



The Magic Ruby



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*For Daniel Dunford
English - 371*



Once upon a time, there was a Princess named Rose. She was the most beautiful young woman in the whole kingdom and everyone loved her, especially a young Knight named William. He used to visit the Princess every day, and they were very much in love.

One day, without any warning, William didn't show up at the castle. Hours turned into days, and days turned into weeks. Nobody knew where he had gone or why.

This made the Princess very sad.



During this time, another Knight named Brutus tried everything to make the Princess happy. Brutus would bring her a new gift every day hoping it would bring a smile to the Princess's face, but it never worked.

One day, Brutus offered to go horse riding with the Princess, to see if that would cheer her up. She agreed, and they began riding around the palace garden. Suddenly a large snake appeared before the Princess's horse. Her horse became very scared and jumped into the air. The Princess fell off her horse, and hit her head on the ground. Brutus tried to help her, but no matter how much he called her name, she would not wake up.



The King sent out an urgent message to everyone in the kingdom that whoever can help the Princess wake up would receive a large reward of gold. The next day, a strange old man with a long white beard and ragged grey robe showed up at the palace. He demanded to see the Princess, and said he thought he could cure her.



He was immediately taken to where she was sleeping, and introduced to the King and Queen. They were very sad, and begged the old man to help them. He smiled, and secretly reached into his pocket, pulling out a large ruby. He placed his hand with the ruby on Princess Rose's chest and whispered something into her ear. A few moments later, the Princess woke up and looked into the kind eyes of the smiling old man.

The King and Queen were overjoyed, and thanked the old man for saving their daughter. To reward the old man, the King offered him a box full of gold coins, but the old man refused to take it. He said "I did not cure your daughter for gold, I did it for love".

The King was very surprised by this. Surely the old man could use the gold, since he looked very poor. The King replied, "if you will not accept my gold, perhaps you will allow me to offer you a ride back to your home." The old man smiled and said, "That would be very kind, I can't walk as well as I used to". At that moment the King summoned his Knight Brutus to take the old man home in his finest carriage.

Brutus led the old man through the large castle, and said "I know a secret shortcut to the courtyard, follow me". The old man followed Brutus through a secret passage, and down a dark narrow staircase. When they arrived at the bottom the old man noticed he had arrived in a dungeon.



The old man said "This does not look like the courtyard" Brutus replied "You're right, this is you're new home", and reached into the old man's pocket and stole the ruby. Brutus pushed the old man into the small dark prison room, and locked the strong iron gate. "

I saw you cure the Princess with this ruby. You tried to hide it, but you did not succeed. Now I will use it to finally win the love of the Princess" said Brutus.



The next evening, the King had a large feast to celebrate his daughter being well again. Brutus sat next to the Queen for the feast, but it was part of his secret plan. He offered to pour some water for the Queen, and she agreed. However, while he filled the goblet with water, he slipped in a small amount of poison. After the Queen drank the water, she became very sick and fell to the floor.

The King became very worried, and said to Brutus, "Find the old man and bring him back here. The Queen is very sick". Brutus replied, "The old man lives very far away, and there might not be enough time to get him. Perhaps I can help the Queen". The King asked "You? How?" Brutus replied "I watched the old man who cured the Princess very carefully, and I believe I can do the same thing for the Queen. I only ask for one thing if I succeed." The King asked "What is that?" Brutus replied "I ask for your daughter's hand in marriage." The King looked to Princess Rose and said "If my daughter agrees, you have my blessing".



Brutus looked at the Princess, who was kneeling beside the Queen and said "Don't worry, I will save your mother." Brutus then turned to everyone and said in a loud voice "Stand aside, I will now cure the Queen." He knelt down beside the Queen, while slipping his hand into his pocket. When he found the ruby, he secretly hid it in the palm of his hand. Keeping the ruby hidden from view, he placed his hand with the ruby on the Queen's forehead. He leaned close to the Queen's ear and said "Arise my Queen, you are healed". But the Queen didn't move. Brutus said it again, but a little louder. "Arise my Queen, you are healed", but still the Queen did not awaken. Brutus started to become angry and said once more in a loud voice "Arise my Queen, you are healed!" But it was no use. In his anger he threw the ruby across the floor, and said "It's useless, it doesn't work!"

The King noticed this and picked up the Ruby "What is this Brutus? Where did you get it?" Brutus remained silent. The King asked "Did you get this ruby from the old man? Where is he now, and what did you do to him?" Brutus still remained silent. Now the King became very angry, and shouted "Was making the Queen sick part of your plan too?" Brutus realized his anger had given away his plan, and tried to run away, but the King ordered his men to catch him.

Princess Rose turned to her father and said "Give me the ruby father, I would like to try and use it." She picked up the ruby from her father's hand, and returned to her mother. She knelt down beside her, placed the ruby over her mother's heart and whispered into her ear "I love you mother, and I pray for you to be healed". At that moment, the Queen opened her eyes and was cured. Everyone rejoiced at the sight of the Queen standing up, and looking healthy again.

Princess Rose looked at the ruby in her hand, and suddenly noticed that the ruby was glowing from within. She held the ruby close to her eyes, and began to see an image of the old man laying in a dark room. With great excitement, the princess shouted "I see the old man, he is alive, and we have to find him!"





All the guests began to follow Princess Rose as she stared deep into the ruby, and looked at images of where the old man was. Suddenly, she could see the door to a secret passage. "Follow me" said the Princess, and began running through the castle, looking for the secret door. A few minutes later she saw it, and pried it open.

Beyond the door was a dark winding staircase. Princess Rose ran down it and found the old man lying on the floor of a small room, locked behind an iron gate. She looked around, and found the key on the wall. After unlocking the gate, she went inside and knelt down beside the old man.

The old man was very weak, and could barely speak. Princess Rose placed the ruby over the man's heart and whispered "With all my love, I pray for you to be healed". At that moment, the ruby began to glow like a star, and floated above the old man's chest. Suddenly, in a blinding flash, it disappeared.

When Princess Rose looked back down at the old man, she realized it wasn't him anymore, but the young knight William. She was very surprised and happy to see him, and asked "William, where have you been, and why were you an old man?"

William replied "One day, on the way to the castle, I was approached by a witch. After she asked me my name, she cast a spell on me that turned me into an old man. I asked her why she would do such a thing. The witch told me that a young man had promised her anything she wanted, once he had married the Princess. I was very sad at this, and begged the witch to reverse the spell. I think she must have felt pity for me because before she left, she gave me a ruby and said, love is the cure."



By this time, it became obvious who the witch was talking about. The King demanded that Brutus be brought before him to be sentenced. The King said to him "You have lied, stolen, and hurt the people I love. Your jealousy and greed must be punished. I sentence you to remain in this dungeon, until you have learned the wickedness of your ways".

After that night, life in the palace was happy again. Princess Rose and William had discovered that true love was more powerful than evil. A few weeks later, they were married in a grand ceremony, and they lived happily ever after.

