

Raging Fires of California

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The sun loomed large and bright on the vineyards of Napa Valley, California. Napa Valley is well known for its wine production. Dionysus oftentimes stays in Napa Valley while visiting the mortal world. A sublime young mortal freely skips along, her long curly strawberry blonde hair bounces and floats in the breeze. Her bright, emerald eyes are full of wonder and imagination and enhance her pale peach cheeks. The palette of colors that make up her hair and face form an exquisite portrait of perfection. Her arms delicately billow through the air. A wide smile of true bliss is spread across her face. Her name is Merrigold, and she is as perfect as any mortal can be. Meanwhile, above Napa Valley, in the lush green gardens of Olympus, Eris proffers an attractive bribe to Eros. She asks him to shoot a love arrow at a mortal named Merrigold. In exchange for shooting the love arrow, Eris will lavish Eros with a spectacular golden bracelet embedded with the purest pearls ever discovered. Eros immediately agrees and shoots a powerful love arrow toward Merrigold. Unknowingly struck with the arrow, Merrigold skips with glee until she comes face to face with a strong, splendid, statuesque young man. She falls hopelessly in love with the stranger whom she has never seen before. However, it happens that the man she meets is no mortal. He is a god; he is Dionysus! This god is no stranger to vineyards; Dionysus is the god of Wine. Dionysus often saunters and strolls the vineyards, discerning and relishing the most splendid fruit. Spellbound by the sight of such exquisite beauty, Dionysus falls hopelessly in love with the young mortal. Back on Olympus, Eris watches and smiles wickedly; she has a plan and is thinking of her next step. Eris searches for Dionysus's™ wife, Ariadne and finds her bathing in an Olympic size pool made of marble and filled with pineapple, coconut mineral water. Maidens attend to her every whim. Pretending to be shocked and concerned, Eris runs to Ariadne and discloses Dionysus's™ infidelity. Looking down from Olympus, Ariadne sees Dionysus and Merrigold. She is enraged and runs to Zeus! Full of wrath and fury, Zeus hurls a bolt at Napa Valley. The lightning bolt starts a fire; the roaring flames ravage the Napa and Sonoma valleys. Dionysus is in deep trouble, yet he is also deeply in love; he continues his romance with Merrigold. More lightning bolts strike and raging fires sweep through Northern California. Dionysus ends the affair but it is too late. A distraught Merrigold flees to Anaheim, 430 miles south of Napa. Zeus's™ fury still unquenched, he sends another booming lightning bolt to Anaheim. Tourists at Disneyland panic when they see swaths of grey, smoky skies. In an effort to appease the gods, Dionysus follows Merrigold and turns her into a donkey, and then he quickly returns to Olympus to make amends with Ariadne. The wind gods enjoy watching the fires and the dazzling array of colors in the California

skies. Aeolous, the god of wind, stirs the Santa Ana winds, which further fuel the fire. Down below, an Anaheim farmer finds the donkey Merrigold wandering and brings her to his farm. The farmer is actually a demi-god, the son of a mortal and Persephone, the goddess of grain. When Persephone stops to visit her son, she is drawn to the enchanted donkey; she feels a strong connection to its distinguished beauty. Intrigued by this donkey, Persephone pleads with Zeus to transform the donkey into a mortal again. Zeus finally relents and Merrigold is restored to her proper self, an exquisite young lady. She returns to Napa and is forever faithful to Persephone; she builds Persephone a small but ornate temple. Persephone and Merrigold develop a mystical mother-daughter relationship; together they pick grapes in the Napa Valley and skip under the bright, golden California sun. Ariadne forgives Dionysus but prohibits him from ever visiting vineyards.