The Story of Aphrodite and Persephone
by merryghoul

Summary

A retelling of Ovid's "The Story of Venus and Adonis."

Notes

For:

* Fic Promptly, prompt "Author's Choice, Author's Choice, Crafting the perfect plan."
* Ladies Bingo, prompt "infidelity."

In the Elysian Fields, hidden in the shades of Hades, lives Adonis. Born from Smyrna, pregnant woman turned into a tree by the gods to spare her life, the child was cared for by Persephone, the queen of the dead. It is said that she and Aphrodite fell in love with the child. But the truth is Aphrodite was miserable on earth with her husband and Persephone was miserable in Hades with her spouse. Persephone also missed her dear mother on the surface. While Persephone was on the surface, Aphrodite came up with a plan. Aphrodite would pretend to be struck...
by one of the arrows of Eros, causing her to fall in
love with the child at birth. Persephone would take care of the
child, and Aphrodite would see the child in the Elysian
Fields. In reality, a nursemaid of the Fields would take care
of Adonis while Aphrodite and Persephone hid
in a corner of the Fields, far away from the prying eyes.
There they gave into their longing for each other. It was there
they satisfied their needs before they were forced to part. But a
new problem loomed around the horizon. Adonis grew up
and became a man at eighteen. He could not stay in the
Fields any longer. So Aphrodite had to come up with
another plan. With Persephone, they concocted a feud
where the two fell in love with Adonis' beauty and could
not agree on who should share the right to spend time with the
youth. They'd pretend that their fight was bitter enough to attract
Zeus' attentions. They'd convince Zeus to settle the matter
by letting Aphrodite spend the summer months with the youth
and Persephone the winter months. They knew Adonis
would go along with it because he was not the brightest youth.
Hephaestus was oblivious to all of Aphrodite's relationships
except for her liaisons with Ares. Hades did not care.
(He never cared unless someone tried to leave the realm of the
dead.) Aphrodite and Persephone continued with their
affair. That was, until Adonis died. And, of course, it was
at the hands of Ares, as clueless as Adonis, but more
jealous and possessive. When Adonis died, Persephone
sent Aphrodite a flower, small and blood red. It was a
sign of Persephone's love for Aphrodite; even
though she was in the Underworld and could not plan a scheme for
the two to lie together in the Elysian Fields, there
was still hope for the two of them. So Aphrodite went
back to Hades, the Underworld, to engage in another
staged fight over who owned the rights to Adonis' body.
Once again, Zeus sided with Aphrodite, allowing the
shade of Adonis to be with the living in the summer
and reside in Hades in the winter. And once again, the
goddesses carried on their affair in secret, hiding in
the Elysian Fields, escaping their loveless marriages,
if only for brief moments at a time. Pleasure is fleeting,
and Aphrodite and Persephone knew it was the truth.

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