

This story is dedicated to Dr. Karen Tobias and her research with liver shunts at the University of Tennessee. Her dedication and hard work to find the genetic marker that causes liver shunts is greatly appreciated by those of us with liver shunt dogs and the Yorkshire Terrier community. We hope this story will help raise funds for the UT Angel Fund so Dr. Tobias can continue her work.

Queen Karyn

By Donna Schmack-Rose

The castle sat atop a grassy knoll, and the pink and purple of the sunset outlined the silhouette of the majestic home. To the onlooker, the castle held warmth about it, and even in its enormity, the castle had a family feel.

Queen Karyn was small in stature, yet elegant in her emerald green gown, with her beautiful silky brown hair cascading in curls down her back. Her hands were tiny, but one could see the strength and gentleness in her slim fingers. The Queen paced in her chambers, wringing her hands in despair. Her only son, Prince Kristopher was missing and no one knew where he had gone. The King had called his men together and they were out searching the vast land for any sign of the beloved Prince. Night was beginning to fall, and yet the beautiful Queen had heard no word from the King.

A gentle knock on the chamber door made the Queen swirl around to see who was entering her chambers. Her personal maid Leah entered into the room with a curtsy, “Your highness, I have come to light your candles and start the fire in the fireplace. It will be a cold night tonight, and you will need the warmth.” The Queen looked at Leah and in a voice filled with anxiety said “Leah, is there no word from my husband?” Leah shook her head, and the soft dark curls that fell around her shoulders moved in a soft hush across her back, “Nay my Queen, nothing yet. Sir Romeo and his men are standing guard tonight, and they will come to us immediately if they hear anything.” The Queen smiled at Leah “This castle is so filled with love, and I am blessed to have all of you at my side. I know everyone is worried about Prince Kristopher, and I know in my heart that the King will bring my son back to me.”

Leah brushed away the tears that were filling her eyes, “Queen Karyn, I know your heart is filled with sadness right now, but there is someone who needs your help. Bruno is ill and he needs your ministering.....you are the only one who can see to his ails.” The Queen walked to Leah and grabbed her hand, “Why did you not tell me earlier that Bruno is ill again, of course we must tend to him. Take me to Bruno now, he needs me!!” The Queen moved quickly and pulled Leah behind her as they made for the door exiting her chambers.

Leah and the Queen rushed through the stone corridor to the steps leading down to the main hall. Leah lead the way through the kitchen and out into the castle courtyard. Both women moved with haste as the cold chill of the evening started to seep through their skin. Leah opened the door into the servant’s quarters, and took the path to the left

leading down a dark hallway. She stopped in front of the second door, and opened it into the room. Bruno lay on his side, his breathing labored. The Queen knelt in front of the young yorkie, and placed her hand on his side. She gently examined Bruno, and said softly to Leah, "His breathing is labored, and he is in pain. We can wait no longer, his liver shunt is killing him, and we must open him up and try to close the shunt off. I have been working on a ring that will go around the shunt, and hopefully this will make him well. Run, and get me help so that we can take Bruno to my healing room where we will do the surgery.

The Queen rolled the sleeves up on her gown as she moved around her healing room preparing for Bruno's surgery. She paused, and picked up the miracle ring that would go around Bruno's shunt. She had spent hours upon hours working on this ring, and she knew in her heart that it was Bruno's only chance of survival. The Queen looked up towards the ceiling and closed her hands together in prayer, "God, you have guided me to make this ring for Bruno, please let this ring work. Bruno is so young, and he has so much life left to live. I pray to you to help me make Bruno well again." Word spread quickly through the castle, that Queen Karyn was opening Bruno up to put in her magic ring. A crowd of servants had gathered outside of the Queen's healing room. Each spoke in whispered hushes, praying to God and knowing that Bruno was in the Queen's skilled hands. Their hearts filled with love for their beloved Queen and their young Bruno.

The crowd outside the Healing room continued to grow. Minutes went by like hours, and the crowd quietly waited. The door remained shut, yet no one moved to leave. Finally, the creak of the door could be heard above the hush, and as the light from within the room spilled out, Leah appeared. "Queen Karyn has finished and Bruno is starting to wake. We think the magic ring is working, but Bruno will need to rest and give his body time to heal. You must be still so as not to disturb Bruno....now, off with all of you and let Bruno rest. The Queen and I will stay by his side, and if there is any change, we will let all of you know.

The faces in the crowd lit up, and the smiles turned to quiet jubilation. The crowd moved away from the door, and went into the courtyard. The screams of joy and happiness amongst the people could be heard, but not inside the healing room. "Quiet All, I hear something" yelled one of the servants. The crowd immediately fell into silence as everyone listened. "Yes, yes, I hear the clip clop of horse's feet, run and open the gates, the King has returned". Sir Romeo's men scrambled to lower the gates and everyone rushed out the castle entrance to see the King approaching with his men. "Look, said one of the servants, "The King has Prince Kristopher with him, and there are more..."Look at all the yorkies the King has brought back with him!!!!"