

Lasrin's sward

Based on the novel
"La spada di Lasrin" by
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Sarah is a 14-year-old girl with red hair. She lives in a big country house with her mother Lauren. Her father died years ago and Lauren can't keep the house anymore, so she suddenly decides to move to the city. Sarah feels betrayed by her mother's decision and she gets angry with her. Also because her parents always tried to keep her away from the city, she had never had any friends and she had never gone to a real school.

Finding herself among the grey houses of the city is a shock for her and also the first day of school turns into a nightmare. She is bullied by some boys and the relationship with her mother gets worse.

On a day in October she cannot bear the situation any longer, so she runs away into a wood. It's sunset and Sarah falls asleep while sitting under a tree. When she wakes up she seems to hear a noise, like wings fluttering. She thinks that very soon her mother will send the police to look for her and she doesn't want to be found, so she decides to follow that noise and enters the wood. A strange feeling takes possession of her.

She finally arrives at a little clearing. Here she finds a dragon, but that isn't a figment of her imagination. For her it's hard to believe, but she isn't imagining anything and the dragon is able to speak to her thoughtfully.

He invites her to come closer and makes her find a sword, Lasrin, with which she, by just turning her wrist, opens a portal. Beyond it there is only darkness, yet Sarah is curious and the dragon tries to convince her that her destiny belongs to another world.

While the girl is wondering whether she'd better run away or get over the portal that is narrowing more and more, the dragon pushes her in. *You will never come back*; these are the last words she hears from the dragon. But it's too late.

Sarah finds herself in another wood, but here the air seems as if

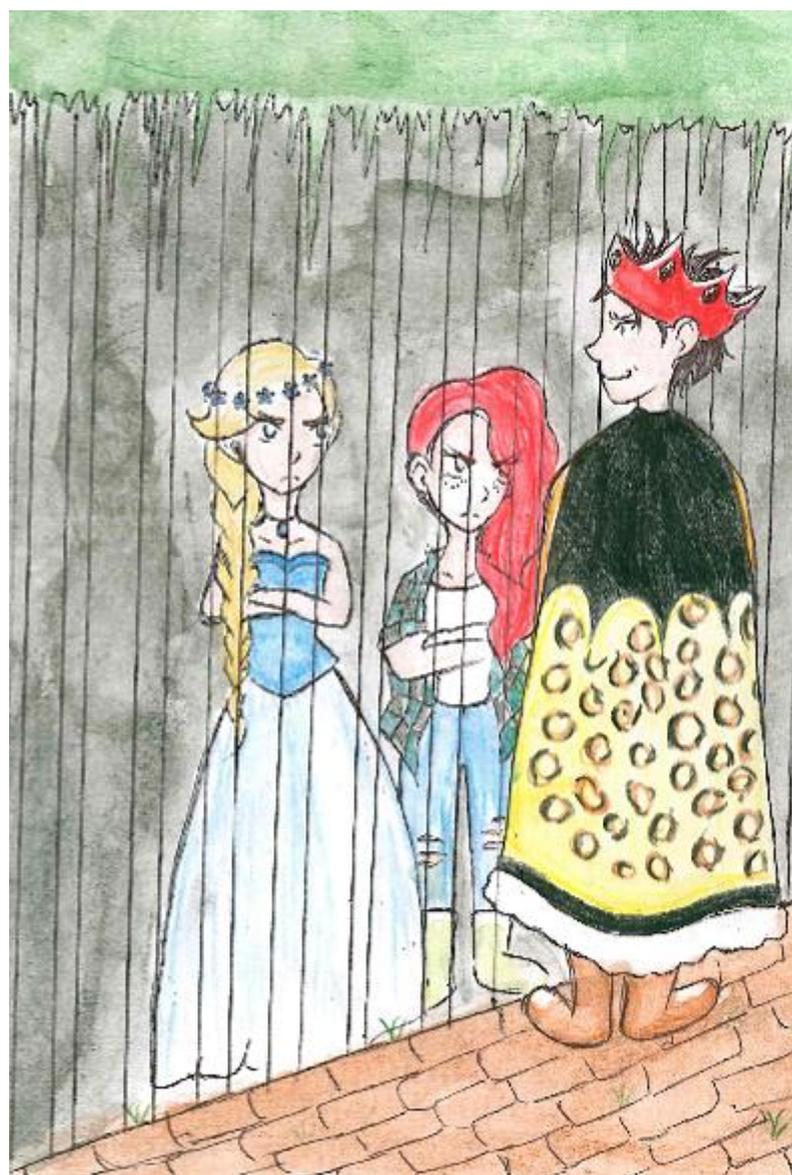
it was spring and the trees are full of leaves. Therefore, she understands that she is truly in another world. Only then she realizes what she has done and thinks about her mother who will now feel worried about her. Sarah regrets her action and would like to go home, but when she tries to rotate the sword again, nothing happens.

However, she doesn't give in and goes farther into the wood, hoping to find a village or some fresh water. When she finally manages to get out, she finds herself in a wasteland of red earth. Some knights with black armour surround and disarm her in a few moves, and take Lasrin. They blindfold and load her badly on one of their black horses.

Once the blindfold covering her eyes was taken off, she discovers that she is at the entrance of a black fortress. Inside, King Louvan is in the throne room. He's a young man with an evil grin on his face, and the crown on his head is as red as blood with black diamonds mounted on it.

The knights explain to him how they found the girl and they give him the sword. Louvan starts questioning Sarah immediately, but she refuses to answer. In the end, however, the girl explains under torture where she took the sword and that she comes from another world. The king seems pleased and, after receiving the news he was hoping for about the sword, he has her locked in the cellars.

Here she meets Galaxy: a girl with long blonde hair, slightly older than her. She is the princess of Elodea and she has been in that place under the tortures of the king since they captured her when she was a child. She explains to Sarah that they are in Essilnor, the fortress of the Dark County, and she tells her her story, happy to finally be able to talk to someone.



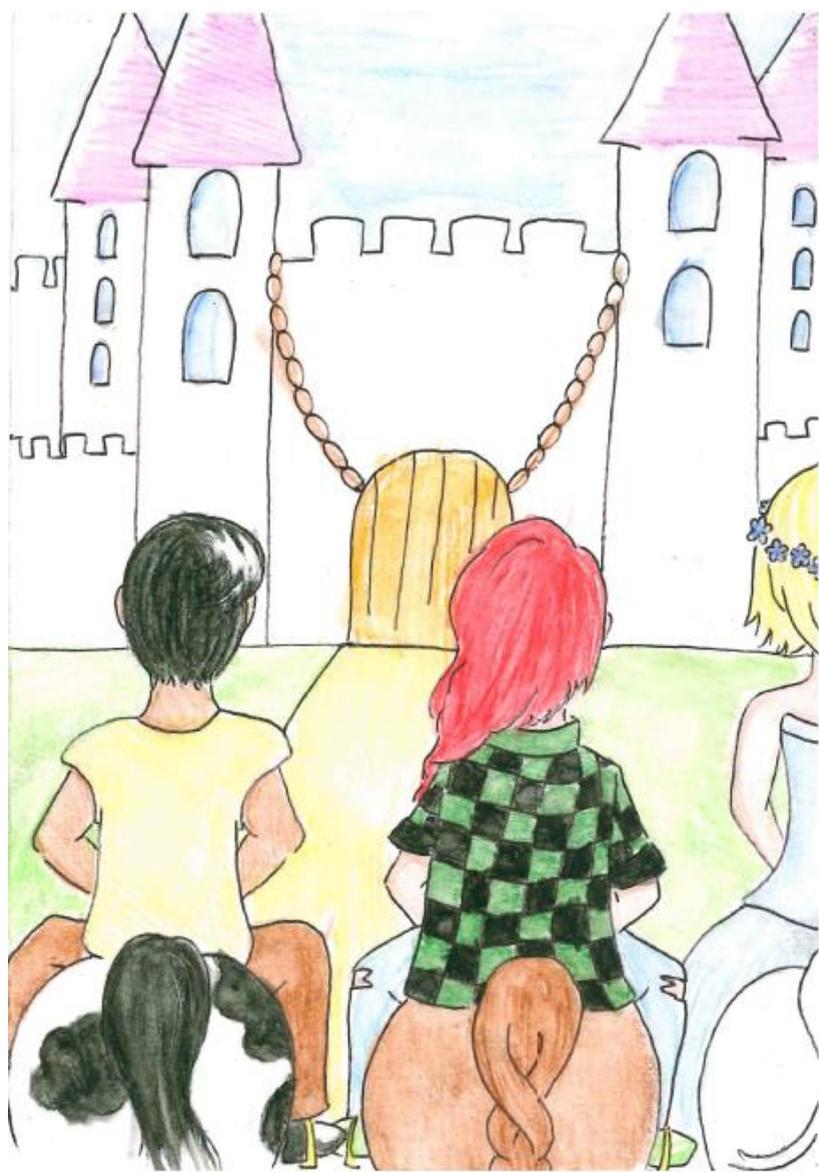
Some time later Louvan decides to get rid of the two girls, so he makes them mount horses and he escorts them with other knights to the Midway Desert. Once they had arrived there, they blindfold the two girls and after making them disorientated, they go away. Thus Sarah and Galaxy begin to roam in the desert.

After a few days they aren't able to continue anymore: their lips are split and they need to drink some water, their skin is sunburnt and walking has become too hard. They are found by the Norbits: a black-skinned population that communicates with gestures. They bring the girls to their underground village, accessible only through a trapdoor hidden in the sand. While they are being brought among houses and across fields, lit by thousands of torches, the girls can't help feeling amazed at that world created under the desert, away from the sun.

Imprisoned in a stall, they meet a boy who is a little bit older than Sarah. His name is Eron and he's a slave. He comes from Hera and his family was banished to the desert a few months ago. He's the only survivor and after seeing his parents and his relatives die one by one, he was found by the Norbits.

The following day, they decide to flee together and, after stealing some horses, they succeed in getting out of the Midway Desert. During the journey, Galaxy begins to act in a strange way, especially with Eron, whom she mistreats because he's a slave and she's a princess. Meanwhile Sarah feels attracted to the boy and starts to establish a bond with him.

Finally, they get to Delia, the main city of the kingdom. They rush in the streets of the white city, which rises up on a hill surrounded by a river and peach trees, and they reach the Royal Palace.



The guards barely recognise Galaxy, but they don't ask any questions and open the main door of the throne room. King Olemar runs to hug his daughter, whom he believed dead, and Sarah, who is injured and exhausted because of the journey, faints.

When she comes to some days later, the girl finds herself in an infirmary and beside her is Eron, who has watched over her all the time. She's given new clothes and she's told to go to the royal gardens because Galaxy wants her to take sword lessons. Instead, Eron must return to his job underground since he's a slave.

After the first training, Sarah argues with the princess but in the end she allows Eron to train with her.

That same night, King Olemar announces a banquet in the throne room to honour the return of his lost daughter. The people cheer, but Galaxy puts an end to the general euphoria with her speech.

After explaining that she was kept in Louvan's fortress for all those years, she announces that the time to take revenge and destroy the Dark County has come. In fact, Louvan and his army are encamped in the Glade. They are looking for the exact spot to open the portal and invade the other world; they don't think that they could be attacked. Galaxy also shows Sarah to the people and she explains that she's the only one who can help them find Lasrin again and win the war.

In the following days, knights from various parts of Elodea go to Delia and when the army is ready, they head toward the Endless Forest.

When they arrive in the Glade, it's night time and the encampment shows no signs of life. A spy at their service has smitten the patrol guards and Louvan's army sleep peacefully without suspecting anything.

Following Olemar and Galaxy, the army launches itself on the

enemy encampment, but they discover that it's empty. This way they realize that they have fallen into a trap. When Galaxy turns around to talk to his father, she sees him dying in front of her at the hand of their spy, who has betrayed them.



After taking revenge, she gathers the army again and gets ready for the enemies' attack. They have come out of the Forest and placed themselves in the Glade.

While the battle rages, Galaxy goes to look for Louvan, so she can take her revenge and kill him. She finally finds him, and they start to fight.

In the meanwhile, Sarah, accompanied by Eron, ventures into the Forest to find where they have hidden Lasrin. The same sensation as when she found the sword for the very first time, takes over her and pushes her to hurry more and more, dragging her to Lasrin another time. But when she finally recovers the sword, she realises that she doesn't know how to come back. In her despair, she closes her eyes and when she opens them again she finds herself next to Eron, whom she left behind in the Forest. Then she invokes the power of the sword again and manages to materialize in the Glade.

Not far from them, Louvan is holding Galaxy with a dagger at her throat. Sarah rushes toward the king and cuts off his head without hesitation. But when she kneels beside the princess it's too late. Before she dies, Galaxy thanks her for saving her life and for her friendship. Since her father is dead, she gives Sarah the royal brooch so she can become queen.

Sarah is overwhelmed by grief but she knows she can't stop right now and that she must put an end to that battle. Thus, with Lasrin in her hand, she enters the battlefield.

The sword creates a protective shield around her, and the girl explains in a loud voice that Louvan is dead. As the new queen she also orders the Dark County's army to retreat. Since they have never been motivated and they have no longer a leader to follow and fear, the enemy soldiers flee.

The losses have been enormous and Elodea's army prepares itself to go back home, where it can cry for the people who have died.



Back to Delia, Galaxy and Olemar's funerals take place. Then there's a new problem: the succession to the throne. Everyone heard Sarah proclaim to be the new queen but, even if this helped them win the war, nobody trusts her because she's just a girl who comes from another world. So the King's Council meets, and in the end it decides to trust what Sarah says and to give her a chance to commemorate Galaxy.

Some time later Sarah is crowned and so her reign starts. During her first speech as queen, the girl declares that the law which divides the various social classes is abolished. The slaves, who are now free, nickname her "Sarah the Liberator".

The other Elodea's kings aren't completely satisfied yet, so they force her to marry. They want her to marry another count of the kingdom, but Sarah refuses. She is desperate, because she doesn't want to get married since she's only fourteen years old and what is more, to someone she doesn't know. So, since she hasn't got any other choice, she asks Eron if he's willing to become king and to spend the rest of his life with her. Understanding what a difficult situation she is in, he agrees to marry her. Sarah and Eron promise each other to be fair sovereigns and they both get ready to deal with the adventures that life is going to set aside for them.

