

And They Lived Ever After Act: III

“All Loose Ends Tied”

Created & Written by:
SILVERBACK

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Published By: TATTOOED APE Publishing

Printed in the United States of America
1st Edition / Printed: **INSERT DATE** 2022

ISBN-13: 9798781559435

Dedicated To:

Everyone who stayed with me from Book: One to the end. To everyone that shone a light for me to follow during my darkest hours, you all were my beacon!

You guessed it it's time for:

Another Personal Note From The Author:

Attention Readers: As you know I gave you all And They Lived Ever After Book: 2.5 in 2018. Wow 2018 that seems like that was ago considering I was the one at the beginning of Book: 2.5 that said " I didn't want to leave you guys hanging for a year like someone else who will go unnamed." and that's exactly what I ended up going. It really feels like a lifetime ago and with everything that we've gone through it probably is. We've seen Presidential Impeachment hearings, Celebrity deaths by the boatload and a global pandemic that we are still facing today. Before I go any further I would like to take a moment to say "Thank You"! Thank you for all your continuing support and Thank you for your patience. I took some time off to deal with some issues both mentally and physically and it wasn't fair to just leave you all hanging like that and for that I humbly apologize! But I'm back now and better than ever and I promise all of you who purchased and read Books: 1, 2 and 2.5 that the conclusion will be "OFF THE CHAIN!"

Now that I got that off my chest let's get this long awaited show on the road!

So guess what everyone?...

Book: 3 IS FINALLY HERE!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Silver", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ok folks lets Rock 'n Roll!!

ALL LOOSE ENDS TIED

BEING THE FINAL ACT
OF

And They Lived Ever After

BOOK THREE

Chapter 1



elcome everyone to the much anticipated and long overdue conclusion to And They Lived Ever After, Book: 3! So we left off with everyone in the Golden Kingdom fast asleep due to the spell of the wicked Witch Sisters. Governor Witless is now not only dealing with the blow back from winning the election and his private business dealings, he is now facing IMPEACHMENT! This Poor guy can't catch a break! That's right our esteemed newly elected official is about to be ousted on his political hind part by one of the highest-ranking female elected officials in our kingdom's history. She's also one of the most callous and might I say treacherous bih... women to ever dwell in all the realms, Gretelosi.

It was said that it was Gretelosi who had her twin brother Hanselosi investigated and incarcerated for his involvement in the Candy Cane Real Estate Affair that resulted in the swindling of millions of Gold pieces and the killing of a crone. Now Gretelosi is smack dab in the center of removing Witless from office citing unbecoming and unethical practices and behavior. Everything from his stance on banning illegal Gummies from entering Candyland to his supposed involvement with the dreaded and unscrupulous Boogeyman the Baba-Yaga.

But aside from all the drama coming from Gretelosi, Witless is dealing with a far worse situation a dreaded scourge that has cast a dark cloud over all the realms, a terror that has enveloped the entire kingdom to the North and West, the horrible sleeping curse now being called the "Nocturna Virus" GOBED-19.

Who am I? How rude of me, I'm just rambling on and on and I didn't even have the common courtesy to introduce myself. Hello everyone my name is Cricket, James E. Cricket and due to the aforementioned supernatural treachery I will be taking over the duties of narrator.

...

Wait, no fanfare? No trumpets? My contract clearly states: Fanfare at every initial introduction! Well I guess with everything going on I can let it slide this time. So the author, the talented "SILVERBACK", asked me to take up the narrative duties for the foreseeable future. So I guess you guys are stuck with me. Now let's get you all caught up on everything, we'll just call it a refresher course ok?

So the 3 Pigs and the Hunter were both being sued by Wolves, Jack was in Jail for breaking and entering, Rapunzel was caught in the middle of a romantic triangle that got her snatched bald. Sleeping Beauty came down with a nasty case of insomnia and through some bad advice from a face in the mirror sought help from a quack. The 6 Dwarfs tore the house down, and the lonely, good King Midas found love. The Muffin Man croaked, The Tooth Fairy lied and Witless was the people's choice, oh and Red had her baby! Well kind of...she had a baby. Now we're all on the same page, if not please take a moment to visit www.tattooedapepublishing.com and purchase ATLEA Books: 1&2 I'll wait.

...

Oh don't forget to grab 2.5 as well, it fills in some of those major key points.

Now that everyone's purchased their copies, let's address the current matter at hand the: Global Occurrence Bringing Eventual Dormancy more commonly known as: GOBED-19.

As you all probably remember while everyone gathered at the Gubernatorial celebration in the Great Peppermint Hall the Wicked Witch Sisters met in secret to cast a most heinous plot releasing a sleeping spell. The spell was only to affect those in the Great Hall but because of a slight mistake by Morena who happens to not only have cataracts and glaucoma she's also both nearsighted and farsighted with a hint of astigmatism. The spell as I heard was only supposed to call for 2 pinches

of powdered Bat Wing and because of her poor vision she poured 2 pouches of powdered Bat Wing into the bubbling cauldron. Now I got a few questions about this:

Where does one procure said powdered Bat-Wings?

Who just keeps that kind of stuff just lying around? and...

If the other 3 Sisters Grizellda, Elga and Alyza knew this chick Morena was damn near blind why on earth would they let her read the damn spell book?

I guess that's a question that needs to be addressed later on in the future. Anyways because of her major slip up when they entered into the Great Peppermint Hall undetected, uncorking the vial holding the sleeping curse it not only took out everyone in attendance the dark and powerful mist continued to grow in size! Here's the kicker in all this, the 4 witches all succumbed to the spell. In an attempt to rush out before it was too late Morena who is also bad at walking in heels slips, stumbles and falls causing her 3 sisters to trip over her and get caught in the Purple sleeping mist and were all knocked out instantly. If that wasn't bad enough the Governor got away! That's right the Witches prime target was able to escape thanks to his security detail and since nobody was awake to stop the spell the Purple mist just continued to grow and grow making its way out of the Great Hall and proceeded to sweep throughout the village and eventually the entire kingdom.

Eventually the toxic Purple cloud dissipated but the effects were long lasting indeed. That one botched spell has now become a kingdom wide pandemic! Witless has been in close chamber sessions with the oldest and wisest of the kingdom trying to come up with a solution.

In front of his home a crowd began to gather demanding answers. As time passed the crowd continued to grow more anxious and restless calling out to the Governor. While inside a solution or possible solution was suggested and considered. As a matter of fact as we speak Governor Witless about

*to address his fellow Aaliyans in regards to the toxic cloud that terrorized the Kingdom steps out on to his balcony.
Let's talk after shall we?*

“Good evening my fellow Aaliyans 1st things 1st I want to say that the egregious claims made by Ms. Gretelosi are baseless and unfounded and her attempt to impeach me will not succeed but there is a more pressing issue that must be addressed now! Apparently what was supposed to be a simple curse and attempt on my life placed by the Tooth Fairy and her treacherous Wicked Witch Sisters has now become a scourge that has not only spread here in Aaliy but across all of the Golden Kingdom and beyond her pristine borders. My wisest council comprised of wizards, alchemists and soothsayers have informed me that this is no mere curse but a pandemic which is being called "GOBED-19" or the "Nocturna Virus". This is a situation the likes that we have never seen before. Those that fell asleep are still asleep and the curse has now shown signs of becoming extremely contagious. Someone who may be infected with the "GOBED-19" virus can simply yawn in the vicinity of someone and cause them too to fall into a deep uninterrupted slumber.”

“We ask that from this moment forward that you all stay indoors, if you feel sleepier than normal we implore that you self-quarantine yourself for a minimum of 72 hours. If someone in your home falls into the "GOBED-19" slumber do not remain in contact with them for you too will fall asleep. Now it is rumored that there is an

Alchemist in a neighboring Kingdom to the East with a possible cure. I will be dispatching a medical team to travel to the Kingdom of E'vante to investigate and attempt to retrieve said cure and bring it back here to Aaliy. Once the cure is procured it will be disbursed to all of you and then shared with the rest of the Golden Kingdom. So please everyone I implore you to STAY HOME and STAY SAFE! If you need to leave your homes, wear a mask, wash your hands at all times and please be careful!"

The Governor waves to the villagers below and returns inside his home as the villagers heed his warning and frantically race to their homes.

Well there you have it ladies and gentlemen we are smack dab in the middle of an all-out pandemic. I have to be honest with you, I'm a little freaked out by this. But I'll tell you one thing if anyone thinks of coming near me they better keep their distance! That's right folks 6 feet 6 inches away from me at ALL TIMES! NO EXCEPTIONS! As a matter of fact I'm putting a 2nd mask on just to make sure that I remain safe, not saying that I don't trust any of you but better safe than sorry. Hell I suggest you all do the same as well and protect yourselves.

The Governor's medical team consisting of: Geppetto, Alice, Mama Bear and The Shoemaker head out on horseback that very night to the Kingdom of E'vante in search of the rumored cure.

"Does anyone else here find it odd that we're traveling to an unknown kingdom to find an alchemist that no one's ever heard of to retrieve an mysterious cure for an unexpected virus?" Mama Bear asked the group.

“No more odd than everything else that has occurred in this blasted kingdom!” Exclaimed the Shoemaker. Things were so much simpler before...”

“Before?” Asked Alice.

“Yeah before he showed up.” Geppetto responded

“Who?” Alice asked again.

“THE AUTHOR! All this chaos started when he felt it was a good idea to pick up a quill and turn our lives upside down!” The Shoemaker explained with a twinge of anger in his grizzled voice.

“We were happy before he showed up! NO WOLVES. NO LAWSUITS, NO SCANDALS, JUST ONCE UPON A TIMES AND LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER. NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS!” Geppetto declared.

“Hear, hear!” The Shoemaker agreed.

Um hello, narrator here...

“Do you guys hear a voice or am I cracking up?”

“No I heard it too.”

Jesus H. Christ, I'm up here!

“Who the hell are you and where the hell did you come from?” Geppetto wondered.

Cricket's the name. James E. Cricket and I will be the narrator for this epic tale

...

Really?!?!, still no fanfare? No trumpets? Not even a firework? My contract clearly states:... Oh never mind!

“See this was the shit I was just talking about. A narrator? Why the hell is there a narrator?” Geppetto asked.

Woodcarver, my presence should be the least of your concerns!

“What do you mean?” Inquired Alice.

Allow me to elucidate my dear...as the narrator I see everything that occurs and I share those events with all these lovely men and women, who are reading this. But more importantly "HE" can hear EVERYTHING and all of you as well!

“HE?” Mama Bear inquired.

Yes "HE!", he goes by many names: "HE", "The Author", "The Creator", "The Hand that Molded Aaliyah", "The Golden Hand". But I just call him "SILVERBACK" we're on a 1st name basis, him and I.

“He sounds pretty arrogant if you ask me? Who the hell needs that many nicknames?” Declared Geppetto.

“Sounds like someone's overcompensating if you really want to know. Probably didn't

receive a lot of acknowledgement from his mommy and daddy as a child and now he's acknowledging himself every chance he gets." The Shoemaker analyzed.

"Someone has issues!"

"Yep." Geppetto snickered as he shook his head.

"Hear, hear." Agreed, The Shoemaker.

Uh hello, what part of "HE" can hear EVERYTHING do you all not understand?

"Wait everything?" Alice asked nervously.

EVERYTHING!

"Like everything?" Mama wondered as she looked around cautiously

Let me say it slowly for all of you, E...VE...RY...THING! So it would be in your best interests to just continue with your quest, mind your tone and keep in mind 1 thing: his pen is way more dangerous than any sword! Capisce? Now that we got an understanding off you go.

The party of 4 rode throughout the night on their way to E'vante watching what they said for fear of more powerful ears hearing them. The 4 continued their frantic pace stopping very little. When they reached the village of Nash the Shoemaker noticed the inn.

"We should see if they have any vacancies and if so stay here for the night. We can rest the

horses, get a hot meal, a good night's sleep and then ride out at first light." the Shoemaker suggested.

The three agreed as they headed towards the Red Apple Inn. They walked their horses to the stables in the rear tied them up then entered the inn. They were greeted by a friendly old woman who seemed extremely frazzled as she frantically tried to get her 18 children to go to sleep.

"Please be patient, I'll be with you in a moment. I just have to... Jeremiah, don't hit your sister. Please just go to bed. Ashley I thought..."

"You know what, we'll just check ourselves in."

Geppetto walked around the counter, grabbed 4 keys and gave one to each member of his party.

"It seems as if you will have your hands full for quite a while. We'll take 4 rooms and settle up with you in the morning." Geppetto stated as the old woman chased 2 of her children across the inn

"Bless you Sir. You all have a goodnight and I will see you in the morning if these little hellions don't kill me first." the old woman replied as she finally caught one of her troublesome children placing him in his bed.

"Poor lady, I feel for her. I only had 1."
Mama Bear confessed

“Ms. Bear, what would possess a woman to have that many children?” Alice asked puzzled.

“I'm gonna go with poor decision making Hun.”

“Or maybe she was hoping to milk the system. You know how those people operate?” Geppetto snapped. “They have a boatload of kids and expect my taxes to bail them out.”

“Let's not worry about her poor decisions, let's just get some rest we should be in E'vante by tomorrow and hopefully this cure rumor pans out.” The Shoemaker explained.

“Agreed, hopefully these beds are comfortable.” Geppetto grumbled

“Hopefully my bed is extra soft.” Mama jokingly replied.

The four entered their rooms as three of them went to sleep straight away. With the uncertainty of tomorrow looming overhead Alice still awake couldn't help but wonder what unexpected challenges would await them in the kingdom of E'vante. After about an hour Alice eventually fell asleep. The next morning when the party awoke they went downstairs to find the innkeeper knocked still fast asleep in the corner.

“Poor thing she must have been up half the night.” Alice sympathized

“Don't wake her please. You know what she's going to have to go through again tonight. Just let her rest.” Mama confessed.

“Very well.”

The Shoemaker walked up to the counter left all 4 keys, 20 pieces of gold and a note that read:

Thank you so much for your hospitality. We didn't have the heart to wake you. We left 4 gold coins for the rooms and a little something extra as well. We have a feeling that you are probably going to need it. Thank You, Alice, Mama, Geppetto and The Shoemaker.

“Come on guys, if we leave now we should make E'vante by night fall.” Geppetto claimed.

They went to the stables, grabbed their horses and left riding toward E'vante. As their mounting pressure and uncertainty grew the traveling party rode through the countryside in silent contemplation.

I tell you folks this has to be the most boringest ride I've ever witnessed. If something dramatic doesn't happen soon I'm going to fall asleep quicker than someone stricken down by GOBED-19...Sheesh!

“Hey Geppetto, there's something I've been dying to ask you since we met.” Mama Bear declared.

“What can I do for you?”

“Well I've been wondering about something, it was rumored that you made a son out of wood. Is that true?” Inquired the curious Mother.

“Yes, it was true”

“So where is he now? I mean, is he home alone?”

“I was wondering that myself, did you just leave him alone, by himself?” Alice asked.

“No, I didn't!”

“Wait a minute, what did you mean it was true?” Chimed the Shoemaker.

“Well if you must know, he's no longer here.”

“Oh you mean he's in another village.” Alice asked.

“No, HE'S DEAD!”

“WHAT?” They all collectively screamed.

Well I'm awake now!

“Oh my God, what happened?” A concerned Alice asked.

Folks, I feel a complete flashback sequence coming on, complete with that ripely transition thing.

“After I made him I was no longer alone. I had someone to spend my time with, love and care for. We fished, played catch and I even taught him how to carve wood. I was happy, then I met Rebecca and for the first time in my life my heart and world were full. My life was complete, I had a woman who loved me and my son who adored me. I was richer than the richest king.”

“Awww, that's so sweet, so what happened?” Mama asked with a smile on her face.

“I killed him!”

“YOU WHAT” replied The Shoemaker who damn near fell off his horse.

“You heard me, I killed my no-good son!”

Ooooh this is what I was talking about ladies and gentlemen, some excitement... drama!

“One afternoon I went out to the village square to procure some items for a special evening I was planning for my lovely Rebecca. I was going to propose to her later that evening, and make my family complete. Sadly, that moment never came. When I returned home neither my son nor Rebecca were anywhere to be found. Then I heard strange noises coming from upstairs so I headed up the stairs. The closer I got the louder and more and more intense the sounds became.”

Oh I don't like the sound of this you guys. Does anyone know how to switch off a flashback?

"I opened the door to find Rebecca lying in our bed, with my son underneath the covers, between her legs as she screamed: "TELL ME A LIE, TELL ME THE TRUTH, TELL ME A LIE, TELL ME THE TRUTH, TELL ME A LIE, TELL ME THE TRUTH, TELL ME A BOLD FACE LIE!"

"But wait a minute, doesn't his nose grow when he tells a?" Alice wondered... "oohhhh."

"Oh my!" Blushed Mama Bear.

"So he was really giving her that wood." The Shoemaker snickered.

"SHOEMAKER!" Mama Bear bellowed.

"What? It's not like you weren't all thinking the exact same thing."

Technically I was!

"See, even the narrator was thinking it."

