

The Kingdom of Nod

An Original Story

by

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for students at the end of Level 4

of the



The Kingdom of Nod

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1

The Kingdom

Long ago and far away, there was a tiny Kingdom of Nod. It lay in the midst of a tranquil bay. The land was lush and green. In the spring, the aroma of citrus blossoms would fill the air. Banana and mango trees grew

on the hill. Sheep grew fat in the grassland. It was a land of plenty.

The queen was held in grand esteem. The people were not cross or testy. It was easy to relax in the Kingdom of Nod. There wasn't much to keep one busy. So the people of Nod had a tendency to be plump and a bit lazy.

But in July, the Queen did spy a raven on her window sill. She told the minstrel to summon the staff, and this is what she said: “You must know that I did see a raven on my window sill. It was black as coal. Some people say the raven is an evil omen that brings bad luck.

I can't be sure this is true, so do not be upset. He didn't stay. He simply flew away."

The minstrel said to himself, "I should have been bold. The queen should be told that it wasn't a raven. It was just a crow." But the minstrel said nothing to Queen Kathleen.

2

The Accident

All did continue to go well in the kingdom of Nod until the day the flagship sank. A throng of people were on the dock to view the new flagship. They did agree that it was a splendid day for such a gala event. But the

speech by a diplomat was much too long. The throng began to fret. At last, the band began to play, “Hail to the Queen.” The queen did look regal as she was led up the ramp to the deck.

The wind blew, and the sails did billow, as the grand ship slid into the bay. But the

helmsman was inept. He lost control of the ship. The ship did tip and began to sink when the sails were hit by a strong crosswind. The boat couldn't stay afloat. In an instant, the queen was soaking wet.

Queen Kathleen threw a tantrum and insulted the crew. No one could recall an

incident such as this.

Queen Kathleen did roar, “Bring my coach!”

And off she went in a big huff.

All on the dock were silent as they began their exodus. This was a scandal. The gossip began. “This is due to the raven,” they said.

3

The Problem

Queen Kathleen sat on her velveteen chair. “I’m not happy,” she said to the minstrel. “It isn’t fun to be a queen. When I was a child, no one did discuss with me, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ They just said I had a duty

to do this and a duty
to do that. So I'm stuck
with this job, and I
don't have a clue how
to get rid of it."

"This last month
has been a strain.
The people of Nod say
it is no accident that
we have had no rain.
They complain it was
the raven that cast
an evil spell on the

Kingdom of Nod."

Then the minstrel
was bold. He said,
"Your majesty, I should
have spoken long ago.
It was a crow that sat
on your window sill. It
was not a raven."

"If that is so, it
shows I need some
help, or I will quit,"
said Queen Kathleen.

The people in her

domain didn't want Queen Kathleen to quit. They said, "We must find the right man for the Queen. He must be someone who will protect and defend the kingdom of Nod. It would be best if he were rich and witty as well as handsome. Let's try to find a match for her. But it will be difficult.

Being husband to a Queen is not a job that most men would seek. It helps that Queen Kathleen is very fair to look upon."