

Indian Cinderella

By: Deepti Jackson

Once upon a time there lived a little girl named Kaandhal. Kaandhal means 'attractive'. She lived in an apartment on the highest floor in India. She lived with her stepmother and stepsisters. Her stepsister's names are Mara and Deirdre. Mara means bitter and Deirdre means sorrowful. Her stepmother's name is Lola. Lola means lady of sorrows. Lola and her daughter were very mean to Kaandhal and made her clean the whole apartment and do all the chores.

Kaandhal has no mother or father to help her or to take care of her. When Kaandhal was a little girl her mother went down to the river and got swept away by a flash flood. Her father then got married to Lola. Then her father fell sick and died. Since Kaandhal didn't have any real parents Lola and her daughters started treating her like a servant. In spite of this Kaandhal was kind, gentle, and a great person. She grew up to be a beautiful young lady. Her favorite thing to do after finishing her chores was looking outside her window. She had a perfect view of the palace on the banks of the river Ganges. She said to herself, "Someday I will live in a palace just like that."

In the palace there was a king who lived with his only son the prince Arivali. Arivali means smart and intelligent. The queen, Arivali mom, fell very ill when he was little and died. So the King took care of Arivali all by himself. When Arivali grew up the king wanted him to get married so his wife could take care of him. The king said to Arivali, "You have grown up to be an intelligent young man. I think it is time for you to look for a wife to share your life with." Arivali replied, "I agree father, but how will I find a wife?" The king said, "We could arrange for a festival by the river Ganges and invite all the young ladies to it. You could choose your wife then." Arivali liked that idea. The King told his minister to arrange such a festival and asked him to invite all the young ladies in the city to come to the river Ganges to the festival to float flowers in it.

Once the invitations were sent all the young girls were very excited. Kaandhal was excited also. Her stepmother however told Kaandhal, "Before you go to the festival, you must finish all your chores and clean the entire house." Kaandhal said, "How am I

supposed to finish all that work before going to the festival?" Her stepmother replied, "I guess you have to skip the festival then." This made Kaandhal sad but she was determined to go to the festival. So she worked hard and fast. She was almost done with her chores but she realised she did not have anything pretty to wear. She was very discouraged and started to cry, wishing someone would help her. She cried out saying, "Someone please help me". Suddenly her fairy godmother appeared. Her name was Pari, that means beauty. She said to Kaandhal, "I am your fairy godmother."

Her diamond wand looked beautiful. She was very kind to Kaandhal. She made her a beautiful sari for her, a horse drawn carriage, and beautiful pair of crystal anklets. She used her beautiful diamond wand and turned a pumpkin, mice, and peacocks into the carriage footmen and horses. The magical spell will be broken at twelve midnight and Kaandhal has to be back by then.

She arrives at the festival in a horse drawn carriage. There she meets the prince. They float a handful of flowers in the Ganges river. While doing so Kaandhal sings a song in her melodious voice. Arivali treats Kaandhal with curiosity and intrigue because he thinks she is beautiful. Kaandhal treats Arivali with kindness and respect. Arivali wants to know more about her because he knows nothing about her. Kaandhal won't return to the festival she is not sure about future plans. Arivali wants Kaandhal to stay longer but she knows she has to leave soon. The festival only lasted for one day but they both were having a very good time together.

Suddenly Kaandhal realised it was almost twelve o'clock and she rushed out. As she was running the clasp on her anklet got loose and it fell off her foot. "Wait" Arivali said, "don't leave yet", but Kaandhal was already gone. Arivali looked down and saw the anklet and picked it up. Arivali is afraid he will never see Kaandhal again! He takes the anklet to his father the King and says, "The girl to whom this anklet belongs will be my wife."

The King calls his minister and says, "Go to every house in the city and find the girl whose foot fits this anklet." The minister starts his search and goes to every single home. Finally they arrive at Kaandhal's house. Seeing the excitement on Kaandhal's face when she hears the Prince arrive, Lola guesses the the anklet belongs to her.

Jealous for her daughter, Lola locks Kaandhal in her room. When the Minister and the Prince are about to leave Kaandhal starts to sing the same song she sang at the Ganges river. Arivali recognizes her voice immediately. He asks Kaandhal to come out

and then he puts the anklet on her foot and it fits perfectly. She also has the other anklet. Arivali is thrilled and says, "My love I have finally found you!" Then Arivali carries Kaandhal out of the house and onto the horse that he had.

Arivali and Kaandhal got married in a grand festival at the palace. Kaandhal forgave the stepmother and stepsisters and let them live in the countryside. And they lived happily ever after.

The End

Fisher Princess

By: Jonas Van Kirk

Helper: Jennifer Van Kirk

Once upon a time, there lived a sweet girl named Anna who lived in a small fishing village on the west coast of Norway named Verdalsora. Verdalsora sat along the Lavangen fjord at the base of the Kjolen mountains. Evergreen forests flowed down the mountain slopes and met wildflower fields at the edge of the village.

Anna lived with her father, Axel, who was a fisherman in Verdalsora. Axel worked very hard at his job. Every morning, he headed out to sea in his small boat, and every afternoon, he returned home with his catch of salmon, trout, herring, or cod. Axel saved the best fish for Anna to prepare for dinner. She loved cooking lutefisk and torsk and pairing it with potatoes from their small garden or fiddleheads and lingonberries she found in the fields or forest. After dinner, Axel would drink coffee and tell folktales about their viking ancestors. Although it was just Anna and Axel, they were happy.

During the days while her father was at sea, Anna helped her father salt and pickle the fish he caught to prepare them for sale. Once a week, Axel headed over the mountains to the large town of Trondheim where he would sell his fish in the market. Since Anna's mother had died many years ago, Axel hated to leave her every week for the overnight journey. But he always brought her back something special - a small wood carving, sweets from town, or lovely wildflowers.

One day, Axel surprised Anna by bring home three ladies, Gertrud and her two daughters, Birgit and Hilde. He informed Anna that he had married the widow Gertrud in town and that she would help take care of Anna. Anna was very young when her mother had died and so was excited by the idea of having a mother and sisters. She wanted her father to be happy, but she also worried how their lives might change.

Only two weeks later while, Axel was out on a regular fishing trip, an unexpected storm blew in from the Norwegian Sea with strong winds and high waves. The Trondheim fishermen raced back to shore in their boats, but several boats were overcome by the storm. Axel had been racing back along with the other boats when a rogue wave struck his boat causing it to sink. The other fishermen were unable to reach him before it was too late. Anna was devastated by the news of her father's death.

For many weeks, Anna walked around in a daze. Gertrud on the hand, seemed to bask in the role of the widow (for the second time). Anna was so busy grieving that she barely noticed that changes taking place in her home. At first, Anna thought Gertrud's bossiness was a sign of concern. Wasn't Gertrud being kind to leave Anna alone to do the dishes while she and her daughters went shopping in town? And of course Anna would continue to cook for Gertrud, Birgit, and Hilde just as she'd done for her father. Although, she missed her father's help cleaning up and sharing time after dinner.

One afternoon, Anna was making her bed humming a local tune when Hilde came barging and said she needed Anna's room. "But why?" Anna asked.

"My room is a disaster," complained Hilde.

"Why don't you clean it?" Anna asked in confusion. Hilde stomped out of the room, but returned ten minutes later with Gertrud strutting behind her wearing the new animal coat she bought in town.

"Anna, give your room to Hilde and you can stay in Birgit's room...now." Anna had been taught to respect her parents, and although she was very confused, she left the room carrying her few clothes and belongings. When she got to Birgit's room, she found the door locked, and when she returned to her old room, the door was locked there too. Gertrud suggested that she place her things in the barn. For now.

For now turned into a day, a day turned into a week, and a week turned into a month with Anna living in the barn. It wasn't so bad really. The hay was warm enough and the animals made space for her. Each morning, she returned to the house to cook breakfast for her stepmother and stepsisters before waking them later in the morning. Each afternoon, Anna walked to the town dock where her father's fishermen friends generously shared some of their catch with Anna and her family. If they noticed that Anna looked tired and unkempt with her clothes more ragged than usual, they were polite and did not mention it. Still, they offered to help her in whatever way they could.

In early June, a letter arrived at the house from the monarch of Norway saying that there would be a large midsummer festival in Oslo for all to attend. Word spread about the festival and the handsome prince who would attend, and so the clothing stores were packed. That weekend, Gertrud and Anna's stepsisters went to Trondheim to get new clothes for the festival. It was customary to wear folk clothes from your region to a midsummer's festival and the sisters each bought five outfits and six pairs of shoes. But when Anna asked if she might borrow one of the dresses they didn't want to wear so she could go to the festival too, they laughed at her.

On the morning of the festival, Gertrud, Birgit, and Hilde left in a carriage for Oslo. Anna spent the day doing chores. And that afternoon, she headed down to the docks and

waited for the fishermen to return. As Anna was sitting alone beside the water, she was overcome by sadness and a longing for her father and the life they used to have. Her tears fell into the water of the fjord. When she was done crying, she brushed herself off and headed for home. As Anna walked along the water, she heard a voice coming from behind her in the water. Anna couldn't believe her eyes. There in the water is a golden fish looking right at her and talking to her.

He said, "You are a kind girl with a generous heart. I would like to help you to go to the festival."

Anna said, "But how is that possible? Oslo is much too far."

The fish said, "Let me worry about that. You just need to get dressed."

Anna cried, "But what on earth can I wear but these old torn clothes?" The fish pointed a fin behind her to a neatly folded and beautifully crafted folk dress with lovely patent leather slippers. After Anna changed nearby, the fish invited her to step into a dingy, little rowboat that was tied up nearby. Anna hesitated. She didn't want to slip and get her dress wet.

The fish said, "Forgive me, I almost forgot." He dove under the water and leapt over the rowboat, and as he did, the rowboat turned into a gorgeous sailboat. Anna walked up the boarding ramp and thanked the fish. "Wait!" said the fish, "You must be back on the boat by two in the morning otherwise your clothes will change back into your old clothes and the boat will change back into the rowboat. Have fun and good luck."

The boat sailed off into the fjord bound for Oslo. It seemed to float over the water and it wasn't long before she saw the lights of Oslo and the castle. The boat let her off at the end of a long yard in front of the castle. In front of her was the party across the castle garden. Anna saw people in folk clothes from all different regions dancing around the Maypole. There were dozens of tables near the castle where they were serving a whole array of food. The music had started and some people were dancing. Near the dancers was a group of musicians playing flutes, mandolins, and harps. People were locking elbows and swinging their partners around. It looked fun, but Anna was content to just watch.

When it got dark, she decided to dance. First, she danced with a very tall man who kept stepping on her toes and she left him at the second song. Next, she danced with a very short man. It felt awkward dancing with someone shorter than her, but it was better than getting her toes stepped on. Throughout the dances, she kept an eye on the clock at the top of the castle bell tower so that she would know when to leave. The third man she danced with was a little taller and had a twinkle in his eye when he smiled at her. He had gentle hands and blond hair that seemed to glow in the dark. She let herself be twirled

around and around to the music. Something felt so lovely and safe dancing with this man. The man introduced himself as Anders. At the edge of the water, the bonfire started. But she stayed dancing song after song with Anders.

Suddenly, she noticed that the bell tower clock showed 1:57 AM. Anna said,

“Oh no! I must go! I’m sorry. I’ve had a lovely time with you.” She ran as fast as she could back to the boat.

Anders called, “Wait! Where can I find you?” but Anna didn’t hear. Anders chased after her. Anna raced down the steps by the water and almost fell as she tripped. Her patent leather slipper fell off, but that was the least of her worries. Anders got lost in the crowd by the bonfire and was not able to see Anna jump on her boat and sail away. During the ride home, Anna clothes returned to her normal ragged dress. As the boat sailed into the fjord near the village, the boat turned back into the rowboat. Anna didn’t mind rowing the rest of the way to shore, because she could not stop thinking about her amazing night.

Gertrud, Hilde, and Birgit returned home the next day. Anna returned to her chores and when she was upstairs to clean her sisters rooms, she overheard Hilde say to Birgit, “Did you hear about that girl who ran away last night?”

“Yes,” replied Hilde.

“The prince is looking for her.” Anna wondered which girl they were talking about. There had been so many well-dressed ladies at the festival.

“Apparently, she lost her shoe as she ran,” said Birgit.

“How strange,” thought Anna.

“I lost my shoe.” Hilde continued, “The prince will marry the girl who’s shoe it is. I’m going to try to shrink my foot so it will be sure to fit.”

“Oh no you won’t, because mine will fit first!” replied Birgit. Anna was confused and excited.

“Could the girl really be her?” Is it possible that the man with the lovely smile and gentle hands was a prince?

When she finished her chores, she went down to the dock to pick up their supper. Anna did not realize that Anders and his team had arrived to the house. Gertrud, Hilde, and Birgit each tried on the shoe, cramming their feet in every which way, but it fit none of

them. When Anna returned from the dock, she entered the house quietly. Anders asked if there was another lady in the house.

Hilde said, "She just our servant and wasn't even at the festival!"

"I am going to try this on every young lady," replied Anders.

"No!" said Birgit, but it was too late.

"My lady?" invited the prince to Anna as she entered the living room. Anna saw the same man from the night before with golden hair and a twinkle in his eye. Anna was embarrassed about her ragged dress, but Anders was looking at her with the same warm smile as he had before. He said,

"Hello. My name is Anders. Will you please try on this shoe?" Anna's foot slipped perfectly into the shoe. Anders mouthed,

"I knew you were the one. My lady, would you like to come with me to Oslo?"

As they walked away from the house and near the water, Anna took a look at the water and saw the fish that helped her get to the ball. She looked down and there was the clothes she wore to the festival. She looked back at the fish and she winked at him and the fish winked back. Anna and Anders lived happily ever after.

The end

Katrín

The Icelandic Cinderella

By Diya Shah

Once upon a time, in Reykjavik, Iceland lived a girl named Katrín. She lived with her parents in a beautiful house. When Katrín was little her mother died. For a few years Katrín lived with her father who took good care of her. Soon, her father decided to marry again. Her stepmother had two daughters, Ella and Eva. Her stepsisters did not like Katrín but they did not harm her because she was her father's favorite.

One day her father became sick. After a week of illness her father died. Once Katrín's father died, her stepmother used up all the money and they became poor. Her stepmother and sisters forced Katrín to do all the chores in the house. She had to wash the dishes, clean the house, wash clothes and much more. Katrín was sad but always did what she was asked to do. She missed her parents very much.

One day after Katrín was done with all her chores there was a knock on the door. The president's messengers were explaining about the special Viking Festival event that the president was holding on Day 1 and 2. The city was to be decorated like Viking times and traditions for the festival. Many competitions were going to be held to find the best dressed Viking and the best decorated Viking home. There was also a competition to find the best archer. The winning archer would get to participate at the Olympics for Iceland. The archers must dress in Viking costumes.

Katrin was a good archer and she was very eager to go to the Viking Festival. When Eva and Ella heard about this festival they forced Katrin to make bows and arrows for them because they knew that Katrin was good at it. They gave her the materials she needed. She had some extra material left over and therefore decided to make one for herself.

Once the step sisters saw Katrin's bow and arrow they got mad and broke it. They also insulted her saying that, "you cannot go to the festival. You will never win and you will also ruin everybody else's chances of winning."

Before she could say anything the stepsisters gave her a big list of chores to do. She had to do the dishes, laundry and also clean and decorate the house. Katrin worked really hard to finish her chores, but she did not have any time left to fix her bow and started crying.

Suddenly she heard clomps outside the house. When she opened the door, she was surprised to see an Icelandic horse in front of her home. To her surprise the horse started talking. "I am your guardian horse, Lilja", she explained. "I have magical powers to help you. Don't cry child. Get me a string, a piece of metal, your broken bow, a Viking vale hat, and old boots."

Katrin retrieved the items. Lilja brushed her mane against the items. The string became a lovely golden thread. The bow became repaired and decorated. Her metal, boots, and Viking vale hat became her armor. It was made of the strongest material. The bow got transformed and the string became a special gold thread that fit the bow.

"Now remember", said Lilja, "you must be home by the time the horn blows on the final day of competition. Hop on me and we will ride to the festival."

They reached the contest. Katrin got in line but found out that it won't be her turn on the first day. Her stepsisters had arrived much earlier and it was their turn. Eva barely managed to shoot and it was nowhere near the target and Ella was disqualified because she could not string her bow.

Katrin reached home before the stepsisters and stepmother. She acted like she did not know anything about the competition. The step sisters kept talking about this girl who the president kept looking at on the first day of the contest. They would say "who is she?", Katrin knew the stepsisters were talking about her. While the stepsisters were busy talking she was thinking about the next day at the competition and how she could win.

The next day after Eva and Ella and her stepmother had left, the horse returned and took Katrin to the festival. Katrin got in the line again and waited her turn. It was already late in the afternoon. When it was her turn everybody was surprised by her costume. Her armor glistened golden red in the evening sun. Her bow had a magical glow. She looked like an ancient Viking, strong, determined and smart returning from a conquest. She hit bulls-eye and won the competition. The horn buzzed a warning sound before the end of the competition but Katrin got so caught up in winning she forgot about the magic. The horn buzzed again for the final time and she remembered.

Katrin rushed to Lilja and hopped on her in such a rush that she dropped her bow. They couldn't wait to pick up the bow because the President's men were coming after her. Lilja took off. The President's men stopped in their tracks and got Katrin's bow. Along the way the magic went away. Katrin's clothes become tattered again and Lilja said, "I must leave as the magic has worn off." Lilja ran away and Katrin was alone. She ran to her house.

At home Katrin started crying, "I lost my bow. All I have is the gold thread. No one will recognize me in these tattered clothes. Everybody will think I am just a maid. What is the use of winning the competition?!"

The contest organizers and President were very upset on seeing Katrin leave in a hurry. They found her bow, but nobody could find her. The President started a search across the country.

The next day Eva and Ella heard the President's search team coming. Katrin thought, "I have a chance." But unfortunately the stepsisters had seen her walking home the other day and were suspicious of her. "Go to your room", they demanded. They locked Katrin's door from the outside.

The door bell rang. It was the President and his men. Katrin opened a window from her room and started shooting with her old bow and arrow at the step sisters' practice target. She got bulls eye upon bulls eye. The President's men saw this and told him about it.

"I demand to get the house searched", said the President.

"No, no, no", said the stepsisters hastily!

"Yes", said the President and had his men start searching. The men found Katrin locked in a room. The President had her brought out of the room and asked her if she recognized the bow.

"Yes", said Katrin but the stepsisters asked for proof. Katrin pulled out the gold thread from her pocket and put it on the bow.

"The only string that fits", exclaimed the President!

Epilogue

Katrin got selected to participate in archery, at the Olympics for Iceland. She was the best archer and won Iceland its first gold medal in archery. She won many more awards on returning back. With her money, she bought her stepsisters and the stepmother a house far away from her.
AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

The End!

Leon and the President's Daughter in Switzerland

By: Boden Lee

Once upon a time there lived a boy named Leon. Leon lived in Zurich with two naughty step brothers. Leon's mother died and his father got married again and they had two more babies. The step brothers names were Julian and Noah. They owned a little farm but Leon did all the work. Of course the clueless father and stepmother didn't see any naughty things the step brothers did.

One day the president's daughter was throwing a HUGE party for National Swiss Day. She said "I will get married to the most handsome and kind man." Everyone was invited. There was only one problem. One BIG problem. The president's family spoke Swiss German Leon's family spoke French. Leon's mother spoke both French and Swiss German and she taught Julian and Noah Swiss German so they could go to the party but Leon can't.

Julian and Noah and their mom went to the party. Leon went to his room. Suddenly a fairy godmother appeared she said "Why are you so sad?" Leon replied "I can't go to the party because I can't speak Swiss German" "Well then I will let you speak Swiss German but be careful when it is 12:00 o'clock you will go back to normal and you won't be able to speak Swiss German" the Fairy Godmother said. "Ok" Leon replied "But first we need you to get new clothes and a ride so bring me six voles, three pieces of cheese, one mallard ducks, and some wood." the Fairy Godmother said. When Leon came back with all the stuff the Fairy Godmother turned the cheese into footman, the voles into horses, the duck into a coachman, and the wood into a carriage. Then with a tap of her wand Leon's clothes and shoes were amazing. Then Leon went to the party.

When Leon got to the party the president's daughter danced with him immediately. Everyone was jealous of Leon. But Leon lost track of time and when the clock struck twelve he ran away and he lost his watch. The president's daughter was sad but was determined to find Leon.

The president's daughter was looking everywhere for Leon. She knocked on every door. The news spread fast. Leon's step brothers quickly locked Leon up in his room. When the president's daughter came Julian tried on the watch. He tried as hard as he could but he was too fat to put the watch on. Leon heard Julian grunting and laughed. Next it was Noah's turn. He tried on the watch but he was way too skinny. Both of the

brothers were depressed. Then the president's daughter asked "Is there anyone else?" and Leon yelled at the top of his lungs "YES!!!!" so the president's daughter went up the stairs and when she saw Leon he looked fairly familiar. Then Leon tried on the watch and it fit perfectly. The president's daughter was super happy. After a few months they got married at a skiing resort and they made the step brothers slaves. They lived happily ever after.