

Songjoi and the Paper Animals

Once upon a time there was a town called Huntington in a mountain country. The town was always busy with many hunters who were proud of being hunters. Ever since the forest was discovered with full of animals of all kinds, hunters from all over the country came to the town and began to kill the animals. Not only important sources of food were animals, but it was such an amusing sport for them.

In a village near the town lived a hunter called Petzman who was also very active and busy in hunting. On a spring day Petzman was exceptionally happy with the news that they were going to have a child. He believed that he had a vision to have a son. He thought he would raise his son as the best hunter; his son would be the winner in any competition for hunters. Petzman dreamed until the last moment when his wife died while delivering the baby. The baby was alive, but it was a girl. Petzman's face turned ever pale as he lost his beloved wife and the wonderful vision all at once.



There were only three words that he heard from his wife. "Stop killing animals." Looking at his wife die with the eyes full of tears, Petzman heard a soundless voice. "They are taking my life as we have killed too many animals. And they gave us a daughter, instead. Save animals and save our child."

Petzman was so sad. He believed that it all had happened only because of his greedy plan and the silly vision. He decided to call his daughter Songjoi and moved to the forest with her. And from that moment he never killed any animal. He was only a farmer. In fact, he found himself amusing his job ever more than hunting.

It was after a few years of happy time when Petzman perceived his life near to the end. It was a joyful day afternoon as usual, and he was busy at work in the field. When he was about to finish up his work, he heard a number of gunshots echo in the forest. Then he heard an animal barking furiously. He felt a desperate danger for the animal nearby and sprang toward the direction without delay. But then, he realized that the barking sound was going farther away



from his location. The animal, by the sound, must have been a wild dog in a great danger. He kept running toward the way to catch up the track of the wild dog.

Finally he made it. The dog was near in sight. Noticing the dog was badly injured, he approached to the dog as quickly as possible to help. However, after a long way of dragging its injured body to escape from the hunters, the dog seemed not ready to accept the human's offer. Maybe he was the same hunter in the eyes of the badly injured animal. The wild dog attacked him furiously as if it was the final revenge to the hunter. Then there were quiet moments. When Petzman opened his eyes, there was no such a furious dog nearby anymore. It was only a little puppy, moaning beside a motionless animal. The wild innocent dog had died by hunters just like that. He felt so regretful not able to save the life.

Petzman was badly injured by the final revenge of the dog. He looked at the little dog remorsefully. The mother dog must have so worried her loving baby and tried to protect it until she died... Now



it was Petzman, the hunter's turn to drag his body all the way home. At least he wanted to save the life of the puppy on behalf of its mother.

Petzman brought the little one home. However, he was very sick and did not feel himself recover. Now he decided to look at only the positive side. He thought and very much hoped that the puppy could grow as a good companion to his daughter. And soon, the time came. Petzman, the farmer passed away. Petzman, the keeper finally died, leaving his hope that this little dog would even protect his daughter on his behalf. The last thing he did for his daughter was giving a name for the dog: Son.

Indeed, Son grew as a faithful and helpful dog. Songjoi was always happy to be with Son, but it did not last very long. One day, while Son was merrily chasing a bird on a field, it was spotted by a hunter and seriously injured by a gunshot. Escaped from the hunter, Son managed to come back home, but it was only the tears of Songjoi that Son saw before died.



The hunters had killed Son just like the rest of the animals in the forest. Songjoi cried over and over, as if only the tears would bring Son back. Her beloved dog Son left her all alone, just like her father. After all, it was the hunters who killed her parents.

A few sorrowful days passed. Yet Songjoi could not believe that Son had left her for good. She still felt that, if she ever call out Son, her beloved dog would appear from somewhere in the forest. She missed Son so much. "I wish Son could come back just once...," she mumbled.

Now, in the memory of Son, Songjoi suddenly decided to make a paper animal. She tried over and over until she could finally fold a paper dog and wished that she could see Son just once more even though she knew that it was not possible.

Looking at the paper dog she had made, she felt so weird that the paper dog seemed smiling at her. She felt that she would make more, many more animals out of paper. She collected all the papers in the house and started to fold them. She folded out animals one



by one, imagining every animal she had ever seen before; every animal that might have been killed by the hunters before. She wished to stop the hunters from killing animals while looking at the paper animals. She wished that all the paper animals she had made to turn into real animals and attack the town of hunters until they would surrender. And she wished for anything to bring peace in the forest.

Every night Songjoi spent many hours to make animals out of paper. When, finally, there was no more paper left, she was so sad that she could not fold paper animals any more. No more paper, not even a single piece. She sighed. "I cannot make any more animal..."

That night she cried for a long time until she got tired and fell asleep on a chair. She woke up in the morning in grief again and wanted to see the paper animals she had folded. As she entered the living room, she saw the paper animals looking at her with a cheerful greeting. But then, a sorrow came from the heart all the



way up to her eyes again. "No, not anymore. I cannot make more of you..."

Wiping out the tears, Songjoi went to the workroom. And there, she found hundreds of sheets of paper neatly placed on the table. So surprised, she wondered who would have brought the paper for her. Above all that, now she was so happy to start the job again. With a pleasing mind and skillful hands soon she saw many more paper animals right beside her. Surprisingly, in the following morning when she almost used up the paper, she found a lot more paper ready for her just like before. Certainly there must have been someone, making sure that the paper was always ready for her before she felt sorrow again.

It was so strange. Now this time when she almost finished the paper, she decided to wait and see whoever bringing paper. She turned off the light and waited in the dark to see the visitor. She waited so long, but no one entered the house. When she was about to go to bed, she heard faint sound coming from somewhere. It was



from the workroom. Voices. Yes, it was more than one. As she felt weird, she tiptoed to the door of the workroom and peeked inside.

It was amazing. It was like a miracle. There were so many animals, filled in the room. Every one of them was so busy doing something. Another surprise for her was that all of them were helping each other making sheets of paper. Astonishingly, all of those animals were the paper animals that she had folded. The paper animals were making paper for her to make more paper animals.

That was not all. Songjoi also noticed that some of them hurried to outside through the backdoor. Following them, she discovered another group of animals, being busy cutting trees, making sheets of trees, and bringing them to the house for the finish in making paper sheets.

Songjoi could not close her mouth for long. She could not just stand there. She approached to the animals. The animals saw her coming towards them, but no one seemed scared. They just gave her



big fat smiles with cheerful barks. Beside her was an animal dancing merrily. She immediately recognized the animal. It was the first animal she had made out of the paper. That was her loved dog, Son. She was so happy to see her dog back to life.

That night, she had many, many more papers than she could handle. Now there were no problems at all as some of those animals even helped folding papers. She worked until very late and fell asleep without knowing it. Then she woke up in the morning happily and looked for Son and the animals. But, it was so quiet, and she was alone again. She rushed to the workroom, but there were no animals she could see. Not even one. There were only the paper animals in peace by the window. It was all like a sad dream.

Another night came, but Songjoi was not able to sleep tight. She woke up by the noise of the animals in the middle of the night. She now understood that they were those paper animals, turning into real animals only at night. She was so happy again, and she did not realize how fast time went while working with them. It was



morning, and they all bid her farewell before the sun rose. All were back to paper again. She wished she could see them playing, dancing all day long and never going back to paper animals, just once. She knew that it was only a dream, and thus she wanted to make them as happy as she could.

From that night, as soon as the paper animals were back to life, she took them all out to her favorite meadow. They played together there until the dawn brought another day light. Now even though they went back to paper again, she was not so sad because they would come back again just like another night coming back.

One day, Songjoi thought that she would invite children from the town where the hunters lived. It occurred to her that hunters were all cruel to animals, but the children... They should be different. There might be some hope to let them be with animals. There could be still some chances to make them friendly to animals. "Let the children love animals." So, she decided to invite as many children as possible to her festive joy with the animals under the moonlight. She



gathered many birds out of papers and sent them to the hunters' children with invitation cards. The birds flew high to the town where the hunters breathed. They visited every house with children and placed the invitation cards by the windows of their room.

Invitation to the festive joy

Playing together

Sing along

Dance with hundreds of friendly animals

We all hope to see you there.

On August 29.

If you believe, please ride the friendly horses.

PS: Hush ! Top secret.

No children talked about it. They all looked forward to joining such a moment. Some with curiosity, some for fun and excitement,



and some with a mind of hunting to get credits of their own.

However, they were all in common: Hush! Never let parents know.

At last, the day came to the town. When the night fell, the children and the parents went fast asleep. However, when the town was so quiet, and the horses arrived to the town under the moonlight, many children came out of their houses ever silently. The horses ran fast, and as they met Songjoi and the friendly animals, soon, they all dropped their preoccupied thoughts. And all had so much fun for so long until the bright moon felt so tired, and until they finally had to return home.

From that day on, many children sang some kind of songs that their parents had never heard before. They suspected, but they liked their children singing. Moreover, all the children looked so happy. There was another festive gathering after some time, and this time many more children joined, and all along they were so happy and cheerful.



How long the parents had not seen their children being happy and so cheerful? Maybe they had never seen it before, ever since their life had begun to depend on hunting; ever since they had believed happiness and joy were only from hunting. Now all the parents were so happy, too, but then, they began to wonder what was going on to their children all these days.

One night when the children ran on the horses for another joyful gathering, their parents caught them. Horrified, they chased their children quietly to discover unseen story of the children under the moonlight. There they saw a shocking scene in the middle of quiet night. Their children were playing, singing, and dancing with hundreds of animals under the bright moonlight.

Such a wonderful moment! After all, animals were such nice things. They thought that those animals should deserve more than being killed by them. The parents dropped the guns they had brought and promised themselves not to kill animals.



The moon went half way down to the mountains, but none of them did realize that the morning was already near. Then all the animals suddenly ran into the house and disappeared. However, Songjoi did not feel sad. Yes, she saw that the animals had gone to their places. But, now all the hunters were with her without any weapons in hands.

They all witnessed the joy, the peace, and the happiness within the killing field created by the hunters themselves. Songjoi could feel the loves in the mind of the hunters growing towards animals. She felt the peace filling the forest in the place of the cruelty which had been so long.

Now everyone was so sad as they knew about the paper animals. It was the true story about the animals that they had slaughtered. After all, their children were able to have a few happy moments only with the spirits of the animals that they had killed.

The sun came out of the forest without exception. However, to their great, great surprise, all the animals suddenly ran out of the



house merrily again. They were back to life. This time it was a real life that was not afraid of the sunlight. Hunters and their children, they all were so excited again, and their cheers and happiness never ended in the forest.

