

Wilderness House Literary Review 4/4

Christopher Wood-Robbins
The Ears of Woman

Sit back and relax, and I'll tell you
a story of magic and wonder
about a kingdom of Men and Dwarves
that suffered many a mysterious plunder.

Vayla, a humble dwarf seamstress
And Articus, the king's top mage,
searched the treasure room cautiously
for the cause of the kingdom's rage.

There was no sign of the elusive thief
but they sensed that the menace must be near.
Then suddenly, the seamstress was startled.
She called out to the mage in fear,

"Articus! I could have sworn
I heard this ungodly groan
coming from right behind you
in a despicable voice of stone!"

Nervously, Articus cocked
an ear in search of the noise.
but try as he might, he failed
to catch even the faintest voice.

But deep down, the seamstress knew
what she heard was not just a notion.
In a trembling voice, she called out,
"Kind sir, could you lend me a potion?"

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“Dear lady,” he cried, “I can’t squander these potions on account of a feeling unless you can cover the expense. Have you anything to give that’s appealing?”

She had only one treasure of worth,
A crystal on her neck, and it tore
at her heart to even consider
giving away the necklace that she wore.

But the dreaded iron groan rang louder now
and so, with conflicting emotion,
she decided to give the mage
the necklace in exchange for a potion.

“Stand aside!” Vayla shouted as she listened
to that horrible demonic song.
But although he did as requested,
he still swore that he heard nothing wrong.

With only one chance, the dwarf woman,
shaking, but holding her ground,
drew back her arm and threw the potion
in the direction of the terrible sound.

The potion exploded, having hit
the target with precise ability,
and pulled a great metal dragon
out of the shroud of invisibility.

Then, a disintegrating vapor
erased the terrible foe,
for the potion revealed and dissolved
the menace in one deadly blow.

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When the last of the acid steam vanished,
Articus and Vayla discovered
an enormous pile of silver and gold;
the lost wealth of the kingdom recovered.

The kingdom rejoiced at this news.
but one thing they wanted to know;
How could it be that a humble dwarf lady
brought down an unseen foe

who crept past the ears of Man?
Well, remember this time-honored rule;
the sharper ears of Woman
are not so easily fooled!