

Excerpt of “Bearskin”

By Tannara Young

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The first thing that Henrick saw was a giant bearskin stretched out on a rack. The skin side had intricate patterns and arcane symbols painted on it. “I’ve enchanted this skin to slowly extract the sylphyl and unravel the spells on you, while blocking the magical effects that have been warped. However, to do it without killing you will take a while.”

“How long?” asked Henrick.

“Seven years,” said Gottilf, examining his fingernails.

“Seven years!”

At his tone, Gottilf took an uneasy step back, saying, “It wouldn’t do either of us any good to go faster. It would destroy the sylphyl and it’s unlikely you would survive the process – you would go insane or die or maybe both.”

Henrick gritted his teeth. The despair he had pushed aside yesterday welled up. But then, what did it matter, as broken as he already was? Seven years had an end – and looking crazy and dangerous wouldn’t be new.

“Fine,” he said.

“Before you agree, there’s more. During those seven years you cannot cut your hair, pare your nails, or even take a bath.”

“Seven years without taking a bath? People are scared enough of me already – without looking and smelling like a troll.”

“It’s what I can offer, my friend,” said Gottilf.

About the Author



Tannara Young is the creator of the world of Idhua: fourteen kingdoms surrounding a vast magical forest. She writes short fiction and novels exploring the people, landscapes and magic of Idhua. Her work has appeared in [The Mythic Circle](#), [The Great Tomes Series](#), [Fall into Fantasy Series](#), and at [NewMyths.com](#), [The Scarlet Leaf Review](#) and [Smashwords](#). Tannara lives in central California, on the coast of the wild Pacific Ocean, near the majestic redwood forests. When she is not writing, she loves to ramble through these inspiring landscapes, dreaming up her next tale. Come and visit at tannarayoung.com.