

The Fairy Godfather
by Michael Amato

Today was the day Frank had been looking forward to for one hundred years. Though it had been so long, he remembered welcoming his son, Angelo, into the world like it was yesterday. All fairies had a coming of age ceremony on the day they finally reached one hundred years old, called a "Wing Day". That may seem like a long time, but fairies live thousands of years making it equivalent to a teenaged human. After swearing the oath to become a full pledged fairy, they can finally use wands, and today was Angelo's hundredth birthday.

Frank was notorious as he was the head of a big family of fairies called the Lionhearts. He was commonly referred to as "The Fairy Godfather" and the key to his success was that his family was more important to him than anything else. If anyone needed to get a wish granted, he was the man to ask.

Fairies are only as good as the wishes they grant, and the Lionhearts had the necessary connections to grant the big ones. The only wishes fairies allow are genuine wishes, which is why you don't always get what you wish for in life. They stayed away from evil wishes since they reduce a fairy's magical powers.

"Angelo, my son," Frank said as they embraced. "Today you become a young man."

"I'm nervous pop," replied Angelo.

"You have no need to be nervous, my boy. Today is the day you've been waiting one hundred short years for! Come here, I have a gift for you," Frank said as he reached into his pocket. He pulled out a shiny wand. "It comes with an attachment that silences your magic, so even if you cast a spell with someone around, no one will hear you."

"Wow! Thanks pop, I love it!" Angelo replied ecstatically.

Frank decided to give Angelo some space and allow him to enjoy the celebration. After all, it was a busy day for Frank. A Fairy Godfather can never refuse a genuine wish on his son's Wing Day.

Being the most powerful family in the Wish World, the Lionhearts had many enemies. Other families were always looking to gain power. Frank's biggest rival was a fairy named Aldo Narciso, a power hungry fairy that only looked out for himself.

Frank's right hand man, Bruno Mersi, found Frank walking down a hallway. He was extremely excited because Angelo had asked him to be his Wingman. The role of a Wingman was to be a guide during the first years of fairyhood to those that recently had their Wing Day. Bruno dutifully reminded Frank about the list of visitors that had wishes for Frank to consider.

The ceremony was beautiful and there was a roar of applause for Angelo after he swore his oath. He was officially a fairy. The moment was bittersweet for Frank, as he knew it was time

to hear people's wishes. He went into his office, sat behind his desk and told Bruno to send in the first person on the list.

The first fairy was a good friend of the Lionheart family, Carmine. He owned a pastry shop and wished for a new oven as his was getting old. Frank saw no reason to deny a sensible wish like that, and Carmine was overjoyed. The second fairy was Maria, a good friend of his wife. Her son had been injured in a flying accident and she wished for his speedy recovery. Again, the Fairy Godfather granted the wish.

As Maria left, Bruno looked worried.

"The next fairy on the list is Aldo Narciso," trembled Bruno. "I never put him on the list; he must have used magic to get himself on."

Frank calmed Bruno down by saying "Bruno, my most valiant friend. Don't worry about this. I can only grant sensible wishes."

This didn't seem to calm Bruno down much, but the Fairy Godfather always kept his composure. He was the man in charge and never feared his enemies. Aldo violently slammed open the door.

Frank greeted him warmly, "Aldo, how nice of you to come to my son's Wing Day."

"I wasn't expecting an invitation after the last time we met," retorted Aldo as he stared at Frank coldly.

Aldo had previously wished for half of the Lionheart's wish granting power to grow his own family. It was an unacceptable wish because power is something that fairies have to earn.

"Please, it's water under the bridge," Frank replied. "What can I do for you today?"

Aldo wasted no time in replying, "I have come because you can't refuse a wish on your son's Wing Day. I wish for half of the Lionheart family's power again."

Frank got up out of his chair and slowly took a few steps and looked out the window. He realized he had to decline this wish, but was pondering how to explain this to Aldo.

"Aldo, Aldo," Frank said as he turned away from the window. "What have I ever done to make you my enemy?"

"You have never done anything to me personally, but every time I see you, I see a weaker fairy than myself. I should be the one in power, not you! I could grant all my own wishes if I had the power you have!" exclaimed Aldo.

"Well Aldo, I cannot grant this wish. Selfishness must not be a characteristic of a fairy with as much power as you want." Frank responded.

Before he knew it, Aldo had his wand raised and pointed at Frank's face. Frank looked at Bruno and saw that Aldo had already stunned him with magic. "Then the only way to get power is to take it," said Aldo.

Frank's life flashed before his eyes. He thought it was all over.

All of a sudden there was a loud thump. Aldo was knocked unconscious and lying on the floor. Frank was very puzzled. The door opened and Angelo came through with the silencer attached to the wand Frank had given him earlier.

Angelo was concerned, but seemed very calm. He unfroze Bruno and asked the both of them if they were alright. At this moment, Angelo reminded Frank of himself as a young fairy and knew he had done a good job as a father.

He gave Angelo a big smile and said, "Angelo, the way you handled that, you'll be taking my place at the head of the family in no time."