



## Once upon a time...

Lakka Mossmantle was born in an ill-omened year, she was shunned by the other halfling children. Lakka had no friends to play with. One day, while alone in the breezy hills and woods behind her village, little Lakka Mossmantle met the Queen of Shadowglass.

The Queen of Shadowglass often wandered the mortal world as a reprieve from the nattering of her fey subjects. She had no friends and needed none. Or so she told herself until that day. The Queen was approaching her favorite fey glen when she heard the clink of glasses and a child's laughter. She found Lakka Mossmantle having a tea party by herself.

The Queen of Shadowglass was terrible to behold, with glossy black eyes, lightning-colored wood, and unnaturally white hair, matted and spun into a high, glorious crown. But Lakka Mossmantle was not afraid. She invited the Queen to sit and have tea with her.

The two formed an improbable, lasting friendship. In the years that followed, the Queen of Shadowglass attended many of Lakka's tea parties. The queen made her royal guards attend with her, laying aside their frosted shields and swords of black ice.

Having finally found some friends, the halfling's confidence and luck improved. Lakka gained increasing acceptance within her village, eventually growing famous and drawing admirers from the surrounding boroughs. Year after year, she found herself with less and less time to hold tea in the woods with the Queen of Shadowglass. But Lakka always remembered and cherished her very first friendship.

In the fickle way of the fey, Lakka's luck wasn't shared by those around her. This occasional ill-fortune never bothered the halfling until she was a grandmother, when a tragic accident took two family members from her. Lakka's adult daughter died in the same river-crossing catastrophe that took her husband, leaving Lakka to live with her son-in-law and five granddaughters.

Lakka was despondent for a long time before an idea came to her. She returned to the woods to have tea with the Queen of Shadowglass, and to beg a boon. She asked that her luck pass to her five grandchildren. The Queen of Shadowglass obliged. She spun five baubles out of the ether that flows between this world and the fey world. Members of the Queen's Guard, the other winter fey who dutifully attended each tea party, poured a measure of their essence into the gems. Upon Lakka's death, the inheritors of these baubles would know the same luck and fey friendship the halfling found in the woods all those years ago. Lakka's grandchildren would also gain some protection derived from the abilities of the Queen's protectors.

Lakka Mossmantle died peacefully at home and surrounded by family. But first, she told her son-in-law of her friendship with the Queen and instructed him to divide the five baubles among her grandchildren. After Lakka's death, the son-in-law did not pass these items to his daughters. A notorious gambler, one plagued with ill-fortune, he saw a chance to take Lakka's place as the luckiest halfling in the village. And though he had an initial run of luck, he lost his children's inheritance bit by bit as he gambled away the precious baubles.

No one knows where Lakka's luck now resides. Rumors of the items still circulate. It's a particularly popular tale in these gambling halls, where it is often said that owning one of these gems means the holder will never lose at dice. Though no one is certain what magic the baubles hold, one aspect of this story is true in every telling of it—anyone who finds all five gems will become as lucky as Lakka Mossmantle.

**THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW LAKKA  
MOSSMANTLE BEFRIENDED THE QUEEN OF  
SHADOWGLASS, WHICH LED TO THE CREATION  
OF THE SHADOWGLASS SPINDLE.**