

DISNEP

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Dearest Reader.

If you would be so kind as to indulge me, I would like to tell you a tale. Years have passed since these events unfolded, but I remember them vividly. It's no surprise, really. After all, I am a fairy godmother, and fairy godmothers have great memories (not to mention impeccable[®] fashion sense). Over the years, I have helped many young people discover that dreams can come true. I've watched love blossom and grow, watched heroes find strength and hard-hearted people find soul. But this story touched me more than all the others.

It begins, as all the good stories do, with "once upon a time..."



最亲爱的读者:

请允许我给你讲一个故事。故事发生已经有好多年了,但我却历历在目。不过,这也真没什么好奇怪的。因为我是一位仙女教母,仙女教母都有强大的记忆力(还有无与伦比的时尚品位)。多年来,我帮助过很多年轻人认识到梦想是可以实现的。我目睹过爱情之花盛开、成长,看到过英雄获得力量,铁石心肠的人找到灵魂。但这个故事比任何一个都能打动我的心。

这个故事,像所有的好故事一样,开头是"很久以前……"

① impeccable adj. 无瑕疵的,无懈可击的

Prologue

Once upon a time, there lived a handsome man and a beautiful woman. They were kind gentle and generous to all. The man worked hard to make his wife happy, and his wife loved him wildly. They lived in a quaint home in the middle of a beautiful kingdom.

A large meadow² behind the house provided flowers through spring and summer, and in a small field, sweet lambs grazed³ beside contented cows. It was a home filled with cheer. When the husband and wife had a perfect baby girl, the home became happier still.

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序幕

很久以前,有一位英俊的男子和一位美丽的女人。他们对 所有人都亲切善良,慷慨大方。男人辛勤地工作,要让妻子幸福, 而妻子也深深地爱着丈夫。他们居住在一个美丽王国中部的一 所古色古香的房子里。

他们的房子后面有一大片草地,从春天到夏天都开满了鲜花,还有一小块田地,可爱的牛羊在那里怡然自得地吃草。这是一个欢乐的家庭。当他们可爱的女儿降临时,这个家更是和

① quaint adj. 古雅的, 古色古香的 ② meadow n. 草地 ③ graze v. 吃草

They named the baby Ella, and from the moment she was born, she was their little princess. True, she had no title or crown or castle. But she was the ruler of her own little kingdom. The forest and meadow were her borders, and the birds in the air and the critters in the fields were her subjects.

Whether she pretended to be an elephant traipsing through the Sahara or a wild horse galloping through the meadow, everyone, from the mice in the house to the cooks in the kitchen, was happy to play along. Both animal and human alike fell under her enchantment, happier when in her presence.

乐融融。

他们给孩子取名叫瑞拉,孩子一出生就是他们的小公主。 没错,她没有头衔,没有王冠,也没有城堡。但她却统治着自己的小王国:树林和草地是她的领地,空中的小鸟和田野里的动物是她的臣民。

不论她装成撒哈拉沙漠里游荡的大象,还是扮作草地上飞 奔的野马,大家都喜欢和她一起玩耍,不管是屋里的小老鼠, 还是厨房里的厨师。动物也好,人也好,都喜爱这位小姑娘, 只要她一出现,大家就兴高采烈。

¹⁾ traipse v. 闲荡 2) gallop v. 飞驰

Chapter 1

Spring had arrived in the kingdom. The grass in the meadow was a bright green, and flowers grew tall in their beds. Baby lambs grazed in the meadow, while ducks flapped[®] around in a small fountain[®] near the main house.

Stepping through the front door, ten-year-old Ella inhaled deeply and smiled. She reached into her pocket and closed her small hand around the bread crumbs she had gotten from the kitchen. She skipped toward the ducks splashing about and began throwing the crumbs into the water.

The ducks pecked³ at the bread, thrilled to have

第1章

春天来到了这个王国。草地一片鲜绿,苗圃里的花儿亭亭 玉立。小羊羔在草地上吃着草,鸭子在主屋旁的喷泉里拍打着 翅膀游来游去。

十岁的小瑞拉从前门走出来,深吸了一口气,脸上洋溢着 笑容。她把手伸到衣袋里,抓出一把从厨房拿来的面包屑。她 蹦跳着来到嬉水的鸭子跟前,开始往水里扔面包屑。

鸭子们啄食着面包,这顿美餐让它们兴奋不已。但想分享

¹ flap v. 拍打(翅膀) 2 fountain n. 喷泉 3 peck v. 啄食

a treat. But they were not the only ones who wanted some. In an instant, sparrows flew down from the nearby trees, and even the goats and sheep began to make their way over. Soon it was chaos as all the animals and birds tried to get to the bread.

Ella waded^① among the throng, moving some of the bigger birds out of the way. "You there," she said to one particularly large duck, "what do you think you're doing? Let the little ones have their share." Turning toward a goat with a rather large clump of grass in his mouth, Ella added, "Goliath, do take some time to chew your food. We don't want you getting an upset stomach."

A gentle laugh surprised Ella, and she turned around. Her mother was standing nearby, an

美餐的不只是鸭子。转眼间,附近树上的麻雀飞了下来,甚至 山羊和绵羊都过来凑热闹。很快动物和鸟儿都为面包抢作一团。

瑞拉蹚水走在它们中间,把一些大个头的鸟推开。"喂,"她对一只特别大的鸭子说道,"你干什么呢?让小家伙们也吃一点儿。"瑞拉转过来,对一只嘴里含着一大团青草的山羊说:"歌利亚,好好把嘴里的食物嚼碎。我们可不希望你吃坏肚子。"

一阵轻笑声传来,瑞拉吃惊地转过头来。她的母亲站在旁边,脸上露出一副被逗乐的表情。"你依然相信它们能听懂你

¹⁾ wade v. 涉水

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amused expression on her face. "Do you still believe that they understand you?" she asked.

A look of doubt filled Ella's bright blue eyes. "Don't they?"

"Oh, yes," she assured her daughter. "I believe that animals listen, and speak to us, if only we have the ear for it. That is how we learn to look after them."

A big smile spread across Ella's face. Then she frowned². "Who looks after us?"

"Fairy godmothers, of course," her mother answered.

(Forgive the interruption, but I can't resist. I was always fond of Ella's mother. Such a good judge of character, and clearly smarter than most humans.

的话?"她问道。

瑞拉明亮的蓝眼睛充满了疑惑:"它们听不懂吗?"

"哦,当然,"母亲安慰道,"我相信它们能听懂,它们还能对我们说话,只要我们愿意倾听。这样我们才知道怎么照顾它们。"

瑞拉咧开嘴笑了。随后她又皱起了眉头:"那谁来照顾我们呢?"

"当然是仙女教母了。"母亲回答道。

(请原谅,我忍不住要打断一下。我一直非常喜欢瑞拉的母

¹⁾ assure v. 向……保证, 使……放心 2 frown v. 皱眉

But do go back to the story...)

Ella's eyes grew wide. "And do you believe in them?"

"I believe in everything," Ella's mother replied.

Ella was quiet for a moment, her mother's words running through her head. She nodded. "Then I believe in everything, too."

"Which is just as it should be," her mother declared.

Just then, Ella heard the sound of hoofbeats¹ coming up the drive². She knew those hoofbeats. Ella let out a squeal before taking off across the meadow, heading for the drive. Her father was home!

亲。因为她有知人之明,而且比大多数人都聪慧。但还是请回 到故事中去吧……)

瑞拉睁大了眼睛:"你相信她们的存在吗?"

"我相信一切,"瑞拉的母亲回答。

瑞拉静静地思考了一会儿母亲的话,然后点点头说:"那我也相信一切。"

"本来就应该这样,"母亲说道。

就在这时,瑞拉听到车道上传来一阵马蹄声。她熟悉这个声音。瑞拉叫了一声,飞奔过草地,跑到车道旁。她的父亲回来了!

¹⁾ hoofbeat n. 蹄声 2) drive n. 车道

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Ella's father was often gone for long stretches of time on merchant business, and when he was away, the house was just a little less bright.

"Papa!" Ella shouted, skipping the few remaining steps that separated her from her father. "Welcome home!"

Ella's father lifted her into his arms, nearly squishing her in a giant bear hug. She hugged back as hard as her little ten-year-old arms would allow. Then she took a deep breath, inhaling the smell of road and dust that accompanied her father whenever he returned. She loved the smell, even though she knew Mother would force him into a hot bath as soon as possible.

After several moments, Ella slid to the

瑞拉的父亲为了生意经常长时间出门在外,他不在的时候, 家里就少了一点生机。

"爸爸!"瑞拉大叫着跳过面前的几级台阶,"欢迎回家!"瑞拉的父亲把她紧紧地抱在怀里,力气大得都快把她压扁了。她也用十岁小孩稚嫩的胳膊紧紧地抱着父亲。她深深地吸了一口气,闻着父亲每次回来都带着的风尘仆仆的味道。她喜欢这种味道,尽管她知道母亲会逼着父亲赶紧去洗个热水澡。

过了一会儿,瑞拉从父亲怀抱里滑下来。和以往一样,她 走到加拉哈德面前亲切地摸了摸它的鼻子。马儿亲昵地把头靠

¹ squish 挤扁,压扁

ground. As was part of her routine, she stepped up to Galahad and affectionately put her hand on his muzzle^①. The horse leaned into her. When Ella turned back around, her eyes widened with excitement. Her father was holding out a beautifully wrapped gift.

"What is it?" Ella asked eagerly.

"Oh, nothing but a cocoon²," her father replied. "I found it hanging on a tree."

Ella raised an eyebrow. She knew it wasn't just a cocoon. Her father was teasing her. Ella's father gently shook the gift. "But I think there may be something inside." He held out the package, and very carefully, Ella unwrapped the gift. Then she let out a delighted gasp. Inside was the most beautiful

在她的怀里。瑞拉转过身时,她的眼睛因为兴奋睁得大大的。 父亲手里拿着一个包装精美的礼物。

"这是什么?"瑞拉迫不及待地问。

"哦,没什么,只是一只虫茧,"父亲答道,"我发现它挂在一棵树上。"

瑞拉扬了一下眉毛。她知道肯定不是一只虫茧。父亲只是在逗她玩。瑞拉的父亲轻轻摇了摇礼物。"但我觉得里面可能有什么东西。"他把礼物递过来,瑞拉小心翼翼地拆开了。她开心地吸了一口气。里面是一只她所见过的最漂亮、最美妙的玩具

① muzzle n. (动物的)鼻口部, 口套 ② cocoon n. 茧 ③ tease v. 逗弄

and marvelous toy butterfly she had ever seen. With a practiced move, Ella's father took it and made the creature flutter[®] around Ella's face. It looked like it was alive!

"In French," her father explained, "that is un papillon."

Ella repeated the phrase, the words funny on her tongue. Her father had been teaching her French whenever he was home, and she was slowly becoming more fluent. He said that a true lady knew the language of the poets as well as the language of the farmer.

"Très bon," her father cried after she had repeated the phrase several times. Then he held out his hand. "Voulez-vous danser, mademoiselle?"

蝴蝶。瑞拉的父亲熟练地拿过蝴蝶,让它在瑞拉的面前飞舞。它看起来栩栩如生!

父亲解释道:"它在法语里读作 un papillon (彩蝶)。"

瑞拉重复了一下这个词,觉得它念起来非常有意思。父亲 只要在家就会教她法语,慢慢地她说得越来越流利。父亲说一 个真正的淑女既要通晓诗人的语言,也要会讲农夫的语言。

听到瑞拉念了几遍,父亲用法语大声说:"很好!"然后他伸出手,用法语问:"可以赏光跳支舞吗,小姐?"

¹⁾ flutter v. 拍翅而飞

"S'il vous plaît!" Ella exclaimed, dipping into a curtsy. Her father smoothly swept her into his arms, and they began to waltz their way up the rest of the drive to where Ella's mother waited, a happy smile on her face.

Later that night, Ella lay tucked in her bed. The butterfly sat on the nightstand in a place of honor, while her mother sat on the covers, holding a beautiful book. Her gentle voice filled the room as she told Ella a story about a faraway land, a large ogre², and a dashing prince.

Ella's eyelids fluttered as she tried to stay awake. Looking down at her sweet daughter snuggled in her arms, Ella's mother began to sing a familiar lullaby[®]. "Lavender's blue, dilly dilly. Lavender's

"好啊!"瑞拉行了一个屈膝礼用法语答道。父亲熟练地把 她转进自己的臂弯,父女俩在车道上跳着华尔兹走到瑞拉的母 亲面前,母亲满面笑容地等在一边。

那天晚上晚些时候,瑞拉妥妥帖帖地盖好了被子,躺在床上。蝴蝶安放在床头柜子一个醒目的位置上,母亲坐在被子上,手里捧着一本精美的书。她正在给瑞拉讲一个关于一个遥远的地方、一个巨魔和一位英俊王子的故事,她轻柔的声音在房间里飘荡。

瑞拉强忍着睡意, 眨巴了一下眼睛。母亲看着依偎在怀里

① curtsy n. 屈膝礼 ② ogre n. 食人魔鬼,怪物 ③ lullaby n. 摇篮曲,催眠曲

green... When I am king, dilly dilly, you shall be queen..." Her voice drifted off as Ella's father entered the room. He placed a gentle kiss on his daughter's forehead. Smiling, Ella's mother began the final refrain. Ella woke and her soft voice joined in: "Lavender's green, dilly dilly. Lavender's blue... You must love me, for I love you."

As the song came to a close, Ella's parents stood up and began to blow out the candles one by one. Walking to the doorway, they turned to take another look at their sleeping angel. In that moment, everything seemed as it should be. They knew themselves to be the most fortunate people, to live as they did, and to love each other so.

可爱的女儿,开始唱一首熟悉的摇篮曲:"薰衣草啊,嘀哩嘀哩, 蓝花绿叶……我为国王,嘀哩嘀哩,你为王后……"瑞拉的父 亲走进房间时,她的歌声渐渐地低了下来。父亲轻轻吻了一下 瑞拉的额头。母亲微笑着开始唱最后一段歌词。这时瑞拉醒了, 用轻柔的声音和母亲一起唱道:"薰衣草啊,嘀哩嘀哩,蓝花绿 叶……你要爱我,因我爱你。"

歌声停止以后,瑞拉的父母站起来把蜡烛一支支吹灭。朝门口走的时候,他们又回过头看了看熟睡着的天使。那一刻,一切都显得那么自然而然。他们知道自己是最幸运的人,能拥

¹⁾ refrain n. 叠句, 副歌

(a

However, sorrow^① can come to any kingdom, no matter how happy. And so it came to Ella's, for her mother grew very ill.

Hovering²² in the doorway of her father's study, Ella looked on as the doctor examined his patient. A bed had been set up and her mother lay on it, a shell of the beautiful woman she had once been. Now, his examination complete, the doctor began putting away his tools.

"Ella, Come,"

Hearing her father's tired voice, Ella hesitated before walking into the makeshift³ sickroom. The doctor put a hand on her shoulder as he departed. She knew he was trying to be reassuring, but it just made the

有这样的幸福生活,一家人如此相亲相爱。

但是, 悲伤会降临任何一个王国, 不管这个王国是多么幸福。 它也降临到了瑞拉的王国, 她的母亲得了很严重的病。

瑞拉守在父亲书房门前,看着医生给母亲做检查。书房里 摆放了一张床,母亲就躺在上面,这个美丽的女人现在变得骨 瘦如柴。现在,医生做完了检查,开始收拾东西。

"瑞拉,过来。"

听到父亲疲惫的声音,瑞拉在走进这个临时病房前犹豫了 一下。医生拍了拍瑞拉的肩膀离开了。她知道医生在试图安慰

① sorrow n. 悲伤 ② hover v. 守候在旁 ③ makeshift adj. 临时

sick feeling in her stomach grow stronger. Ella made her way to her mother's bedside and kneeled down, carefully placing her hand on top of her mother's.

"Ella," her mother said, her voice weak. "It seems it is time for me to leave. And we must say good-bye before I go." Tears began to run down Ella's cheeks. "I don't want you to be sad," her mother said. Then she paused and a small smile spread across her face. "Well, you can be sad for a little while. But then, whenever you think of me, I want you to smile. Because I'll be smiling, too, when I look at you."

Ella's throat closed up and she struggled to say something. But words wouldn't come. So instead she just nodded.

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自己,可是他这一拍让本来就忐忑不安的瑞拉更加难受了。瑞 拉走到母亲的床前跪了下来,小心地把手放在了母亲的手上。

"瑞拉,"母亲用微弱的声音说,"看来我该走了。走之前我们得道个别。"瑞拉的泪水夺眶而出,滑过脸颊。"我不想看到你难过,"母亲说。她停顿了一下,然后轻轻地笑了。"好吧,你可以难过一小会儿。但是,不管你什么时候想起我,你都要笑。因为看到你的时候,我也在笑。"

瑞拉的喉咙像是被堵住了,她想说点儿什么,可就是说不 出来。所以她只好点点头。

¹ pause v. 停顿