

Stories

about



Places

THE COLOSSEUM

They were waiting. Two options: death or glory. In the Colosseum you can only kill or be killed, and at the end, if you win, everyone will remember your name. “There are thousands of spectators outside” said Quintus. “And dozens of enemies” replied Gaius. They were in slavery because they had left the army and their owner had decided to make them gladiators, warriors for the circus.

- “We have to re-enact the battle of Zama, where Rome won.”

- “But we are in the Phoenician army ” said Quintus. “We will die. But if we really must, I’m sure we’ll bring a lot of soldiers with us to the Elysian Fields”. Only five minutes were left. Everyone took his chestplate, his shield and his sword and walked to the edge of the arena. Quintus and Gaius said to each other that it was an honour to fight together and then they opened the gate. The Colosseum doesn’t spare anyone, even if you are the best warrior in the world. But Quintus and Gaius saw each other again in the Elysian Fields.

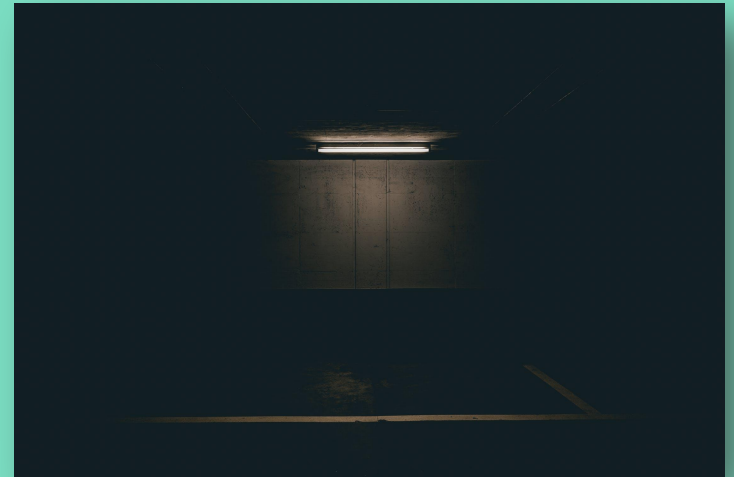
Michele



ONE NIGHT

I was in a hotel in Foppolo, in the northern part of Lombardy, during a school trip. I was there to spend one week skiing with guides. My friends and I decided in which room we wanted to stay and we arranged our things there. Then we went out with our PE teacher and we skied the whole afternoon. We returned to the hotel at 7:30, then we had dinner. At the end we returned to our rooms. During the night, at 3:00 a.m. , my friend Andrea had a fantastic idea: “Guys, let’s go to Filippo’s room!” (Filippo was another friend of ours). We opened the door, but we couldn’t see anything in the corridor because it was very dark. We had to climb the stairs in total darkness. In the meanwhile Andrea, who was quite brave, was taking his mattress with him. During our ‘dangerous’ journey we made lots of noise in the precipitous stairs and suddenly we heard some steps. The lights were switched on and our religion teacher saw us. The following morning she told us off in front of all the students of the school.

Giovanni



A NEW STRANGE WORLD

That day Sally woke up at 8 o'clock as usual. She went to the kitchen to have breakfast, but when she looked out of the windows she was terrified: the grass was green. She shouted: "Oh no! What happened to my beautiful orange grass?". She looked at her blue roses, but she realized that they had become...red!

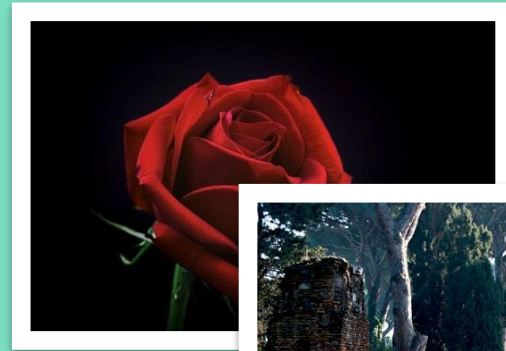
She ran to see her face in a mirror, but when she saw her pink skin, she fainted.

When she woke up (lots of hours later), she thought that what she had seen was only a horrible nightmare. But when she opened the windows, she saw a new world. The streets were black, the garden was green, the trees were brown and the leaves were green. The strangest thing was the new yellow sun. She walked along normal streets and she looked at everything with great attention, because the new colours were very strange!

For example: the water which used to be green? Light blue. The red sky? Blue.

Day by day she learnt to love the new world and she realized that all the awesome things that existed in nature were still the same. People's actions were the same. The blowing of the wind was the same. The only shallow things which had changed were the colours.

Aurora



TWO BOYS AND A CAVE

A hundred years ago, there were two fifteen-year-old boys who lived in India, more precisely in Calcutta. One day, while they were going back home after school time, they fell down in a ravine. They lost consciousness and they woke up after a few minutes. They were confused because they didn't know where they were. In front of them there was a huge cave made up of spectacular rocks. They weren't sure if entering an unknown cave was a good idea, but it was the only way to escape.

When they entered the grotto they were dumbfounded because they enjoyed a breathtaking and amazing view. Indeed the cave walls were studded with beautiful emeralds, diamonds, gems and precious stones they had never seen. It was unbelievable, but it was real. They went straight on and saw the cave's end. This made them happy because they were a little bit scared about staying in an unknown place, even though it was marvelous. Before leaving the cave, one of the Indian boys wanted to steal a precious stone because he and his family were very poor as they were part of the caste of the untouchables, but the other one said he had to respect nature and the place.



When they left the cave they couldn't believe their eyes: they were catapulted in a different age with fantastic creatures they had only seen in their history book: dinosaurs. There was a big variety of them: some were tall with a long, thin neck, some were short but very large, and some were huge and very impressive. But the place in which they were was more unbelievable and beautiful than the dinosaurs. Indeed there were colourful and big flowers, the tallest trees they had ever seen, with enormous branches. There were woods made up of carnivorous plants with pointed petals. It was a sunny day and the beautiful plants stood out thanks to the sunlight which crossed their leaves.

Behind the cave in which they were, they discovered a river with crystal-clear water and thanks to it they sailed to a plain which was full of fruit trees. At a certain point the poorest boy started to think that in that place he could have everything he wanted, and so he considered the idea of remaining there.

He tried to convince the other boy to make the same decision. The poorest one said: “Believe me, here we can have whatever we want, instead, at home we are persecuted and we are considered a nullity, just because we are poor. Here we have enough food, drinks and we can enjoy these natural wonders!”

The other boy answered: “You are right my friend, but I have my family and I can’t abandon them. I know about your sad social condition, and it is a real injustice, but I can’t remain here.” And the two friends split up because of a cruel society.

Alessandro

SPRING VS SADNESS

At the beginning of the Earth's story Spring was a completely joyful period and during this season everybody was singing and dancing because they were happy: the grass was bright green, there were a lot of fantastic flowers, the trees had flowers and some fruits that are typical of spring. During this period also animals were happy. Spring herself felt as if she were the happiest person in the world. But there weren't only good things. Unfortunately, there were also bad ones. An enemy was coming and his name was Sadness.

Sadness came, but he hid to scare Spring. Spring wanted to find out what was happening in that fantastic place, so one day she went to the furthest part of this region and smelled a smell like sulphur: it was Sadness.

When Spring was there, Sadness came out of his hiding place, scared her and started devastating the region. There was only fire then and everything was destroyed. Even Spring was hit and she was injured. Spring found only one tree that hadn't been destroyed by fire and it was the oldest one in the entire region. The tree said: "Now I'll give you some tips to win against Sadness. The most important thing is not to be cowardly, because only without this emotion you will win".

Spring thanked the tree and looked for Sadness. She found him and she was about to win against him, but she was hit by a fireball. But remembering the dialogue with the tree, she became brave and both with her power and nature's power she beat Sadness. Thanks to her, Sadness didn't come anymore and everyone lived there happily, bravely and without pain.

Francesco



THE SECRET GARDEN

There was once an enchanted garden that was particular because only children could see the strange things that happened there. This garden was very colourful for the different types of flowers it contained. There were also some amazing animals like blue butterflies, particular frogs and squirrels, but this was what everybody could see... In fact, the children that visited that area could also talk to these animals and have fun with them. The problem was that in that garden children could see their secret fears too. For example, one day a girl that was there to play with her friends started to see a strange clown that scared her, but when the girl told the story to her parents they didn't believe her. This is what happened to a lot of children. For these reasons this garden was called "The Secret Garden".

Cristina



THE ASYLUM

Once upon a time there was a girl. She was just wandering down the street without a clear destination in her mind. She kept going until suddenly she couldn't recognize the street anymore, so she started wondering where she was. She didn't know what to do, she was lost, the path was desert. It started to get cold and the sky got darker. When she finally saw a building, she just walked in without even thinking twice, because she didn't know any other places to go, and then the door was open. At first sight that building looked like a normal house, but as she got in, she started having a creepy feeling, close to fear, but more like a thrill. She looked around and then she suddenly understood: she had ended up in an asylum! At first she thought she was in a normal hospital, but observing the place better she noticed an electric chair. Of course she was scared, but she also wanted to explore the place. Therefore her curiosity won fear.

She decided to go upstairs to look at everything from a different perspective and as she reached the top of the stairs a ghost appeared! He was glowing white and he was so bright that she couldn't even stare at him without closing her eyes. He looked at her and with an ironic voice he said: "Be careful honey, the stairs like to change..."

At this point she was really confused. Then all of a sudden she felt the ground shaking underneath her feet, and then the stairs changed their way. She struggled to maintain her balance but she didn't fall, so the ghost pushed her down the stairs. She fell and before she touched the ground she woke up in her bed. It was just a bad dream.

Sara

A STRANGE, STRANGE STORY

There was once a little and cozy town by the sea that had recently been founded: at the beginning people used to live there simply, as normal people of the 19th century did, growing vegetables, picking up fruits and hunting animals from the nearby wood. But after a devastating epidemic that killed all the inhabitants, it started being used as home for the worst criminals of the last few years. The prisoners had to do forced labour in the surrounding areas as a punishment for their crimes. But one day, while they were working, they suddenly discovered that not far from their town there was a huge hole created by a meteorite.

That night something very strange happened: evil and terrible creatures came out of the hole, reached the town and killed everyone they met. The following morning some of the prisoners started thinking that the hole was connected to hell and that the demons came to punish them for their crimes. At that point they were terrified and about to run away, when an old and weird man popped up and stopped them: without saying who he was he told them that there was a way to get rid of those creatures and while he was explaining what to do and the prisoners were listening to him carefully, the man gave them a red book written in an ancient and incomprehensible language .

So they had to find a person that was able to read that book. Luckily that person lived near the town and it was easy to find him. Therefore the criminals went to the hole, waited for the night to come and prepared themselves for this incredible experience. At about midnight the demons showed up and immediately killed two prisoners. The man started reciting the formulas in the book and little by little the hole got smaller and smaller until all the creatures had disappeared. At the end, except for someone, the criminals saved themselves and left the town without any problems after deceiving the guards. They were finally free and no one could find them again.

Martina

THE DESERT ISLAND

Once upon a time a group of friends decided to go on a cruise in the Caribbean Sea, but the cruise ship broke down, so they had to jump on a lifeboat to save themselves. After two days also the lifeboat was broken by a storm, so they had to swim to the nearest island.

In this tiny island there were no animals and no people: there was just a volcano surrounded by vegetation. Then they decided to lay down on the beach to rest and the following day they explored the island to look for some materials to build a new boat. But Tom, one of the friends, fell into the volcano while he was trying to take some materials.

Fortunately, there wasn't any lava. Indeed, he saw that there was a long tunnel inside the volcano, which went underground to the centre of the earth.

He decided to go through the tunnel and he discovered a new underwater world, but even though he was underwater, he was able to breathe.

In this new place there was a lot of food and there were a lot of strange animals. There were also two high waterfalls: one of them was made of gold and the other one was made of food.

Tom was really surprised and amazed and he decided to call also his friends. They all liked the new world Tom had discovered and they decided to live there, because they had all the things they needed.

Matilda



A BEAUTIFUL ABANDONED HOUSE

There was a girl, whose name was Olivia, who usually spent her free time walking in the countryside. One day, while she was walking, she discovered an abandoned house. She decided to get closer and she saw that the courtyard of the house was covered with weeds. The garden wasn't well kept and the weeds climbed up the crumbling walls.

The girl wasn't scared by the look of the house and she decided to go inside. The house was very beautiful. It had six rooms: a living room, three bedrooms and two bathrooms. In the living room there were two sofas, a TV and three chairs. The kitchen was small, but with good furniture. It was white, with a white table and four white chairs. The bedrooms were all intact, with brown walls, two beds and a wardrobe. The girl was very surprised and she decided to go to this house whenever she needed to be alone.

Karin



IRINA AND A STRANGE RABBIT

Once upon a time there was a little girl, whose name was Irina. She was ten and she lived in a little house near the forest.

One day she was bored, so she decided to go to the forest to explore the place and to pick up some flowers for her parents.

When she was in the middle of the forest she forgot how to return home, she forgot the main way. She was about to cry when she saw a strange rabbit.

This rabbit knew the forest well because it lived there, so it started to run and Irina started to go to the same direction.

When the rabbit stopped she understood she was almost out of the forest and she saw her house. The following days she went to this forest again to see the rabbit and to have fun with it. The forest became their meeting place.

The rabbit was called “little carrot” by Irina because of its colour. It showed her a lot of beautiful aspects of the forest, and also how to find the most beautiful flowers for her parents.

Annita



THE STRUCTURE

The sunlight seeped through the leaves and lit the bamboo canes.

“The forest is thick, pay attention” said Kasa while he was cutting shrubs with his sword.

“You too” Shidesu answered impatiently.

“Ok, time out guys, we have arrived”, said Suterasa with a smiling and disturbing face.

The structure of the building was irregular, chronologically speaking: some parts seemed too ancient and others weren't ancient at all.

“This can't be a 500-year-old building!” said Suterasa.

“Even the energy traces do not match” said Shidesu.

“We can only do one thing... get in there!” said Kasa happily.

The structure was elaborate inside, although it maintained its anomalies.

“Look, the statue!” said Shidesu. The statue, a representation of Shinseina Sakka, the high priest of an ancient religion, the Hi no inori, was situated in the middle of an ouroboros mark that was engraved in the floor of an octagonal room.

“Shidesu, in ancient magic, which spell was the ouroboros mark used for?” asked Suterasa.

“It was used for blood spell” answered Kasa.

“Demons’ magic” continued Shidesu.

“But nobody could use demons’ magic, it kills the user” said Suterasa.

“Yeah, humans and elves cannot but for demons it is not the same” said Shidesu.

“Let’s get out of here, right away!” said Kasa nervously.

They ran out of the structure. When they were out, the building crashed down.

“We must run to the capital, this is the beginning of the Eternal War” said Kasa fearfully. The team went to the forest. They arrived only 5 days later and the war was about to start...

Giulio

A TERRIBLE EXPLORATION

Every day, when they were children, Jack and Myra used to go to play in an abandoned house near a mighty forest. This place was very beautiful because it was on a hill with a lot of flowers.. The house was crumbling and dangerous, but they loved staying there, playing with a ball and talking about their own life.

What they liked doing most was climbing a tree and having a breathtaking view. From there they could see their village, the mountains and a shiny sky. They loved their life. But one day Jack decided to visit the forest with Myra but she didn't want to go, so Jack went there alone. A few days later his body was found devoured by wolves. So Myra has mourned her friend since that day, thinking that if she had been with him, she could have saved him.

Russell



THE EARTH'S END

Once upon a time there was a sunny place called Earth. Every day a beautiful sun used to rise to the sky and the weather was always warm. The inhabitants used to have a healthy life and they were respectful of nature because they used to remember that all they had was thanks to nature. But then money became too important in their life. The only thing that seemed to be important for them was to earn money as much as possible. So they invented new technologies but these innovations weren't respectful of nature.

"Well, it doesn't matter, I can be richer than I am now anyway. Besides, it isn't just my fault if this world will end" they used to think. So they ignored that nature was affected. The weather became hotter and hotter even though the sky was grey.

So now we are here, in this new planet, saying that the responsible for the Earth's end was pollution and ignoring that the ones to blame for pollution are all of us.

Arianna

