

# ***THE WHITE ROSE***

*(A Fairy Tale)*

by

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In a kingdom far away, there lived a beautiful young princess whose name was Selena. One day she secretly left the castle to go to the forest to collect some wild red roses.

The red rose was the symbol of her father, Harold the king of Parnanin. Usually red roses were placed on the tables during the evening meal in the castle, but insects had destroyed the roses in the castle garden. As a result, there were no roses to brighten the evening meal. This had been going on for many weeks.

Since it was the king's birthday, the lords and ladies of the kingdom were planning to surprise the king. At the evening meal, they arranged to perform a special play. Selena wanted to do something even more special. That is why she went to the forest to find red roses.

Selena sneaked out of the castle very quietly. No one knew that she had left. Selena was in the woods looking for the roses when she heard noises in the bushes off to her right. She stopped, but she could not see anything. She was very frightened. She started to walk quickly back to the main trail. It was not long before she realized that she had gone the wrong way. Now she was lost!

The noise in the bushes continued. Something was following her and it was slowly

coming closer and closer. Just as suddenly the sound stopped.

She listened very closely as she walked quickly down the path. The sound had gone away. It seemed as though whatever was following her had left. She looked to the right and to the left. She was scared because she could not find the path to the castle.

Then to her surprise, she heard long, low growls coming from deep within the forest. This scared her even more so she ran through the forest until she reached a meadow. She ran into the meadow and then looked around. She did not see anything, and the noise was gone again.

She was feeling safer and her heartbeat and breathing began to slow down. She sat down on the soft thick grass trying to relax. She lay back in the grass looking at the sky. She was relieved that the noise had stopped.

Just as she was about to fall asleep, she heard the sound of growls and snarls. She sat up and saw that she was surrounded! Now she knew what was making the noise. A pack of gray wolves had burst into the clearing and now formed a circle around Selena, yipping and howling in excitement.

They sounded like they were saying, "We've got the girl; we've got the girl!"

The wolves moved closer, and the circle became smaller. Then even smaller still as the wolves approached her growling and threatening her.

They stopped moving forward, but continued to look at Selena with a hungry look in their eyes. The leader of the pack stared at Selena with open red eyes. Foam dripped from his mouth. Without warning, the leader jumped at Selena, preparing to sink his long fangs deep into her throat.

Selena could not move. In horror, she watched as the giant black beast flew through the air toward her. Her eyes were open wide and a scream of terror came from her mouth.

Just as the wolf was going to bite Selena, a brilliant white flash appeared out of nowhere. The large wolf fell to the ground surprised by the light. The wolf moved slowly backwards from Selena. He was surprised, but not afraid of the light.

All of the other wolves were surprised and fell back as well. The leader of the pack, angry at this interruption, swung around to see what had caused the disruption.

A soft white glow began in the treetops, formed into a ball of light and slowly drifted to the ground. The wolves retreated behind the leader ready to face whatever was approaching.

The ball of light slowly faded and in its place stood a beautiful lady dressed in shining white garments. The leader of the wolves leapt into the air toward the lady in white, attempting to destroy her. When he jumped up to attack her, the lady in white raised her hand. Suddenly the wolf flew backward several feet. He tried to attack a second time, but just when he was ready to sink his teeth into her, she raised her hand, and the wolf once again flew backward onto the ground. The wolf pack was terrified and ran off into the woods.

Selena slowly got up from the ground, and stared at the woman. She had never seen her before. Selena knew all of the people in her father's kingdom; so where did she come from?

The lady in white approached Selena and asked her "Are you hurt?"

"Nothing serious, thank you" she said. "But who are you?"

"I'm Mardona, goddess of the forest, and it has been my job to protect those who enter here who have a pure heart. Although you acted without thinking, your heart was in the right place. I'll now send you home, and I'll give you something to remember me by so that whenever you are in my forest you will treat all things with love and kindness."

Selena became dizzy for just a moment. The next thing she knew, she was at the front gate of the castle.

The soldiers and townspeople were gathering at the gate preparing to search for Selena. When she appeared, they all gasped and went quiet.

One of the people cried out, "It's Selena. She's right here!"

Her father the king, pushed his way through the crowd to get to his daughter, and with tears in his eyes, he hugged her tightly. He told her that when the castle guards had

discovered that she was missing, he organized a search party. They were just preparing to leave when she appeared as if by magic.

Looking around she seemed confused for a moment. The king asked her what was wrong. Selena told him of her rescue in the forest by the goddess Mardona.

Selena said, “Mardona told me that she was going to give me something that would remind me that all living things should be treated with love and kindness,”

She looked at her hands and they were empty.

The king smiled, reached up, and took a beautiful white rose from his daughter’s hair.

The king turned around, faced his subjects, and raised his hands for silence. The crowd became quiet.

Then the king said, “On this day, my daughter was saved by the goddess Mardona. I make a proclamation that, as of now, the red rose, which has been a symbol of our kingdom for generations, is hereby replaced by the white rose. It will symbolize our respect for the land, rivers, rocks, and trees. From this day forward, let us not waste that which has been given to us to care for, and treat all of nature with understanding and love.”

From that day on, the kingdom was blessed. Selena fell in love with a handsome young prince from the neighboring kingdom. During the wedding, the church was filled with white roses. Some who attended said, even though the day was bright and sunny, they had seen a special white light hover over the couple as they were married.



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

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. decorate _____     | a. pasture, forest clearing |
| 2. meadow _____       | b. withdraw, leave          |
| 3. warning _____      | c. represent, signify       |
| 4. interruption _____ | d. strike, assault          |
| 5. relax _____        | e. diminish, disappear      |
| 6. confuse _____      | f. rest, calm               |
| 7. retreat _____      | g. beautify, adorn          |
| 8. fade _____         | h. alarm, notice            |
| 9. attack _____       | i. distraction              |
| 10. symbolize _____   | j. puzzle, baffle           |

**TRUE / FALSE:**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. The princess went to the garden in the palace.          | T / F |
| 2. The princess got lost.                                  | T / F |
| 3. The wolves were afraid of the princess.                 | T / F |
| 4. Red roses were the symbol of the kingdom.               | T / F |
| 5. The guards and the townspeople looked for the princess. | T / F |
| 6. The princess died.                                      | T / F |
| 7. The biggest wolf attacked the princess.                 | T / F |
| 8. The princess married a prince.                          | T / F |
| 9. The king made the color green his new color.            | T / F |
| 10. The princess sneaked out of the castle.                | T / F |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. What did the princes look for in the forest? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) red roses
  - b) yellow roses
  - c) red carnations
  - d) her father
  
2. What animal wanted to kill the princess? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) lion
  - b) tiger
  - c) soldier
  - d) wolf
  
3. What was the new symbol of the kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) yellow roses
  - b) green garland
  - c) purple passion
  - d) white roses
  
4. Who sent out the soldiers to find Selena? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) queen
  - b) prince
  - c) townspeople
  - d) king

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

1. Why did the princess go to the forest?

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2. What was the old color of the kingdom?

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3. Who helped the princess in the meadow in the forest?

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4. What was following the princess in the forest?

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5. What would have happened to the princess if Mardona had not helped her?

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6. Who was going to search for the princess?

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7. Whose birthday party was the princess getting red roses for?

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8. What noise did the princess hear in the forest?

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9. When the wolves surrounded the princess, which one attacked her?

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10. According to Mardona, the princess was supposed to be kind to what?

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