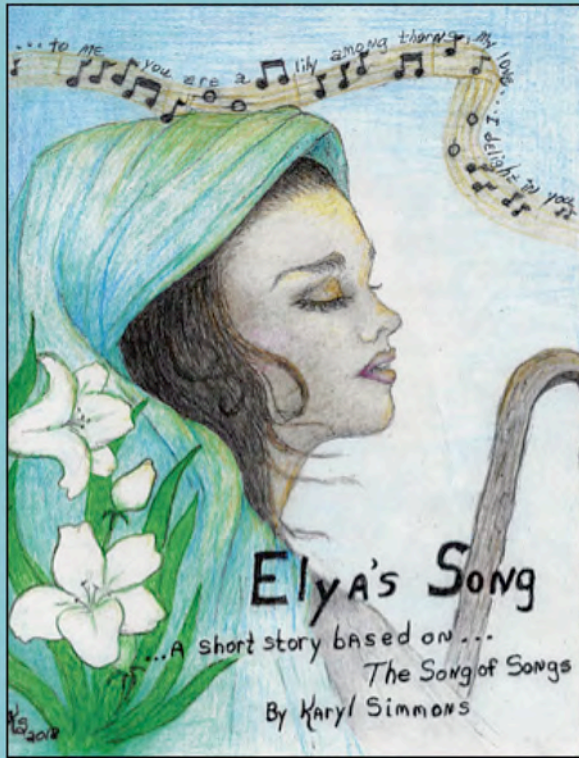


Short fictional story of a young woman in pursuit of the prize of all prizes.



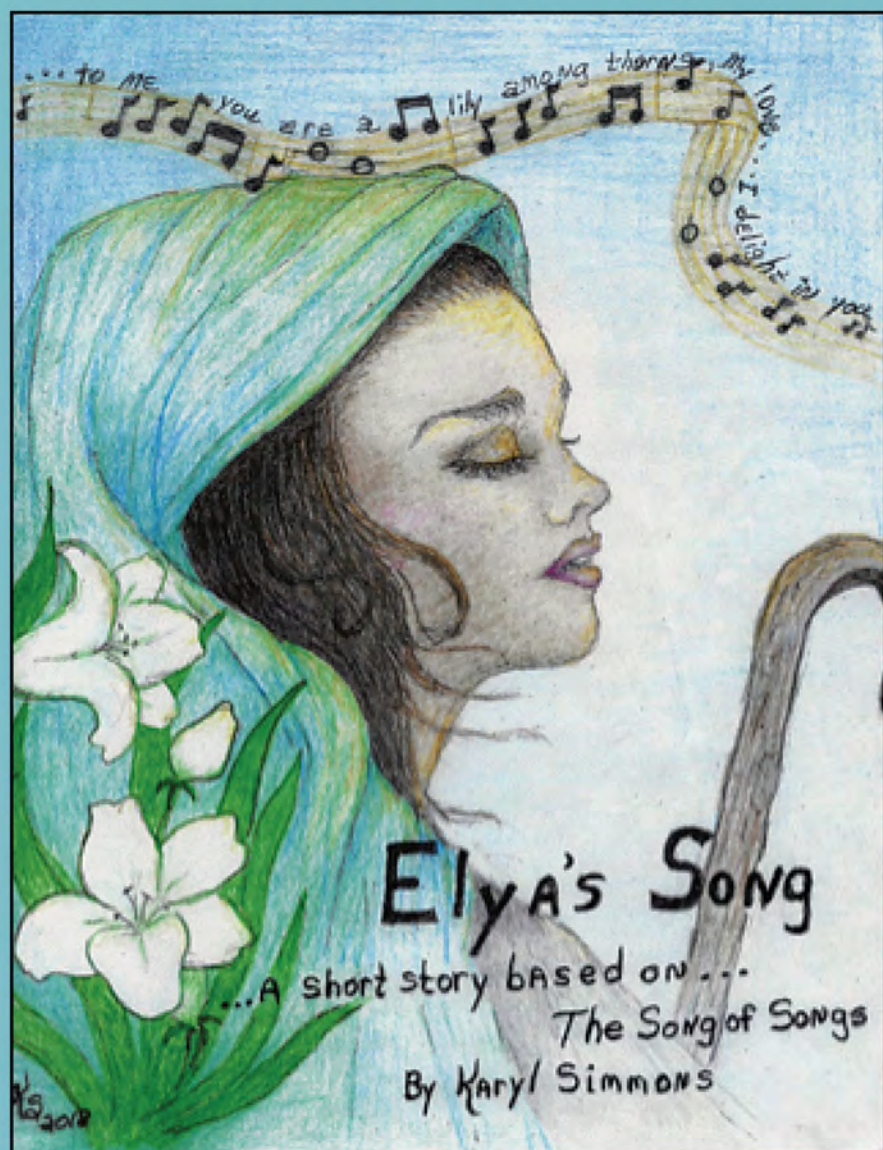
Ely's Song

By Karyl Simmons

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ElyA's Song

...A short story based on...

The Song of Songs

By Karyl Simmons

Ks 2018

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First Edition

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Chapter One

The Visit

Song of Songs 1:1-4a

It was a mild spring evening in the hills surrounding Shulam where shepherd's campfires could be seen dotting the hillsides. Two men of Shulam had settled down there for the night around their campfire with their flocks, their quiet conversation a soothing balm to the goats in their care. The two brothers, Edom¹ and Aran² of the house of Ammon³, spent many hours of the day in this manner, discussing family concerns, plans to better their future and religion. Oh, how they loved trying to impress one another with their religious insights!

¹ Edom – Hebrew for “Red Earth”

² Aran – Hebrew for “Firm”

³ Ammon – Hebrew for “Of My Nation”

Elya's Song

“Well,” Edom said, “if we can just keep Elya working hard like we’ve been able to do so far, maybe we can keep an eye on her and we should be able to increase our flocks substantially by next spring to see quite a profit.” “Yeah,” Aran chuckled as he replied, “She’s pretty cheap labor! We just have to keep her convinced how desperately her family needs her without Abba and Ima getting in the middle of things. I’m worried, though, that our little sister is going to wise up to our methods one of these days!” “Elya, Elya,” Edom said, “What were Abba and Ima thinking? It has never set well that they gave such a grand name to such a common, ordinary shepherd girl!” “My concern,” Aran replied, “is that her head will become filled with impossible dreams one day and that she will foolishly try to follow them, leaving us with all the work to do by ourselves! We would never get ahead then! It will be years before our younger siblings are of an age to do the work we’ve been able to make Elya do for us! If we are ever going to gain the respect we deserve among the elders at the city gates, we’ve got to better ourselves enough to get their attention, brother!”

“Ima! Ima! He’s at the door! He’s knocking!” The house of Ammon was in a frenzy of activity. It could mean only one thing – The King had come, accompanied by His friends, with a contract of marriage

and Elya was the only daughter of marriageable age in this Shulamite household.

It was Elya's habit to spend a little time every day with her friends gathered around the public well where they drew water. More times than not, their conversation revolved around the King and His affairs. It was common knowledge how He loved lilies,⁴ how He would spend hours on the hillside and in His gardens browsing among all the lovely plants and flowers growing there. They had heard how He would look for the rare lilies and when He found them, He would pick the choicest of them and bring them into His chambers to enjoy. Elya, along with all the other eligible young Israelite women in Shulam, had wished that they could be like one of those lilies and had often daydreamed about being chosen and carried into the Kings chambers. In fact, daydreaming about Him was her favorite past time while she watched over her family's flock of goats.

And now, here He was outside her door, waiting to be invited in!⁵ Elya could hardly believe what was happening. She had never seriously considered herself a prospective bridal candidate, at least not for the King anyway. What could He possibly find attractive in a common shepherdess whose older brothers managed to control her with their harsh treatment? Her skin was rough and damaged from

⁴ Mat. 6:28-29

⁵ Rev. 3:19

long hours out in the hot noon day sun watching over the flocks because her brothers always managed to be elsewhere during that time of day. It seemed to her about the only thing she could possibly find attractive about herself to someone like the King was the lovely name her Abba and Ima had given her; a name that seemed to be a constant source of irritation to her older brothers, but it was a name that held great promise for her destiny.⁶

Could it be that this King, a man all the virgins adored, would accept someone like herself and offer her a contract of marriage? Were her girlish daydreams that someday He would bring her into His chambers, where she would find true love, about to unfold in her life?

With all these thoughts running through her mind, Elya moved to open the door to her royal visitor while Ima scurried to finish the last touches to the light meal they would offer Him later. She was weak with apprehension as she reached for the handle. She opened the door and there He stood! Elya knew that she was standing before her future, if she chose to embrace it! She took a step backward as the impact of His gaze washed over her. She had only observed Him from a distance until today. She was mesmerized by the tall, masculine, sun bronzed man standing before her. His amazing blue eyes - eyes a woman could lose herself in - washed over her as a light breeze gently tossed free flowing, sun kissed hair around His face and royal robes

⁶ Prov. 22:1

brushed His sandaled feet. His commanding presence stole her breath! “Elya!” He spoke her name as if they had always known each other and somehow Elya knew that He knew all there was to know about her and He loved her anyway! “My Lord,” she answered. She slowly realized that she did not want to live another day without this Jewish Man in her life. She also knew that she would spend the remainder of her days learning to know Him more intimately and allowing the love she could see in His eyes wash away all the darkness in her heart towards those who mistreated her.

Elya invited the King to come in and sit down with her and her parents so that they could discuss the terms of the marriage contract. She couldn’t help but notice how He moved with such royal grace and, yet, Elya sensed that this Man would be completely at ease in any setting, however humble. She knew that a life changing decision was being placed before her, but she had already made up her mind the moment she opened the door to the King. After hearing the terms of the contract, Elya promised Him, without hesitation, that she would devote her time, however long it took after today, in preparation for “that day”⁷ - the day He would come and snatch her away and carry her into the bridal chamber that He had lovingly prepared for her in His Father’s house. There would be a marriage feast and a celebration, as was the custom of the day, and at that

⁷ Rev. 19:7-9

time their marriage would be consummated. Until then, Elya would wear the veil while out in public that identifies her as spoken for and belonging to Him. She knew, though, that a huge transformation had to take place in her; that there was much she must learn about His interests and His ways before she would be ready for “that day” and her destiny in His Father’s kingdom. But Elya determined in her heart, at that moment, to become the glorious, spotless, and mature bride that He must have before “that day” arrived.⁸

The extravagant bride price was agreed upon and then the contract was sealed with a cup of wine. When Elya accepted the cup, she knew that from that point forward her life would be forever changed!

The rest of the King’s visit was a blur to Elya, but as He was preparing to leave that day, she turned to Him and boldly said, “Draw me away, Beloved, and let us run together! I want to be near You, partnering with You in Your interests. I long to spend time with You in Your chambers. I want to know You!”⁹ The King gazed at her for a moment as though the necessary transformation had already taken place in her and He said to her, “Elya, I must go now to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also.”¹⁰ And when

⁸ Eph. 5:25-27

⁹ Mat. 7:23

¹⁰ Jn. 14:2-3

My Father gives His approval, I will return, with My groom's party, for you."

Solomon enjoyed the companionship of His friends as they returned to His flocks. But His thoughts were on the lovely Elya who had just agreed to the contract of marriage that He had offered her. He had always loved her with an everlasting love that would stand the test of time and endure overwhelming crises. He knew His Father would be pleased with His choice and He could hardly wait for "that day" when He would present her to all in His Father's kingdom. He was eager to get started on their bridal chamber and He knew Elya would be diligently preparing for their wedding day in the meantime.

Solomon chuckled to Himself as He revisited in His mind the moment Elya opened her door to Him. Her reaction was priceless! He loved watching the gamut of emotions that moved across her lovely face as she began to realize the importance of what was taking place in that moment as He stood before her.

Already, Solomon had begun to intercede for Elya because He knew that their enemy, Satan, had an agenda that was designed to keep "that day" from ever materializing. He knew that their wedding day would not come without an all out warfare, for His Father's age old adversary had set himself against Him and all in His kingdom. And

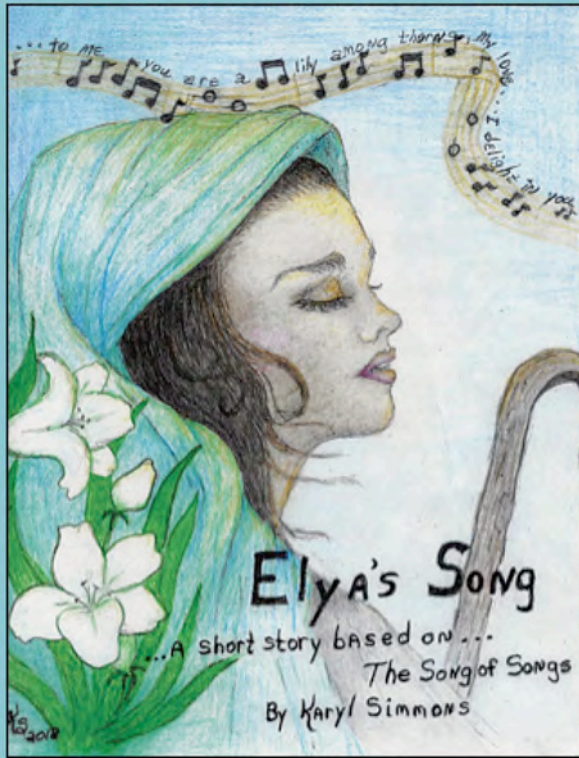
Elya's Song

He knew that Satan would steal, kill, and destroy, using whatever means possible to do so. But Solomon could already see the completed work in Elya that would prepare her to take her place at His side and He was confident that they would reach “that day” victoriously.

And, so began the amazing adventure of Elya’s life song as recorded in the song of all songs, the Song of Solomon!



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