

EXCERPT FROM

ONCE UPON A MORE ENLIGHTENED TIME

“Sleeping Persun of Better-Than-Average Attractiveness”

Long, long ago, there lived a king and a queen, two equal partners in life who shared everything—including the fervent wish to have a baby. (This was much easier for the king, of course, since he would never have to endure the upheavals of pregnancy, the pain of childbirth, and the miseries of postpartum depression. You could rightly call his wish more vicarious than hers.) But as many times as the king would inflict his baser instincts on the queen, they (or, more accurately, she) remained childless.

One day, as the queen bathed in a nearby river, a frog leaped onto the lily pad next to her. Then, to her amazement, the frog cleared its throat and spoke.

“Although it’s probably not a good idea to bring another human being into the world,” said the amphibious messenger, “I know of your conception problems and would like to help. If you follow my advice, you will soon be with child.”

“Oh, such joyous news!” trilled the queen. “What must I do to prepare myself, frog?! What must I do?! Tell me!!”

“Your best bet is to go the natural route, and for pity’s sake, learn to relax! Get some regular exercise, eat more greens and grains, and eliminate animal fat from your diet. Later, if you need one, I can recommend a good lactation consultant.”

So the queen did as the frog directed, and on the next full cycle of the moon, her body was colonized by the seed of the exploitative monarchy.....



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