

The Land of Rainbows

By

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Once upon a time, there was a beautiful country called the Land of Rainbows. Here rainbows were created and sent out whenever there had been a thunderstorm. The rainbow had to be a perfect arc and all the colours had to be bright and clear. Rainbows always brought great joy to those who saw them, especially children. In some countries in the north where it rained a lot, rainbows were very popular and children danced and chased after them. People used to say that if you were lucky you would find a pot of gold ducats the the rainbow's end.

The rainbow fairies were very careful and protective of their rainbows and when it was time to take them home they clapped their hands and the rainbow became invisible. Then each fairy wrapped her colour around her and off they flew together.

The fairy in charge of rainbow land was called 'Pink' even though there is no colour called pink in a rainbow. Pink is the colour of the heart and of love and as such she kept all the other colours happy.

When there was a wedding she would fly into the hearts of the bride and groom and fill them with love. If the wedding was in a church with stained glass windows, the other fairies made a deal with the sun so he would shine through the windows of the church during the ceremony and sprinkle the guests with all sorts of happy thoughts and feelings. In exchange they would prepare a lovely rainbow after a big storm. Then the sun would appear and beam over the fields and dry the grass in case children needed to go on a picnic. The rainbow fairies worked hard with the sun and the rain to help the flowers and crops grow and to keep nature beautiful. They were careful that the flowers developed beautiful colours and that the butterflies had cheerful wings and that certain fish had exotic designs on their bodies. Large fish lived so far down in the oceans that no light could reach them so they remained a rather dull grey and untouched by colour.

In springtime, the rainbow fairies darted through woods and fields and gardens bringing nature to life. Flower buds began to burst open their treasures of colour and perfume and the leaves and grass twitched and

unfolded into many shades of green. In the tropics, little birds, usually the males, fluffed out their wings and tails and proudly took their first flight showing off their many hued plumage. They squawked a lot because although they looked beautiful, including the peacock, on the whole they did not know how to sing very well so they squawked instead.

Once a year in winter, during the full moon, the White Queen of the rainbow fairies gathered them all. They joined her in her white castle and as they entered they disappeared and became one with her. They were one with the source because white is the home of all colours. When they had rested and become rainbow fairies again, they discussed what they had done and what they planned to do in the future with the most important fairy 'Pink'. Now, even though she is not officially in the rainbow nor even an official colour, she is the colour of the heart and therefore very powerful. She is the general supervisor and makes sure the rainbow fairies put the colours in the right places.

Sometimes they had ideas of their own. The red rainbow fairy who was fiery and energetic liked playing jokes and one day decided that all the bananas in Brazil would be red not yellow. Then he turned around and painted such an enormous red sunset that the red colour dripped all down the blue sky and all over the horizon and dribbled into the sea. The blue rainbow fairy was most annoyed with him and promptly coloured all the raspberries bright blue.

The purple rainbow fairy correctly coloured a shellfish purple in the Mediterranean but then she fell asleep in the shell. Some fishermen found her sleeping and marveled at her beauty and at the colour of the mollusk. As soon as she woke up, she turned into ultra violet and vanished and so flashed back to her team.

One day, all the rainbow fairies felt restless so they went off to Africa and painted all the zebras to look like rainbows. They also painted their hooves with stripes. The zebras were running all over the plane and kicking up their heels. They were so excited to look so amazing in their colourful stripes and even the lions were startled and instead of chasing them, they ran away from them. They roared and grumbled a lot because they were hungry but somehow the zebras did not look normal enough to eat.

The pink fairy said that on the whole they had all done wonderful work but that they should love and help one another and not play so many tricks.

“Blue, you must go and be where there is anger and bring your calm; and purple, you must go to hospitals and bring healing to sick children. Orange, you must attend children’s sporting events and bring good energy to their bodies so they all perform well and yellow, please bring joy and a smile to every grumpy and sad person. Red, with your strength, you bring excitement to music and represent the note of C, so go with musicians who make music for children to dance to. When your work is done you must always return to the others quickly because what would children say if you were not there on time for the next rainbow?”

This way, the world was beautiful and harmonious and people were happy until one day a shadow crossed over the sun and darkness fell where before there had been light. People went about their business and looked quite normal but their hearts slowly turned into black stones. They were nasty to each other and to their children and cruel to animals. They pulled up flowers and trampled on them and cut down trees. They threw garbage around the streets and were rude to old people. The birds began to fly away in disgust. It rained, brown raindrops, often and the sun was hardly ever seen because there were so many clouds.

The children on the whole were very unhappy and got together under a big old tree in the meadow to talk about the situation. One of the boys, Rada, had overheard the mayor complaining that the last time there had been a rainbow, all the children were very happy and started jumping around happily, “This must not happen again, we don’t want anyone to be happy here. After the next rains we will all go to the end of the rainbow to find the pot of gold, snatch it and then cut down the rainbow.”

Rada said, “Next time it rains we will run to the end of the rainbow and protect it from those evil people.”

His sister Joy said, “But what can we children do against those horrid people”?

Suddenly they heard a sweet voice above their heads saying, “I will help you”. They looked up and saw the pink fairy sitting on a branch of the tree. She floated down and sat in the middle of the circle of children.

“Well,” she said, “I heard your cry for help so here I am. The situation is indeed terrible and we don’t have much time.”

Some of the older children remembered the time when everybody had lived in harmony and were happy and kind although the little ones did not. Rada who was eleven, asked the pink fairy why things had become so awful and she told him that people had become so greedy that they had forgotten how to love.

“All they want is power and money,” she told him. “Which is why they want that pot of gold ducats at the foot of rainbows. Do not worry, I have a plan next time there is a storm but don’t tell anyone.”

A week later, it poured with rain and the clouds began to part a little so there was just a little sun. The children, who were ready for this, held hands and ran as fast as they could to where the lower part of a rainbow could be seen. The mayor and his deputies also set off for the rainbow and the pot of gold but the children were far ahead of them and out of sight.

Rada and his friends arrived out of breath after running very fast and there in front of them was a multicoloured arc reaching up over their heads. The pink fairy appeared, snapped her fingers and the rainbow became a protective circle around the children rendering them invisible from the angry crowd.

“Don’t worry,” said the Pink fairy, “you are safe and they can’t see us”. The children saw to their amazement that they were inside a circular rainbow and that in the middle was an enormous pot of gold ducats.

“Now,” said the pink fairy, “children, start throwing the ducats at the Mayor and his friends. Remember they can’t see you and they can’t see the pot and they can’t cross the rainbow barrier.” The children were mystified but did as they were told.

Soon, gold coins were flying through the air and falling all over the field. The greedy people fell on the ground and pushed each other to be able to grab a ducat. In the end, each of them had a ducat in the palm of the hand. Their fingers were closed tightly over the ducat and then they remembered they were going to cut down the rainbow. They rushed at the ring of lights but were thrown backwards time after time. When they were exhausted and totally bewildered they wandered in silence back to their empty homes clutching their ducats. As soon as they were out of sight, the Pink fairy told the children that they were now safe and go home.

“I will be with you even though you may not see me; you have nothing more to fear.”

The children walked home in silence, all amazed by their adventure and wondering what would happen when they got home.

In the distance they heard music and when they reached the outskirts of their village they saw the grownups standing waiting for them with smiles on their faces. As they held the ducat tightly, it gently turned into a pink crystal heart. At first they were not aware but then they felt the hardness of their hearts begin to melt. Some of them clutched their breast and thought they were having heart attack and in a way, they were. Others stretched out their arms, breathed deeply and began to smile. Instead of greed, their hearts were filled with love for the children and when they saw them they gathered them into their arms.

From that day on, there was harmony and fun in the village; the clouds lifted, the sun shone brightly and after the rain, a specially beautiful rainbow appeared. Everyone rejoiced and danced and sang and there was no more sadness; in fact the mayor decreed that anyone who was sad or rude or greedy would pay a big fine!

The black stone hearts all melted away and in their place were real loving ones. A little pink heart was always present in every home just to remind everyone; this symbol became very popular as jewelry and people liked to wear them.

The mayor opened a candy shop and handed out rainbow lollipops to the children, filled the sky with rainbow coloured balloons and declared a national rainbow day.

This way peace and harmony and light filled the world again and light took the place of darkness.

The White Queen of the North was so delighted when she heard the news that she put on a special show of Aurora Borealis.