"The Writer in the Mysterious Castle in the Mountains." By **Daniella Garcés**

Once upon a time, in a lonely castle city in the mountains, there was a great Writer adored by all the people living there. She was a very young woman, an orphan living in the castle writing stories for the Queen. After her father passed, she was called to take over his job, he used to write and tell stories to the Queen and the two Princes and luckily his daughter inherited the talent to do the same. She always did great; the Queen complimented her imagination every time. But then the family started to get sick and she had to see with the Queen how they died, one by one, leaving the castle empty with a cold feeling that was consuming everyone who still living there.

The people in the city were mourning, everything was so strange and nothing felt right. The eldest said a curse was brought on by a long-exiled sister of the Queen, she was in love with the king and was discovered so they sent her far away with a no return ticket. But nobody was certain of what was happening. Even some other families started suffering the mysterious sickness and many died. There was no cure.

The Writer wanted to discover what was happening, she felt called to unmask the mystery and after uncountable weeks of investigation she found herself so close to the truth. That was her secret, nobody knew in the whole castle, not even the servants until one found out and told the Queen. She got mad that the girl was doing that and told her guards to take everything the Writer had and burn it.

"Please, your majesty, don't be so hard on me, I was just looking for the truth," plead the Writer, crying on the floor, but the Queen ignored in her anger.

"Send her to prison, she's got to remain there till she learns what she shouldn't do!" said the Queen before leaving the room.

The Writer was left in a solitary cell, not understanding why the Queen got so mad, letting the sadness and loneliness to consume her. The Princes visited her secretly, and brought her some paper so she could entertain herself, but the consuming void she was submerged in was growing bigger and bigger. She started to hear a voice and lost track of reality, everything was going downhill and it seems like no one cared.

She filled all the pages she was gifted with a new story, she started to believe in the idea the voice was putting in her head. If she closed her eyes long enough, she could live a free life, and she did. She closed her eyes and saw herself in a house by the lake, a sunny day or a cloudy one maybe, it didn't matter. She imagined her life in freedom with one of the Princes, the quiet one, the one who kept his eyes over her for the longest time on the secret visits, he who smiled without saying a word. Was this her imagination too?

Daydreaming and writing became her routine. Sometimes she even forgot to eat the rock-hard bread some servant brought her or the leftovers of dinner.

"Hey—!" She heard one night, while trying to sleep. It sounded familiar.

Steps were getting closer but nobody appeared in front of the cell. She stayed awake for hours, until the night started to turn into dawn. Something bad was about to happen, she could sense it and she waited for it. Then out of nowhere the quiet Prince appeared, blood splattered his shirt and a really scared expression.

"I'll free you if you accept to come with me..." His voice was weak. "I promise I'll explain, just come with me"

There her delusions materialized. He came to her like a beam of sunshine in the morning inviting her to a new world where she would go with her eyes closed.

The end.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

True or False

Select the correct answer.

1. The castle was on a city by the beach. **TRUE / FALSE**
2. The eldest said it was a curse brought by the Queen's brother. **TRUE / FALSE**
3. The Queen got mad at the Writer because she was investigating the mystery. **TRUE / FALSE**
4. The Princes gifted the Writer a set of pencils. **TRUE / FALSE**
5. The Quiet Prince offered the Writer to escape with him. **TRUE / FALSE**

Comprehension Questions

Write in the spaces the correct answers.

1. How was the Writer?

2. How did the people feel about the tragedy?

3. What were the speculations made by the eldest people in the city?

4. What happened to the Writer after she got imprisoned?

5. Why did the Queen get mad at the Writer?

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