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#### Chapter 1

A long time ago, in the middle of Europe, there was a big and wealthy kingdom. It was blessed with lots of treasures and happy people who lived their long lives freely.

In this kingdom there was no starvation, illnesses, misery or sorrow. The people who worked and sang in the fields were never greedy, lazy or sad. In every home there was peace and love.

All animals and all people there lived happily together and helped each other. The weather was always fine and nothing bad ever happened. There was no arguing and no fights in the kingdom neither between people nor between animals.

This kingdom was ruled by a wise, fair and generous king called Lech. He was blessed with two wonderful daughters called Eurydica and Asli, as well as with two younger sons called Remus and Romulus. The

only thing that bothered Lech was the fact that his wife was summoned to the kingdom of her parents to solve urgent matters and had to stay there for a long time.

Because all people and animals lived together, Remus and Romulus were nursed by a she-wolf called Lupa.

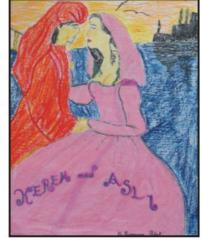
The days passed by and Lech's daughters were already grown up. The time was come for them to get married.



At this time, all people and all animals knew the famous harp player – Orpheus. Everybody was inspired by his songs. Orpheus was not married and he loved to play to everybody in the kingdom. His job was

to play and sing and this way make the work of all the people pleasant and easy.

As most of the maidens in the kingdom, Eurydica was in love with Orpheus and hoped that he would marry her. Her sister Alsi was also in love, but with one of the officers in the royal army called Kerem.



The life in the kingdom was running carefree until one day the unexpected happened. Both Lech's sons were kidnapped by the mighty dragon of Wawel. Lupa explained that she had just taken the boys out to play when the enormous dragon had come out of the trees and had taken the boys. After that he had set the forest on fire with his breath and has flown away.



Such a thing had never happened before and nobody knew what to expect. The whole kingdom was terrified and nobody knew what to do. Lech asked all the people and all the animals to help him find his children or at least help find an explanation about why had they been kidnapped. Time passed by but there was no clue about where the boys



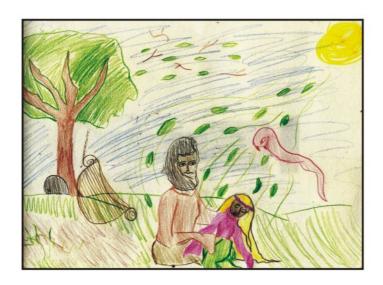
The only thing left to do was to send somebody to search for the missing brothers. It was decided that three different persons should go searching in three different directions. The first one was Kerem who led all the best fighters in the kingdom. The second one was Orpheus

who was accompanied by the animals that were the best trackers in the whole kingdom. And the third one was Lupa who went alone in order to be fast and stealthy.



The heroes were sent to the borders of the kingdom in three different directions to search for the children and to try to return them and this way to return the happiness in the kingdom. Yet everybody knew that they would never live the same way again.

The two princesses were devastated because their brothers were missing and the men they loved were also gone to the unknown and it was not sure if they were ever going to return from this dangerous adventure. Both sisters cried day after day...



#### Chapte 11

Lupa's heart was full of sorrow. She felt that she had betrayed both royal family and the kingdom. She decided to find the boys whatever the cost.

Lupa decided to move north. Her animal instinct told her that answers about dragon are there.

In her path met Lupa lot of helpful men and animals, but unfortunately nobody knew anything about Wavel dragon and two princes.

Days passed by. Wealthy towns and villages with feracious fields were left behind. More and more had Lupa travel through quaggy marshes and dark forests. The more north Lupa moved the more people and animals became serious and distrustful. At least the days became longer in north and nights shorter.

But one night, when Lupa slept in forest, something happened. She heard sinister growling. Lupa opened her eyes and found herself in the middle of wolf flock.

- Who are you? asked one strange wolf viciously
- I am Lupa. She-wolf from Lech kingdom.
- But if you are wolf why are you sleeping at night? was strange wolf suspicious Maybe you are spirit from Underworld."
- I am wolf from Lech kingdom defended herself Lupa In our kingdom wolves sleep at night.
- Lets bring her to chief suggested another wolf let him decide if she is wolf or a spirit!
- Yes! Lets do that! howled other wolves too. They nudged Lupa with their muzzle and forced her to move along.

Chief-wolf was big white male who lied regally on the big rock. He explored Lupa carefully and asked from his flock - Why do you harass this wolf?

- Oh, chief answered one wolf this female wolf say that she is form Lech kingdom but we think that she is evil spirit because no wolf sleeps at night.
- Actually this strange Lech kingdom really exists affirmed chief-wolf and jumped down form rock.
- Forgive my flock said he to Lupa I have heard that there is no evil in Lech kingdom but here in north we must be always alert. Gate of the Underworld is within call and dark creatures move often around here.
- I understand answered Lupa generously
- I have a question continued chief-wolf Why have you come so far north?
- We had big disaster in our kingdom said Lupa the Wavel dragon kidnapped two princes. Do you, northern wolves, know anything about this dragon?
- Unfortunately not said chief-wolf but if this dragon is some kind of Underworld creature then you can ask help from Old Devil.
- Who is this Old Devil?
- The great lord of Underworld said chief wolf and sighed local wolves have duty to keep Old Devil and his company

underground but we don't succeed always. Yesterday was Old Devil in village and nicked four sheep from there. But this is not the worst problem. People say that Old Devil's wife – mother Casca – walks around forest, makes strange noises and pushes people down the cliff. We haven't found this woman so far. Too clever is the old lady compared to his husband.



- If you lead me to Underworld, maybe I can ask Old Devil to call his wife home - suggested Lupa.
- We and local people would be very grateful grinned Chief-wolf.

On the command of chief two wolves became guides to Lupa to the gate of Underworld.

Path leaded to deep and dark forest. Trees were so close to each other that sunlight could not touch the ground. Murky dusk was around the forest floor even in the sunniest

summer days. Lupa noticed several wooden human shape figurines with horns.

- People from nearby villages make these figurines - had one wolf discerned Lupa's curiosity - they bring here sacrifices to appease creatures of the Underworld.

Soon had wolves arrived to big fallen spruce. Under enormous dirty and mossy ball of roots opened wide dark hole.

- We cannot go further - said one leading wolf - our tribe has agreement with Old Devil not to enter to Underworld. We wish you success.

Two wolves ran away and Lupa was left alone in front of the gate to the Underworld. If Lupa had another choice she would never entered to this glooming hole. Luckily captured Lupa's nose a smell which made entering to Underworld's gate easier: the smell of mellow sheep meat.

Entrance to Underworld developed to tunnel with no light. But Lupa needed no light – she had good nose. Smell became stronger and stronger. Suddenly tunnel ended and Lupa was in Underworld. She saw big flaming lava river with strange-shaped rock trees on its banks. She saw rock forests where gems sat in for leaves and fruits. But in front of her Lupa saw a back of a big man who was sitting near fire. Two



horns appeared from man's shaggy hair. It was clear that man have had recently big feast, cause bellyful wodge of sheep-bones lied near him. Lupas nose had not mistaken!

- Hey! Are you Old Devil! - called Lupa.

Man turned slowly around. When he saw Lupa he jumped up and turned suddenly into smoke cloud. Lupa was very surprised.

- We had agreement that you don't come to Underworld! heard Lupa man's voice on the other bank of lava river You cheaters!
- I am not wolf from the local tribe said Lupa I need help from Old Devil.
- Do you want to bite Old Devil? asked man
- No! Really! Are you the Old Devil? repeated Lupa her question
- Okey then...then I am Old Devil turned again to smokecloud and appeared near Lupa - What do you want from me?
- I need to find Wavel dragon. Do you know where he is?
- No, I don't know. But my old lady mother Casca knows.

In one second had Lupa almost lost all her hope. But only in one second.

- Then let's ask from mother Casca! suggested she gladly. Simultaneously was opened a chance to ask mother Casca not to annoy village people.



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- Actually this is a kind of embarrassing story... scratched Old Devil his scruff - We have quarrel right now... You see... I have a big farm where are maids and farmhands always needed. But you know how is today with workers.... Often Crafty-Hans from village works in my farm but he is such a tricky person... Well... A month ago I met a beautiful young woman in stone forest. Appearently was she new in Underworld. I asked to come her to work as a maid in my farm. At first she primmed, said that she was in her life countess Erzsebet Bathory and she will never work as maid. But when I said that I am the lord of Underworld himself she agreed. Then the problems started. I wish I knew that this young woman had sick affection toward her appearance! She brought six hundred and fifty mirrors to my farm! Then my wife angered and said that she will not come home until this giglet lefts with her mirrors. So...
- This is really complicated story... agreed Lupa. It was surprise to her that creatures of Underworld have family problems too.
- There is one man in village who can help me said Old Devil - Crafty-Hans! He have always some clever plan to cheat others. If you really want to speak to mother Casca you must help me. Please go to village tell Crafty-Hans my story and bring him here. I would go there myself but you see... the sheep...
- Okey agreed Lupa of course I help you. I don't have another choice.

It was not difficult to find Crafty-Hans. He lived in the nearest village to the gate of the Underworld and since he was the smartest man in the village, everybody knew him. Crafty Hans listened Old Devils story and said: "Well. As people say – better devil you know than devil you don't know. Let's get rid of this young harpy."

Before leaving from village asked Crafty-Hans blacksmith to make two little iron blocks and needle with two eyes.



When Lupa and Crafty-Hans arrived to Underworld Old Devil was already impatient. He wanted desperately his wife and old life back.

- Oh you, old friend scoffed Crafty Hans Old Devil you are so big man but such a chump!
- Okay, okay! Will you help me or not?
- Of course I help you, old friend said Crafty Hans but at first I need two know, what mother Casca was wearing when she left home.

Old Devil shrugged the shoulders - As always: grey linen dress. Is it so important?

- Oh, dear friend - laughed Crafty Hans - It is very important! Now, listen what I say to you! You must go to forest and find your wife. You must ask her to do this!

Crafty-Hans explained meticulously what mother Casca should do to get rid of Erszebet Bathory. Some things had Hans explained twice or even thrice because Old Devil had very hard head.

- And you... - turned Crafty Hans to Lupa - must go to forest and ask other wolves not to attack Old Devil when they see them today. Or they might ruin everything!"

Lupo and Old Devil obeyed to Crafty-Hand and left Underworld for forest.

Hans otherwise went to Old Devil's farm. He could see from far that some changes have been made: old log house was covered with gold leaves and in front of the house were two golden fire fountains.

Hans brought a rake from shed, put it on the road with its pegs up and entered house. Countess Bathory combed her hair in front of the mirror.

- Hello good granny shouted Crafty Hans I am the new farmhand!
- How did you call me? was countess shocked Granny!?
- Oh, pardon me stuttered Crafty-Hans Of course "old lady" would have been more appropriate
- Is this some kind of joke!!!
- If old lady sais so.

Erszebet Bathory glowered Crafty-Hans a moment but laughed then snobbily - You are very lucky that I have good mood today. But I don't want to hear these stupid jokes anymore.

- If old lady sais so.
- Enough! countess was really annoyed now Go to barn and feed pigs!
- Gladly said Crafty-Hans grovellingly but I am new here. I do not know where the barn is.

Countess Bathory bashed comb madly at floor and stepped out to show Crafty-Hans barn. But she could not make even ten steps when she treaded on rake. Stail hit ailingly against Bathory's head and countess was very angry.

- Why didn't you warn me that the rake was on ground. You stupid!
- I shouted several times dear lady answered Hans very politely but you didn't hear me. You see old people have very bad hearing.
- Again!!! screamed countess. She crabbed from Hans' collar and lugged him back to house. Are you blind! screamed she again in front of mirrors Where is this old woman you talk about?
- Oh, that is bad. That is very bad! muttered Hans Didn't you knew, good lady that in Underworld mirrors lie. In mirrors I can see beautiful young lady too. But in front on me stays old hag ... sorry ...old woman ... who is beautiful too of course.

Countess was so shocked that she was not capable even scream.

- I am not old! whispered she
- Of course, of course...Maybe my eyes are mistaking. We can make some tests suggested Crafty-Hans
- What tests? was countess Bathory curious
- For example young people can run very fast and long time-said Crafty-Hans We can try it. If you get tired too soon then you are old.
- Okay delighted countess I am ready to try
- I really hope that I am wrong said Crafty-Hans very sweetly but I suggest dear countess to wear more comfortable shoes Hans took from his purse out pair of shoes, where iron blocks were secretly hidden. Countess accepted shoes and put them on.

The plan worked very well. Because of iron blocks, countess was tired very soon

- Oh, what is happening to me! blated she I am so tired! My feet are so heavy
- This is very usual for old people emphatized Hans Bathory's misery - But we can do one more test. Young people have very good eyes. You can try to put floss through needles eye.
- Yes! delighted countess again I can do that!

- Luckily I have one needle in my purse - said Hans and gave to Bathory needle with two eye.

Erzsebeth looked the needle and shouted - What needle is that! It has two eyes!

- No it has not lied Hans I am afraid that dear countess is really old. You see old people see little things in double.
- This cannot be happening! was countess already hysterical - I am old! I cannot believe! I am old! But I must see this with my own eyes!
- There is one possibility! had Hans again quick answer Wolves in near forest own truth mirror.
- Well, lets see this mirror!
- One moment stopped Hans countess I truly suggest dear lady to wear something modest. Otherwise wolves might attack you. I am sure that we find something suitable form mother Casca's wardrobe.

After couple of hours were Hans and Erszebeth Bathory with grey linen dress in the forest. Crafty-Hans was little bit worried – he was not sure that Old Devil had told mother Casca instructions correctly."

- Where is this mirror? Have you lied to me? asked Bathory
- This mirror... Suddenly Hans noticed an old woman in gray linen dress ahead. This mirror is there shouted he happily and pointed to mother Casca

With horror looked Bathory at Old Devil's wife. She really be-lieved that she is in front of mirror because according to instructions mother Casca reflected all Bathory's moves.



- Nooo! - screamed Bathory - I am old! - She run away and jumped down from cliff. Nobody saw her again.

Mother Casca laughed with all her heart and said to Crafty Hans - I cannot believe that I say this but thank you Crafty Hans!

- Do not thank me! answered Hans - Thank Lupa from Lech kingdom who asked help from me. But now she needs your help mother Casca. Please tell her where she can find the Wavel dragon.
- Wavel dragon!? surprised mother Casca Why?



- I cannot explain, but I really want to find him said wolf
- Okey then mother Casca thought a bit before she shared directions to Lupa You must go towards sunset until you reach to sea. Then move along shore. In couple of days you must see a big fuming volcano. Dragon is not far from there.

Lupa thanked mother Casca, Old Devil and Clever-Hans and continued her quest.



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# Chapte 1111

In the meantime Orpheus with the animals left the city. They were walking and walking and walking in sweltering heat. They were so exhausted that they decided to take a rest in the forest. They met a Big Owl on the huge glade. The Owl could speak human language like the animals from the kingdom.



- Where are you going? I am a Big Wise Owl and I know answers for all questions. What are you looking for? the Owl said.
- We are looking for Wawel Dragon which abducted our King's two sons. Do you know where is the Dragon's cave? the Orpheus answered.
- Of course. If you want I can take you there.

Wanderers were full strength after rest and they set out to Cracow. They were walking through the forest, they passed a river, they met many animals which wished them good luck. Unfortunately they did not find the dragon in Cracow. Wanderers were very upset. The Owl decided to ask her friends – pigeons about the Dragon. They told her that the Dragon is moving all the time because he wants to confuse the trail. They have heard that he was going to go to Warsaw because he wanted to visit his cousin – Basilisk.

- We have nothing to lose! Get ready for the road!!! the Orpheus shouted to his company and after that he gave an envelope to the Owl.
- My dear Owl, can you provide it to my beautiful Euridyca? I wrote that I am fine and I love her very much the Orpheus said.

The Owl melted – Of course, I promise you that your lady will get it. Don't worry and be careful!!!

After some days they reached their destination – Warsaw. But they were so tired and it was so late that they decided to take a rest and find the Dragon tomorrow.

Next day that met a group of people who related the wanderers some interesting things about dragons' habits.

- Some dragons, like Basilisk, can kill by using his eyes!!! And there is only one way for survival: to exterminate him by using his own weapon people said.
- What are you talking about???
- You have to find a big mirror because your swords aren't enough. The Dragon will see his reflection in the mirror and die.



Orpheus and his animals were very worried. They didn't know how to find a big mirror here. Then a bear from his army said:

- Maybe we can use water's crystalline reflection?
- Great idea, but where can we find so big lake? troubled Orpheus answered.
- Let's go. I think that we will not know anything new here lioness added.

They were walking for a long time and suddenly they noticed a beautiful view – there was a huge lake in front of them hidden in the mountains. It wasn't only a wonderful place. It was dragons' seat.

There were their caves in the slots of rocks. In the center was a really big volcano. Wanderers were staring anxiously in the space, when fox shouted:

- Look! This is our Owl!



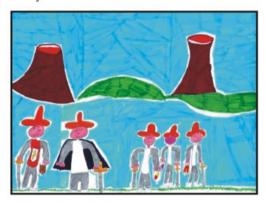
But he was too loud. Dragons heard him and they stroke in the Owl because they were afraid of intruders. Luckily the Owl had time for escaping but she dropped the letter to the volcano. The animals and Orpheus were so angry for the dragons that they entered to the Dragons' Kingdom. They were looking for Romulus and Remus but the cave was empty. It showed up that grottos were so small that neither Wawel Dragon nor Lech's sons couldn't be located there. It was a Kingdom of really small dragons.



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# Chapter IV

In the meantime Kerem had also left together with his soldiers to look for Romolo and Remo. Among the soldiers there was also the valiant Saint Galgano, a very brave soldier who was never without his sword.



Kerem and his men headed eastwards; during the journey Kerem saw a very special flower among the dense vegetation. It was multicolored and had a very strong perfume. But the most astonishing thing about it was that it was enormous. Out of curiosity, Krem went up to the flower.

- What a strange flower you are! You are so beautiful that you seem magical!

Saint Galgano, who was always very cautious and never trusted anyone or anything except his sword, warned Kerem:

- Be careful! It might be dangerous! exclaimed Saint Galgano.

Kerem was so attracted by the beauty of the flower that he could not look away. Saint Galgano went up to Kerem and lost his balance, pushing Kerem towards the flower.



Then an incredibly strange thing happened – while smelling the flower they became very, very small.

- Goodness, look what has happened! They looked at each other and realised that they had become tiny, like gnomes.
- How on earth are we going to follow you now? We'll lose you in the thick vegatation! exclaimed a soldier!

At that point the flower began to emit a beautiful melody; enchanted by the flower's tune, the army started to march towards it. They sniffed it and shrank to the size of tiny gnomes too.

- Now what are we going to do? We're so little that even a squirrel could tread on us! How can we help our beloved King Lech? exclaimed the valiant Kerem.

The only strange thing was that Saint Galgano's sword had stayed the same size. Now it seemed really huge!

- How can we carry it? exclaimed Saint Galgano.
- We can't, it's too big for us to carry! exclaimed a soldier.

- Even if we combine all our forces we'll never be able to move it! exclaimed another soldier.

They had almost given up hope when an extremely unusual thing happened.

The weather began to change. The sky grew dark, a strong wind sprang up and menacing clouds covered the whole sky. It started to rain so heavily that all the ground was flooded. The sword began to float. At that point the soldiers, Kerem and Saint Galgano jumped onto it, using it as a boat. The flashes of lightning over the forest gave them enough light to continue their journey.



Then the rain suddenly stopped. They found themselves at the entrance to a cave.

- What a strange cave this is! exclaimed Kerem.
- It looks as if it is specially made for us! Exclaimed Saint Galgano.
- Let's look for some little sticks, something to eat and then we'll go inside for a rest! shouted the valiant Kerem.

The army split up. Some went to look for food, some for some sticks, and others for some dry leaves.

When they were ready they plucked up the courage to approach the dark cave.

- But how are we going to carry the sword? asked a soldier.
- Who's speaking? exclaimed Orpheus.
- Orpheus, my friend, I'm here, can't you see me? Said Kerem.
- Where are, you my friend, I can hear you but I can't see you. I can only see a sword! replied Orpheus.



The gnomes had ended up under a large plant and so Orpheus couldn't see them. Orpheus moved a leaf with his hand and was able to see Kerem, Saint Galgano and all his army.

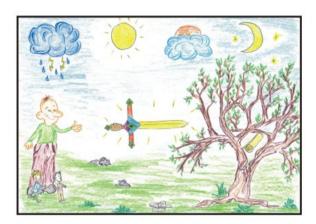
- Now that we're all together again we can get organised and think up a plan to find Romolo and Remo at last.

## Chapter V

But no matter how hard they thought, they did not come up with a reasonable plan. How could they look for the two princes when most of them were so tiny?

However, they all realized they desperately needed to find somebody who would make Kerem, Saint Galgano and the rest of the army as tall as they were before.

They racked their brains so much that they did not notice the sun set down and it became really dark in the forest. And then – all of a sudden – something strange happened. Saint Galgano's sword started to shine brightly and slowly moved forward. They knew it was a sign, so Orpheus grabbed Kerem, Saint Galgano and the army, put them into his bag and followed the shining sword.



They walked night and day, in the rain and in the sun, with the sword showing them the way, cutting through the thick vegetation. They decided not to stop very often because they wanted to find help as quickly as possible.



On the way they met lots of animals and saw beautiful flowers which they rather did not smell or touch. One day they were going past a really tall tree, when the sword suddenly stopped. It turned towards that tree and cut it open into two halves. At first nobody understood what was going on, but soon they found out why it happened. Inside the tree there was an old map. It showed them they had to find a nymph called Pyrene who lived in the forest between France and Spain.

But while they were looking at the map, they were surrounded by a large number of soldiers. They thought that Orpheus and his companions were enemies, so they captured them and took them to their king.

The name of the king was Svätopluk and just like Lech, he governed with a strong hand, a stubborn will, and a wise head, and successfully defended his empire against enemies who wished to conquer it.

Orpheus and his friends were brought to Svätopluk who started investigating.

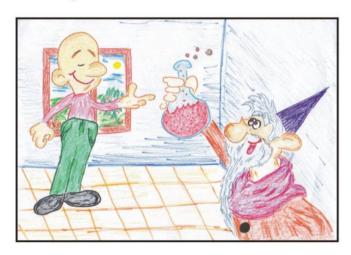
- Who are you and what were you doing in my forest? asked the king firmly.

Orpheus explained slowly how they all lived happily in the kingdom of Lech until the terrible dragon of Wavel kidnapped the two princes. And how they split up to search for them and his friends became really tiny because they smelled a magic flower.

When he mentioned the name Lech, Svätopluk's face suddenly became very friendly.

- King Lech, you said? I know him very well. Once, when I was in a big trouble, he did not hesitate and sent his army to help me. Now it is my turn to pay him back.
- But first of all, your little friends need help. Down in the village under the castle there is an old cottage. A wizard lives there. If you go to see him, I am sure he will help you.

So Orpheus set out immediately. He found the wizard's house easily. There was blue smoke coming from the chimney on the top of the roof. The wizard agreed to help him. They entered a room full of bottles. The wizard mixed different liquids together and said a number of mysterious spells. After about an hour, he handed a small bottle of magic potion to Orpheus.



Orpheus thanked the wizard and rushed to the castle. One by one, Kerem, Saint Galgano and all the soldiers drank a drop from the bottle and one by one they became the size of other people in the castle.

They could not find the words to express how happy they felt. But they also realized it was the high time to set out and look for Pyrene. Svätopluk gave them his best horses and guns and wished them good luck.

The map they found in the tall tree showed them to get into the forest and follow the river. But the wet soil, which was the result of a heavy rain, was slowing the horses down. The days passed by and they still did not find anything or anybody.

After about two weeks, which seemed ages, they came to a place where the ground was extremely dry. There were no signs of a single tree and the whole area looked as if somebody tried to burn it down. While they were looking around, they heard a quiet voice from behind:

- I am glad you are finally here. Somebody is waiting for you. I found her wounded in the forest, but I nursed her back to health. Please, meet your friend Lupa.

They turned round to see Pyrene. And then Lupa jumped out from the trees and hugged her friends. How pleased she was to see them again! They had so much to talk about, but Pyrene seemed very anxious.

- I am afraid you have to leave immediately. Gerión, the monstrous giant I escaped from, is following me. He burned whole this area in order to find me and now you are in great danger, too. I do not want to put your lives at risk.

Although exhausted, they all climbed back on their horses and let Lupo lead them on their quest to find Romulus and Remus.

# Chapter V1

Pyrene was scared to stay there alone, so she took a horse and joined them.

After a long time, the group found a warm place and stopped to rest under a shadow of a tree; they fell asleep without realising that a man was behind the tree.

Juraj Jánosik was an outlaw who lived in the forest waiting to steal from the rich to give to the poor.

Lupa woke up frightened and he bit Juraj on his leg. Due to the noise, the others woke up too.



Meanwhile, one of their soldiers separated them and Lupa asked Juraj,

- What do you want from us?
- We want to take your money to give to the poor. They have no food because Wavel the dragon destroyed our lands.



Lupa was ashamed and apologised.

- I'm so sorry, we can't give you the money because we need it to rescue King Lech's Princess.

One of Kerem's soldiers was thirsty and he was the one who was carrying the potion, so he took a sip and... a little more. Little by little, he started getting taller and taller and felt a tingling sensation in his stomach, he said to Kerem,



- I have butterflies in my stomach!

Then, he turned into a giant. Meanwhile,

- Listen Juraj, would you like to help us to find Wavel?
- Ok. then, he said.

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At that moment, Kerem was amazed at how quickly the soldier was growing and remembered what the magician had told him:

- If you drink more than one drop of the potion, something bad will happen. Apart from growing they can become aggressive.

That is what happened, during the night, the giant soldier wanted to kill Lupa and took up his sword. Lupa woke up and shouted,

- Help! Help!

Kerem woke up and, climbing a tree he took the sword from the giant soldier who then escaped through the forest.

Kemek's Army wanted to pursue the giant soldier and asked Juraj Jánosik to take care of the rest of the group.

Juraj continued along with the group without stopping. Suddenly, they met a centaur that was surprised to see such an amazing group.



- What are you doing in the Centaurs World? asked the centaur.

- We are looking for the Dragon Wavel who raped King Lech's sons Lupa answered.
- Do you want to come with us? asked Jánosik
- OK., I can help you to rescue them.

After a while, they bumped into Gerión. Pyrene hid behind a tree but Gerión said,



- Don't worry! I want to help you. I am very frightened because I have seen a huge dragon and two boys going to my village and I believe he wants to destroy everything. If you help me, I won't pursue Pyrene anymore, I will leave her alone.
- Ok, you can come with us said everybody

The group went on; they crossed an endless foggy forest with high trees.

Meanwhile, King Lech, worried at not having news about the expeditions, decided to leave the kingdom and look for them.

After a few days of walking in the forest, Juraj said to the group,

- I know this forest very well, listen to that noise, they are the Stone Waterfalls, if you want we can rest there.

The entire group went to that place. The falls were amazing.

Suddenly, Juraj's horse got frightened by the noise and began to gallop towards the biggest fall and disappeared. All were shocked; they didn't know what to do.

After a while, Juraj appeared again screaming,

- I found the dragons' lair; he lives here inside the fall. Get in and you will see! He isn't here now.

Lupa was the first to enter and the rest of the group went behind her.

When they were all in, they saw a big fire, many bones, three big eggs and lots of straw on the ground. The cave was deep and silent. Suddenly, they heard some heavy footsteps coming in.

The soldier giant appeared! Everyone looked for a place to hide but they saw Kerem with him.

- Don't worry he won't do you any harm. I chased him near the fall, he is a good soldier and obedient but when he took the potion he thought we were going to kill him, that's why he became so aggressive. But now he understands that he has to be with us and help us to find the Wavel the Dragon.
- What are we going to do now; do we wait for the dragon or go to Gerion's village? asked the centaur.
- Does anyone have another idea? Kerem replied...

## Chapter VIII

- I have!!!" said the wise owl flying through the darkness of the cave. On my way to Eurydica I met not only agressive dragons but also some friendly and helpful ones. I lost the letter but I have some news. One of the dragons I met was the dragon's best friend and told me that the Wavel's Dragon fell in love with Şahmeran who was the queen of the snakes. She fell in love with the dragon but she didn't accept his marriage proposal. But no one knew the reason. Perhaps we should try to find the reason first. At that time they heard another voice from the darkness getting louder.
- Only king Svatopluk knew why!!! That was a despatch rider of king Svatopluk.
- I have a message from my lord, Svatopluk. Because half of her body was snake and half of it was human Şahmeran was cursed. She couldn't go out of her cave otherwise she would turn into a bloody-minded monster. The only way to get rid of her curse was the kiss of a true love in the cave before the sunset of the first day of the Spring Festival. Şahmeran had very little beam in her cave only just before the sunset everyday.

They had only 3 days to the Spring Festival. They had to find the dragon, tell him about Şahmeran and persuade him to go to the cave of Şahmeran. And they had to go to Şahmeran and explain the situation as well. Saint Galgano and Kerem made a plan. They remembered the beautiful melody of Orpheus' harp and thought only his melodies could bring the dragon. So they decided to the send the wise owl to Şahmeran, and the whole group would go to king Svatopluk's palace.

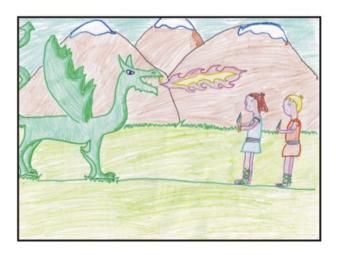
Orpheus would play his harp there and they would wait for the dragon there. The wise owl would tell the story not only to Şahmeran but also every living thing on her way in case they saw the dragon or the two young princes.



As soon as the king Lech heard about all those he went to king Svatopluk's palace with his queen and daughters Aslı and Eurydica expecting good news of his sons. They met Kerem, Saint Galgano, Orpheus, Jurac, Pyrene, Mother Casca, Old Devil and Crafty Hands there. Orpheus was playing his harp continuously. His music was so impressive that no living creature could confront. They were all sure that Orpheus' harp would brought the dragon.

Days passed by. Romus and Romulus were with the dragon for a long time escaping from one place to another. One day, when the dragon told them why they were kidnapped by him they begged him to let them free to help him about Şahmeran. But he was so conceided that he couldn't send two young princes to beg for him. He felt he had to show Şahmeran how much he loved her. What the dragon didn't know was that Şahmeran left him although she loved him more than everything but she didn't want to imprison him into her cave or she didn't want to turn into a monster that would cause lots of troubles. The Wavel's Dragon and Şahmeran both didn't know what to do and she left him.

Romus and Romulus lost almost all their hopes when they heard the beautiful melodies of Orpheus in the Forest Brothers in Estonia. Themore the dragon listened the more he remembered his sweet heart and her memories. He felt Şahmeran was waiting for him where the music was played. The dragon took the princes on his wings to find his love. During their flight the dragon didn't see, hear, feel or talk about anything except from Şahmeran.



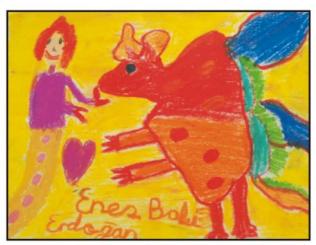
In the meantime the wise owl met Şahmeran and told her all the story from the beginning. Şahmeran was not only sorry to cause so much trouble but also happy to meet her love and to hear how to get rid of the curse. She sent the wise owl with good news.



The dragon of Wavel, Romus and Romulus were shocked as soon as they arrived the palace. While hoping to see Şahmeran they met the others. In front of them were their families, friends but the princes couldn't say a word. Orpheus never stopped playing his harp in case the dragon might get angry and set on fire everything. The wise kings and the wise owl told him every detail.



As soon as they finished the dragon took all them on his wings apoligising for everything he caused. They flew to the South coast of Turkey, to Mersin. It was the first day of the Spring Festival and they didn't have much time as Turkey was in the east. They had to hurry to catch the sunset. The dragon left them in front of the cave when they arrived. He entered the cave. Şahmeran was looking at the beam while waiting for the dragon. She heard his footsteps and turned. It was sunset and the dragon kissed her. From that time Şahmeran wasn't cursed anymore. Kerem's Army wasn't so tiny anymore. The Lech Kingdom wasn't unhappy anymore. Mother Casca and The Old Devil didn't have quarrels anymore. Erzsebet Bathory didn't have so many mirrors any more. Şahmeran and Wavel's Dragon left the cave together.



Kerem and Aslı married and lived in Spain, in Zaragoza by Rio Ebro happily ever after.

Orpheus and Eurydica married in Poland, in Chorzow. They lived there happily ever after.

Saint Galgano and Pyrene married in Turkey, in Mersin. They lived there happily ever after.

Mother Casca and The Old Devil moved to Estonia, to the forests of Tartu and lived happily ever after.

Jurac and Erzsebet Bathory married and in Bulgaria, in Sophia and lived happily ever after. They helped the poor with their children all over the world.

Şahmeran and The Dragon of Wavel married in Slovakia, in MIchalovce. Their wedding ceremonies lasted 40 days and 40 nights. They lived in Italy, in Livorno happily ever after. They had a summer house on High Tatras Mountains by the lake.

THREE APPLES FELL FROM THE SKY... ONE FOR THOSE WHO WROTE OUR LEGEND... ONE FOR THOSE WHO READ OUR LEGEND... AND THE LAST ONE IS FOR THE TEACHERS AND THE STUDENTS WHO HAVEN'T MADE A COMENIUS PROJECT YET...



