

ONCE UPON A PRINCESS TRIO

by Deborah A. Bailey

EXCERPT

Beauty & the Faun

He smiled as he covered her with the blanket. “You should know that I normally don’t find beautiful young maidens in the forest after midnight either. Especially naked ones,” he said. “You are a maiden, aren’t you?”

It took a few seconds for her to catch his meaning, and when she did, heat spread across her face. Kayla pulled the blanket up so that it rested just below her chin. “Yes, I am.”

A smile spread across his full lips, completely disarming her. “Ah, then. I was right. It will be a very lucky gentleman who tastes you for the first time.”

Now the heat was cutting a path downward, waking up a feeling that she’d never experienced before. Was this some enchantment?

Del leaned closer and kissed her cheek. “You have a fire, my lady. Whoever wins your heart and ignites your passion will be at your mercy.”

“What...what do you mean, sir?” Why was she trembling all of a sudden?

He laughed. “Nothing is by chance. Perhaps you and I met for just such a purpose.”

“Are you saying...you’re saying that you will ignite my passion? You think highly of yourself, sir.” She gripped the blanket, just in case he thought about pulling it off her.

“Stop fighting so hard to be insulted,” he said. “Here in the Great Forest we enjoy life and love. Good night, Kayla.”

“Where are you going?” she asked. How dare he say those things then walk away!

“Downstairs. I was on my way to a party before we met. I’ll see you in the morning. Sweet dreams.”