

Duath – Paige Marcella Bishop

The fairies and elves gather around the fire
Filled with dark red embers of rejoice.
A great feast is to commence between the two
parties. Awaiting them is laughter and songbirds
of the night.

Once twilight falls and cloaks the forest with
shadows,
The celebration is brought to life.
Unbeknown to the fairies and elves,
A birth has taken place.

Out of the shadows, a dark, horned figure
materializes.
Born out of the twilight shadows,
And drenched in moonlight,
A large creature watches over the party.

The fairies and elves, unaware of the presence,
continue to laugh and play.
The creature, effortlessly gliding in the air,
Starts to find his way over to the celebration.

The celebration fire roars with life.
The night is still young.

A young elf child lies on the mossy forest floor,
Gazing up at the sky through the blackened
treetops.
While stargazing, she feels a presence that is
unfamiliar to her.
She turns to find a shadow figure, lurking among
the trees.
He has been watching them.

The young child alerts her family,
And the festivities are halted.
All eyes are on the endless darkness of the forest.

“We do you no harm.”
“Join us, in our celebration of life.”

A soft snort can be heard within the shadows.
The wind blows heavier, blowing shadows
towards the families.
The darkness reaches the edge of the forest.

Swirling to the soft wisps of the wind, the
shadows disperse.

The fairies and elves are graced with a noble
sight.

A dark unicorn stands proudly before them.
His dark coat shines, as if he were made of
stars. His mane and tail are tinted with glowing
green ends, to help him guide his way.

His large ears tilted sideways, awaiting any
signs of danger.
His horn glistens a bronze sparkle in the dark.

The fairies and elves look in wonder,
This creature of the night is not one they
recognize.

It is not one they fear, it is one they welcome.

Born of the shadows, this animal was born to
protect the families. With his strong hooves,
big body, large horn, and soft demeanor, he
was ready for anything.

The leader of the fairies speaks,

“We are blessed by your presence. Please,
watch over us and we will protect the forest for
you.”

The dark animal closes his eyes and lowers his
head, accepting the agreement.

The leader of the elves speaks, “Wonderful
spirit, please watch over us in the night and
think of us at daybreak.”

“Noble Duath, our dark shadow, protect us
with your life and we will live ours for you.”

The unicorn’s horn begins to glow; his eyes
tell the families that he will protect them.
That he was born to do so.

The stallion gallops off into the night. He is
cloaked in darkness.

His neighs turn into the wind as he disappears
from the celebration.