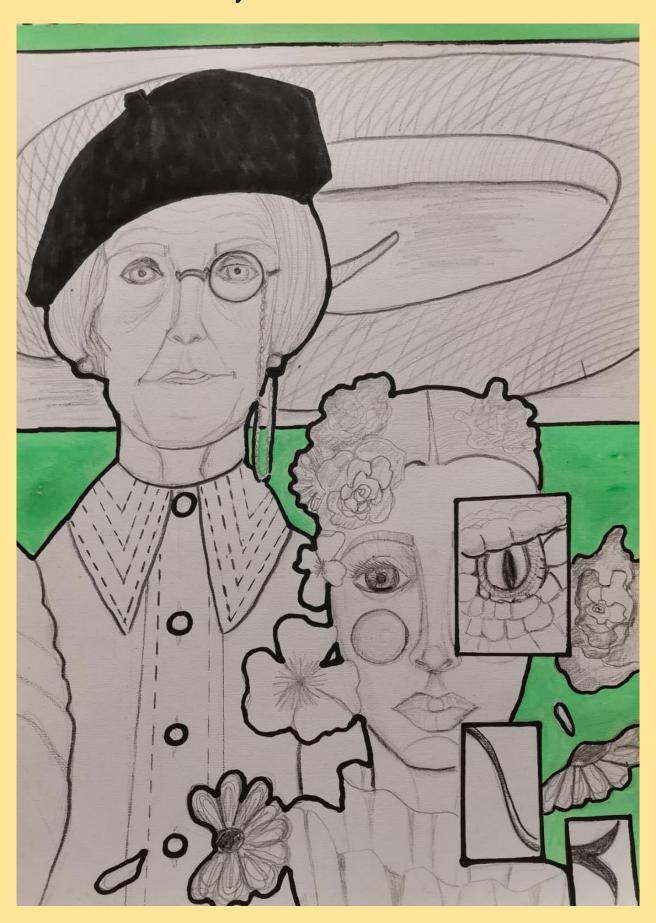
Stribor's forest

by Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić





Stribor's forest was a magical forest.

The magic will end if someone gives up their happiness for love.

The forestman entered the Stribor's forest one day.

He saw a magical snake.



The forestman fell in love immediately.

The snake turned into a woman because of his love.

The snake was beautiful but mean and selfish.

The forestman didn't see anything but snake's beauty.

The forestman decided to take her home and marry her.



The forestman's mother was old and wise.

The mother immediately noticed that the woman was a snake.

The mother told her son to stay away from that mean woman.



The forestman started **hating** his mother because of snakewoman.

The snake-woman insulted mother.

She was mean to the old mother all the time.







The snake even forced the old mother to bring some snow.

The snow was on the top of the mountain.

The snake wanted to wash her face in snow.



The mother sat in front of the house one day.

She was alone and she asked **God** for help.



The poor girl appeared suddenly.

The mother fixed her torn sleeve.

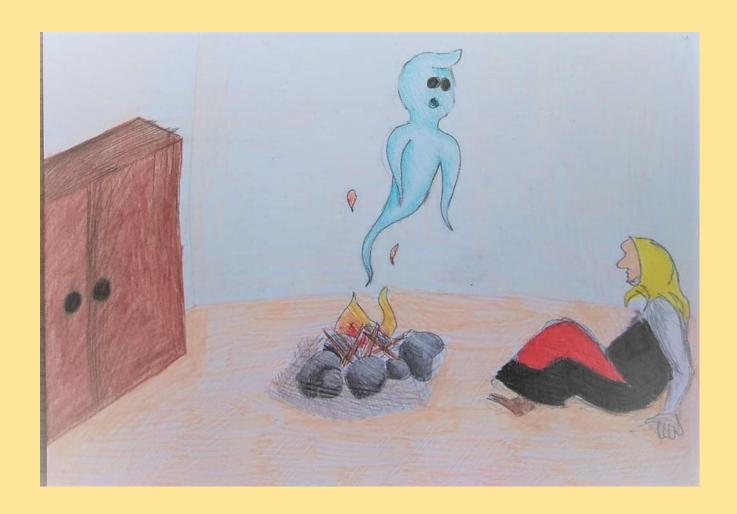
The poor girl gave mother some sticks for lighting the fire.

Sticks were magical but mother didn't know that.



The old mother set the fire to warm up.

The miracle happened suddenly.



Tiny Little Men jumped out of the fire.

They were the good house spirits.

The mother asked Tiny Little Men for help.

Tiny Little Men promised to show the **snake-woman's secret** to everyone at the town fair.





Tiny Little Men put a spell on the birds at the fair.

The birds attacked the snake-women.

Snake-woman stucked her **snake's tongue** out.

She wanted to eat birds.

Everyone saw then that she was a snake.



The forestman didn't see anything.

He was so much in love with her.



The forestman **sent** his old mother away from the house.

Outside was cold. The mother walked a long time.

She sat down to **light a fire** with the magical sticks.



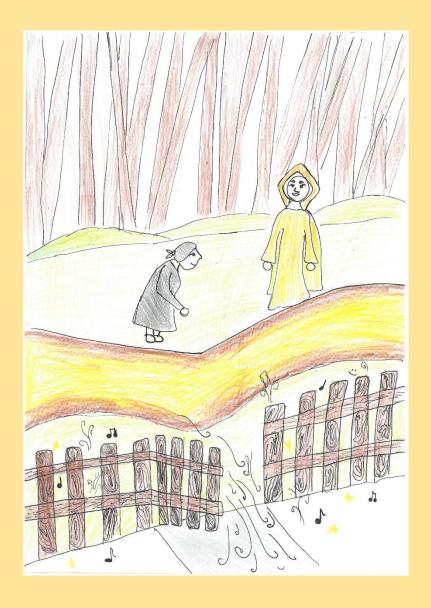
Tiny Little Men jumped out of the fire at once.

They were willing to help the old mother again.



Mother went to see **master Stribor** with Tinny Little Men.

Master Stribor lived in Stribor's forest.



Stribor wanted to help mother by making her young again.

Mother was happy but worried.

She thought of her son.

Stribor told the mother not to worry.

She would not even remember that she had a son.

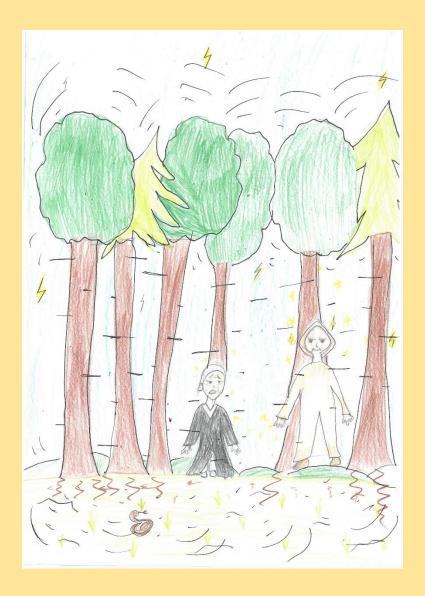


The old mother started thinking hard.

Mother decided and told Stribor that she can't forget her son.

She would rather be old and unhappy than without her son.

The magic ended immediately.



The entire forest shaked.

Stribor disappeared.

The woman turned back into snake.





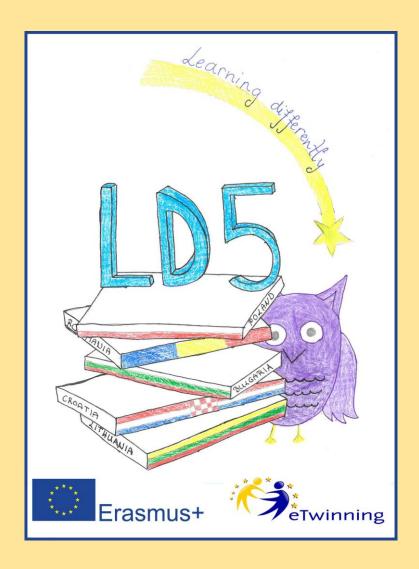
The forestman asked his mother to forgive him.

Mother forgave him at once.

The forestman married the poor girl.

They lived happily ever after.

THE END



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