

Once upon a time, there was a village, and in the center of the village, there was a well. It is not like any ordinary well; that you draw water from ... it is a wishing well. If you toss a coin into the well, you can make a wish, and it will come true. The tricky part about the wishing well is that you only get one wish in a lifetime, and the result of the wishes, usually don't go the way you plan. It has many devious routes. Many have been the victim of the wishing well.

In this village, there was a nine year old girl who has to use a wheelchair to get around, because her legs are paralyzed. She has short, gold, wispy hair, and is nice, kind, sad, and sometimes she could be a little foolish. This girls name is Eva. Eva had many reasons to be sad. First of all, her mother died when she was young, and ever since that incident, her father had become seriously ill. She remembered that dark stormy night, and she was at the bedside of her dying mother, and while clutching her mother's hand her mother's eyes clouded, and slowly closed. Her mother had passed into a deep sleep, which could never be woken from. The tears streaked her face like a waterfall, and her dress was a sponge, catching all the tears. Another reason Eva was sad was because she wanted to run through the meadows, like all the other kids, but she couldn't because her legs were paralyzed. Despite all her sadness, Eva was still hopeful.

Almost every day, Eva sat on her porch, and watched the kids who were playing in the meadow, and imagined and dreamed how it felt to run, and envied them. She looked up into the blue sky, and saw a large blue bird whose plumage was a beautiful cornflower blue, and was soaring in the sky. Eva thought that she could almost hear the beating wings of the cornflower blue bird, and she wished that she could be as free as that bird. At that moment she decided that running would feel like flying in the air. One day Eva was watching the kids in the meadow, and instantly felt a pang of jealousy, hurt, and sadness. She remembered the numerous times when she had tried to play with the kids, but they excluded her, and taunted her. Another reason why she couldn't play with the kids was that they could run and walk, but her legs are as motionless as a heavy rock.

As Eva was on the porch, she had an idea. She decided to have an adventure of her own, by having her lunch in the dark, mysterious, and forbidden woods. Kids were not allowed to go into the dark woods, so Eva would be free of the perpetual taunts. Eva then packed a lunch for her adventure, and set off to the woods.

When Eva entered the woods, she noticed that the towering trees, made her minute compared to them. She explored the woods, and marveled at the animals and plants. There was a squirrel in view, and Eva had an urge to run and chase it. Then Eva remembered that she couldn't run, and at that moment, she popped back into reality. She was tired, hungry, and lost.

Then Eva remembered that she had packed her lunch, and settled down underneath the spread of an oak tree, and began to eat in her wheelchair. She became worried and anxious that she was lost, but knew it was better for her to be calm. All of a sudden, she heard a noise that was gradually getting louder. Eva became frightened, and thought it was a monster that was going to eat her up, and was surprised when she saw an old woman coming up the path.

At first, Eva thought that the woman was a figment of her imagination, but changed her mind. The old woman approached Eva and said, "Please darling, I am starving. Do you have any food to spare for me?" Eva glanced at her remaining morsels of food, and sighed, for her stomach was still grumbling. Then she replied cheerfully, "I am just having lunch. You may have as much food as you want of what I have. Come and sit down."

The old woman sat across Eva, and Eva handed the old woman the rest of her lunch. When the old woman finished eating, she thanked Eva for the hearty meal, and started walking down the path. Just then, Eva remembered that she needed directions back to her village. Except when Eva looked around for the old woman to ask directions, she had disappeared.

Eva started crying, and knew that she should have never gone into the woods without permission. She shuddered as she felt a mixture of feelings; sad, loneliness, and fear. It was like a cold icy breeze that had hit her, and lingered in the chilly breeze. All of a sudden she heard a noise, and it sounded exactly like the time when the old woman came.

She stopped crying, and wiped away the glistening tears on her pale face. When Eva looked around her, she saw a little child with ragged clothes, and was shivering. The little child approached Eva, and said in a trembling voice, "I am freezing. Do you have anything that might help keep me warm?" Eva was full of pity, and replied, "Come and sit down. You may use my shawl to keep yourself warm."

Eva touched the child's hand and it was so cold that she almost yelped. It was like frost.

So the little child sat down, and was handed a beautiful shawl. It was embroidered with a mixture of royal blue, and a deep purple mist. Just as the little child received the shawl there was a bright light. Golden rays of light brushed across Eva, and gave her a spark of assurance, comfort, and hope. The child was gone, and standing in front of Eva was no ordinary person. It was a porcupine! Like most porcupine, he was brown, with tons of sharp quills, but he had a black hat, round glasses, and a cane. Eva thought it looked quite astute in some ways.

Eva was astonished, and thought, 'Is there really magic in the woods?' The porcupine seemed to sense her surprise, and waited for her to calm down. Then the porcupine said, "My name is Prick, and I am the one who you have fed and kept warm. I was the woman and the child. For your kindness, I will grant you three wishes. Use them wisely and carefully." After those words, the animal vanished.

Eva rubbed her eyes, thinking it was a dream. When she opened her eyes, she saw that the porcupine had led her to the clearing of the woods where her village was, without her knowing. Eva burst into her house, eager to tell her father what had happened. As soon as she reached his room, a doctor came out and said to Eva, "Your father needs his rest and you must not disturb him."

So Eva went to the kitchen to fix dinner. She was surprised to see a woman in the kitchen, and nearly bumped into her. The woman said, "I am very sorry Eva. My name is Melissa, and I am a friend of your mother, and will look after you until your father hopefully recovers. I will also fix dinner."

It was night, and Melissa started to read a book about a bunny who wanted wings. Eva fell asleep very fast. She dreamed of having wings to fly. The next day, she watched the kids in the meadow as usual. She imagined having wings of her own, and all the kids wanted to be her friend, and if someone taunted her, she would fly away.

At this thought, she went to the edge of the wood, and found a stump, and sat down to think. She still imagined how wonderful it would be with wings to fly. She dreamily whispered to herself, "I wish I could have red wings on my back, with which I could fly with." At that moment, Eva had forgotten that Prick had granted her three wishes. All of a sudden, everything was quiet, so you could hear a pin drop.

Eva was confused what had just happened. She could hear the trees blowing in the wind, and they seemed to be saying, "Two wishes, two wishes, two wishes left." That was when Eva realized what had happened. She turned her head, and on her back were a pair of red wings.

Eva was startled at first, and almost leaped for joy, but her legs held her down. Except at that moment, she started rising off the ground, and began soaring across the sky, and even saw a hawk far ahead. As Eva was flying, she laughed with joy, and her laughter was like a bubbling brook. She wanted to show off her new wings to the kids in the meadow. The problem was that when she got there, all the kids were gone, because it was getting dark. Eva was tired, and started to yawn, and headed back home.

When Eva reached her house, she forgot that she was still a foot off the ground, and she knocked on the door, and Melissa appeared, and said, "Who are you?" Eva was astounded and replied, "It is me, Eva." Melissa said coldly, "I don't believe you, and you are not my little Eva." With those words, Melissa shut the door. Eva then tried the neighbor's house, but they also turned her down.

Eva was in the depths of despair, until she remembered her father saying that her grandma, who she had never met, lived 30 houses down. Her grandma was said to worry a lot, doesn't like children, and had poor eyesight. It was Eva's only hope. When she knocked on the door, a harsh voice came out behind the door. She had been woken up by Eva's knocking, and said, "What do you want?" Eva replied, "I am your granddaughter, Eva, and I was wondering if I could stay at your house tonight?"

The door opened, and a short, plump, elderly woman appeared, and said, "It is a good

thing you told me you were my granddaughter because I would have not let you in if you weren't my granddaughter. I always emphasize on Little Red Riding Hood, and it has a good moral. Come in so you don't catch a cold. I have heard about you, Eva. You look very different from what others have described to me, and make me quite irritable to look at you. It is late so you may sleep in the spare bed room downstairs."

In the morning, Eva thanked her grandmother, and flew to the spot where she had left her wheelchair. Eva thought about what had happened last night, and knew that the reason why nobody recognized her was because of her wings. She remembered the story of the bunny, but she couldn't recall the ending, for she had fallen asleep in the middle of the story. Eva then realized what a foolish wish she had made, so Eva said quietly, "I wish that I don't have any wings on my back." Sure enough, her wings had disappeared, and she was back in her wheelchair.

As Eva made her way back to her house, she once again heard the trees blowing in the wind, and they seemed to be saying, "One wish, one wish, one wish left." When Eva reached her house, Melissa ran out of the house, and hugged Eva. "Where have you been? I was looking all over for you, and was really worried," said Melissa. Eva didn't want to explain, and was tired, so she kept silent.

The next day, Eva went into the woods to explore. As she was in the woods, a seven year old girl in the village called Britta made a wish in the wishing well. Britta's wish did not go the way she planned, and her wish made all the children that were present in the village disappear, including her. A news reporter was visiting the town and saw Britta make the wish, and reported it to everyone in the village. Luckily, Eva was not in the range of her village, so she was safe, and did not disappear.

When Eva went home that evening, she heard many laments and mourning. Crying, Melissa hugged Eva and said, "I was so worried about you," and Melissa told Eva what had happened. Eva said, "Okay, I admit that I was in the forbidden woods without permission," her head hung down in shame. She then recalled her wishes, and asked Melissa to accompany her to

her father's room. When they were in her father's room, Eva told her father and Melissa about the three wishes. Her father and Melissa were shocked.

After Eva's father and Melissa gathered their wits, Eva said to them in a serious tone, "I have one wish left, and I have narrowed down the choices to healing my father, bringing back the children of our village, or getting rid of the wishing well. What is your recommendation?" Melissa then asked Eva, "I thought you wanted to heal your legs, and run in the meadow?" Eva replied, "What matters most to me is my father and our village, which is also in trouble."

Eva's father spoke up in a weak voice, "Don't worry about me Eva, I will be fine. The village needs your help." Eva protested, "But I want you to get better and..." "I know you want me to get better, but the village is in desperate need, and think about what your mother would say," said her father. With those words, Eva left for her bed, and thought about the night of her mother's last breath. She wanted her mother to be proud of her.

The next morning, Eva went outside on her porch, and thought about what her last wish should be. She knew that her father would be disappointed if she spent the wish on him. Also, she knew that her mother would also want her to help the village. She wanted her father to be healthy, but she knew her parents would be disappointed that she didn't help the village, with her last wish. Eva was ambivalent about who she should help.

Finally, she decided that she would wish for the wishing well to be gone, so that there would be no more foolish mistakes with the wishing well. Eva once again quietly whispered to herself, "I wish that there never was a wishing well." As Eva let out a sigh of relief she heard the trees blowing in the wind and they seemed to be saying, "Wishes, wishes, wishes are gone."

As Eva leaned back in her wheel chair with relief, she felt a tingling sensation run down her legs, and saw her legs move and marveled at the new strange feeling. Eva leapt with joy and started walking. She tried running in the house to find her father and Melissa though she fell several times. Eva told her father and Melissa what had happened and their mouths were wide open with awe.

Just then they heard a bunch of happy, joyful, excited shouts and exclamations of villagers welcoming their children back home. Eva's father said, "All the wishes made in the wishing well have been undone. Also I am sorry I have not told you this before, but I am the reason why your legs were paralyzed." Eva was astonished and her mouth hung open. Her father continued solemnly, and his voice abated, "I was trying to make a wish in the wishing well for your benefit, but instead your legs became paralyzed. I wish I could make it up to you."

Eva replied, "What you can do for me now is to rest so that you can gain strength and become healthy. Do not worry about what you did because it is fixed now." With that Eva left the house and headed to the center of the village. On her way, she was going to cross the meadow, and looked out onto it. There she saw some kids playing in the meadow, but she also saw a little girl, around 6 years old by herself crying. This girl had long wavy blonde hair and big blue eyes.

Eva knew that the girl probably was taunted by the other kids because she could hear and see the kids pointing and laughing at the little girl. She thought about what she should do, and a thought came to her, 'Maybe if I ignore the girl, and ask those kids if I could play with them, they might want to be my friend, and I will fit in more.' Eva was tempted by the thought, and remembered her desire to run and play with the kids in the meadow, and was about to do it. Suddenly, a gust of wind swept through, and lightly brushed against Eva's cheek.

It made Eva remember all the times, she had been left out, and taunted. She felt a sudden rush of anger, pity, and sadness again, and decided that she would not go along with the other kids in the meadow, and wouldn't care what they said to her. Eva then rushed up to the little girl, and knelt down beside her, and said, "Hello, my name is Eva, and I was wondering if you were okay, or if those kids were being mean to you." The little girl sniffled, and replied, "My name is Bridgette, and those kids were taunting me because I don't have my parents anymore. They died in an unknown accident. My parents were not rich so I don't have any money, and the kids wouldn't let me play with them, and ... I don't have a place to stay."

Eva replied, "Well, we don't have all day to sit here, and maybe you can stay at my house, if my father and Melissa allows it." Bridgette said, "Thank you, but I miss my parents, and I wish I could have a family, like you." Eva said in a cheerful voice, "Then maybe, if you would like, I could adopt you as my sister." "Oh, that would be wonderful!" said Bridgette with glee. With those words, Eva helped Bridgette up, and saw grateful and hopeful big blue eyes, that were as wide and blue as the sky.

When Bridgette and Eva reached the center of the village they saw that the wishing well had vanished and were glad. As they walked back to her house, Bridgette was picking flowers, so Eva told her that they would stop by the village's garden. As they were in the garden, Eva thought about her father and became sad. At that moment Prick appeared to Eva, and said to her, "Do not be sad because of your father, for the council has decided. The council of animals has decided to make your father well again because of your kindness and of what you have learned. Maybe I will see you again. Farewell!" said the porcupine cheerfully.

When Eva returned to her house, she told her father and Melissa about the meeting with Prick, and the encounter with Bridgette. Sure enough, Eva's father was becoming healthier, and allowed Eva to adopt Bridgette, and when Bridgette heard the news, she was ecstatic. That night, the village had a banquet and celebrated the return of all the children, and the disappearance of the wishing well.

The next day, Eva and Bridgette was sitting on the porch together, overcome with euphoria. Bridgette looked at her illustrious hero, Eva, and inquired, "You were very brave the day you came and comforted me. What made you want to help me, when you could have been friends with the other kids?" Eva related her story about her reminisce, how she was teased, and her magical adventures. Bridgette was fascinated.

Eva made new friends, and now had a new sister that she could relate to, and play with. In three weeks, her father had fully recovered. They were very happy and had no discontentment. Eva knew that her mother was proud of her, and once in a while, she could hear the trees that were swaying in the wind seemed to be whispering, "Proud, proud, I am proud of you."