

# THE KITCHEN BOY

Once upon a time, in a faraway country, there was a forest, and in this forest, there was a castle, and in this castle, there was a king. The king, who was not bad himself, yet made bad decisions, and ended up in many wars. This king, who had only one heir, a son, and no queen by his side due to his constant fighting and waging war, was an old ruler. His time was short, many would say. In his kitchens, a humble cook's apprentice was slaving away, being beaten, and would often wish for more to life. This child was a young boy of twelve, with matted clumped hair and dirty features, where mud lay accumulating as he never was off work, therefore not able to take a wash. He was a good person, but didn't enjoy his current job. Every night, he would lay listening to the dripping of droplets of dark damp water fall into a rusty pan. His master, the cook, was a horrid person and was rather old. He would beat the boy, and the boy would often consider running away, but he never knew where to go.

One day, the king fell ill, and no cure could save him. He called for his son and whispered said to him his dying wish - for his bloodline to rule the world. He died peacefully that night. The prince, soon to be king, was an ambitious man and was evil inside himself, unlike the king, so therefore he was happy to carry out this wish, jumped at this opportunity. A year passed, yet the new king had found no way to accomplish this. At this time, in a deserted part of the region, there was a cave, where an old witch lived. She was an Earth-Witch: a witch or wizard that held a staff that could control the balance of earth.

Now one day, this particular witch died. The new king went for the chance with both arms open. All he needed was the staff, then he could rule the world! But in the room below him, the servant boy heard this devious plan. He knew the king would be even worse than his father. So, as the king and three guards set out for the cave, the servant was silently

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By Oscar T

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