# Short Story Creative Writing Club Anthology VOLUME ONE

Güşta Atakul Yaren Naz Bulut Nuriyen Çakmak Mehmet Erkan Erdem Hediye Erdügen Sıla Kaytanlı Ekinsu Külbağ Selina Mersincik Umut Pılanya Nurullah Taha Sarılar Furkan Turçin Yağmur Melis Türksoy Fatma Sıla Yazar Ercüment Burak Yıldırım Murat Yılmaz Taha Burak Yüksekkaya



03/23

## Contents

**INTRODUCTION:** 3

THE REAL ONES Gusta Atakul: 4

**HAPLESS TOWN** Yaren Naz Bulut: 8

**THE CURSE** Nuriyen Çakmak 10

**TOM'S HOLIDAY** *Mehmet Erkan Erdem*: 16

**THE BLOODY INHERITANCE** *Hediye Ergüden*: 17

THE BIG SLAYER Sıla Kaytanlı: 20

THE BLOODY ANNIVERSARY Ekinsu Külbağ: 23

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN BRUGGE** Selina Mersincik: 25

THE MULTIVERSE Umut Pılanya: 27

**INNER JOURNEY** Nurullah Taha Sarılar: 29

THE VISIBLE UNKNOWN Furkan Tuçin: 31

CLOSEST ENEMY Yağmur Melis Türksoy: 34

THE PURSUIT OF DREAMS Fatma Sila Yazar: 35

THREE SWORDSMEN IN THE MOON COUNTRY Burak Yıldırım: 42

KING OF KINGS Murat Yılmaz: 46

TOGETHERNESS Taha Burak Yüksekkaya: 48

## INTRODUCTION

The first thing I would like to do is congratulate all the students who contributed to this magazine. You did fantastic. On the face of it, writing a short story may seem like a simple task. In reality, it is anything but. Throw in the fact that you all wrote in a language that is not your first (most struggle to finish writing a story in their native language), and for extra difficulty add events outside the classroom, you end up with a tremendous challenge. So this magazine is dedicated to you, those who continued to make art even on the hard days.

Next, I would like to thank everyone who has supported my students, whether that be family, friends or teachers. When you read this, please read these stories appreciating the effort and passion the writers put into them, but most of all, thank you for reading.

A special thanks also to BurakYıldırım for his front and back cover design.

Hearty gratitude to Richard Wallace Esq, without whom the world would be a darker place

Editor

Cameron Beale

## THE REAL ONES

### Güşta Atakul

This is the story of two characters who want to be real and live the truth on a day when we live far from reality and people build fake relationships with fake identities. Our special characters, a boy and a little girl, who fortunately found each other at a young age, embark on exciting adventures to explore the untouched regions of the fake world and feel that reality.

Our story begins in Büyükada, located in the Sea of Marmara and known as exile island in ancient times. Our duo, who wanted to escape from their surroundings stuck in everyday and unpleasant dark colors, actually laid the foundations for the first adventure they would embark on the first moment they met.

The goal of our duo was not only to live their own reality, but to find as much "truth" as they could and change as many hearts as they could change. One day out of days, winter out of seasons, in a time zone where the sun is trying to rise, the two had made their plans, the road would be set out today, that step would be taken today to change their lives.

"Watching the sunrise" sounds very romantic and cliché, doesn't it? This is not the case for real ones that want to get out of the order that what is said is not felt, what is felt is not said. The two of us came together at an hour when the sun was close to rising to gather their strength, the sun showed itself while discussing their plans accompanied by "poğaça ve gazoz".

At that moment, the sea is at your feet, the clouds are right at your fingertips, and seagulls are all over the sky. With the sunrise, the real ones can be renewed. As the sea began to wake up under their feet and the sun rose, the two of us had made their plans, refreshed and full of strength, and prepared for the journey.

The Big boy said "get up" to the Little girl "get up we're going, today will be a very nice day let's go." He was trying to go to a binary island that crossed roads, hills and seas, but their goal was to go to a Big Island, not any island. According to a belief, a god is trapped under the Buyukada. In the past, when the island was used as a place of exile, a god was also exiled to the island by his elder brother.

The exiled Heeri caused the birth of realities that live in the present time, so we owe the birth and acquaintance of our duo to an island god who was exiled in ancient times.

Heeri had trusted a mortal. This was the reason for his deportation. When Heeri was still in his youth, he believed things that he had not believed before and did things that he had not done before with a mortal compared to life, yet it was the most basic rule that she had been taught since she was a little girl that she should not believe in a mortal. With his mortal behavior, his looks and even his tone of voice, he made Heeri question him every time and made him believe in himself.

He was now a reliable mortal for Heeri, and this trust, which would cost him his life, was actually very obvious. But even if you were God, you can't see what you don't want to see.

One day, Heeri and the mortal were trying to pick tangerines from a mandarin tree they passed by, when an uncle who saw them shouted to make his voice heard; "You'll be in trouble if you get unauthorized, that tangerines are magical"

Heeri said; "Hey mortal, did you hear what that guy said," and added, "Let's get out of here and leave the oranges if we'll be in trouble if the oranges have a spell."

But the greedy and smug mortal said; "Aaaah! Heeri, you are a god, are you afraid of magic? these mandarins are the right of everyone who sees them, so it's our right now, nothing will happen," he said. Heeri, who wanted to trust the mortal, laughed and passed by, and helped him pick up the tangerines and walked away laughing.

They should have believed the man.

They continued walking on the island eating tangerines, in an instant the mortal collapsed to the ground and Heeri began to retreat right into the place where he was standing, almost as if a drink was pulled from a straw, he retreated into the Earth's crust of the island, even though he tried very hard, he could not get away.

The mortal collapsed on the ground in front of his eyes, the last moment he saw him. The last time he saw a living thing was Heerin. When Heerin's brother saw that he allowed him to take the magical tangerines, Heerin said to himself at that moment; "This job needs an eternal end now."

The more Heeri trusted the mortal, the more she loved him, she was turning into a mortal. that was the unknown, the only reason why a god should not trust people, but Heeri did not know that, but he could not have prevented it if he had.

The prophecy of the transformation of a god into a human has not been fulfilled before, but a soothsayer expresses it this way: "logic is a mind that we cannot know, love is a heart that we cannot feel.. human beings who will turn into walking mandarins." Yes.. to the mandarin.. actually, this is a rule that was applied to protect mortals, not gods.

If he knew, maybe Heeri would have given up her love for that mortal and maybe she would have disappeared to protect him. However, abi thought that God could protect Heeri only in this way. I guess the gods can't do everything right either.

The mortal had achieved death, but Heeri had remained in exile in the depths of the island for centuries.

The boy and the little girl had already reached the island. Of course, they had to get on the steamer on the way, they continued to admire the sea that surrounded them throughout the journey, admiring each other more. He passed the trip by throwing bagels to the seagulls, going down to the engine room of the steamer, going up to the railings and flying.

The two who saw the Büyükada ferry pier sign went flying towards the exit door.

It was obvious where they were going, the two of them had set their course on the steamer. Once upon a time, there was a legend that a tired bear had a house at the top of the island. The characteristic of this tired bear is that he built his house more than he was tired all the time, because a tired bear is actually not much different from other bears. However, the place where he built his house, that was the main part that aroused great interest.

Yes, dear reader, I need to tell the story a little more closely from here on, as a living person. You just keep reading.

Do you remember the place where Heeri retreated underground?

Here the house was built exactly as if to cover up that hole, as if the bear, who was always tired, had erected the house right at that point, right at the top of the island, to prevent him from getting out or being disturbed by someone else. While this continues to be a legend for humanity, we had already set out with the blue dream ice cream we bought. Look, an important detail, first there is no means of

transportation to help you get to the top of the island, which is why only the real ones dare to try. Steep slopes, rough roads and deserted areas. Although it sounds scary, we continued our way with great excitement.

Our conversations, which lasted throughout the journey, made flowers bloom on every sidewalk we passed. We planted the last and most special flower in a deserted area where we found it. We stopped when we came to the desolation around a huge toppled tree.

We said right here, 'this is our kingdom', we wrote the name of our kingdom on the tree and planted our flag, and now we have officially become Lord and Lady.

The kingdom of Gusert was established. Meanwhile we were beginning to approach the house of the Decrepit bear. Long walks, climbs continued, and finally we arrived. When we saw the tired bear's house, there was a vast, sky-mingled seascape in front of us, where nothing else bothered our eyes. A piece of 'Sezen Aksu' on our lap, we left ourselves to the magic of the environment before looking at the house, we enjoyed it.

Then we entered the bear's house, it was covered with dust, it had obviously not been entered for a long time. And there is no sign of the tired bear. So was this really a myth?

We started looking around the house, but we couldn't find anything but more piles of dust. Until he went to the door to get out. The door had closed behind us under the influence of the wind, and on the back of the closed trap was this note: 'Tired is no longer here, the thing he was protecting has escaped, tired has no purpose anymore.' And underneath were arrowed and crossed lines that resembled a fingernail-drawn road map.

We went out and tried to find out where these arrows described, hoping that they were a map description. The result of our calculations was that we thought it pointed to the left diagonal part of the island, close to the sea, but there was no clear path leading there. This time it was literally time to climb the mountains and go down the stony roads.

As you can imagine, this did not stop us, and we set off. We finished the road with secret passages, mountainous roads and danger on our necks, we came to the 'x' sign on the map. At that moment, when we stepped foot on the ground, different feelings surrounded us.

Dear reader, you should have seen it. It's a wonderful place.

The seaside we had reached had begun to penetrate our souls; with its image, its smell, the sunlight hitting our faces, the black ducks that were a little ahead. There was no description of what we felt, but a sight could not have caused it.

The longing for a mortal had taken over Heeri's heart over time. He wanted to beautify, to become beautiful, Heeri, and he started with the island he was on. It had become the island itself. What we felt there at that moment was Heerin himself. Maybe it took on the shape of the seashore, maybe it was a black duck, or maybe it had the sun on the island, I don't know, but it was there.

God, who has eternal life, committed his eternity to an island with the true mortal feelings he experienced, and we who set foot there.

It was bigger than the Sea and the Sun, the things we felt were our eternity in this mortal world. I am sure that our duo, who have tasted this feeling of eternity, will always pursue the truth and try to find the real ones. Perfection is hidden right in imperfection dear reader, don't be afraid to be real.

This story continued in their own eternity with our duo continuing to be real, pursuing adventures and finding the real ones. Again, this story was written by a little girl for a big boy. Hope to see you again in our eternity, big boy.

To reality....

## HAPLESS TOWN

#### Yaren Naz Bulut

On November 10, residents of the town of Gastro woke up unaware of what was to come. After today, nothing has been as good as before. It started to happen during all disasters, but the main reason is that a big epidemic disease affects all the people of the country. Joe tells all this as a 19-year-old teenager. Joe is a young boy who has lived in Gastro since he was born and has spent his entire life locally in this country. Since Gastro is a small town, everyone knows each other and loves each other very much. Everyone is engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry there, and they do their trade among themselves. Therefore, although it is not a very developed place, they continue to live comfortably because human relations are good. Also, it is a small sweet holiday village. It is also an important place for tourism. Thanks to the tourist flow last summer, many visitors came here and took a vacation, but the people of the Crossfiel country, who came en masse, changed the lives of all the townspeople with the infectious disease they brought.

On August 25, Joe excitedly goes to meet the tourist tribe who came to make friends and is very happy to see the new people. He goes to the middle-sized brown hair boy whose name is Tommy, whom he thinks is about his age, and says his name.

-My name is Joe welcome to our town if you want we can keep you company on your vacation Although Tommy is surprised at this offer at first, he thinks that this idea may be an opportunity for him because he came to this holiday with the pressure of his family and he wants to spend it with his friends in his own country.

- Hi Joe, I'm Tommy. While I was trying to spend my holiday with my friends, I found myself here. I enjoyed your welcome, I hope we can get along well.

Later, these two close friends go out to dinner and meet other friends of Joe, so that the tourists coming to the town become closer and they spend time together unaware of what will happen during their 2-week vacation.

After the beautiful holiday they had, the day of farewell comes and everyone gathers for the last time to say goodbye.

- -Tommy, I hope you come next year and we can have such fun again.
- Joe, I want this too. I'll talk to my family and plan it. Thank you for everything. See you again.
- -I'll see you too, thank you.

After saying goodbye, Tommy and other people from his country got on the bus. This season ended happily and everyone had fun.

3 months later...

One morning, Joe awoke suddenly, unable to breathe. He felt very weak, as if he had suddenly caught a cruel disease, then his mother came running to Joe's room and held his phone to her son to show the news, but when she realized that Joe was weak, he could not show it and realized that the disease he saw on the news had started in her son.

- Son, are you okay?

-I'm not, mom, I feel so bad.

Hearing this, Julia was very worried and looked around, not knowing what to do. Julia learned in the news that people who came to their town in the summer had an epidemic in their bodies, and this disease began to harm people after 3 months.

3 days later...

It was heard that similar symptoms appeared in her neighbors. Everyone was waiting for the news from crossfiel country and hoped that there would be a cure for this disease because now the deaths had started.

Joe whose condition improved before it got too bad had never expected that such a beautiful summer would cause all this, he was talking to his friend every day and getting news about what happened, and all the television channels were reporting the incident between this country and the town. Also, it was as if all life in the town had stopped, no one could do business, and no money, and they were just trying to save their health. This situation continued for exactly 4 months.

4 months later...

When Joe woke up, he got this message from his friend.

-Our famous doctor Tommy Arc claims to have found a solution to the disease and patients who have been given injections say they feel better.

Joe was very happy about this and immediately brought the news to the people in his town. After a few days, the townspeople, who learned that this was indeed the solution, demanded these needles.

Almost the whole town was injected, the improvements started, and with this experience, they announced that everyone will be allowed to enter the town with a health check.

## THE CURSE

### Nuriyen Çakmak

#### Chapter 1.1

She ran away from her pyramid madly. She couldn't understand what happened just now. It couldn't be possible. But she saw, she heard and she felt. She felt something weird after this situation. In her heart and brain. She still ran away through the dark forest.

She arrived home and opened the door quietly. Because her parents mustn't see her but, "Where were you Nury?"

This voice belonged to her mom.

"I hope you didn't go to the forest. You know your father will be angry about it."

She was breathless and looked terrible. She looked as pale as a ghost. Her mom was worried and asked, "What is wrong? Did you run? You look horrible."

She couldn't talk. As if her mouth was sealed. Just could say couple of words.

"Shed can't be me, mom."

Her mom didn't understand her and didn't care.

"You should sleep, you are going to go to school tomorrow morning. And please before you sleep, take a shower. You are covered in mud."

She didn't notice. She looked at her clothes. There wasn't just mud on her. There was desert sand. The strange thing is that they live in England. And there is no desert there.

#### Chapter 2

She couldn't sleep all night. But she had to go to school because she will attend a presentation about ancient Egypt and this presentation will be presented by Mr. Sam Obel. It was so important for her because Mr. Obel was an Egyptologist at the University of Oxford. And she had a dream that she wanted to be an Egyptologist like him. She had been reading his books and papers since she was a child. She has followed his work for years. And she admired him. And today was the first time she had an opportunity to meet him after the presentation if she was lucky. She had to talk to him about yesterday night. She thought that Mr. Obel was only person who might believe her. She got ready quickly. When she left home, her father saw her and said, '' Your mom told me that you left home last night. Where were you? You shouldn't keep secrets from us.''

"Nowhere, I just walked around. I was bored. Now, I have to go. I'll miss the bus." When she left home, she thought that she was very unlucky with her family because they never trust her about anything. They never care about her feelings. They never encourage her to do anything, so she hated living with them. But she couldn't go somewhere else because she had a library at home. When she felt upset, she had been going to her library and reading for hours. And then there was her pyramid. She built it in the dark forest herself to be away from home for a while. The pyramid was made from wood. It was not as large and big as a house. She used an oil lamp for lighting the inside. At night, the

lamp shone like a scorching yellow sun in a desert along the banks of the Nile. It was very good for her to feel something belonging to that geography in this humid and dark place where there are huge trees.

#### Chapter 1.2

She was painting the Egyptian gods on the walls inside the pyramid. She painted the myths, stories and legends she read according to her own imagination. One night she found a great book in the library. The curse... That was the title of the book. The author of the book was Mr. Obel. It was a wonderful book about Tutankhamun's curse. She read it all day. She should have drawn this on her pyramid. Unaware of what was to come, she set off for her pyramid in the deep silence of the dark forest. When she arrived, she immediately prepared her paints and began to draw with pleasure and excitement. She drew everything she read. She was muttering a few words that remained in her mind as she drew.

"The curse is clear enough to see, close enough to touch and loud enough to hear. Open your eyes, feel and hear..." she said these words as she struck the last strokes of her brush on the wooden wall. All of a sudden the pictures started to come to life. The curse scene she read in the book was exactly the same. People were suffering and the gods could not do anything. Suddenly one of the gods she had drawn turned to her. That was Horus.

"You are the only being who can overcome this. You are Shed. You are the supreme god Shed, the savior of the people. Please help our people."

She couldn't believe what she was hearing and seeing. She didn't want to believe. She rubbed her eyes and opened them again. She covered her ears so as not to hear the people's painful cries.

"No Nury, that's not real, no, no, no, no."

But it was real. The screams and the brutality she saw on the wall. If anything, the painting was the most real thing that she saw in her life.

Nury didn't want to stay there any longer. She wanted to escape. She never wanted to look back, ever. Just as she was on the run, a gate suddenly appeared and pulled her towards it. Nury had fallen into a desert.

"What's going on? Help! Is there anyone there? Where am I? Mom, Dad!"

She looked around. A huge river was flowing in front of her. She understood where she was. This was Egypt.. How did she go miles away from there? How did that gate appear? She couldn't figure out anything. Suddenly she heard a voice.

"Welcome our savior. Welcome, almighty god Shed."

She couldn't understand where the sound was coming from. It was like the voice was in her head.

"I'm not Shed. I am not a savior either. I'm just a girl. A little girl on her own. What do you want from me? This must be a joke."

The voice is heard again.

"Your soul is the spirit of our supreme god, The Shed. Only you, Nury, can save our people from this curse. They need you. You can prevent the story you're reading from happening. It's only in your hands. The curse prevents other gods from helping you but you have a great defense against the curse. Only you can defeat it. Alone...

"Please, I can't. I'm not even strong. I am a person with no talent. You are wrong. How can the spirit of a god be in my skinny and lousy body? This is ridiculous."

And she was back in the pyramid...

#### Chapter 3

The curse that was the title of the book. The subject of the book was also a legend set in the reign of a pharaoh named Tutankhamun in ancient Egypt. Tutankhamun died very young and unexpectedly. This created a mystery in history. Many legends arose about this mysterious death. However, the book in her hand gave her a very strange feeling. Nury immediately began to read the book.

"The curse is clear enough to see, close enough to touch and loud enough to hear. Open your eyes, feel and hear..."

The book begins with these words. She shuddered when she read it but she also liked it. She loved to read such exciting things. She liked to feel as if she was in the event while reading.

Tutankhamun was 18 years old. He almost put an end to the religious problems his father had caused. Egyptian people loved Tutankhamun very much, with whom they could live more comfortably in folk beliefs. They even began to see him as a god, which was not uncommon. Pharaohs were often seen as symbols of the gods on earth. However, Tutankhamun won a big place in the hearts of the people for both his intelligence and his skills. Of course, there were also people who hated him. It was him stepmother Nefertiti who hated him the most.

Nefertiti was one of Egypt's most powerful women. Because Nefertiti was on the same level as her husband Akhenaton, the pharaoh. Even the pharaoh had the authority to do the punishments she had to apply or the things she had to do. Since this was not a customary practice in Egypt, the people and the clergy were not happy at all. This dissatisfaction did not last long as they did not stay on the throne for very long. When Tutankhamun came to the throne, Nefertiti was of no importance. She disliked Tutankhamun not only because she had lost the powers she had, but also because she was jealous of Tutankhamun being loved so much. She longed to hurt him more than she wanted anything. She wanted him to disappear so that she could regain her former strength.

Tutankhamun had no children anyway. So there was no one to rival her. All she had to do was kill Tutankhamun. Magic was very common in ancient Egypt. She could easily defeat him with magic but how would she do it? They shouldn't have suspected her because she was at the end of the line. She could be killed for any mistake because people hated her. Magic would be the most logical decision.

Soon the pharaoh Tutankhamun would turn 19 years old. She was thinking of giving him a cursed and adored collar as a birthday present. The vulture symbolized death, but it also symbolized one of the minor guardian deities. Nefertiti was sure Tutankhamun would think of Nekhbet (Vulture). Poor Tutankhamun might have been a victim of Nefertiti because of his good intentions. Nefertiti wanted the curse to be strong enough to be felt but invisible enough to not be felt. For this, she asked the dark magic master Nebhekau for help.

Nefertiti presented a vulture-patterned collar before Nebhekau and said, "Nebhekau, I want you to curse this collar for the powers I can regain."

For Nebhekau, it was child's play. She felt within herself what Nefertiti felt. Nefertiti along with her deep hatred, she had cursed the collar with a very powerful magic. The stronger the hatred, the stronger the magic would be. Nebhekau knew she had done something irreversible. The great day, Tutankhamun's birthday, had arrived. It was celebrated with enthusiasm in every corner of Egypt.

The people ate, drank and danced with pleasure. Tutankhamun was getting ready in his room. "My King, Queen Nefertiti wishes to come before you," said a servant.

Tutankhamun agreed, unaware of what was to come. Nefertiti and her servant enter the room. The servant had a dazzling collar in his hand. "Happy birthday, my great king," said Nefertiti. "Please accept this solid gold and gemstone collar. The God Nekhebet may always protect you both in this world and in your afterlife."

Tutankhamun was happy. He accepted the gift. Nefertiti was taking the servants and putting them among the precious jewels. Will you not wear it? It will make me happy to wear it with you on this special day and I am sure it will suit you very well."

Tutankhamun wore it in order not to upset the old Nefertiti. It looked really majestic. "Thank you," said Tutankhamun. A big sly smile appeared on Nefertiti's face, and then she left the room. Then Tutankhamun went to the balcony of the palace. The people greeted him with great joy. He lay down on his bed. While he was happily eating his fruits, suddenly darkness fell. Everyone started screaming and shouting. There was a great darkness in the sky. Tutankhamun could not understand what was happening. Darkness drew near.

These were vultures. A huge flock of vultures coming straight towards the palace. Everyone was running and hiding. Just as Tutankhamun was about to run away, a vulture grabbed him by the collar and started dragging him. Tutankhamun was trying to escape. He sought help from the people around him but no one could come close. He tried to take off the collar but couldn't. The collar seemed to be locked and would never come off. At last the vulture swept him away and they disappeared. Vultures were attacking not only Tutankhamun but other humans as well. It had turned into a bloodbath. Vultures first killed people and then ate their carcasses. What happened was utter horror. The strange thing was that no one could stop it. Even the gods. It was indeed a very powerful black magic. It was a complete curse.

Several days passed. The vultures were still floating in the sky. Nefertiti had locked herself in the palace. She was scared but also happy. She was alive but Tutankhamun was absent. If this curse ended soon, she would be pharaoh. The vultures gradually disappeared after a while. The surviving people immediately began searching for King Tutankhamun. No one had hope, but Nefertiti wanted to make sure he was dead.

After a long search, they found him in the middle of the desert, full of holes. A vulture had ripped out Khamun's heart and ate it. It was really a terrible thing for the people because when mummifying dead people they remove all the organs but not the heart because that was the most important thing for life in the other world. They immediately took the king's body to the palace and started the burial. No one else was happy with this situation except Nefertiti, because Tutankhamun had become a really good king and everyone loved him.

After 3 months of preparations for the funeral, Tutankhamun took his place in the Valley of the Kings with a very rich treasure and a great ceremony. Despite all efforts, he was sent off to eternity with his collar that never came off his neck. The public began to suspect Nefertiti because of this. They had heard that this neck collar was his gift. Nefertiti was happily preparing for the throne. One day, as she was wandering around the palace, she suddenly felt pain. She had been assassinated. Someone from the right had swept past the guards in anger and hit Nefertiti in the head. Nefertiti fell to the ground in pain and died.

#### Chapter 4

She was in school. She thought all the way about what she could say to Mr. Obel. She believed that he could help her but still she doubted. It's because she was aware that what she saw was not believable. On the way to the conference room, she saw Mr. Obel. But she was too nervous and did not dare to speak at that moment. The presentation was about to begin. But as she looked around the room she noticed the only two people there were her and Mr. Obel. She took her seat. Mr. Obel was on the podium with a big smile on his face. No matter how relaxed he looked, his excitement was evident from the tiny water droplets shining on his forehead.

"Hello dear students and educators. Today I'm going to give you a presentation about one of the most important pharaohs in ancient Egypt, Tutankhamun."

Suddenly he got serious.

"Tutankhamun was the penultimate pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty of ancient Egypt. He ascended the throne at the age of nine and reigned until his death at the age of nineteen. Historically, Tutankhamun is known for restoring the traditional polytheistic ancient Egyptian religion after he was suppressed by Akhenaten in favor of the Atenist religion. Tutankhamun was also one of the few kings to be worshiped as a god during his lifetime; this was usually done posthumously for most pharaohs. Known in popular culture for his immense wealth, which was found by Howard Carter and his team during the discovery of his tomb in 1922, it is the only such tomb to date that has been virtually intact. The discovery of his tomb is considered one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time..."

Nury knew almost everything about Tutankhamun. She had read and watched about this pharaoh but still the narrator was Mr. Obel, it is as if she was hearing it for the first time. She was listening to Mr. Obel with great attention. She couldn't take her eyes off his eager face as he talked about the subject and his stance that showed how much he had control over the subject. He was about to end the conversation.

"I had a lot of fun years ago when I was working at the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings and also at the Egyptian Museum to work on treasures. Every detail of the treasures drags you to different adventures."

After the presentation was over, she gathered all her courage and went quickly to him. "Mr. Obel, can we talk, it's a really important matter."

He didn't care because he didn't like to waste his time with people. Time was very precious to him.

"Mr. Obel please, you need to listen to me."

Mr. Obel was walking quickly to his car.

"The curse of Tutankhamun. I saw him."

Mr. obel stopped. Turned to Nury. There was great surprise in his eyes. He grabbed Nury by the arm and put her in his car.

"It's not funny if you're kidding me, kid."

Nury shook her head in denial. She was a little nervous but relaxed. She had great love and respect for Mr. Obel.

"Trust me. The book you wrote, the curse. It's real."

"I know, but I want to know how you found out."

"Then drive the car deeper into the dark forest, please."

Nury told everything that happened along the way. After a while they reached the pyramid and immediately went inside. The pictures were no longer alive. Everything was as before. Nury said those words again.

"The curse is clear enough to see, close enough to touch and loud enough to hear. Open your eyes, feel and hear..."

And suddenly the pictures came to life again. Mr. Obel couldn't believe his eyes. What he encountered in his work years ago was indeed true. Then the gate opened and they were in Egypt.

Nury called out. 'Hey can you hear me? Horus? I'm here again and I'm here with someone who can help me. He knows everything."

"I hear you and I feel you, Nury and Sam Obel. I'm glad you came back. You don't have to think far to prevent this curse from happening. It is much closer than you think."

Obel was very familiar with the geography of the area.

"The Tomb of Tutankhamun. We are very close to it."

They quickly went there. The entrance to the tomb was barely visible.

"How do we get in?" Nury said.

There was a small ledge above the door. Mr. Obel tried to open the door but nothing happened. The moment Nury touched the ledge, the door opened. In the tomb was all that belonged to Tutankhamun. According to Mr. Obel, they should reach the collar. However, the mummy was in there 5 huge sarcophaguses.

Nury was not feeling well. She had a strange feeling. She felt strangely powerful. She knew that she was the only one who could lift the sarcophaguses and take the collar and save Tutankhamun and the people from this curse and but it wouldn't be easy. After a long struggle, she took the collar and destroyed it. Now the curse was gone, but that wouldn't change the past.

"We did it, Mr. Obel. We did it!" there was no answer. "Why aren't you happy?"

She glanced around but she was alone. An hour later Nury was back in the woods. Nury pushed through the door into the kitchen expecting to be shouted at for being covered in sand again. Instead her mum ran across the room and hugged her for the first time ever.

"Where have you been, Nury? I was so worried something bad had happened to you."

"The love is clear enough to see, close enough to touch and loud enough to hear. Open your eyes, feel and hear..."

## TOM'S HOLIDAY

#### Mehmet Erkan Erdem

In the past, Tom, his wife Monica, their children, and their babysitter Olga went on a plane trip. They had an accident and ended up stranded on an unknown island. However, Tom and Olga had a secret relationship, but Tom didn't act on it because Monica had a lot of money and he didn't want to lose it. While on the island, they had to struggle to survive. While looking for food, they encountered a tribe that looked like monsters. Later, the tribe tried to eat Tom's family, but they managed to escape into the forest. Then, they saw a giant lion that killed all the tribe members.

Tom woke up in his bed and got ready to go to work, still affected by the effects of his dream. When he arrived at work, his boss needed to talk to him about business. His boss called him into the room within 10 minutes. When he entered the room, at first glance, he thought his boss was a member of the tribe that had tried to eat him and his family, but then he realized it was also a result of his dream.

Tom made the decision to change his plans at work because he was not recovering from the effects of his dream. He then had the idea to take the bus instead of a plane trip and to go on a hotel vacation instead of a nature vacation. Tom started looking for a luxury hotel on the internet and found a 5-star hotel in Antalya. This hotel had large and spacious rooms, swimming pools, sports facilities, massage rooms, and a casino. Tom finally found the hotel he was looking for and made a reservation for himself and his family. Two weeks later, the big day had arrived. He got on the bus with his wife Monica, Olga, and the children behind him. The journey was long but calm, and they finally arrived at the hotel. As soon as they stepped into the hotel, they went to their room to rest. Then, they went to the pool to relax. While swimming, Tom was only thinking about what to do about Olga and Monica. He really loved Olga, but he couldn't let go. He rang the phone while he was getting out of the pool and drying himself. Olga was the caller. She missed Tom so much and asked him to come to her room. Tom accepted without thinking and went to her room. He felt more peaceful than anywhere else, and that's when he realized that Olga was the right person for him. While these thoughts were going through his mind, suddenly there was a knock on the door, and it was Monica who caught them red-handed. After witnessing this event, she took the children and returned home. Tom also enjoyed his private vacation with Olga.

## THE BLOODY INHERITANCE

## Hediye Ergüden

It was a rainy day in Manchester. The date was approaching the middle of 1992. Mr. Liston was preparing to go to Japan for a big meeting. Mr. Liston was a very successful and rich man. He lived with his son and his new wife. Also there was a chef and two servants in the house. Mr. Liston was pretty angry at times but loved and trusted his employees. However, his relationship with his son has been bad since he lost his wife because his son couldn't accept that his father married another woman after his mother died. His son's name is Arnold. Mr. Liston neglected Arnold because of his job when Arnold was a child. Therefore, Arnold was unable to form an emotional bond with his father. His worry was about his father's inheritance because he thought the inheritance would go to his father's new wife, Christina. If Arnold thought came true, he would surely have a plan.

While Arnold was at home smoking a cigarette, Floyd knocked on the door and entered. He said he found a piece of paper last night and handed it to Arnold.

'What is this?' Arnold asked.

'Sir, Mariana found it on the floor while cleaning your father's room. It's about inheritance,' Floyd said. Arnold got angry when he heard the word inheritance. The paper wrote that the entire estate would be left to Christina Brook. Arnold's anger doubled. He wanted to take revenge on his father. Arnold had to come up with a plan. Arnold told Floyd to leave the room to listen and think.

Arnold had formed his plan. When his father was not at home, he gathered all the staff. The staff were curiously waiting for Arnold's words to come out of his mouth.

'We all know that my father was a workaholic. He has always neglected me and now he has decided to leave his entire legacy to his new wife. I don't think he ever treated you right either. Together we must kill my father and put the blame on Christina. If you help me, I will give you a share of the inheritance,' Arnold said.

The employees began to whisper among themselves. Mr. Liston was mistreating them most of the time. The idea of getting a share in the inheritance appealed to them because they did not receive enough salary. They accepted Arnold's offer.

Mariana was going to have the biggest job in the plan. Mariana was going to be the murderer. Mariana said she could not accept this offer and asked to meet with Arnold privately. And they went to Arnold's room together.

'Mariana, I know you committed a murder in the past. I also have enough evidence to give to the police. Do you still agree that you will not be my father's murderer?' Asked Arnold. Mariana was in for a shock. She didn't know how that Arnold knew about this. She reluctantly accepted Arnold's offer.

The murder was to be committed tomorrow. Mr. Liston and Christina will have been having dinner alone at home. Arnold won't be home tomorrow. Arnold would take his life and all his money from his father, who had given him nothing but pain since childhood.

...

It was a quiet day in Mr. Liston's home. Mr. Liston was reading his newspaper. His wife was back from shopping. She greeted her husband and went to her room to get ready for dinner. There was only Arshavin the chef and Floyd the butler in the house other than Christina and Mr. Liston. Arshavin put enough medicine on Christina's plate to put her to sleep for about six hours so she wouldn't see what was going to happen. He put enough medicine on Mr. Liston's plate to put him to sleep for two hours. Floyd brought the dinner to the table. At 8 p.m., the working hours of the staff was over. Floyd and Arnold came out on time. However, when they were leaving, they always left one door open for Mariana to enter, except for the door they always entered and exited.

An hour later, Mariana came home. Mr. Liston and Christina were asleep at the dinner table. She approached them and quietly took out her knife from her waist. She put the knife in Christina's hand and grasped the knife in her hands. Her hands were shaking and she was starting to sweat. She had stabbed the knife in Christina's hand right into Mr. Liston's heart, but the knife was so deep that she couldn't get it out at first. She had to take the knife out because it shouldn't have left any marks. She even wore gloves and shoe covers when entering the house. She had buried the knife in the garden of Floyd's house and did not tell anyone about it.

. . .

When Arnold came home the next morning, Christina had run away. Then he immediately called the police. The police took fingerprints from the body and from the table. Arshavin was a smart person, he reserved some food without drugs so that they wouldn't suspect him. The police took a sample of that food as well. The police questioned everyone in the house. Mariana and Arnold weren't home anyway. Floyd and Arshavin had already left at 8 p.m. All the crimes were pointing to Christina. Mariana had dressed in Christina's clothes when she committed the murder and had smeared them with Mr. Liston's blood. She buried them in a visible way in the garden of the house for the police to see. And the plan worked. It wasn't too hard for the police to find the bloody clothes. After all the evidence, Christina was arrested.

• • •

While Christina was in jail, her lawyer came to see her. Christina recounted the incident as she remembered it.

'When I came to my senses, my husband was lying on the ground covered in blood. I got scared too and ran away from home. My husband wasn't on good terms with his son, he was thinking of leaving his legacy to me. If Arnold found out about this, he may have killed his father to get the inheritance. However, all the evidence points to me. I don't believe I can prove my innocence. Please help me!' Christina said.

'I believe she is innocent.' the lawyer said. 'I know a very successful detective I'm sure he will help us.'

Philip Hammer was a famous Scottish detective, there was almost no case he couldn't solve. The lawyer called the detective. The detective said he is on an important mission in Bulgaria but can come in a month. The lawyer applied for the trial to be adjourned for two months. Arnold and the staff were pleasant. They were very relieved that Christina was inside. They were happy that they thought they

would leave no trace even if the trial was delayed. Arnold immediately took care of the inheritance. He then gave the staff their share of the inheritance. Floyd and Andrey received 250,000 euros and Mariana 500,000 euros.

#### AFTER A MONTH

Detective Philip returned to Manchester. He started by questioning the people in the house. The classic things at first glance pointed to the culprit being Christina, but there were other things, he trusted his lawyer friend. He went to Mr. Liston's house and searched the house for hours but couldn't find anything. Just as he was leaving, he realized that he had stepped on something. It was broken. There were a few more around. These were beads. Mr. Hammer took them and left the house. When Mr. Hammer saw Christina, he thought of the bracelet on his wrist, it looked very similar. The next day he went to see her. What is that? It was the same. This is terrible. Was Christina really the murderer? Mr. Hammer decided to take a closer look at the beads in his office, one of the beads had a letter written "F". Floyd also wore a bracelet, and oddly enough the stones were still similar, but the bracelet had never broken before. There was a piece of paper in front of Mr. Hammer with information about the employees. Something Mariana Fiona Torres noticed. There was the letter F. Suspicion turned to Mariana. Mr. Hammer found the bracelet broken at Mariana's house. When he placed the beads it was just right. The bracelet was definitely broken at the time of the murder because some of it was stained with blood.

The Detective went to Floyd's house. It was raining heavily in Manchester as usual. Whilst wandering in Floyd's garden, he found a small hole in the garden. It had sunk in a little from the rain water. He asked it to be dug. And a knife came out. The knife and bracelet again aroused their suspicions on Floyd. The knife was wrapped in a cloth, he took fingerprints from the knife Mr. Hammer barely came up with anything. Mariana had done a clean job, or so she thought. Mr. Hammer also took fingerprints from the cloth. He compared it to Mariana and Floyd's. The fingerprints were Mariana's. But on the blade was "Chef Ars.." The rest had been rubbed of. Arshavin was also among the criminals. In addition, the knife cut was too deep for a woman like Mariana to do. Mr. Hammer was very thoughtful. The job was very complicated. It was either Arshavin or Mariana according to him. He started researching knife brands and found a brand called "Chef Arshen". Murder knife Also, looking at the parts written and those deleted, Arshavin was not long enough to be written.

Mariana was definitely the culprit with the broken wristband and fingerprints. Mariana was arrested and she was compelled to tell all what happened. Big money had come in. Mariana explained that they had cooperated and accepted the money, others were suspects. Arnold Liston, Floyd Patterson, Andrey Arshavin, and Marina Torres were arrested.

The innocent Christina was freed. She was eternally grateful to the detective and the lawyer. After that day, no one heard from Christina. Detective Philip Hammer added to his reputation.

## THE BIG SLAYER

## Sıla Kaytanlı

On the morning of an ordinary day, Laurance got out of bed, took a shower, and put on his suit. He went out, his car waiting for him in front of his house as usual. When he got in the car, the first thing he did was turn on his favorite song. After that, calling Louis for information and criticizing him was another thing he did. Louis would always pick up the phone nervously and tell the latest events as soon as possible and hang up if nothing important happened. This tension between them had existed and would continue to exist from the first moment they met because none of them wanted to agree without their qualities. The conflict caused by the difference between their ages was a big problem. Laurance was old and thought he was more knowledgeable because of his age. On the contrary, Louis considered himself more advantageous because he was younger, so he was aware of the new detective techniques and could use them.

However, Louis hadn't picked up the phone in anger that day, and he wasn't planning to hang up any time soon. Or rather, it was hard to even say that he could think of anything. That day, Louis answered the phone dully and didn't speak. The only words that came out of his mouth at that moment were: "My girlfriend was killed." Louis' parents died in a car accident when he was a baby. From that day on, Louis, who thought he would never be truly loved, continued to think so until he met Martha. Martha looked so much like her mother, whom Louis could only recognize from her photographs; eyes, hair, lips... And now Louis was losing his family for the second time. It was very heavy for him but he never cried or complained.

Laurance quickly walked over to the office as he hung up. Although they could not stand each other, no one knew them better than each other. Laurance also knew that this silence in Louis was not an admission and that he could make unexpected decisions and do wrong. What Laurance thought came true. Louis was at the office when he called Laurance, but when Laurance came to the office, he couldn't find Louis. Laurance thought long and hard about where he might be and decided to go to the most logical place he could think of: Martha's house. On the way to Martha's house, Laurance realized that Louis had not told him where they had found Martha's body, but decided to go home anyway. Although he was momentarily relieved to see Louis's car when he got home, two minutes later he was stressed and worried again when he saw Louis' shirt smeared with blood as he left the house.

Seeing Louis like that, Laurance thought for a moment that he had found the murderer and killed him. Luckily, it wasn't as he thought, Louis just wanted to see his girlfriend's house one last time and find any clues, and there was a clue. "Sister" was written in Martha's blood on the cover of the book that stood by Martha's bedside. It looked like a really important clue, but it was too incomplete to comment on. Louis went to Laurance and told him all this. Laurance realized that Louis didn't want to waste any time finding the killer, but he couldn't say anything to him because his life was really hard. However, to break the silence now and to distract Louis a bit, Laurance offered to get in the car and eat. Louis reluctantly accepted the offer and they got in the car. Just as Laurance was about to start driving, the phone began to ring. The caller was a police officer, and the caller said the officer's chief's wife had been killed.

Laurance asked: "Any important leads at the crime scene?

The policeman replied: "A book cover by your bedside reads 'mom'."

Shocked, Laurance hung up and turned to Louis, "We need to be quick so no one else gets killed," he said.

As soon as Laurance finished his sentence, Louis realized the situation they were in, and his revenge was momentarily replaced by a desire to save other people. He turned to Laurance and said, "The same person killed them both, we can find a clue." Laurance also thought so, but he also knew that their job would be very difficult because the person they were dealing with was not only a serial killer but also killing an imaginary family of different people.

They got out of the car and entered Martha's house again. At that time, the crime scene investigation team had not yet arrived, which was a good thing for them because they were going to search the house down to the last detail. Louis saw Martha's lifeless body again, but this time Laurance was by his side, supporting him for the first time. Louis said to Laurance, "You study the signs next to Martha and I'll look elsewhere." said. Laurance accepted the offer of Louis, which he always rejected, this time in one go. Laurance found a pair of scissors under the seat Martha was lying next to. He thought of it as a tool he could use to attack Martha's killer. Maybe at the last moment, the killer took Martha's hand and threw it somewhere and there might be fingerprints on it. Louis couldn't find anything. "Let's go to "mom," Louis said. Laurance got into the car with a wry smile, and they were both very surprised when they arrived at the new victim's home.

What surprised them was the door numbers. When they saw the door number of this new house, they immediately remembered a detail that they had not paid attention to. The door number in this new house was "...456..." and the three dots were drawn in blood. In Martha's house it was "123..." and again the three dots were drawn with Martha's blood. All they had to think about now was to get to house 789 as soon as possible, and so they did. They quickly called the police station to find out where house number 789 was, and they heard what they didn't want to hear from the police station. Only one man lived in the house, roughly the same age as the woman who wrote "mother" in blood in the book next to her. Laurance drove quickly to the home of the likely victim, whose location they had learned. When they got home, they looked at the door number to see if they were late. Luckily there was no trace of blood on the door number, but they got in quickly anyway. They walked in and saw the possible new victim with a gun to his head and a possible serial killer with a gun.

"Oh welcome, we've been waiting for you too," said the serial killer, and continued. "Let's get informed first, I'm Johnny but John, my family used to say before they were killed. I had my mother, father, and an older sister. We were a very happy family, until that day... I was a seven-year-old kid, and we were going on vacation, but one of my toys was left at home. When my mother said, 'Go get it', I entered the house. Then I lifted my head from the toys with the sound of three gunshots, a black car was speeding in front of our house, the license plate was very different because it was '123 456 789'. After the car left, I turned my head and stared at their lifeless bodies for a long time.

Louis and Laurance looked at each other, they understood the situation, but this was not the right time to feel sorry for John, they had to save that man from his grasp first. John was preoccupied with this long look.

"I have nothing to lose but I have to kill 789 to complete the plate, so never think of stopping me." The killer said.

Louis could understand John because he had lost his family too, but he was not crazy. John, on the other hand, was a downright maniac who saw people as numbers completing the plate that killed his family. After another silence, John put the gun right over the man's head. Louis and Laurance needed to do something now, but they didn't because it all happened in such a short time. John killed that man and then killed himself. They went out and got into the car. Laurance took Louis on a path he never knew existed. He said to Louis, "I'll show you something, wait a minute."

They came to an empty field with a house and a garage. Louis was following Laurance. Laurance came to the front of the garage and opened the door. Inside, there was a vehicle with the license plate "123 456 789". Louis looked at Laurance questioningly, and Laurance recognized it. Laurance began to tell Louis: "This was your father's biggest test. Your father and I made a mistake and joined a terrorist organization, I quickly realized my mistake. Of course, I couldn't get out of that swamp easily, but they believed me and left me after I showed myself dead. I told him many times that he was wrong but he didn't listen. Then one day they gave your father a task. It was the duty to kill a family because, in this family, the father was a soldier and the mother a prosecutor. Your father fulfilled this duty, but his conscience was never at ease. He came to me later in this car. He said "We need to hide this car." I helped your father and we hid, but your father still did not feel comfortable, and then he said, "Kill us as a family, if you just kill me, they will be very upset behind my back.", "I cannot do such a thing." I said to your father that day and that night, I received the news of the traffic accident."

Louis was shocked, his father was a murderer. Johnny, who lost his family because of Louis' father, wanted to get revenge on Louis years later and killed Louis' lover, who reminded him to love and be loved. Louis understood at that moment that everyone was a continuation of his family, and their children's lives could be ruined by their mistakes.

## THE BLOODY ANNIVERSARY

## Ekinsu Külbağ

The weather was too cold. He was thinking about how long he has not been going to school on the road. When he came back to the house his mother said "Didn't you buy chocolate?" But he had forgotten the chocolate which his sister wanted.2 hours later he left home to meet his girlfriend. She was waiting for him in her home. He has never been a punctual guy therefore they were always in conflict. She was angry on jack while she was waiting. When he met her she kissed him although she was angry. They missed each other. They went to meet their friends by car which jack's father bought.

When they arrived at the cafe, their friends had already arrived. They ran to greet. Mia talked about their anniversary with Jack approaching as soon as they sat down. She was very excited as she spoke. He loved her very much and wanted to celebrate their 2nd anniversary with his favorite friends, who always witnessed their happiest moments.

While chatting over coffee, Jason leaned towards Jack with a serious expression and said something. Jack was surprised at what had happened. His hands began to tremble in anger. Not knowing what to do, he told Mia that he was going to the bathroom and would be right back. A few minutes later, Jack finished the phone call and returned. Mia asked who he was talking to, and he said that her mother had called to ask if he had a request. But Jason understood very well that the person he was talking to was not his mother. He didn't say anything, preferring to remain silent because Jack knew very well that he would not be unresponsive to what was said. He thought he should somehow calm Jack down and worried about what was going to happen.

Jack and Mia decided to rent a house for their anniversary because all group wanted to be together. At the weekend Jack had already arranged house and other things. He called his friends and all of them came the house. The house they rented was a beautiful house close to the center of Martyrdom. They had a lot of fun at first. They were dancing and laughing. On the one hand, Jack was very excited about the gift he was going to give to Mia. They drank something which was included alcohol. Suddenly Jack saw something in his phone and he seemed so angry. His friends convinced of jack's expression. They asked that what his problem is. He ran without saying anything and Mia followed him. Jack went upstairs and knocked the door rudely. Everybody was shocked and the boy who hated Jack opened the door.

At that moment Jason realized that what he was afraid of had happened to him. While everyone was running, he tried to be calm and wanted to prevent possible disasters. Just as he was going to follow Jack upstairs, Jack's coat caught on his feet. As he picked it up with a fury, a small packet fell into his hand. The pills inside were visible from the bag. Could this be true? Could Jack have been taking drugs? No matter what, Jason wanted to run and catch up before anything big happened.

He ran upstairs and entered the open door. Jack was standing with a knife in his hand. Jason was so scared he looked for Mia and matt looking around he saw jack's worst enemy Daniel on the floor laying blood on the floor. Luckily his leg was injured, he thought, and rushed to help him. Mia was stunned by the effects of her experiences. While matt and Jason took care of Daniel, Jack was talking to himself, making creepy gestures. He still hadn't let go of the knife in his hand.

They wrapped Daniel's leg with a cloth. Daniel was bleeding heavily as Jack pulled out the knife had stuck. Just as this was happening, a voice came. It was an incredibly powerful voice. Jason got curious, his eyes searched for Jack, but it wasn't Jack's voice. He ran towards the voice inside and there was a silence. The walls were covered in blood. Jack had slit the throat of someone he had never met, not knowing if anyone was inside. Suddenly, the sound of a police car began to be heard. Matt realized that the neighbors who were disturbed by the sound had called the police.

Suddenly Jack ran to the police with a knife in his hand and asked them to take him home. The police looked at the bloody knife and sent a team to the apartment. Ambulances soon arrived. The boy whose throat had been slit was named John, and he had been killed by someone he had never met, even though john had nothing to do with the fight. With the eyewitnesses of the incident and the necessary crime scene information, it was determined that Jack was guilty. Jack hasn't denied it either. He just didn't know what he was doing

When the news reached the families, they were very upset. They couldn't stand it. Especially John's family was full of hatred and pain. They were constantly threatening Jack's family and his sister. They were saying, "We're going to kill one of you, too." Realizing that this hatred would not go away, Jack's family wanted to escape, at least to save Jack's sister. They would move away from the city. They would start another life. They got ready and made their way to the bus. They went out at night so that no one would notice.

Just when they thought they were saved, a gun went off when they were about to get on the bus and when their father turned right, he saw that his daughter had been shot in the head. He started shouting. The police came, but nobody escaped. Everyone already knew who was did it. The next day the weather was more depressing than ever.

## ONCE UPON A TIME IN BRUGGE

#### Selina Mersincik

Once upon a time Brugge was being ruled by the sumptuous kingdom. People were happy and peaceful. Their king and queen were compassionate. They were distrubuting food and other needs to commoners every day. Celebrations was being held everywhere. Their king loved to greet everyone. Everyone could share their problems with the King. He was solving all of the problems. As you can see he was intertwined with the public all the time. But the public could see the Queen only during times of celebration. The one thing that everybody knew is the Queen always wore black dresses. Of course, they knew about the charity work that she did. Nevertheless, the King obviously was more popular. Someday another kingdom which settled by Brugge kingdoms started a war. This kingdom was more powerful than Brugge Kingdom. The relation between two kingdoms was great. They always had helped each other for centuries. The king of another kingdom had a beautiful daughter. Her father had wanted to protect the princess from this war. He had written the King of Brugge kingdom a letter for help. Despite the fact that the princess had wanted to stay in her country and had wanted to help, her father had forced to leave the country. Now the princess had to go to Brugge kingdom.

Unfortunately after a long war, that magnificent kingdom had became a dangerous and poor place. Thieves were common and crime the rate had increased. Therefore the king couldn2t let her come back..

The princess got used to living Brugge Kingdom after a while. The princess who was already famous for her beauty was soon loved by the public in vert short time. She was kind hearted, cheerful and helpful. Although she lived in the kingdom's castle she barerly spent time in there. She went to square and talked with the commoners. She always intervened when she saw injustice, no matter who is. Also her favorite place was the forest. She loved animals so much even she could communicate with them. When she stepped into the forest birds flew around, rabbits and gazelles came to her side.

One day the princess went to forest as usual. While she caressed bunnies and guinea pigs, she heard a voice. 'Obviously someone run very quickly' she guessed. She did headed for were the voice come from. She saw that a hunter shot an arrow at a baby gazelle that moment. Then a man ran to the gazelle before the hunter took it away. The other man had a sword so hunter went away from there. Princess watched what happened without being seen.

Apparently he was upset for that animal got injured and he intended to help this little animal. Then princess went to next to them. She applied a cream which she made in her bag and she applied gazelle's wound. The gazelle who was afraid all of people literally hugged her. 'Her beauty inside was reflected outside' he thought at that moment. She had white skin like snow, her lips were like cherry, her wavy blonde and shine hair smelled like most beautiful flowers. The man fall in love her at first sight. When he stared at her, she raised her head and they met eye to eye.

It was magical moment but few seconds later ' I have to go to the castle, this baby entrusted to you.' she said.

'Oh, you can be sure but when can i see you at the earliest?' he said. She looked at him with confused face. And he addied 'For just gazelle's wound of course, it can't survive without your medicine. Please look at it, thing that you applied was good for it.'

'Okay. In that case we will meet again in the same place at the same time tomorrow' she said. Next day, they met each other and these meetings kept continue in the forest on any pretext.

The princess did'nt know that the man who she talking to was a prestigious knight. She liked his soul ang big heart and the knight had already fallen in love with her. Literally that tiny wounded gazelle had brought them together. Both of them was loved by the public so much so eveyone thought that they suit each other very well. Their wedding was fascinating and huge event. People at the wedding danced with colourful, flashy dresses all night long. The king was happy for the princess too. He wished that if only her father could see her.

After the wedding, the couple decided to live kingdom's castle because the priness was so used to there. Everything was great until the king got sick. That merry and cheerful vibe gone. All of the public was very worried about their king. Everyone expected good news everyday but king's illness got worse day by day although kingdom's healers took care so much to him. Then kingdom's wizard came in the castle for the king as a last resort. Noone knew what he actually doing. Just they wished that it is good for their king. One day the princess saw the wizard who public talked about. He had conversation with the queen.

"The queen seems good despite the this bad happening that everyone was upset" she thought. She heard a poison they talked about but unfortunately she didn't get anything apart from the poison word. They stopped talking when they saw her and they seemed worried.

After 3 days, the king died. Everyone drowned in sadness figuratively. In this huge funeral, all the princess thoughts about that conversation between the queen and wizard. She didn't get good energy from this. Healers had announced reason of death but she wanted to know in detail. After the funeral she asked them. They said there was a snake poison in his body. When the princess learned that, she figured out what happened. Obviously this job belonged to the queen and the wizard must have helped her. She had to tell everyone the truth. This shocking new couldn't stay. Everyone heard it soon after and they started to hate the queen. Everyday the public came to front of the castle for and revolted. Moreover the queen didn't any explanation despite all the accusations. Not just the public, people who lives in the castle became a enemy for her and the wizard. After a while the queen couldn't stand this situation. She depressed and she imprisoned herself at a castle which was far away because of the public hatred.

The public wanted the princess to rule the kingdom and the prince of course. Both of them came from royal family and they knew all traditions and they was hero of the public already. When princess and prince announced that they will be new queen and king of the Brugge's kingdom, people they became happy again. Everything could change to normal finally...

While the queen and the wizard imprisoned in a castle, they lived together happily again for centuries...

This must be happy ending.

But the thing that noone knew was how it all actually happened. The king was bitten by a snake on a voyage. When he arrived at the castle, he decided to hide it because king had a lot of enemies and they mustn't know that he became weak. This was a firm order. Only his wife, the queen knew the truth and when things went to bad the queen got help from the wizard because she heard that the wizard was good with poisons. They tried to make an antidote in secret. Then when king died, everyone believed the princess, hero of the kingdom even the healers didn't say anything.

So, it may be that not all evil queens are, in reality, actually evil.

## THE MULTIVERSE

## Umut Pılanya

Joe, Jenny and Nick live in a planet named Granus.

Granus is somewhere where the strangers live happily. They always live to do good things to each other. Everyone has good families. They have jobs as in the world. And the children go to schools to improve the things they know to be better in life. Joe, Jenny and Nick are good friends. Nick is Joe's best friend and Jenny is Joe's girl friend. They all have some abilities different from the earth people Joe is a brave and energetic boy. He can change his appearance whenever he wants. Sometimes he seems like a spider boy. Jenny is an indecisive and pretty girl. When. She gets angry she seems like a ninja girl. Nick is a selfish and jealous boy but at the same time he never damages his friends. When he is jealous he seems like a cat boy.

One day something bad happened. While they were all sleeping one night, something like an earthquake happens. They all get up and understand that they are in danger. Because the Granus people see that everywhere is on fire. They all scream and run away. Suddenly, Joe and Jenny find themselves somewhere they do not know. At the same time they notice that Nick is not with them.

Then they hear a voice that says "Now you are on Earth Planet . You have a mission. You are going to live in a city called Tokat. If you want to save your planet Granus and your family, you should do some things. You should fight against an enemy. Your enemy is your friend Nick. You should rescue the city from a trouble. You have some powers. Use these and do whatever you should. The only way is; there is a power stone in this city. First you should find it, so that everything can be the same as it in the past. At last you can return to your planet. Joe and Jenny are confused. They start to live in the city. Everyone around them, behave like they knew Joe and Jenny before. Joe and Jenny notice that they are in a parallel universe.

After 3 months they still don't know where Nick is. During this time they look for the power stone. But they can't find it anywhere.

One evening something bad happens again and an earthquake happens in the city. They see demolition of the buildings and wounded people everywhere. They start to help the people. They realize they they need to use their power. Joe returns to a spider boy and Jenny returns to a ninja girl. They join forces and try to help the people. They know that it is hard to save all the people but they do their best.

After a while Joe sees Nick far away but he observes that Jenny is with him. Joe understands that Nick misses Jenny and Nick is the reason for this trouble. He remembers that Nick is an enemy on Earth and he isn't the boy they know.

After a week Joe is so tired because he both helps the people and looks for Jenny. At that time when Jenny is with Nick, she tries to explain him that something bad happened and she wants him to remember everything. But Nick is still bad and he can not remember anything. Jenny realizes that Nick is in love with her so she tries to affect him to get away.

That time while she thinks about how to escape, she sees the key to salvation; the power stone. She returns to a ninja girl again and starts to fight with Nick; the cat boy.

At last she reaches the power stone and then she sees that a strong light is everywhere.

Just then they all find themselves in Granus. Everything seems normal as if they haven't been out of Granus and haven't gone anywhere. They all remember everything they experienced on Earth, so they know that it isn't a dream, they rewind the clock so nothing bad happened both on Earth and on Granus. But they realize that there are multiverses and they are heroes.

## **INNER JOURNEY**

#### Nurullah Taha Sarılar

Kevin and his friends would meet once a month and have a picnic on the weekend. One weekend they met, Kevin got lost while searching for something to burn in the woods. His other four friends all started looking for Kevin, but they couldn't find him, and unfortunately, it was starting to get dark.

Just as their hopes were starting to fade, they heard Kevin's voice from afar and the team was excited. Then Joe from the team seemed to see Kevin in the dark and they gathered the others and started walking in that direction, it was a tough walk for them and they finally came to Kevin and found him half unconscious on a stone.

After sobering Kevin up, they asked him what had happened. Kevin told what happened to him that he ate the mushrooms he saw at the bottom of a tree while searching for bushes in the forest and it became like this. After Kevin and his friends found Kevin unconscious, they packed the camp and took Kevin to the city center hospital, just in case.

Doctors at the hospital did a lot of tests on Kevin. In the end, the doctors gave some food that the mushroom he ate wouldn't leave anything lasting on Kevin. They thought it was food poisoning, but was it really just a little food poisoning? After Kevin was discharged from the hospital and went home, the doctors asked him to rest at home for 1 week, just in case.

The first days were normal, but towards the end of the first week, he noticed some changes in his brain that he could not fully resolve, as if he was experiencing a time lapse. He was afraid that something would come out so he called his plainest friend Joe to his home and decided to share this situation with him. Joe was a little surprised when he came home because there was no sign of Kevin's feel weak, he was in a very devastated state Joe was a little panicked, although he didn't show it to Kevin, but told him He was trying not to show anything so he wouldn't get demoralized. Then they went to the living room together and sat down. Kevin told him about the situation. He was experiencing a time lapse. The chronology of his memories and daily work was broken. Joe said it would be healthier for him to go back to the hospital and talk to the doctors, but Kevin had no intention of going back to the hospital.

After the two friends sat and thought for a while, Joe had an idea. There was an old native shaman he had heard of before, maybe he could help Kevin with that. When Kevin explained this situation to Kevin, he found it logical, and the two friends decided to go to the local shaman.

Joe and Kevin got in their car and drove to the shaman in the woods on the other side of town. After a 2-hour journey, they came to a village that continued to live in the old nomadic style, both of them were very surprised by the sight they saw, they did not know that there were people still living in the nomadic style. Two men who looked like guards at the entrance of the village greeted them and took them to the shaman. When they entered the shaman's tent, Joe and Kevin could not hide their surprise. There were animal figures on the walls and the whole tent was covered with an intense smell Kevin explain the mushroom story to the shaman. After some thought, the shaman said he could help them, and the two fellow shaman began to listen closely.

Kevin and Joe were continuing their arduous hike, there was not much left to go to the summit, but the two friends were very tired so they decided to take a short break. Joe and Kevin had a division of labor Joe would arrange the food and Kevin would look around for something to burn. They decided not to get too far from each other. While searching for brushwood to make a fire, Kevin suddenly saw a white rabbit, and for some reason he had the urge to follow it.

Following the rabbit as if unconscious, Kevin came to the top of the mountain when he regained consciousness, standing in front of Jasmine flowers under the big rock. Surprised by this situation, Kevin started to collect Jasmine flowers and appeared in front of the shaman they had gone to his tent as if in a dream. The shaman told Kevin that every bad event we experience in life is experienced by the universe to teach us a lesson and that Kevin can question his own past and find the reason for these events.

After some thought, Kevin decided that all these events were related to his dirty past and that it was time to turn a new, clean page in his life. Kevin, who came to his senses when Joe called his name, hugged his friend tightly and said that they had to go back and start a new life.

From that day on, a brand new life began for Kevin.

## THE VISIBLE UNKNOWN

### Furkan Turçin

What couldn't be seen? It was a foggy evening that could not be seen beyond Gobeklitepe. Nevzat asked himself why he had come here. He was too confused about his father's illness. After 39 years of protecting Göbeklitepe, the poor man had developed lung cancer. Nevzat thought there was a link between the mysteriousness of Göbeklitepe and the cancer that his father developed. While Nevzat was tackling those issues in his mind, Harun appeared from the horizon, covered in mud. They gathered behind the car.

Nevzat asked, "Where were you? Have you seen a new monument?"

Harun replied that "I could not see anything because of mist. I heard a scary howl and came back.

Nevzat yelled that "If you give a mission to people who are rookies, it could happen such like an event."

He told Nevzat to Harun that follow the path of the person whom both has permission to enter Göbeklitepe and has a connection to the clinic. Then Harun and Nevzat set out for the clinic. Nevzat's father was also receiving treatment in this clinic. When Nevzat entered the clinic, he thought there were very few people working there compared to his fortune, and if the criminal were there, it would be effortless to catch him.

Nevzat went to his father's clinic room to see his father, whom he had not seen for a long time, and Harun questioned the employees. The skinny and cowardly doctor Andac told him that such a situation could not be related to anyone from his hospital and that such a thing could not even be because of his prestige. The doctor's assistant Gülse thought that he was too sneaky for Harun. This tall, attractive woman said that Birkan, who has a problem with security, has a criminal record and that he may have a relationship with these people, then after thinking about it, she added that thanks to her father, Birkan could enter Göbeklitepe.

However, according to Harun's intuition, Birkan could not commit a crime because he had seen what a prison was like. In any case, Birkan had overreacted to being questioned because of this case. For a former criminal, it was extremely wrong behavior. His bruised face puckered as he suddenly tried to attack Harun, a huge man. After Harun told him everything, Nevzat guessed that Birkan might commit such a crime because of his past with Birkan. However, the fact that Birkan was beaten in prison to the extent that there were scars all over his body also distracted him from this guess. He frowned over his greener-than-grass eyes and told Harun they had to keep tracking down Göbeklitepe. When Nevzat and Harun went to Göbeklitepe, a boy who came to them and could be understood to be poor in appearance came and said: Birkan had come here with Andaç and Gülse before.

Moreover, Gülse and Birkan seemed close enough to be thought that they were in a love affair. Our detectives were confused and said that Harun, who had to solve a case urgently to get his promotion, said that they should not continue this case and leave it to a more competent team. Nevzat laughed unexpectedly and said that he could handle this case alone. After a long silence, they did not prolong the matter and set out to trace the footprints that might remain in this place, which had been raining non-stop lately. They were pretty surprised to find a lot of traces of size 46 sneakers in this area, where they had difficulty even walking with boots. Considering that the financial situation of the person who does this job would not be very good under such conditions, Nevzat and Harun came to the idea that Birkan, who is tall and poor, could be responsible for all that happened.

After the pattern of the footprint was taken, the clinic and Göbeklitepe bush houses were searched and all the shoes were collected. At the same time, Nevzat's father's health was deteriorating considerably. Doctor Andac said that the operation would be ridiculous and the old man had to wait for death. The poor man was in so much pain.

When the shoes and tracks were matched, they matched Birkan's shoes and Birkan was arrested. Birkan was stunned by all that had happened. Nevzat, on the other hand, could not deal with the case because of thinking about his father.

As much as Harun didn't like Birkan, he thought it was a ruse. He sneaked into the clinic in the middle of the night and began to examine what was going on there before the footage was wiped. There were noises coming from the operating room in this very dim environment for a clinic. Harun was horrified by what he saw. Indeed, Birkan and Gülse had a romantic relationship. Harun, who thought that what he did would be too inappropriate if he did not encounter anything wrong when he went to the operating room, kept his cowardice again and returned home with a copy of the camera recordings.

The next day they found a new monument in Göbeklitepe. Harun realized that an innocent person had paid the price for his cowardice and that everything was too late. Harun informed Nevzat, who spent his last days with his father, thinking that the investigation was over, and they decided to stand guard at the entrance of the clinic together at night. Yes, maybe Birkan was innocent, but who could do such a thing? Is she the charming slender woman or the trained surgeon?

It was the 3rd day of the investigation, a garbage truck approached the back of the clinic and the opposite of what should have happened, he left trash instead of picking up the garbage. Nevzat and Harun, who was on the watch, called and told what had happened. And what should they see? Nevzat's father was lying unconscious while Doctor Andaç and Gülse were waiting for the operation in sterile conditions. The memento calmly greeted what happened and said that Nevzata's father had fallen ill and they urgently needed surgery, but Nevzat was not a child. The doctor realized that Nevzat was not bleeding and he started to run away. Harun started chasing after him. Gulse fainted on the spot.

When Gülse regained consciousness, she was interrogated and said that if she confessed to what happened, her sentence would be mitigated, and there was no way out. Gülse had revealed everything. In fact, he loved Birkan very much, but his greed for money took precedence over everything, and after his childhood spent in poverty, he wanted days of prosperity. She reported that when she returned to the clinic one night because she forgot her bag, she saw Andaç in the operating room removing the heart of a patient whose death was nearing. She must have thought that she could extort money by blackmailing Andaç, so she did not complain about this incident. When Gülse tried to blackmail Andaç, she threatened Andaç with her life and said: Now that you know all that happened, you are my partner now, and I will pay you a large amount of money.

On the 3rd day of the Andaş's searching, he was caught in a village house in Urfa. The innocent Birkan was released. The memento now thought it was absurd to hide what had happened and confessed everything. He said that with his money, the mafia kidnapped people who were close to death, relieved the pain of these people, ripped out people's hearts, and put them on these monuments through the mafia. He cried out that the goddesses who ruled the ancient humanity in Göbeklitepe commissioned him and that Nevzat and Harun were playing with the fate of humanity.

## **CLOSEST ENEMY**

### Yağmur Melis Türksoy

The first weeks of the New Year were very depressing for Deniz. She did not leave the house and almost did not communicate with anyone. She ate only as much as she could live. She wanted to take the first book she found and read it to clear her head. It was about murder. While reading the first pages of the book, a sentence caught her eye: "Your true enemy is one of your closest people, because people want to get to know their enemy closely and discover his weaknesses." Deniz was startled by this sentence. Taking a deep breath, she thought briefly but quickly of recent events, saying "nonsense," and threw the book to the side of the room. She didn't want to think about it anymore because the more he thought about it, the more she got lost in the ocean of thoughts and encountered things she didn't want to encounter. Thinking that the best thing would be a good night's sleep, she got into bed and fell into a deep sleep.

Taking a deep breath, she woke up in a sweat. She had one of the worst dreams she had ever had. She saw that her lover was a serial killer, skinning an innocent person alive. She immediately got out of bed and drank water. Uncertainty and bad events caused her to have such dreams. There was still no news of his lover, but she couldn't be patient any longer. She missed him so much. They had a great day last New Year's Eve. She wanted to watch their last day from the security cameras of the house and reduce her longing for him. She sat in the living room. The moment her boyfriend entered the room, she saw photos of her dead dog. She was having a very difficult time. She pressed the start button and started watching the recordings.

She had had one of the best days of her life. All the people she loved had a great time together in the New Year. The only trouble was the occasional strange behavior of her boyfriend. While she was looking at the footage, the backyard security camera went off 5 minutes after her boyfriend left the room. She watched that recording again. Minutes before the camera went off, her dog was constantly barking and acting restless. That was the last image of her dog anyway. Deniz has given its focus well to the record. She was afraid to watch her dog's dead body so as not to see it, but these images were very suspicious. She winced in fear as he studied the record with a meaningless gaze. Her phone had rang. Calling was Ezgi, Deniz's best friend. She immediately picked up the phone.

Ezgi's voice sounded very agitated and the following words came out of her mouth: 'Your boyfriend is a serial killer and he is preparing to kill you too, don't leave the house, we will come to you with the police as soon as possible.' Deniz was shocked. Such a thought would never have occurred to her, but her boyfriend's last movements were not normal at all. She hung up the phone and started crying. She saw the book lying on the floor and read that sentence 'Your true enemy is one of your closest people, because people want to get to know their enemy closely and discover his weaknesses.

## THE PURSUIT OF DREAMS

#### Fatma Sıla Yazar

When Poyraz and Defne got married, they made a decision. As soon as they had collected the money they needed to travel around the world, they would resign and start the journey. Before they got married, they thought they needed to see more while touring Turkey, but they had to graduate first and then work. They had loved each other since they started university and always tried to make their short lives memorable.

When they had leisure time, they always looked for new foreign countries' tourist attractions. It's because they loved travel and learning new cultures. Their hobby started when they joined travel club at university. They loved their country so they started to go an adventures by travelling around their country. They also wanted to travel to foreign countries, but they did not have enough money yet. Thus, they have learned the cheapest ways of travel. They sell their unnecessary things. They worked in part time jobs.

The day finally came when they graduated. They started work the same day. Poyraz was a good doctor in his field, and Defne was an engineer paaionate about her work. They were getting happier every day. When they grauduated and started their job, they travelled a few countries which are close to Turkey such as Georgia, Bulgaria, Romania and Azerbajian. One day, Poyraz asked the question that changed their lives. He took Defne to dinner on a beautiful boat. While they were dancing, he took the ring out of his pocket:

"Will you marry me?" he asked Defne.

Defne's eyes filled with tears. She shouted 'yes' with all her happiness. Now they had a whole new adventure ahead of them. They had a dream wedding. They explored different places with each passing year. They were trying new dishes, trying everything they could afford in the countries they went to. At the same time, they were saving money to embark on more distant, more complex adventures.

Poyraz was rising in his profession day by day. Define also completed her master's and doctorate and was working in an outstanding company. They continued their lives in this order until they were 32 years old. But now they were tired of this pace. After traveling the world, they would return to their countries and continue working. They didn't want to be completely cut off from their family or country, but they tried to fill in a list of things to do before they died.

They woke up one Sunday morning and looked at each other in bed. They chatted a bit about their travels. Then they proceeded to prepare breakfast. While preparing their coffee, Poyraz called to Defne: "Dear, can you prepare the computers? Let's write our resignation petitions."

He replied, "OK, dear, I'll be waiting for you at the table in the living room."

They made the most important decisions that day. They had finished the lease of their house. They put their furniture and cars up for sale. They had thought through their plans for a 2-year trip down to the smallest detail; the hotels they would stay in, the plane tickets, and the things they needed... They checked their bank accounts. Their families knew little of this. They informed them that day. They also prepared their resignation petitions.

On Monday morning, they handed in their resignation letters and said goodbye to their friends. They had set aside that week to process the sales and finalize their farewells. They got lucky, and within three days, most of their items were sold at good prices. They donated their books to a library. They first visited Poyraz's and then Defne's families. They were a little upset when they sold their cars. Defne even said that she felt as if she was entrusting a relative to her new owners. But they were willing to risk all this to make their dreams come true.

By the end of that week, their first trip would be to Switzerland. Both were very curious about it. Then there was Norway and Finland. Then they had to go a little south. Belarus, Poland and Germany were waiting for them. They didn't have much time to spend in the Netherlands and Belgium.

But they had enough time to get an idea of these places. By the time it came to the United Kingdom, they were already in their fourth month of travel. Now the stage was in the part that Defne was most curious about. Ireland. Defne had researched this place a lot. She had dreamed of going to Ireland almost since high school. Poyraz was also aware of Defne's admiration and wanted to be with her while she was exploring Ireland.

They started their journey with the capital, Dublin. Define seemed to radiate joy around her. Poyraz was also very happy to see him like this. The longest part of their travels was to Ireland. They wanted to travel to the fullest extent. There was a lake in Wicklow they were dying to see. When they got there, describe Defne's words were enough not to main book." she feel the character a fantasy whispered Poyraz. in

When they arrived in the city of Sligo, there were puddles everywhere that looked like river particles. Define was researching the castles they would go to one day while they were staying at the hotel. While reading historical sources, she came across the descriptions of castles. She liked the clothes of the people in the pictures. At that moment, her eyes shone and she looked at Poyraz, who was talking on the phone next to her. At that moment, Poyraz returned to the bay and realized that Define was eager for something. He always understood. He hung up the phone and focused on Define. Define:

'I want something very much, but I don't know if you want to do it with me,' she said in her most timid but hopeful tone. At that moment, Poyraz was ready to do whatever he wanted. It was impossible for Defne to break him as her gaze scorched him. He gently closed his eyes and bowed his head. Defne started to speak with a smile she said, 'I want to wear old traditional clothes and do a photo shoot in one of those castles.'

Poyraz took the computer from Defne's lap. He asked Defne to ask for something from room service. While Defne was on the phone, Poyraz had already arranged where to buy the clothes and a professional photographer. When Defne hanged up the phone and returned to him, he immediately told her. Together they chose their outfits that evening. They even talked about the poses they would do while eating the food they had ordered in the room.

The next morning Defne woke up early. She carefully prepared for that day and began to wait for the Poyraz. They had breakfast and jumped on their rented bikes right after. For about two hours, Defne made a 17th century themed fashion show for herself and Poyraz. They took their clothes and went to Castle Lissadell to wait for the photographer. After touring the castle for a while, they met with the photographer. They did a dreamy photo shoot that lasted three hours. Anyone who saw the photos would not believe they were taken in the 21st century. They carefully framed those photos and placed them in the safest part of their suitcases.

Now it was Limerick's turn. They took a long stroll on the river there. In the city believed to have been founded by the Vikings, they passed by many historical buildings with admiration. From there they moved on to Thurles. They spent long days full of culture in the city famous for its museums. They visited

a lot of museums with the street food of Ireland in their hands. There were a few days when they forgot to eat because they were lost among the museums.

Then they opened their eyes in Galway, famous for its restaurants and ocean views. Poyraz had already begun to choose from the famous breakfast eateries in the room. Then they had plans for a week of good coffees and famous patisseries by the ocean. Galway was one of Ireland's largest cities and they wanted to wander around.

They changed their course to Mayo. Mayo stretches west across the Atlantic Ocean and has a coastline of rocky peninsulas, high headlands and scattered islands. They headed west to enjoy the magnificent beauty of Mayo's Atlantic coast. This time they had rented a car. Define loved to drive. Her business was already on cars. However, sometimes she liked to watch Poyraz driving on the long road. That's why they were driving the car in turns. They took pictures and ate meals in the towns they passed on the way. They were going to visit this province like this because it was like the last piece of the ancient world. There were no cafes or coffee shops. There were small boutique patisseries that made sweets and shops of locals who made and sold homemade meals. Poyraz in the car:

'Would you like to live in such a place?' he asked Defne.

Define looked around for a while. The ocean stretching as far as it could go and the mountain ranges behind it greeted them. Even this view seemed enough to live there. But they were both actually thinking the same thing. She said to Poyraz: 'I think I will always love İzmir more than any other place in the world'. Poyraz replied:

"Me too, I guess."

They had thought of living abroad from time to time, but they never had the courage. İzmir always made them feel better. No matter how many countries they traveled to, it seemed that this would not change.

Castles, cathedrals, old churches, small towns, and beautiful landscapes awaited them in Tipperary. Ireland made them so happy that they enthusiastically made their plans every day. While wandering around Tipperary, Defne stared at a store window. Hanging around her neck was the Canon EOS 5D Mark IV, a gift from Poyraz. However, Defne was stunned by the old model Pouva Smart camera in the showcase. He was standing in front of that camera in Turkey that he had been looking for for months and could not find. Poyraz took Defne's hand to enter the store. A very old antique dealer uncle greeted them inside. After making a good bargain on the price, Poyraz gave Defne the camera as a gift. Defne immediately left the store and ran to the beach opposite. As Poyraz walked slowly towards her, she immediately started the machine, and the first thing she photographed was Poyraz. She was there to shoot in that beautiful landscape. Defne was always interested in old gadgets. This machine was the item her had been looking for for a long time, and it made her very happy.

The following week they visited Cork and they had the opportunity to visit the islands and museums. Then they visited Blarney castle and the legendary stone called the Blarney stone. A number of stories attempt to explain the origin of the stone and the legend around it, but the most common is this: to touch the stone with their lips, visitors must ascend to the top of the castle, then lean back over the edge of the parapet. It is believed that anyone who kisses this stone at Blarney Castle will be given the gift of eloquence. Although Define and Poyraz were a little hesitant to try, they saw people who tried and were stunned. On the way back, they called their friends and told them about these interesting memories.

The next stop, Cavan, was literally a community of parks and wildlife. Step by step farms, waterfalls, national parks welcomed them. Define was taking pictures of Poyraz everywhere with her new camera. While Poyraz doesn't like to take photos, Define eagerly asked, 'Can I take your photo here?' Her question left him defenseless. Sometimes they put their cameras on a bench and sometimes on top of their car, turning on the timer and running towards the scenery to pose.

When the trips to Ireland were over, it was Portugal's turn. They packed their things and set out for Dublin. They decided to leave their luggage at the airport and go to the city to eat because their flight was delayed due to the weather conditions. They told the taxi driver about Pearl Brasserie, which they often heard about while touring Ireland, and set off. When they arrived, they came across a magnificent building. However, despite the magnificence of the exterior of the building, the interior was far from ostentatious. They ordered the chef's recommendation as it was a place they had never known. Define began to speak:

"It was the best trip of my life. If I start now, I can explain my feelings to someone for the rest of my life."

Poyraz's smile grew. They were both very happy. They also loved the food. The chef understood that they were foreigners and came to their table, curious about their opinion, as they preferred his own suggestion. Both Poyraz and Define gave their praises to the chief and rose to pay their dues. Poyraz wasn't very fond of coffee, but Define was a coffee lover enough to collect memories from every coffee place they had since embarking on this journey. She turned to Poyraz and asked if they had time to have a coffee. Poyraz immediately began to look at the coffee shops they could go to on the phone. The Stage Door Cafe caught his eye. It was nearby and was greatly appreciated. When they left, Define took a coffee, and Poyraz decided to try a dessert. After eating and drinking, they decided to walk to the airport until the roads were deserted. Talking and taking pictures, they were halfway through and then hailed a taxi. Their plane was to take off at three o'clock. As it was only ten o'clock, they were immersed in some reading in a cafe at the airport. Define reached into her pocket to get her earphones from her coat pocket and suddenly realized that her wallet was not there. She turned to Poyraz in astonishment. Poyraz was immersed in the book. She reached for his bag on the opposite chair and rummaged through it. She was shaking with panic. Poyraz raised his head and asked what was going on.

Defne's voice trembled: "I lost my wallet, and we had our passports in it."

Poyraz stood up:"You sit quietly. I'll take care of it now," he said.

First, he told the airport security to announce what time they were there and that they had lost their passports. Then he searched for the restaurant and cafe they went to, but there was no wallet found. Now Poyraz was also starting to panic.

He went to the washroom and washed his face because she didn't want to stress Defne. He went security again, but there was no improvement. He walked towards Defne. Seeing that she was crying and waiting for him. He ran to Defne and hugged her. "Did you find it?" Defne whispered. Poyraz: "No, but there is nothing to worry about. Please calm down,' he replied.

If they couldn't find them, there was a long and tedious series of procedures waiting for them. They would also have to change all their plans and reservations. Define felt very guilty because of this. After a moment's silence, Define thought of a taxi. They didn't think they might have dropped him in a taxi out of panic. However, they had no idea how to find the taxi. They couldn't remember the license plate or the name of the station. They started searching the internet for taxi stands one by one. There weren't many taxies stands, but the three of them who they called couldn't make communication because the taxi drivers didn't speak English. Poyraz:

"Let's go to security; let them communicate. It won't be like this," he said. Poyraz stood up, and Defne was going to wait by her suitcases.

By this time, they had two hours left before their flight. Both were sweating from stress. Poyraz started looking for taxi drivers with security and Defne was trying to remember where she dropped it and when she last looked at her wallet. Just then, she remembered taking a photo in the taxi. She immediately looked at the photo, and 'bingo.' The name of the taxi stand was written on the back window. She called Poyraz immediately. She said the name of the station. However, when they called the station, they learned that no driver had handed over the wallet. Poyraz described where they got on and off and helped them

determine who the driver was. The taxi manager told them to wait a bit and that he would get back to them. Poyraz went to Defne's side and told her what had happened, and they began to wait together. It was an hour and forty-five minutes before the flight, and they were both very nervous.

"I'm sorry," Defne whispered. Poyraz tried to console her by saying that it was not his fault. It could happen to anyone. At the same time, he began to think about what they would do if they really lost. They picked up the phones and started researching. After about half an hour, Poyraz's phone rang. They heard the voice of the taxi manager:

"Sir, I'm sorry we could only reach our driver, who welcomed you. He said that he was at home and did not see anything in the car, and is it possible to ask about the taxi you used on the way back?" Poyraz immediately turned to security to find the other taxi driver. It was easy to find as they had already used the airport taxi. They called the taxi driver and asked, but he was not there, and it was an hour before the plane.

They had to check in, but without a passport, this was impossible. There was only one possibility left, which was that Defne had lost the passports on the way. They had no other choice now. They had to report the situation to the Irish police and step into a process they didn't know how long it would take. It was even more difficult because Defne's identity card was lost in the wallet. Poyraz turned to Defne: "Let's go and inform the police first and then find a hotel to rest, dear."

They hailed a taxi from the door and set off for the police station. But first, they decided to find a hotel and pack their belongings because it was very difficult to move. The notification of the plane they missed came to Defne's phone while she was in the taxi. Defne started to cry. Poyraz tried to calm her down, but it didn't work. Neither of them knew what to do. Maybe they would have to bypass Portugal. They had reserved a period of two weeks for their trip to Portugal. If they couldn't find their passports anytime soon, or never, they would have to make radical changes to their trip. They arrived at the hotel. Poyraz got information by calling to ask if there would be any problem if he went to the police without Defne. They ordered food in the room. Poyraz told Defne to go to sleep, and when she woke up, he would be here.

While on the way to the police station, Poyraz called a few doctors living abroad. He was trying to get information and predict the process. He arrived at the police station and began to explain the events to an official. At that time, another police officer came up to them:

"A Turk came. He said that he found another Turk's wallet and that it contained passports. If you receive a complaint about this, direct it to us immediately because, obviously, they will need it." He said. He was about to turn his back when Poyraz:

"Can I look at the lost wallet? We are Turkish, and my wife lost her wallet, we had our passports in it," he said with the excitement he couldn't hide. The police officer told him to ask him some questions and follow him. The police were astonished when they realized Poyraz knew everything including Defne's ID number without mistaking it:

"I think you are very much in love with your wife. Frankly, I realize that I don't know anything about my own wife, and frankly, I'm a little embarrassed." He said. Poyraz locked his eyes on the wedding rings:

"I love life with her. I wish I could learn more about her every day," he replied. He signed some documents and left the police station. The hotel was not far. It had only been an hour since he left and he didn't want to go and wake Defne. Defne would definitely call him when she woke up. He started walking happily with his wallet in his hand. He saw a florist. He entered and had a bouquet made of Defne's favorite flowers. On his way, he decided to sit down and arrange his tickets and reservations. When he entered the cafe, the smell of cheesecake made him happy. Because Defne loved cheesecake and it was obviously very well made here. He sat down and ordered a lemonade and asked them to pack a raspberry cheesecake. They've had good luck. The next day, there was space on the Portuguese plane. He bought his tickets right away.

He also sent them to their hotel and said that they would arrive one day late. Then his phone rang. It was Defne. He didn't pick up the phone because he wanted to surprise her. He refused the call and left a text saying he was at the police station. He immediately headed towards the hotel.

As he entered the hotel room, he heard the sound of crying. In fact, he was going to trick Defne a little and then tell her about her wallet and gifts, but he couldn't stand her crying any longer. He walked towards Defne, who was looking at him on the sofa with flowers in one hand and sweets in the other. Defne smiled, but she was not well.

"Any news?" she asked curiously. Poyraz put his hands on the table. He took the wallet out of his pocket and handed it to Defne. Defne opened it immediately and checked to see if there was anything missing. Then she got up and hugged Poyraz. Poyraz told Defne what happened. He said that he had arranged the rest of the plan and that they would be on their way again tomorrow. Defne called immediately and told her mother what had happened. She couldn't stop with happiness. They were terrified because their journey was in danger. But now everything was fine.

Now Portugal, Spain and France were next. Then a quick tour of Italy and small European countries awaited them. When they were finished, they explored the Asian continent. The time they allocated to the island of Australia was a little long because they wanted to visit a friend from high school there and spend the whole island wandering around the ocean shores. They had completed another 21 months of their trip when they boarded their departure plane from Australia. They targeted Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay and Colombia from South America. They had decided to leave the North American continent for their next adventure. Because while planning this trip, they looked at each other and decided that they were not as curious about that part of the Earth as the others. That could wait a bit. They decided to postpone it because they realized that it would force them both financially and geographically. They chose it as the final destination because Defne did not want to end this trip without seeing Cuba.

They started touring the country from the west. They wandered the streets tirelessly as if fascinated. Their traditional clothes, foods, street performers, and, most importantly, their coffee enchanted this nostalgia-loving couple. They constantly chatted with people in the shops they came across on the street and listened to fascinating stories about Cuba. It is the land of history, culture, and revolution, where Fidel Castro and his friends made the revolution in 1950. It was a pleasure to visit this country and to be intertwined with the hospitable Cuban people. It has snowed only once in Cuba's history. It was a very hot and humid island country. Neither Define nor Poyraz liked hot weather. However, even the landscapes Cuba offered them, and the friendly atmosphere offered by its people made it bearable.

Cuban people and the state gave great importance to medicine. They have always done their best to ensure that everyone is equal in health opportunities. Poyraz met many doctors here and enjoyed the conversations he had. Define loved watching and listening to Poyraz talking about her profession. In addition, the streets of Cuba were full of old and admirable cars that would attract Define's attention. She was very excited to see the old model of a brand she loved, maybe the starting point, live. After this cultural, nostalgic and adventurous trip, they reached the last day of their adventure.

They woke up on a Sunday and packed their bags. They would end up with four suitcases on the road. They started with two suitcases. After dinner, they went to the airport. They arrived in Istanbul after their connecting flight. First they visited Defne's family and then Poyraz's family. Meanwhile, they were completing their household goods. A week before they came, both of them had applied for jobs. It didn't take long for both of them to be accepted as they kept their professional knowledge alive with online seminars and programs during their trips and had worked in very good places before. They will start work a month after their return because they want to rest. The car problems disappeared because the car company that Defne was going to start offered to give them a car.

They went to Izmir to decide on the house they rented. This time they decided on a detached onestory, very minimalist house. Define and Poyraz both signed their lease agreements without much indecision. Within two days, their futures were in the house. They would continue to change their old lives a little.

They opened their suitcases, which they had collected from their travels on Sunday night before going to work. They played their favorite song in the background and carefully placed each piece in their home. They looked at each other as they finished it all and rested on the sofa. There was justified pride in the smiles of both of them, making the best investment they could make from their life journeys, which they continued by loving each other and making their dreams come true.

# THREE SWORDSMEN IN THE MOON COUNTRY

#### Burak Yıldırım

#### Chapter One

In the darkness, the rain prevented the ability to see of three swordsmen. No one could see each other, just little raindrops and the voice of hopelessness. The Moon Country was quieter than ever. Adam Manlord (Android of Manlord Corporation) saw determined fear in Joseph's eyes. He understood he had no way to escape The Moon Country had giant walls. After a long wait Manlord broke silence.

#### ADAM MANLORD

"Joseph Stormcloak, you are under arrest for breaking the rules."

Joseph can't fight with this android because he didn't have the energy anymore. He looked at Michael and tried to forge a team with him through just a look of the eyes because he didn't have a chance against Manlord alone.

#### JOSEPH STORMCLOAK

"I know you are an android but you want to feel life. Do you have emotions? I heard you have emotions and that situation also shows you are human like us."

Those sentences hurt Manlord, he was an android but he felt a pain inside. He only wanted to just feel alive like the others.

#### MICHAEL GRAYGUARD

"It's over everyone must drop the guns. You are under arrest Adam. Stormcloak, the government opened an investigation into Manlord Corporation for creating the chaos in The Moon Country."

After they had all spoken they waited. Waited for time to draw their weapons. For their salvation.

#### Chapter Two

In the darkness, just one word could be heard. The word of the traitor.

#### JOSEPH STORMCLOAK

"Never."

Joseph tried to look up but raindrops restricted his vision. The pit they stood in was too deep to climb out of it. There is no rope and no hope. Joseph The Traitor of The Moon Country tried to open his eyes. His vision was limited because of raindrops. If he wanted to live he must escape from pit. However, he was so hopeless now. He looked desperate. His body changed. So weak, people could see his bones

clearly. He was also bold. This person couldn't be Joseph. Maybe it was the end of our hero's dreams, maybe it was end of Joseph's story.

When Joseph looked up to see The Stranger who wore a hood and threw a rope to Joseph to save him from the pit.

#### JOSEPH STORMCLOAK

"Who are you?"

Joseph can't see The Stranger's face because of the dark. Just shiny eyes. Joseph closed his own eyes because he was so tired.

#### THE STRANGER

"We will go home my old friend. We will."

The Stranger carried Joseph's body to the center of nightmares. To the center of The Moon Country.

#### Chapter Two Point Five

The Stranger brought back Joseph's body. The Stranger looked around for a hotel but in the dark all the hostels were closed. However, they found a hotel where they could stay. After three hour, finally, Joseph awoke. He looked to The Stranger who was solving some puzzle.

#### JOSEPH STORMCLOAK

"Where are we?"

The Stranger looked at Joseph's face. He didn't wear a hood. In addition Joseph saw the Stranger's face but he didn't recognize him. In his mind he thought "Who is this guy?" The Stranger stand up from his chair, put the puzzle game to table and said,

#### THE STRANGER

"We are in a hotel, you need some rest."

Joseph couldn't trust him, he couldn't trust anyone. Joseph asked one more question.

#### JOSEPH STORMCLOAK

"Who are you?"

The Stranger didn't say anything and turned around. That situation made Joseph curious.

#### JOSEPH STORMCLOAK

"I asked a question. Answer me. Who are you, why did you help me?"

The Stranger didn't talk again and Joseph turned angry. He tried to stand up from the sofa and asked the question again and again.

#### THE STRANGER

"Joseph you must relax, just calm down."

As they talked someone threw a RE9-X (a kind of bomb) into the room. Joseph and The Stranger looked at the bomb.

#### THE STRANGER

"They found us."

The RE9-X blew up. Everywhere turned to fire.

#### Chapter Three

When the darkness for you, no one can help you in The Moon Country. You are alone with your dreams you piece of metal. You must rise like old times. I'm telling you because I love you. Be better.

These sentences were so meaningful but some sentences broke his non-heart in his dreams. Adam miss her and her words. He needed to hear her words again. Nowadays, Adam could feel something like longing. He also had some dreams. How could an android see a dream? Was he actually human?

Adam stood up from his bed and went to the bathroom. After washing his face he looked in the mirror. Something had changed but Adam didn't understand. He took his jacket and left the hotel in which he slept. When Adam walked, The Moon Country was quieter than ever. Adam went to a butcher. An employee of the butcher shop, took Adam downstairs. Adam came to this place for Huck The Old Skull. He needed some strong eyes. He wanted to upgrade himself for his new missions.

#### ADAM MANLORD

"I need to upgrade my eyes."

#### HUCK THE OLD SKULL

"Adam, welcome my friend. How are you today?"

#### ADAM MANLORD

"I want to upgrade my eyes."

#### HUCK THE OLD SKULL

"Yeah yeah, I heard but are you sure about that my friend? It's so dangerous for you?"

#### ADAM MANLORD

"No, I need this upgrade."

#### HUCK THE OLD SKULL

"Okay my friend just sit down, I have TREQ-X3 (Eye model created by TREQ Corporation). Do yo want this?"

#### ADAM MANLORD

"Yes these will do well."

#### HUCK THE OLD SKULL

"Okay just relax my friend. Your new eyes will be great."

Adam knows he can't feel pain but he wanted to feel pain. After the surgeory Adam stood up. His upgraded new eyes had special skills like x-ray powers. When Adam tested his new eye skills.

#### HUCK THE OLD SKULL

"Are you good my brother? I can't see you."

#### ADAM MANLORD

"Don't worry I am good. I will pay your money after I get paid."

#### HUCK THE OLD SKULL

"No problem my brother, just take care of yourself."

Adam left the butcher shop, then he went to a phone box. He called his boss for a new mission. Boss answered call.

#### ADAM MANLORD

"Boss, I heard you want to talk me."

#### THE BOSS

"You have a new job. Our customer want to kill some traitor. That traitor was in jail but someone rescued him. Last photos show they are staying at a hotel on 141st Opengold Street. In additon, we haven't the savior's name but we know the traitor's name."

#### ADAM MANLORD

"What is the name?"

#### THE BOSS

"They call him Joseph The Traitor."

When Adam heard this name, some memories came to his mind.

#### THE BOSS

"Adam, are you there?"

#### ADAM MANLORD

"Yes boss, I understand the task. I will catch them, don't doubt that."

Adam ended the call, he felt something again. It felt like a pain, an unforgettable pain.

#### Final Chapter

I am the dark in the darkness, but now the light illuminates me and this situation changed me again.

Finally, I will be leaving The Moon Country and I don't know where to go, maybe I can go to Earth because people said Earth is very changed. After the "War of Kings" Earth is perfected again. I will decide tomorrow maybe because I have more time.

When watching this city from my little balcony. I noticed something. Everyone's feelings seemed to be dead and this situation was so weird because this city was built on dreams, hope, love and faith. However, today no one feels. Nowadays, everyone acts like androids, but now people are losing their emotions. I heard someone trying feel something. An android trying to feel. It seemed strange to me that an android was trying to feel something. Can an android feel something? Adam had felt. It's ridiculous but, sometime I miss him. Anyway maybe I should sleep and wait for time to speed up for and then leave this city.

Today is the day, I going to leave this corrupted city. In the rocket, every passenger smiled. I think everyone wants to leave this city. At the final moment I can't find the right words. Anyway, maybe this is not goodbye for me. I don't want to think. Now, I want just to enjoy the journey.

### KING OF KINGS

#### Murat Yılmaz

The king and his son again had a disagreement on one issue. He could not accept this issue, he always wanted to attack the other kingdom. The famous knight, who was the king's right hand, did not take kindly to the deterioration of this peace, but the young and ambitious prince did not care about anyone's opinion.

One day, he gathered his own troops and attacked the neighboring kingdom, and hearing this, the king got very angry and went to fight with his own son. Although his army was large, the work of the prince, who was fighting with his father and the neighboring kingdom, was very difficult.

On the 15th day of the war, the young prince surrendered with his army. Although the king was his son, he did not favor the prince and exiled the prince to a distant island. Shortly after the prince went into exile, his mother died of grief. When his beloved wife died, the king became depressed and left his kingdom to live a lonely life in the mountains.

After the prince went into exile and king went to mountains, there were many developments in the palace. The youngest prince, who had a fight with his stepmother and sister, heard the news of them. The king preferred to remain silent. When the other kingdoms saw that there was no peace in the palace, they had the opportunity to attack and expand their lands. This is the end of one of the greatest empires in history. However, there were people who did not want to remain silent about this situation. Like knights. They are brave people who risked dying for their kingdom.

Some prominent knights came together and talked about this situation. According to the decisions taken later, the knights will take over the government, the civil war will be ended and the most suitable person for the kingdom will be chosen from the people, so the holiness of the king will be ignored. Hearing this, the king and his son watched in amazement, but was nothing they could do....Advertisements were placed all over the kingdom. In the announcement, it was mentioned that there will be competitions to choose the right king.

The people who saw the posters and the news started to apply. The prominent sportsmen of the cities from all over the kingdom aspired to be kings. The knights began to talk about how the king should be chosen. Whether the king should be the strongest or the wisest, discussions began. Eventually they both decided that they should be together.

A sports competition would be held on the first day of the next month. It's about swords and wrestling. Whoever wins will pass the first stage. People from the common people were told that he was preparing too much for the competitions. And the day came, the competitions started. It was a matter of time to decide who should be the king. First competition were wrestling. The strongest and biggest ones immediately showed themselves and won. But they also lost in sword fights because they were slow. Meanwhile, there was a person who participated in the competitions, that was the king's niece Alexandra. Alexandra kept winning and graduating but no one knew he was the king's nephew.

Alexandra was continuing his glory while the qualifying was going on, everyone knew his now, maybe this would be a harbinger of his kingdom because he beat everyone in mind and sports and had

strong communication,

Alexandra himself had some memories from the past about the kingdom because he was the king who killed her father, but he was cold towards his uncle until this time, he was not offended by the kingdom.

Fortunately, he had the power of the people behind him and he was going to take the throne, which he had been preparing and waiting for since childhood.

The final stage was the king's sword. When Alexandra easily lifted the sword, everyone agreed that he was the only true king, and the kingdom continued its glory with this right-handed king.

## **TOGETHERNESS**

#### Taha Burak Yüksekkaya

George was a young woman with a kind heart and a sharp mind. She had a small but tight-knit group of friends, consisting of Tom, Luke, and Frankenstein. Each of the men in the group had fallen in love with her, and it was a topic of both humor and tension among them.

Tom, the oldest of the group at 27, had inherited an enormous amount of wealth from his family. He had always been a bit entitled and self-absorbed, but his attraction to George had only amplified these qualities. He constantly sought her attention and affection, often acting out when he didn't receive it. Despite this, George always tried her best to be patient with him, knowing that he had his own struggles to deal with.

Luke, on the other hand, was the most successful member of the group. He was a rising star in the legal world, having secured a position as one of the leading lawyers in the region. Luke was confident and driven, and his ambition was one of the things that had initially drawn George to him. But as time went on, she began to see that his career was all-consuming, leaving little room for anything else in his life. Despite this, she respected him for his hard work and dedication.

Frankenstein was a more enigmatic figure, the type of person who always seemed to be in his own world. He was often selfish and dismissive of the other members of the group, but there was something intriguing about him that kept George's attention. She often found herself drawn to his dark sense of humor and his willingness to speak his mind, even if it wasn't always what people wanted to hear.

Despite the various personalities and motivations of her friends, George always tried to be the glue that held the group together. She was the one who organized outings and events, who listened when someone needed to talk, who laughed at all of Tom's jokes and indulged Luke's ambitious plans. Even when she didn't feel particularly close to one of the members of the group, she always made an effort to be kind and understanding.

As the years went on, the dynamic of the group shifted and changed. Tom's behavior became more erratic and volatile, while Luke's ambition began to take a toll on his mental health. Frankenstein, meanwhile, seemed to withdraw further into himself, becoming more and more aloof.

Through it all, George remained a constant source of support and kindness. She never gave up on her friends, even when they seemed to be giving up on themselves. And though her relationships with each of the men in the group took different forms, she valued them all for the unique perspectives and qualities they brought to her life.

In the end, the friend group stayed together, even as they each pursued their own paths in life. George remained at the center of it all, a beacon of kindness and compassion that everyone could look to in times of need. And though she never chose any of the men in the group as a romantic partner, they all knew that they had a special place in her heart as dear friends.

## 

'As is a tale, so is life; not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters.'

Seneca

