Prince Kristopher and said, "I know I heard a voice say "I miss my sweet pea" but I cannot find that voice. "Who said that?" Prince Kristopher shook his head as he said "I heard nothing, but let us find out." Prince Kristopher stood up and in a loud voice asked "My Kayla heard someone say they missed their Sweet Pea so much – Who was that person?" A hush fell over the room as everyone looked around. Princess Anna stepped forward and apologized to Kristopher, "I am so sorry Prince Kristopher, I was watching you and Kayla dance and it brought back memories of my lost Kaylen, I did not mean to speak so loudly!!" Kayla walked over to Princess Anna and said "I was stolen from my Mother long ago, she is the one who taught me that dance. My mother told me it was a special dance because no one knew the steps except the two of us...How do you know that dance?" Princess Anna looked closer at Kayla and exclaimed "You are my long lost Kaylen". Princess Anna put her hand to her mouth and fell on the floor in a dead faint. Kayla went over to Princess Anna just as Prince Ian reached for his wife. "Mother, is that you?" whispered Kayla!!!!!!!!!! Prince Ian patted his wife gently on the cheek to try and revive her. One of the servants rushed off to get smelling salts for Princess Anna. Prince Ian turned to Kayla and looked closely at the beautiful yorkie "Oh my God!!, he exclaimed in a hushed voice.

Stay tuned - Is Princess Anna really Kayla's mother and will Prince Kristopher and Kayla get married?