

Once upon a time, a beauty-filled young woman named Julianna was the true Queen of the Queendom of Heartlight, but another girl, named Triksy, claimed that she was Queen of Heartlight and cast a spell over everyone in the Queendom, so that no one recognized Julianna. Triksy's spell made them believe that Triksy was the Queen.

Julianna was the only one who did not fall under the spell because her heart was so pure and true. Somewhere deep inside of many of her people, they did know the truth, so that when Julianna went to the market, they felt a little twinge of memory when they saw her, but could not remember why. They did not know how to listen to their own wisdom because they were under the spell and were told to believe Triksy was Queen. Triksy was a mean Queen who threatened to punish anyone who questioned her right to be on the throne. She was a selfish ruler, demanding that all the people give her most of what they grew in their fields and pay her terrible fees to live on their land. Even the wheat and corn felt the sadness in the air, the rain stopped, the sun hardly shined, and the plants began to wilt. The cows stopped giving milk and the chickens rarely laid eggs. The people and animals had less and less food and became very hungry.

The people feared the cruel Queen, so they kept silent and did not dare complain. They pushed away any memories that came while they slept - about happier days when a loving, kind, generous Queen walked among them, a Queen who smiled at them, knew everyone by name, asked how they were doing, and helped if they needed it...but they could not remember her name, not even in their dreams. So when they awoke, they doubted that those good days had ever happened.

Julianna was very sad and lonely because no one recognized her, but she was even more heartbroken that her people were treated so badly. She was so grateful for her little dog, Star, who snuggled and tried to comfort and cheer her.

One night, as she went to bed, she asked for a dream that would guide her. As she slept, her Fairy Godmother came to her and said to go to the Blue River in the Magical Forest and look for a beautiful white Swan who would help her. Most people were afraid to go to the Magical Forest but, early in the morning, Julianna put on her best walking shoes, put some food in her backpack, and, with Star by her side, she secretly started out on the long walk to the Blue River.

After she walked all morning, the birds and wild animals began to gather around and travel with her. They recognized Julianna, the Queen they loved. The birds flew above her and sang her lovely songs, the squirrels brought her snacks of nuts and almonds, and the monkeys climbed the trees and threw down fruit for her to eat. At night, they softened the ground with leaves, hay, and branches so she could rest and sleep.

At noon on the fourth day, Julianna, was deep into the Magical Forest, and she finally reached the Blue River and stood on its bank but instead of feeling relief, she gasped with terrible shock and disappointment at what she saw. The riverbed was dry. No water flowed. No fish or turtles swam...and no white Swan glided. Triksy's spell had even reached into the Magical Forest and dried up the River.

Julianna sank to the ground at the River's edge and began to sob, heartbroken with loss of her only hope. She cried and cried big elephant tears as her body shook with devastating grief for the poor suffering people and animals of her Queendom. Star, the squirrels and monkeys tried, but they could not console her. She wept and wept for hours, all afternoon, evening, and throughout a sleepless night.

Even though her teary eyes were closed, Julianna sensed the morning light as she felt something stroke her arm. At first, she thought it was dear little Monkey again trying to get her to eat the apple he found for her. She sobbed *No, Thank You* and kept crying in her sadness. But then she sensed whoever was near her was larger than Monkey and next she felt the gentle pressure of an embrace. Startled, she opened her eyes, to see the pure, white color of the wings of Swan, spread and wrapped around her. At first, Julianna froze with fear, but when Swan stepped back, Julianna saw warmth and comforting kindness in her eyes.

*Where did you come from?* cried Julianna. Swan's beak pointed to the River. Julianna looked and a big smile of amazement and joy spread across her face. The River was now filled with flowing water, the ducks swam playfully, the fish jumped with joy, and lovely swans glided gracefully, their heads nodding their Thanks to Julianna.

Swan told her that it was Julianna's tears that had filled the River and brought it back to life and Julianna quickly told Swan of the troubles at the Queendom of Heartlight and of her dream. Swan said she also had a dream that same night and understood why Fairy Godmother sent Julianna to find her.

*But only one creature has the power to reverse the spell, said Swan, and told Julianna to close her eyes for a moment.*

When Julianna opened her eyes again, there before her was a magnificent Unicorn who seemed to glow in a rainbow of pastel colors. Her horn sparkled. Her eyes were like stars and she had beauty that comes from a loving spirit.

Unicorn curtsied before Julianna and as Unicorn stayed low to the ground, Swan motioned for Julianna to climb up on Unicorn's back. Julianna's heart leapt as she realized what was happening. As monkeys cheered, the real Queen of Heartlight mounted Unicorn and they began to gallop back toward the Queendom. Swan, eagle, and all sorts of birds flew above them. Star, and the monkeys, squirrels and chipmunks scrambled to keep up. They all traveled as if they were carried by the wind and just before sunset they paused at the top of Kindness Hill and saw Heartlight spread out before them, the land lifeless, the people in the streets tired, bewildered, and barely surviving.

*Until ... Unicorn started running again, down the hill, as Julianna's hair flew out behind her. The people all turned and for the first time in months, they felt a spark of excitement and hope. As soon as Unicorn began her descent, she pointed her horn and one by one the spell was removed from each of Heartlight's people.*

From her palace balcony, Triksy saw them all coming toward her. She turned, ran inside and frantically paced back and forth, trying to think what to do. But it was too late. Soon, Unicorn and Julianna, with all the people and animals of Heartlight behind them, stood at her door. Triksy, all alone, knew she was defeated. She went downstairs.

*We will not harm you, Julianna declared, as Triksy fearfully peaked out through a crack in the door. I hope you will someday learn the joy of love and caring, but until then, you must live quietly on the outskirts of the Queendom. Unicorn has offered to cast a spell over you to soften your heart. If we see you practice kindness and charity, you may rejoin us some day. And we will welcome you.*

Then Unicorn knelt and Julianna slid off her back. She gave Unicorn a big Thankful hug and turned and embraced her people, one by one, lifted the children into her arms, and opened the doors of the castle so they could all come in and enjoy a festive meal with the food Triksy had taken from them. Once fed, they spilled out into the village with music and dancing, long into a starlit night. By morning, even the grass looked greener and the plants began to bloom.

Soon the Queendom of Heartlight was once again a Beautiful, Happy, Free, Healthy, Abundant, Generous, and Very Kind Queendom just like the loving heart of its beloved Queen Julianna.