

II. AJ ĽUK VT, Sofia Dzibelová, Little Princess, Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina,  
Námestie SNP 9, Piešťany

Max, my horse was unusually calm today. Even when I played with an apple in my hands he did not react. Who knows if he scented what was about to happen to us that day. Because I did not.

The sun was already up high as we were leaving the manor. My lord, Mr. Hartford asked me to deliver a letter to his sister. It was three long days on the road, so there was no time to lose. I spurred the horse on and we were on our way. We passed manors, meadows with cattle and farms, until we reached the forest which was separating the kingdoms. The rays of the sun fell on Max's brown fur and we slowed down. The forest was very quiet. The only sound far and wide was the sound of my horse's hooves. Suddenly, Max stopped. His ears were alert and he searched the area by his eyes. Same as I. In that moment I saw her. A little young girl. She sat under the tree and play with a caterpillar. What brought her here? Is that poor child alone? I questioned myself. I got off the horse and came to her. She ignored me and continued to watch the caterpillar trying to get from one finger to another. I crouched near her and said: "I wish you a pleasant day, young lady" ... I waited for an answer but no came. "What brings you to the forest? Are you alone?" ... Quiet. I was about to repeat the question when she spoke: "What's the end of the story?" she said by ringing voice but didn't take eyes of the caterpillar. I was confused. "Excuse me, but..." "Can you please tell me ? The end of the story?" She interrupted me. I pretended not to hear the question even in was more than unpolite. "May I know your name young lady?" ...After a while she said: "Will you tell me the end of the story, please?" "What to do? I mustn't leave her here it's against my good principles. What else could I than to comply her request? I had no choice. "Will you tell me your name, if I do what did you ask me for?" I said. She shrugged. I looked at the caterpillar, she was watching for whole time. I did not see what is so special about it and not at all how to end its story. I didn't like to tell stories. Especially the ends because everyone except something else. I sighed. "Well..." I coughed. "The caterpillar has turned to a butterfly and flew away where it's heart brought it." I tried to make the happiest end. Because everyone likes happy ends. "No, I don't like it, it's too happy," she said still playing with the caterpillar. Unbelieve! I thought. "Hmm... and what if the caterpillar the jumped from your finger waved and disappeared in the tall grass full of flowers." She started laughing and that made me smile. She let the caterpillar on the ground and I asked again. "May I know your name, young lady?"

She got up and ran to my horse with no word. I came to a conclusion that I probably won't get to know her name. That is the reason why I decided to call her Little Princess and she really looked like one. Long blond hair with flowers of all colours, bare feet, long white dress. Now, when I am writing this, she reminds me more a fairy. Well, who knows why I decided call her like that, in the time. I came to her. She was caressing my horse on his forehead. „Sir, could you ride me somewhere please?” she asked politely. „Of course, young lady, where exactly?” ... “Home,” this was a first time she looked at me. „And my I ask where is that?” I was a bit confused. „I'll know, when I see it.”

We were almost at the end of the forest and I still didn't know a thing about Little Princess, I've tried to ask a couple times, but I suppose, that poor girl is just a little shy. Then I got an idea: “I'd like to her same story from you too.” I immediately got her attention. “Oh really? And which one? I cannot choose, may I tell you more of them sir?” she asked and her voice sounded almost like a birdsong. “Of course, we have a long way ahead us,” I answered. Little princess smiled and began telling the story with such joy. „Once I was in this place, there was a big square with a lot of nice buildings and a fountain in the middle. Around this fountain, there was market with sales, but there were no people at the square except one man sitting below the fountain staring somewhere. “Hello sir,” Little Princess came to him: “Why are you unhappy?” he asked like it was a greeting. “Should I be unhappy?” Little Princess asked. “Everyone is unhappy, because of something here.” He looked at her confusedly. “What's your reason sir?” ask a Little Princess. Sigh: “I want a wife who'll love me so I could give her a warm of home and she could give me a beautiful family.” said man. „Excuse me, but I don't see the problem sir,” said Little Princess and spotted a woman at which the man was staring at the whole time. “Isn't it *obvious*?! I'm afraid,” said man upset. “Of what?” Little Princes didn't understand. “What if she rejects me? What if my house is too small for her heart? What if she doesn't dream about heaving a family like I do? What if...” “So many doubts...” Little Princes shook her head. She came to the woman behind a stand. “Hello...” she couldn't even end the sentence “Why are you unhappy?” The woman greeted her. “Uhm... Why are you unhappy?” Little Princess tried avoid the answer, cause she did not have any. “I really want a father for my two children, my husband died and I really need someone who can give me support and a warm of home,” woman said sadly. “Excuse me, but I don't see the problem madam.” said Little Princess again. “Oh, silly little girl, isn't it *obvious*?!”

“That's unbelievable! What strange people!” I said as we were passing shepherds with sheep. Little princess smiled: Are you also so scared of something that it stops you from doing

it?" "Only falling of a horse" I laugh. "But sir, you're riding a horse aren't you?" I just smiled. We were quiet for a while when little princess asked me: "Have you ever been to the sea sir?" "Unfortunately, no, I have not." "It's beautiful you know...the sea. One time I've met a fisherman, on a beautiful beach, with white sand." I followed her story envisaging it as she spoke. The weather was peaceful, no wind, no waves, only sun. Little princess was walking down the pier. And almost at the end there he was. She came closer to see who is he talking to. It was a crab. She sat down and listened to them argue. "Sir, I'm just asking you for one or two small fish, for my children" said crab. "Pff..., I won't give you anything! You are a crab, you can go to the water and find some yourself!" said an angry fisherman. "If I could I wouldn't be asking you for this, sir. There are no fish in the bay. You took all of them!" said crab desperately. "How dare you to insult me like that crab?! I always follow the given rules by our king and I've never took more than I'm allowed to." The old fishmen sighed: "I'm not willing to help you crab," he said right into crab's eyes as it was his worst enemy. Crab helplessly walked away knowing his children will fall asleep hungry today. "I hate crabs," said the old fisherman and Little Princess walked to him. "Why you do hate them sir?" she asked. "I lost two fingers because of them, young lady." He answered as he knew she was there the whole time and showed her his right hand with no forefinger and middle finger. "You can't imagine how difficult is fishing when you don't have two fingers, especially when it's the only way I am able to feed my child," the old fishman sighed. Little Princess was confused. "Excuse me sir, but I'm afraid I don't understand. Did you lose your fingers because of that crab?" Little Princess pointed at the crab at the distance. "No, but they are all..." "And you both want the same, at the end... feed your children. That one crab hurt you sir, doesn't mean they are all alike." The fisherman sighed and looked at the crab in the distance. He took two fish and ran crab's direction.

"Maybe eventually they became friends..." I said to Little Princess. "Yes, maybe. They were much alike" she smiled. "But you know, that listening others people conversations is miss behave?" I said. "Hmm.. really?" she was surprised and made me smile again. „Do you still have some more stories? I asked. "Sir, I always do."

"And this is my favourite story even though the place wasn't that nice." Little princess started to tell another story. It reminded a wasteland. There were no trees, no flowers, no grass as far as you could see. Then she spotted a little boy. He was sitting on the ground without any move except blinking his eyes. Even that he did weirdly fast. She walked to him. "Will you

play with me?" she asked because she did not play with somebody for long time. "I can't, I'm watching it." he said and blinked as fast as he could. "Watching what?" Little Princess asked looking for something on the bare ground. "Shhhh, my shadow. You are this disturbing me. The sun was shining at his back and creating a perfect shadow right in front of him. "But why are you watching it?" she whispered. "Because it's dangerous and scary, it doesn't even have face! If I'd stop watching it something bad could happen." said boy with a fear in his voice. "And did you ever try it?" Little Princess asked. "Only a fool would try it." said boy like it was clear. Then the Little Princess spotted her shadow too. She sat down next to the boy with her face turned to the sun away from her shadow. Boy held his breath from fear but nothing bad happened. Little Princess even turned her head for a while back to her shadow and waved to it. "You need to say hi to it sometimes so it won't get sad, it's part of you, at the end," boy couldn't believe his eyes. He slowly turned to the sun and waited for the worst but nothing. Then he stood up, turned back and waved to his shadow. The shadow waved him back and the same time. Boy was so excited, he lied on the ground and started laughing. The Little Princess joined him. After a while he said: "But what do I do now? This never did happen... What should I do?" boy was asking himself. "I should find a wife... Will you be my wife?" He turned his head to Little Princess. "I won't be your wife, I'll be your friend" said Little Princess like he just offended her. Boy did not understand. „You know sometimes is friendship much more than love" Little Princess tried to explain. "What's a friendship?" boy asked. "A friend is who shows you the sun while you are looking at your shadow." said Little princess and boy smiled as he's just understood everything. "May I be your friend?" he asked gently. "A real friendship takes time. It's build by actions, but one day we'll become friends for sure." she said nicely. "Come" she stood up. "Let's go play," said Little Princess.

As they were chasing each other, they spotted something strange in the valley. A Little brown filly near a small lake surrounded by a bit of grass. By the manner of time boy and the filly became inseparable friends and boy named it Max.

"Stop the horse, stop the horse! I see it... I see home," Little Princess screamed with her ringing voice. I was so confused by everything she just said, that I could ask one question.

"For what did you need it? The end of caterpillar's story?" "Oh... my dear friend, who said it was the end of caterpillar's story?.." Little Princess jumped from the horse waved and disappeared in the tall grass full of flowers.