

## *The Children and the Sheep*

Once upon a time, there was a modest family living on the edge of a village. The family had many persons to feed: two twin children, a boy and a little girl, the groom, two younger children and a distant relative, an uncle. The only source of living was a flock of sheep with two shepherd dogs and a few chickens, and it was enough for them to live their day off.

The grown-up children, the twins, cared for their sheep, which they loved and carried every day to the grazing, near the forest close to their home. After some time, the masters of the house, finding out that their relative was making spells, drove him out of the family.



He vowed to take revenge on his family and wandering away and continuing with the spells, he became a feared Wizard of that land. He called him Male and built a castle in the heart of the forest with many servants who guarded him. He often wandered through the forrest, seeking animals and birds to turn them into monsters as his helpers.

One day, the two twin brothers were with the sheep in the field, along with the shepherds and the dog-shepherds. A strong rumor drew the attention of the children who were wondering with some fear:

*"What was that noise?"* asked the little girl.

*"Probably an experiment by the Wizard"* replied the boy.

The sheep frightened at the sound of the bang and scattered, which...

*"Stay here with the remaining sheep and the dog Shepherd and wait for me!"* said the boy to his sister, as he deepened in the woods to look for the others, with the shepherds and the father-dog, the watchdog of the flock.



He searched for a long, long time until a Fairy appeared in his path and gave him a charming whistle to the boy to gently pick up his sheep. After he thanked the Fairy, the boy hardly managed to gather his sheep, but four were missing. He sent them to the herd with the shepherds, and he ventured to go alone to the heart of the forest looking for the lost.



The boy walked all day and entered the night. Not telling the way through the trunk, an owl helped him, showing him the way and becoming friends of the road.

Suddenly, the Wizard Male, who was the child's uncle, the one driven by his parents, appeared to them. He walked through the forest with a flock of crows and eagles and with three wolves that helped him to catch animals or birds to have help: he wanted to be the absolute master of that land. He took the stray sheep and took them to his castle to turn them into monsters. In a second, he disappeared from their eyes. The boy and the owl, who had a developed sense of smell, followed after the smoke left behind him and saw where he was going: to the evil castle.

The boy saw his owl in a cage and wanted to save him with his friend, but the cage opened only with the Magic Key, well hidden in the Wizard's Bedroom, in a metal box. He searched all the castle for finding the room where the key was hidden and eventually found it. Moving quickly and very frightened, he opened the only metal box hidden under the Wizard's bed. He found the key there, he managed to open the weight cage, took out the sheep, and then he broke the key in half.

Meanwhile, Male was in the secret lab making experiments and turning the animals and insects kidnapped into monsters. When the boy broke the magic key, the secret chamber exploded, also the castle ... and the Wizard lost his powers. The two, the boy and the owl, managed to escape the sheep from the cage with the magic key. On their return, the Fairy

and the Owl were guides, helping them reach the edge of the forest, and from there they could do it themselves. The boy remembered the enchanting whistle he had in his pocket given by the Fairy, and used it to hear the voice of his sheep and recognize the way to the herd and his sister. Later, during the night, was helped by the Fairy, who made her a bunch of leaves and grass to sleep, guarded by the birds of the forest.

When she saw that his dear brother was right, the girl jumped to his arms and embraced him dearly. Then they went home, accompanied by their sheep flock.

Walking aloud and thinking of their lived adventure, the boy and his sister came home to their parents and the flock.

Parents, who were deeply concerned about the disappearance of their children from home for one day, greeted them with the

smile on their lips and hugged them with strength, and were happy to finally get home.

The children told them the whole adventure they had gone through, and the emotions of everyone floated in their modest room of love and harmony. As the joy of reuniting

the whole family, all the children, together with their parents gathered around the table with food for all ages and tastes.

And I told you the story like that, sitting on a saddle .....

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