

# Love Across Borders

## Ep.1 -TTLG Myths and Legends

### *Character List*

Narrator: A bridgerton style, cheeky omniscient narrator- Voiced by Jillana Kucey

Celestia: A woman who is the result of Rusalka's (a water spirit) relationship with a human man. However, her mother turned into a dark evil being and she was adopted. Because of her parentage, she is almost 100 years old but appears in her 20's. She is afraid to leave the home of her adopted parents because she is worried her mother will try to find her and cause more trouble. She is headstrong and capable, however her cousin sees her as a bargaining tool to get more money and status by marrying her off. Celestia has never opened herself up to love, seeing how it tore her mother apart. - Voiced by Erin Ridge

Rodolfo: He is a lowborn Allorian. Realizing his place in the world he rebels against it and creates the "filosofi orfani" as his own means to even the playing field. - Voiced by Tanis Gonzaga

Tarasque: A dragon-like creature who protects the forest of fae.

2 Terradorian Soldiers

### *Note:*

This story is an enemy to lovers trope. There is heat between them and their exchange builds up romantic tension. This story will be produced and premiered as an audio only feature for the Opera Cecilia professional youtube channel and podcast series.

**NARRATOR:** We all know about the hundred years war that raged across the kingdoms of Alloria and Terradore. Some people called it the orphan maker. Hundreds of even thousands of children lost their fathers and often mothers to this horror. Some people thought the war would never end. While many sides became more and more radical in their hatred of the other side, making up wild stories of the evil the other countries would cause if the looking glass were

to fall into their hands, a small fellowship was forged. This group of underground orphans and philosophers called themselves the “filosofi orfani.” Their leader was a man by the name of Rodolfo

**Rodolfo:** Welcome orphans, fae, changelings, thieves, and lost souls of the realm. For too long we have been ignored by those in power. They sit in their safe castles in their cushy thrones while we die as hundreds in the muck and in the mud. While they feast on meals of bounty we are consigned to scraps and rations of meager proportions. All they care about is some alleged “magical looking glass” and not the parent-less children roaming bone thin from hunger amidst the crumbling ruins. I for one do not care about the looking glass.

#### **THE CROWD GASPS.**

**Rodolfo:** Let Terradore have it for all I care! Maybe they will cause havoc in our kingdom, maybe they will turn us all to prisoners of war. But it won't do any worse than they are already doing. No sane person would wish for a child to become an orphan and run hungry in the street.

#### **THE CROWD MURMURS AGREEMENT.**

**Old Crone:** Deserter!

**Rodolfo:** Proud to be! You can think I'm a yellow bellied, lily livered coward for all I care! But I refuse to be seen as a pawn in their game for power! Who's with me?!

#### **THE CROWD MURMURS QUIETLY.**

**Rodolfo:** So you'd rather lay down your life, to never be remembered?

**Crowd:** No!

**Rodolfo:** Do you want to leave your children behind to wander in the streets as we did?

**Crowd:** No!

**Rodolfo:** Then come and join the filosofi orfani! We will steal from the rich people! and give to our poor brothers in arms! Who's with me?!

**Crowd murmurs in disagreement .**

**Narrator:** Rodolfo knew he had to bring out his most powerful persuasion tool yet, the Italian art song.

INSERT Rodolfo's song.

### **CROWD ROARS IN AGREEMENT**

**Narrator:** As the filosofi orfani pillaged the rich, taking from their homes without warning Rodolfo found that his thirst for revenge was never quenched. He needed more and more.

**Rodolfo:** We must punish them as they have done to us! Our children lay hungry and parentless in the street! Mothers cry as their children are ripped from them to young to "serve their country." And we shall make them pay! We will take their children!

**Narrator:** The filosofi orfani decided to kidnap the children of the wealthy Terradorians and put them up for ransom, taking the profits and spreading the wealth amongst the poorest families in Alloria. But one day they took a prisoner that would change their lives.

**Celestia:** Unhand me right now!

**Rodolfo:** Hush!

**Celestia:** You have no idea what will happen to you, if you don't unhand me right now!

**Rodolfo:** That's a nice necklace, it might fetch something at the market.

**Celestia:** Don't you dare touch that! Help! Help!

**Rodolfo:** Keep quiet and you don't have to get hurt.

**Celestia:** You don't want to hurt me. You've made your intentions clear, you're in it for the money. If you hurt or kill me, no money.

**Rodolfo:** I'm sure I could forge your handwriting, convince your parents that you are still alive.

**Celestia:** Those are *not* my parents. It's my cousin and his greedy wife.

**Rodolfo:** Well, at least we found one thing that we agree upon. The greed of the upper crust. Now, get into this wagon, before I slit your throat.

**NARRATOR:** The only thing bumpier than the beginning of this love story was the dirt path they took. At nightfall Celestia exited the carriage with bumps and bruises.

**Celestia:** Did you have to drive like the queen mother?

**Rodolfo:** But she's blind.

**Celestia:** Exactly.

**Rodolfo:** I'm sorry that your travel arrangements weren't up to your standards, Princess.

**Celestia:** Trust me when I say, I am no princess.

*Tense silence*

**Celestia:** What is your name?

**Rodolfo:** Ha! Like I'd answer that! All you need to know is that they call me the Maestro.

**Celestia:** That name is wretched on your tongue.

**Rodolfo:** I wouldn't say it's any worse than Lady Frasquita.

**Celestia:** Oh please, I'd hardly say this is a time for titles.

**Rodolfo:** Well then, our modest accommodations should not bother you at all.

**Celestia:** Is this our final destination?

**Rodolfo:** Heavens no! This is just a stop, we have a long way yet Princess.

*Celestia scoffs.*

**NARRATOR:** at the camp she noticed other prisoners, a lot much younger than she, all looking like they came from wealthy backgrounds, eyes wide from fear. But she had no time to speak with them, as the darkness swiftly came and all went to their tents. The next morning it was back to the wagon.

**Celestia:** What kind of operation are you running?

**Rodolfo:** I told you to be quiet.

**Celestia:** There is not a soul on these roads, you made sure of that.

**Rodolfo:** Alright, fine. We steal from the rich and give it to poor war-torn families.

*Celestia laughs.*

**Rodolfo:** Excuse me? May I ask what you find so funny?

**Celestia:** A well intentioned kidnapper, sure.

**Rodolfo:** If that's what it takes.

**Celestia:** So, you take children, and traumatize them , and say it's for "the greater good"

**Rodolfo:** Whatever it takes.

**Celestia:** It should never take that!

**Rodolfo:** Oh, shouldn't it? We only take children at the draft age.

*Celesita gasps.*

**Rodolfo:** Didn't know that Princess? Too far up in your tower to hear the cries below?

**Celestia:** I, I, didn't know.

**Rodolfo:** Of course you didn't know, you have thick walls made of money, but the peasants out here. There's no one to protect them like you Princess.

**Celestia:** You know nothing about me.

**Rodolfo:** I know enough, princess.

**Celestia:** Stop calling me Princess!

*The wind swirls*

**Narrator:** The rest of the journey was silent that day. They made camp at the next stop and Rodolfo broke the silence.

**Rodolfo:** Sleep well.

**Narrator:** The next day there was a burning question on Rodolfo's mind, he just wasn't sure how to broach it.

**Rodolfo:** So. . . what are you?

**Celestia:** What do you mean?

**Rodolfo:** I mean, who are you?

**Celestia:** You know that good and well, otherwise you wouldn't have kidnapped me.

**Rodolfo:** You know what I mean. [BEAT] You aren't human, are you?

**Celestia:** Of course I am don't be ridiculous.

**Rodolfo:** What happened yesterday wasn't just happenstance. You have fae in your blood. So, what are you?

**Celestia:** It's better for you if you don't know.

**Rodolfo:** So, why not run? You are surely powerful if yesterday is any indicator.

**Celestia:** I don't use magic.

**Rodolfo:** Even when your life is at stake? Even though you are infuriated at the children we kidnap? You choose to do nothing?

**Celestia:** Magic is nothing but a curse.

**Rodolfo:** You could help stop this war! End the suffering of thousands, end your own suffering and yet here you sit, helpless.

**Celestia:** I am not helpless.

**Rodolfo:** [*Scoffs.*] Looks like it to me.

**Celestia:** Magic is nothing but a curse, when people use it to try and "right" the nature of things, it does nothing but hurt. It comes with terrible prices. Believe me I know.

**Rodolfo:** I, guess I'll have to take your word for it.

**Narrator:** That night things did not go to plan. As they crossed the border into Alloria and came to their place of refuge they found it already inhabited by Allorian soldiers.

**Rodolfo:** Wait here!

**Soldier 1:** Well, well, well, what do we have here.

**Rodolfo:** Please sir, we mean no harm, we were just passing through.

**Soldier 1:** Those children wear Terradorian garb.

**Soldier 2:** We shall slay them!

**Rodolfo:** They are unarmed and defenseless.

**Soldier 2:** Oy! How old is this bloke talking back.

**Soldier 1:** My thoughts exactly, they are either the Terridorians, or worse deserters.

**Soldier 2:** I think that they may be the F.O.

**Soldier 1:** As I thought, scummy deserters. (*Spits in Rodolfo's face*) it will be a pleasure to watch you die.

*He raises his sword to strike him it clinks against another sword.*

**Celestia:** (Sarcastic) How noble are the soldiers to raise a sword to someone in a surrender stance?

**Rodolfo:** How did you get out?

**Celestia:** Your ropework needs some work.

**Soldier:** This is ridiculous. I can't fight a woman.

**Celestia:** Too afraid?

*Soldiers laugh heartily, a slice is heard.*

**Celestia:** You needed a haircut anyway.

**Soldier:** How dare you!

*Celestia and the soldiers fight, Celestia wins.*

**Celestia:** And stay out!

**Rodolfo:** How, how did you do that?!

**Celestia:** Let's just say I've had a lot of time to practice.

**Narrator:** As the sun hung dipped low on the horizon, everyone made way back to their tents, but Roldofo and Celestia lingered by the fire.

**Rodolfo:** So, you could have escaped at any time?

**Celestia:** Yes.

**Rodolfo:** Then why didn't you this entire time?!

**Celestia:** I was looking for a way to help the children escape.

**Rodolfo:** You shouldn't have told me that, now your jig is up.

**Celestia:** I saw the way you stood up for them before the soldiers. You will not hurt them.

*A long pause*

**Rodolfo:** So what are you going to do when you are free?

**Celestia:** You may be surprised, I may not fetch the fee you are hoping for.

**Rodolfo:** But you live in a huge estate.

**Celestia:** I know, but after my parents passed on, I was in the care of my cousin. And he married a wanton social climbing maid. The two of them decided they would live a life of luxury and squandered away the reserves on which my family was built.

**Rodolfo:** What are they going to do?

**Celestia:** Their plan is to break the vow they made to my mother on her deathbed, and force me to marry.

**Rodolfo:** *[clears his throat.]* Who?

**Celestia:** The Duke of Bellenau. A repulsive man truly.

**Rodolfo:** Well, this may be an opportunity for you.

**Celestia:** What do you mean?

**Rodolfo:** Run away, be free of them.

**Celestia:** I don't know if I could.

**Rodolfo:** Of course you could!

**Celestia:** What would I do?

**Rodolfo:** Join us!

**Celestia:** No, I couldn't I'm safer hidden away.

**Rodolfo:** More like your foes are safer! That swordwork was incredible.

**Celestia:** Thanks, but I'm not so sure, Maestro.

**Rodolfo:** Call me Rodolfo, Lady Frasquita.

**Celestia:** Call me Celestia.

**Rodolfo:** Celestia, I like it.

**Celestia:** Just don't let anyone else know of it.



**Rodolfo:** Why not? Do you command a band of outlaws too?

**Celestia:** No, it has to do with my parentage, and magic. . . It's complicated.

**Rodolfo:** Ah, I know something about that.

**Celestia:** You do?

**Rodolfo:** In the spirit of honesty, my parents always thought I was a changeling.

**Celestia:** No!

**Rodolfo:** I got really sick around 6, and I was never as healthy after that. They always said that the fairies came to switch me with one of their own sickly children and took their healthy boy.

**Celestia:** That's terrible!

**Rodolfo:** They shipped me off to the war as soon as they could, and on my breaks I wandered the streets with the orphans.

**Celestia:** I'm so sorry.

**Rodolfo:** But the joke was on them, I grew stronger and decided to take my fate in my own hands.

**Celestia:** Well, you are a pretty good swordsman, even if your ropework is terrible.

**Rodolfo:** (Playfully) I take offense at that, en garde!

**Celestia:** I think I have it in me to kick your butt too.

*They fight, Celstia trips Rodolfo and wins the fight.*

**Celestia** (Playfully) Concede or die!

**Rodolfo:** I concede! I concede! Help me up.

*Celestia grunts to pull Rodolfo up, but he pulls her down.*

**Rodolfo:** Concede or die!

**Celestia:** (Laughing) You cheated!

**Rodolfo:** I am a roguish outlaw, what would you expect?

**Celestia:** I shall never concede sir!

*Rodolfo kisses her*

**Celestia:** Never!

*Rodolfo kisses her again.*

**Celestia:** Okay I concede.

*The two share a passionate kiss.*

**Narrator:** That night Celestia felt something she had always closed herself off to, and her heart sang at the thought of the name of her beloved Rodolfo.

INSERT CARO NOME

**Narrator:** But the next morning she vowed to shut out the blossoming feelings of love in her heart, it was far too dangerous. She had to return to her life where she had been safe.

**Rodolfo:** Good morning! Sleep well?

**Celestia:** (Distantly) aye.

**Rodolfo:** Ready for our journey?

**Celestia:** Mmm-hmm.

**Narrator:** It seemed to Rodolfo a sudden cold front had broken forth between them and after a morning of a one sided discussion he had enough. He stopped the cart abruptly.

**Celestia:** What was that for?

**Rodolfo:** Oh look, already more words than you spoke to me this morning. Get out.

**Celestia:** Get out? Why?

**Rodolfo:** Go, be free, run back to your cousin, and to your duke.

**Celestia:** Is that what you think this is about?

**Rodolfo:** If living your life of luxury is that important to you, you better get back to it.

**Celestia:** If you want me to leave I shall.

*Rodolfo groans exasperated.*

**Celestia:** Look, I know not what you want from me-

**Rodolfo:** Of course you do! What we talked about it last night!

**Celestia:** Look, what we talked about last night was foolishness and nothing more.

**Rodolfo:** Foolishness? You call what happened last night foolishness?

**Celestia:** Foolishness, weakness, whatever adjective you like. It cannot happen again.

**Rodolfo:** Oh, I see. I can't give you the life you desire so you'd rather be the possession of some bloated, decrepit, aristocrat?

**Celestia:** No Rodolfo I-

**Rodolfo:** Why don't you just go crawl back to him. Go!

**Celestia:** No I-

**Rodolfo:** What?

**Celestia:** I want to make sure all the children are returned safely.

**Rodolfo:** Fine.

**Narrator:** Rodolfo and the rest of the F.O. knew that they couldn't take the path they had been using, so they strayed far from civilization, taking a road no one had dared to travel. Through the Tarascon forest. But they did not know the dangers that awaited them

*Tarrasque Roars*

**Tarrasque:** Who dares enter through here?

**Rodolfo:** We come in peace, we are merely passing through.

**Tarrasque:** I am the mighty Tarrasque protector of this forest. No man has come through here in 300 years. This forest is reserved for magical creatures only, it is our safe haven and you have brought mortals through.

**Rodolfo:** Our sincerest apologies, we have lost our way, we shall-

**Tarrasque:** The price for trespassing is death!

**Celestia:** Please great being, we have children with us, we mean no harm.

**Tarrasque:** The child you carry now?

**Celestia:** The children in the carts behind us.

**Tarrasque:** Either way, rules are rules.

**Celestia:** I am of fae blood. You must sense this.

**Tarrasque:** Aye. But as it were-

*Celestia sings part of Caro Nome*

**Tarrasque:** What lovely music, none such has been heard of since the water spirit Rusalka. It is true magic.

**Celestia:** Magic is nothing but a curse.

**Tarrasque:** Nay, magic is something of the spirit, when one's intentions are true, magic may help the world.

**Celestia:** Please let us through, my mother is the woman known as the witch Lorelai. If anything were to happen to me, her wrath would never end.

**Tarrasque:** Ah, the shadow of Rusalka. A warped dark shadow. You shall need a safe place to raise your child out of her grasp.

**Celestia:** My child?

**Tarrasque:** As I said, the child you carry now.

**Rodolfo:** You're with child?

**Tarrasque:** Yes, she is. This land needs more song, and you need a place to raise your child. If you hold yourself accountable for your human friends, you may settle here in the old humble village of Penrith.

**Narrator:** After years of fighting the system, the members of the Filosofi Orfani were glad to lay down their labors and experience the joys of a peaceful community, the likes of which they had never seen. Celestia insured the safe return of all the children. Nine months later, she birthed a son, Milo.