Why You Have Never Heard of the Valentine Frog...

The Valentine Frog is a wonderfully remarkable creature whose exact history is shrouded in mystery and superstition. Valentine Frogs have been around much longer than St. Valentine himself. Rumor has it that Valentine Frogs were created from the tears of Aphrodite, the Greek Goddess of Love. When Aphrodite first looked upon the world, she wept for the lack of love around her. The tears she shed struck a family of passing frogs, transforming them into the messengers of her benevolence. The frogs underwent a remarkable metamorphosis, changing from a slimy green color to vibrant red and radiant gold. However, their appearance was not the most marvelous change – their spirits became pure love. After kissing one of these colorful frogs, you would fall deeply in love with the first person your gaze rested upon. The Valentine Frogs were born, though they would not be so named for several thousand years yet. Eros (also known as Cupid), the pudgy winged infant of Roman love stories, allegedly rubbed the tips of his arrows on the ticklish bellies of Valentine Frogs. (The Frogs, by the way, quite enjoyed the process!) In his never ending quest to fill the world with ardor, Eros would fire his little arrows at unsuspecting people, causing them to fall madly in love. At this point you may be wondering, "If the Frogs were transformed by Aphrodite and tickled by Eros, why are they called Valentine Frogs?" Well, once a year, St. Valentine would send Frogs to his friends as a symbol of his friendship and love. The concept caught on and soon everyone was sending "Valentine" Frogs to people they cared for. The tradition of sending Valentines was born. The world became a wonderful place filled with love, passion, and happiness. In wedding ceremonies around the world, Valentine Frogs were used as a binding symbol of the couple's love. In fact, the ceremony invariably concluded with some form or another of "You may kiss the Frog." Alas, Valentine Frogs were not all fun and games. There was great danger in kissing a Valentine Frog and looking at your own reflection (as Narcissus discovered). Also, in some parts of the world people mistook poisonous tree frogs for Valentine Frogs and ended up in the unfortunate condition of being deceased. A group of Lawyers, collectively known as D.A.F.T. (Destroy All Frogs Today) used these infrequent cases as a basis for the elimination of all Valentine Frogs. But the real reason the Lawyers did not like the Frogs was because rates of divorce and domestic discord had plummeted to next to nothing. In the pervading spirit of love and friendship, lawsuits were happily settled out of court. The Lawyers were, quite simply, going out of business. Wielding the law like a dagger, the Lawyers excised the Valentine Frogs' right to existence. The Valentine Frogs were labeled a Menace to Society, and the Lawyers got their wish: As Frogs were eliminated, crime, strife, and divorce rates skyrocketed. Of course, not all of the magical Frogs could be caught. However, there was a symbiotic relationship between Valentine Frogs and the bonds of love they created. As love disappeared from the world, Valentine Frog sightings became less and less frequent. And one day, the Valentine Frogs disappeared altogether. People soon forgot all about the poor Valentine Frogs. The same magic that gave the Frogs their power also made the Frogs fade from our memories, like an ephemeral kiss. They took with them not only a potential source of true love, but even the memory of themselves. That is why you have never heard of the Valentine Frog. You will only see them mentioned in some court records and in this story – which is only shared on Valentine's Day. Perhaps, though, if you close your eyes and believe with all your heart, the Valentine Frogs will return...

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A story lovingly crafted for you by B. K. Classon