

NAUGHTY PRINCESS

OXANA LEYKO AS TOLD TO ANNA KOLTSOVA

(WITH HAL AMES)

ARTWORK BY ANNA KOLTSOVA

When I was six years old my grandmother told me this story.

A long time ago there was a Green Kingdom. In this kingdom was a king who had three daughters. He told them he was going to the bazaar. Since there were many merchants there, he asked his daughters what he should buy for them.

The oldest daughter said she wanted a new necklace. The second daughter said she wanted a new dress. The youngest daughter who was very independent, always wanted things to be her way, asked for an orange dog with red ears and yellow paws.

The king asked why, and she answered, “I have a toy dog that is orange with red ears and yellow paws. I want a real dog just like it.”

(When my grandmother told me this story, I was playing with my orange dog with red ears and yellow paws. It was my toy. In the story it is a real dog.)

A few hours later the king went to the bazaar and found the things his older daughters wanted, the necklace and a new dress, but no matter how hard he tried he could not find an orange dog with red ears and yellow paws. He became very sad and went back to the castle.

On his way home, to his great surprise, he saw an orange dog with red ears and yellow paws.

He said to the dog, “Please go to my daughter. If you don’t go she will cry and shout.”

The dog answered, “Okay, I will go with you to your daughter.”

“Thank you so much. She is a difficult child. She is selfish and does not want to do anything but sit in her room. When we make her leave her room, she yells at us and doesn’t want to obey. Sometimes she locks her door and won’t come out. If I don’t bring her an orange dog with red ears and yellow paws, she will be very angry,” the king explained.

“I can teach her to be a better and quieter person. If she suddenly disappears, you shouldn’t cry or search for her. She will be safe,” the dog answered.

The king replied, “Okay, but if I let you do this, will I ever see her again because I love her so much?”

The dog answered, “Yes, if she becomes better, she can come back.”

The king thought it was time for her to learn how to be a better person, but every time he hired a teacher she always sent them away. It was hard to find a teacher who would teach her. This would be the last chance he had to help her.

“Okay, I agree,” said the king and he took the dog with him to the castle.

The daughter, Nastia, was very excited to see the orange dog with red ears and yellow paws.

She told her father, “It’s exactly what I wanted.”

Nastia started to play with the dog and it was very fun.

Suddenly, the dog started running and Nastia ran after him. They ran and ran until they were deep in the forest.



When she looked for the dog, he had disappeared, so she became very frightened because the princess did not remember the way home.

She called out for the dog, but it did not answer.

She saw a small cottage in a meadow in the forest. She went to the door of the cottage and demanded, “Open the door for me!”

No one answered.

She knocked on the door and pushed and pulled but no one answered. The door did not open. It was locked. She sat on the step and cried and cried.

The sun went down, and the forest became dark. She heard a strange noise and then saw yellow eyes looking at her from the forest.

She shouted, “Oh no! It’s wolves!”

She was in a panic and jumped up to knock on the door again, while she screamed, “Open the door, Fast! Please!”

To her surprise the door opened. She jumped into the house, closed the door and locked it.

Now she was no longer in danger.

When she looked around the cottage, no one was there.



She was hungry. She smelled something delicious and when she looked at the table there was a lot of food. However, the food was not cooked, so she would have to cook it herself. She had never cooked before. On the table she found a cookbook, which told her how to cook. She was so hungry she forgot that she was a princess, and then she started to cook. At first the food was very disgusting. She was so hungry it did not matter, but then

over time she became better and the food was quite tasty.

For a long time, she lived in the cottage in the forest because she did not know the way back to the castle.

She was doing everything for herself. She cleaned the house, made her bed, dressed herself, and cooked her own food. She had never done any of these things before.

The doors would only open when she said, “Open please.”

She found more food in a cupboard in the basement under the cottage.

In the living room she found a small library with a lot of books for her to read. She enjoyed sitting in the comfortable chair while she read.

During the day, she walked in the meadow around the cottage where she found berries and mushrooms. She did not go out at night because she was afraid of the wolves in the forest.

One day she saw the orange dog with red ears and yellow paws. She ran up to it and asked, “Why did you run away from me?”

To her surprise, the dog answered her, “I ran away from you because I wanted to help you. I think you know when you were living in the castle you were very naughty, but now I can see that you have become quiet and good. You have learned so many things, and they are very important to make your life better.”

“Can you show me the way back to the castle?” she asked.

“Okay, I will show you the way home, but you must make me a promise to be a good girl,” the orange dog with red ears and yellow paws responded.

She promised that she would do as he asked.

Together they went back to the castle. When they got there, her father saw her and ran out to meet her.

The orange dog with red ears and yellow paws told her he had to go away to help other people. It was very sad for Nastia, but she understood it and let him go.

Her father was very happy to see her. She was very quiet and good.

VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. necklace _____ | a. small house in the forest |
| 2. castle _____ | b. grassy opening in a forest |
| 3. cottage _____ | c. book for cooking instruction |
| 4. disappear _____ | d. jewelry for the neck |
| 5. frightened _____ | e. storage under a house, cellar |
| 6. meadow _____ | f. place to store food and dishes |
| 7. basement _____ | g. where a king lives |
| 8. cupboard _____ | h. vanishes, go missing |
| 9. knock _____ | i. scared, afraid |
| 10. cookbook _____ | j. use the knuckles on a door |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. The king lived in a castle with three daughters. | T / F |
| 2. The oldest daughter wanted a kitten. | T / F |
| 3. The second daughter wanted a dress. | T / F |
| 4. Nastia was a very good child. | T / F |
| 5. The king bought the orange dog with red ears and yellow paws. | T / F |
| 6. Nastia didn't know the way home. | T / F |
| 7. There were dogs in the forest. | T / F |
| 8. Nastia found berries and mushrooms. | T / F |
| 9. The cottage was always very messy. | T / F |
| 10. Nastia never saw her father again. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. How many daughters did the king have? _____
 - a) one
 - b) two
 - c) three
 - d) none

2. What did the oldest daughter want from the bazaar? _____
 - a) dress
 - b) kitten
 - c) necklace
 - d) prince

3. What did Nastia see in the woods? _____
 - a) green eyes.
 - b) yellow eyes.
 - c) red eyes
 - d) blue eyes

4. What did Nastia learn to do? _____
 - a) cook
 - b) clean house
 - c) make her bed
 - d) all the above

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What was the name of the youngest princess?

2. Where did the king go to buy gifts for his daughters?

3. What were the colors of the dog?

4. Where did the king meet the orange dog with red ears and yellow paws?

5. Why did the king need a teacher for Nastia?

6. What did Nastia see in the forest that scared her?

7. What did Nastia find in the basement?

8. What did Nastia do with books she found in the library?

9. What did Nastia say when she saw the orange dog with red ears and yellow paws?

10. Who met Nastia when she got back to the castle?
