

## THE BALLAD OF CAMP DECADENCE (Hali Hammer)

In Strawberry, an enchanted land that exists but twice a year  
Dwell a fabled clan called Decadence who magically appear  
    With mobiles, lamps and lanterns  
    With scarves and hangings fine  
    With flying pigs and Christmas lights  
    And beauteous painted signs  
        And suspended from majestic trees  
        A silken parachute swings  
        Of poppy orange and soft dove white  
        Aloft on its breeze-blown wings

They set up their amazing home – things as you'd never see  
If you were just the ordinary camper 'neath the trees  
Then they arise with instruments of every wondrous sort  
And conjure up a circle fair to play and make their sport  
    And twice a day a feast appears  
    That no one can surpass  
    And others flock to join with them  
    To eat and dance and laugh

They carry on for several days in a manner fine and free  
And share in oh so many ways their merriment and glee  
Then just as swiftly as they came they fade into the glen  
And you will have to wait a while for them to emerge again  
    But if at times throughout the year  
    You smile and close your eyes  
    And think sweet thoughts or sing a song  
    They might materialize

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