

Cathy Begin-Nielsen retells her tale of

The Game of Gnomes aka The Saga of the Inks



“Anyone brave enough to peek?”

Meet Link, Tink and Bink. Their journey has just begun on the Game of Gnomes!



“Seriously Bink, you need to tell her to stop. She just embroidered your likeness on toilet paper!!!”



Every castle needs a queen. Introducing Queen Pink who has been made to keep her subjects out of too much trouble. The question remains are Link, Tink or Bink suitable to become King?

Yep, there's no place like gnome in Cathy's imagination. Pink was created out of Cathy's imagination, using Gnome 1 for the basic pattern.



"I'm coming on my trusty steed to save you from the dragon, Queen Pink!!!"

"Hey Tink, it's not the Queen that needs saving!!!"



"Queen Pink, we thank you for this fine feast you have prepared for us. We are sew stuffed!"



“The Kingdom is in a shopping frenzy for all the Black Friday sales. Maybe we should wait until tomorrow before venturing out?”

The inks – Link, Tink, Bink and Queen Pink are in the planning stages for their next adventure.



Rita, I have a bone to pick with you. You made a comment the other day about whether or not I would show the gnomes how to embroider and I replied that I would NOT and that the gnome pattern would never be loaded on my machine again.

Well you and I both know that gnomes read everything on Sweet Pea's facebook page and now Link, Tink and Bink want to know where they came from. Of course, being gnomes, they didn't buy my story about the stork bringing them or that they were found in a pumpkin patch so now I have no choice but to show them...!!!

Sew...here comes another one...to be introduced soon!



Please say hello to our newest member of the Gnome Family - Fairy Gnome Mother Mimi-Mink. She has special powers and much wisdom. She will make her way to Queen Pink's castle soon.

For those wanting a lady gnome, do it. Just make the beard flesh colour and abracadabra like magic he will become a she. You don't even need to add hair or an ample bosom like I did.



I would have introduced this fellow last night, but he was misbehaving something awful. He was so impatient with me sewing his costume he pricked me on the finger with the needle, therefore, I gave him a time out until this morning.

This is Stink. I know, I know he looks like one of the three wise men...trust me he's not!

Anyway, he's really good at being bad but truly I don't believe he's evil, just misunderstood. He too, like Fairy Gnome Mother Mimi-Mink will be meeting the other "Inks" soon.



“What a lovely late fall day it is to be taking a walk through the forest of my kingdom”

Little do Queen Pink, Tink, Link and Bink know, that the really good at being bad STINK is lurking behind the trees spying on them...



“Queen Pink, how dare you banish me from your kingdom! I hereby cast a spell on you...Ribbit, ribbit, ribbety”

POOF!

Oh, no! What has become of Queen Pink? The saga continues with Tink, Link, Bink, the misunderstood Stink and the froggy Queen Pink.



Please join me in welcoming Sir Drinks and Lady Winks last name ALOT. They are a married couple that have come from fine Viking gnome stock. Sir Drinks is a knight in shining armor and Lady Winks is Queen Pink's Lady-in-waiting.

Soon to be introduced into the continuing saga on the Game of Gnomes



I must apologize. While introducing Sir Drinks and Lady Winks last name ALOT, this morning, I totally missed introducing this young fellow.

Without further ado, please put your hands together for Blinks, last name ALOT, the second cousin once removed of Lady Winks. He is tiny in stature and barely old enough to have peach fuzz. He is the court jester. What he lacks in size he truly makes up with his comedic routine.



“Queen Pink, where are you? We love you all the same, even if you’re a little froggy!”

The “Ink” clan searched and searched through the night, but alas Queen Pink had hopped away into hiding and the misunderstood Stink was laughing his muahaha laugh just out of hearing distance.



Here are some new characters to be introduced into the game of gnomes.

Clink is our kind and wonderfully talented blacksmith and stable manager. He is the twin brother of the misunderstood Stink.

To the right of Clink we have Robin Hoodwink, who will bamboozle you or anyone for that matter any chance he can get. He is a distant relative of Sir Drinks last name ALOT on his mother's side.

And finally, we have the clean shaven and charming Prince H.E. Thinks. Well, let me tell you, H.E. Thinks he's charming (he's not) and H.E. Thinks he will be ruler of the Gnome Kingdom one day (I doubt it). I'm not sure where he originally came from, but he certainly looks silly without a beard!



Like I said before, the gnomes read everything on SP's facebook page and we had a suggestion that I make an inkling for the clan.

Well, while I was out walking the dog this afternoon, there was some gnome hanky-panky going on at my sewing machine. I arrived back to three little inklings ready to have their photos taken. Unbelievable, as I swear, they were still just a concept in my mind and at the very least due just before Christmas, NOT now.

Great, just great. I now have premature triplets to care for and I haven't an inkling to who their parents are...yet!



Two days have gone by since Queen Pink disappeared after being turned into a frog by the misunderstood Stink. Back at the castle:

Fairy Gnome Mother Mimi-Mink is waiting for someone to ask her opinion. Blink, the court jester, is cowering underneath the throne. Sir Drinks and Lady Winks, who now has an eye twitch, are well you know, drinking. Then we have Prince H.E. Thinks admiring himself in the mirror, Blacksmith Clink is attending to Robin Hoodwink's horse and Tink and Bink have just realized that Link is missing.

"Everybody, I think we can solve the problem if we can find the missing LINK!"



Winter is coming to the game of gnomes!

From beyond the north wall of Queen Pink's Kingdom is the old Wildling clan of gnomes. These gnomes control the "ink wells" and all in all are the most powerful gnomes in the land.

With that being said, I would like to introduce to you to three of the Wildlings: the very wealthy Black Ink who is the CEO of INKS Inc., the handsome Red Ink who unfortunately makes very poor choices and of course the most loved, well known and used by all, Blue Ink.

These brothers have heard that Queen Pink is missing and may venture over the wall to offer their assistance...or then again they may not!



This next big character is reminiscent on one of my photos looking like the set of an old Canadian children's TV program "The Friendly Giant" and a BIG thanks to another SP fan who inspired me with her "elders".

As the friendly giant would say. Look Up — Way Up for my introduction of MY friendly giant Jinks, who has a big heart but is also such a big klutz. Beside him is Shrink, a tiny, tiny version of Link who has gone missing you know.



Meanwhile, deep in the forest on the edge of Queen Pink's Kingdom, the misunderstood Stink is dancing around a fire chanting. Nearby hiding, Link strains to hear Stink's incantations:

*"I am Stink, the froggy is Pink,
Kiss her falsely and you may shrink.
Love is good, love is fine,
One day Stink, it will all be mine"*



Robin Hoodwink had happily volunteered to put up missing flyers throughout the land. He went so far as past the wall to the north where he met Black, Blue and Red Ink as well as the lovable giant Jinks.

“Hey Hoodwink, must be a nice change that the flyers being put up don’t say WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE HOODWINK FOR BAMBOOZLING ONCE AGAIN!”



col·lab·o·rate - What Jinks, Black, Red and Blue Ink and Robin Hoodwink decided to do to find Queen Pink and share the reward. While on the other side of the wall...

Link, on his way back to the castle with the disturbing news of Stink's incantation, was exhausted and had settled in for the night below Dr. Who and just outside Billy the Bear's den.

"Whoo, hooooooo"

"ZZZZZZzzzz Meeee, meeee zzzzzZZZZZZ"



Has anyone been wondering what's happening back at the castle? Well, for your information, the Fairy Gnome Mother Mimi-Mink has temporarily taken over the throne and has put the whole kingdom under a spell since none have slept since the disappearance of Queen Pink.

*"Sleep tight, my little gnomes,
Soon the Queen will be home,
She may be Pink or she may be green
It just won't matter, she's our Queen"*



Back in the forest, Robin Hoodwink, Black, Blue and Red Ink plus the lovable giant Jinks have crossed over the wall in the hopes of finding Queen Pink and earning the reward.

“Holy evolution, Darwink the horse has actually led us to the missing LINK”



LINK, awakened by the search party, is in a panic to get back to the castle to spread the news of what he had seen and heard but is being convinced by the posse to join them in the quest to find Queen Pink.

“Look Link, Black, Red and Blue Ink and Mr. Jinks and I, Robin Hoodwink sure could use your help. You were there with Tink and Bink when Stink turned Queen Pink into a frink...umm... ahh...I mean, frog.”



Shortly thereafter, the search party, now consisting of Robin Hoodwink, Black, Blue and Red Ink, Giant Jinks and the missing Link arrived at the Kingdom's frog pond.

"How on gnome's green earth are we ever going to identify the Queen?"



Even if Queen Pink had been turned into the one-eyed, one-horned, flyin' purple people eater, Link would still have immediately recognized his beloved Queen. Convincing her to come back to the castle was a different matter.

"Ribbit?"

"Don't worry Queen Pink, there's enough of a stink at the castle that we have plenty of flies too"

Interestingly enough, the word STINK for some unknown reason, got her hopping.



There is much celebration happening as Queen Pink hops up onto her throne with Fairy Gnome Mother Mimi-Mink by her side. Robin Hoodwink, Black, Red and Blue Ink, and the giant Jinks, have just been given their reward while Clink and Prince H.E. Thinks cheerfully talk about shoes. Tink and Bink are so happy to have their brother Link back safe and sound and Sir Drinks and Lady Winks last name ALOT are, well you know, drinking. Even Blinks ALOT is rejoicing and yelling to the whole kingdom from the windowsill. Has anyone noticed Stink hiding behind the pillar? Well, he has obviously snuck into the castle unnoticed.

"Quiet everyone, her majesty is about to say something"

"Ribbit..Ribbit"



Link finally finds the opportunity to gather the gnomes and tell them what he had seen and heard

"...and then Stink was dancing around a fire chanting

I am Stink, the froggy is Pink,

Kiss her falsely and you may shrink.

Love is good, love is fine,

One day Stink, it will all be mine

What does this all mean Fairy Gnome Mother Mimi-Mink?"



Fairy Gnome Mother recalls a Grimm tale about a frog getting kissed by a princess, but for the stuffing in her couldn't remember if there was a "happily ever after", therefore, she thought it wise in not telling others of her recollection but instead stated,

"As we all love the Queen, I believe there would be no harm in giving her a kiss to welcome her back."

"I love her the most!" bellowed Link *"I will go first!"*



Link leans in and gives the Frog Queen a kiss.

ZAP!! CRACKLE!! BOOM!!

Everyone in the hall behind Link is thrown back onto their butts.

"Oh my gnome, Link, you've shrunk!"

Yes, the worst thing possible has just happened to Link. In a matter of a lip smack added to the power of the spell, he has gone from a 5-inch gnome to less than a 4-inch gnome.

Jinks, the giant immediately steps out of the pile of gnomes and volunteers,

"Please everyone, let me go next"



ZAP!! CRACKLE!! BOOM!!

This time, the power from the kiss pins everyone behind Jinks to the window, and sadly the kiss on the Frog Queen's lips has also shrunk Jinks, but wait,

"Whoo hoo, this is amazing! I'm not a giant jinx anymore, yep, from now on you can call me Lucky!"



Stink now disgusted comes out of hiding while everyone has become wallflowers by the window.

“You are all a bunch of cowards! She is YOUR Queen and deserves to be treated as such! I should cast a spell on all of you...but I won’t, I’m better than that, even though you gnomes wouldn’t understand.”



After Stink's rant, he turns to the Frog Queen and declares
"and you my dearest Queen Pink, you have misunderstood me the most"

SMOOCH!!

Stink kisses the frog...



POOF!!

The spell has been broken and Frog Queen has been transformed back to gnome Queen Pink.

"Oh Stink, you are my true love" ♡

"And you are mine, Queen Pink" ♡

For you see, from the moment that Stink had cast the spell until his kiss, frog Pink had had plenty of time to think of non-Queenly duties and her thoughts had become crystal clear.

As it happens, Queen Pink and Stink had known each other since infancy and growing up together he had always teased her by dangling flies in her face or putting her braids into the inkwell at school. She now knew that he had been trying to get her attention and wasn't malicious at all, but unfortunately this misunderstanding had ended with Stink being banned from the kingdom.



Epilogue

Immediately after the kiss, Stink and Queen Pink began co-habiting and shortly thereafter adopted three little inklings from an underprivileged kingdom.

Fairy Gnome Mother Mimi-Mink and Robin Hoodwink have since hooked up and so have Prince H.E. Thinks and Blacksmith Clinks. Court jester Blinks has joined his relatives Sir Drinks and Lady Winks last name ALOT in, well you know, drinking. Black, Red and Blue Ink and Lucky formally known as Jinks have decided to stay in the kingdom until after the holidays.

As for Tink, Bink and Shrink formally known as Link...well, they would like to take this opportunity to say

"Merry Christmas and happy holidays everyone!!!"

As the credits roll...Stink makes a promise to Shrink/Link that he'll give him back his inch in the New Year.

The end...or is it?

