

Dear readers,

### A Royal Fairy Tale

.....Once upon a time in a faraway land, a prince married a beautiful princess in a nationwide, joyous celebration. They lived happily with their growing family to the complete satisfaction of their people. Fairy tale? – It happened in Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom in the heights of the Himalayas. On October 13, 2011, the charismatic Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the fifth Dragon King of the Kingdom of Bhutan, married his 21-year-old bride Jetsun Pema. Although the bride is not a born princess, she looks very much like one. After a purification ceremony performed by Bhutan's chief Buddhist cleric, the royal couple are given a mirror, curd, grass and a conch – blessings for longevity, wisdom and purity. Jetsun officially becomes Bhutan's Dragon Queen. – The Sea Queen's fate was different long before Jetsun became Dragon Queen



**The Sea Queen** (fairy tale). The queen dies. Her two children get a stepmother who is actually a demon. Her evil deeds create dramatic events in which the children's real mother, who has turned into the **Sea Queen**, gets involved. She can ultimately turn things around for the better!

**Samtengang Winter trek** is one of the easier, scenically beautiful and lower altitudes trekking in Bhutan which starts in the Punakha valley and can be completed in 4 days. The trail is approximately 54 km in length and the altitude only ranges between 1100-1900m. This trek is especially recommended in winter, when temperatures at night are around freezing. In the monsoon leeches may infest the trekkers and it is difficult to walk along the muddy trails; however this is also one of the appropriate seasons to enjoy watching farmers and their animals working in the fields. You can also choose Samtengang trek in between March-April (Spring) and September and October (Autumn).

Thank you for reading. I hope you feel inspired again to explore Bhutan.-Thanks for visit soon.

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