

A Land Without Art

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Narrator: Our story begins, as most stories do, with ‘Once Upon a Time’. Yes, once upon a time there was a city and this city was called Memorial. It was filled with extraordinarily talented humans and creatures. The citizens of Memorial were exceptional at dancing, singing, and playing music, so much so that the music was known to bring tears of happiness to someone’s eyes or even lull them to sleep and the dancing could make anyone who watched jump with joy. However, this city was ruled by an evil queen who hated the music and singing and dancing more than anything in the world.

Queen: It is like nails on a chalkboard to me.

Narrator: Unfortunately for her, her stepdaughter, the fairy princess Isabella who is the heir to the throne, was one of the most gifted dancers in the city.

Isabella: I love dancing for the people in my kingdom. It makes them happy!

Narrator: This queen had a plan to end her stepdaughter's joy and secure her throne once and for all...

Queen: Ornesto!!!

Ornesto: Yes ma’am

Queen: **Looks at watch** It’s that time of day when I release you from your shackles so you can play music for my horrible stepdaughter.

Ornesto: Yes ma’am

Queen: However, the king isn’t around today... and I have different plans in store. Go fetch me the royal pen and paper.

Ornesto: The one used for making royal decrees?

Queen: SILENCE. Of course, that's what I'm talking about. GO and return QUICKLY.

Ornesto: Yes ma'am

Narrator: You see, the queen had captured Ornesto many years ago. She forces him to do any bidding on her behalf. Her husband, the king, does not know that poor Ornesto remains in shackles and is treated so badly by the queen, for he only sees him during the hour in which he plays violin for his daughter to dance.

Queen: ISABELLA.

Isabella: Yes stepmother.

Queen: Go call the people of the city. I have... an announcement.

Narrator: And so all the people in the city gathered around and waited for the queen's latest decree. She proclaimed that from this day forth, any form of art is BANNED from the city. There will be no more music, dancing, singing, or playing pretend. If anyone is caught doing it, they will be banished from the city forever. The people were stressed and sad. The saddest of all was Isabella, who dances everywhere she goes.

Daisy: Wait! That's not fair. She can't just DO that!

Narrator: This is Daisy. She's a very talented violinist.

Ornesto: Oh, but she can. Believe me.

Daisy: My dream is to be the best and most famous violinist in the world. I practice every day. But this.. this is going to ruin my dreams. I've always felt like a part of me was missing and now the queen has taken away the only thing that makes me happy. Come on, Emily. Let's go home.

Narrator: Emily is Daisy's pet cat. She's very shy and quiet but she loves listening to Daisy play her violin.

As the people in the city sadly departed to return home, the news of the queen's decree was spreading fast. So quickly, that it reached the outskirts of town all the way into the country.

Lily: Did you see this letter, Rose? It says there will be no more music allowed in the city OR here in the country.

Rose: How can she do that Lily??

Lily: I don't know. It's not right. And I can't explain it, but someone is very, very upset at this news. She's so sad that it's making me feel sad.

Rose: I feel the same way.

Lily: If only my parents would let us leave the country and go into the city. But they say we are too small.

Rose: It's not fair.

Lily: We have to go see what's going on. Lily, pack your cat food and a toy. We are going on an adventure.

Narrator: And so, Lily and Rose packed a small bag, Rose with her cat toys and Lily with the special picture she kept with her for good luck, and headed out. As they were leaving the country, they bumped into another girl sitting at the edge of the woods.

Lily: Are you lost?

Analisa: No, I'm just sad.

Narrator: This is Analisa. She also heard the decree from the queen and knew that it would make her best friend who lived in the city upset.

Analisa: I haven't seen her in forever.

Lily: Well we are going there right now! Come with us!

Narrator: Analisa was nervous. Her parents told her she was too small to go through the woods and into the city alone. But she wasn't alone! She had new friends with her this time! So she decided to tag along and go into the city to check on her friend. So, these three girls ventured into the city, a place where they had never been before, unsure of what they were searching for but letting their hearts lead the way.

Back in the city, Isabella was trying to figure out how to fix this mess with Ornesto's help.

Ornesto: Isabella, I can't be here. If the queen knows I'm here I'll be in trouble.

Isabella: You have to help me bring music and dancing back into the city!

Ornesto: How can I when I am a slave to the queen?

Narrator: Just then Isabella used her fairy powers to break the chains Ornesto was in. She had a plan. She whispered it to Ornesto so that no one in the palace could overhear. She also told him that if he could help her, she would set him free forever.

Ornesto: I know just the person to find.

Narrator: So Ornesto raced off in search of the girl who could help. Ornesto spent all day wandering around the city. He went door to door, knocking and hoping that the girl he bumped into at the queen's ceremony would answer. Defeated, he sat on the sidewalk.

Ornesto: I'm never going to find her. How will I ever be a free man?

Daisy: Hey, are you ok?

Ornesto: You're that girl I saw at the ceremony who plays the violin!

Daisy: *Used* to play the violin. That's over now thanks to the queen.

Ornesto: What if it wasn't?

Daisy: I'm listening...

Ornesto: I can't say much. But I can say that we have a plan to change it. Do you still have your violin?

Emily: She does!

Ornesto: Great. Go grab it and meet me on the outside of the city in 20 minutes. Hurry!

Narrator: As Daisy and Emily went to grab her violin, she couldn't help but feel like something big was about to happen.

Daisy: I just feel like something big is about to happen. I can't explain it.

Narrator: She grabbed her violin and the picture of her mom she kept with her for good luck. Then she and Emily raced towards the edge of the city. Meanwhile in the woods...

Rose: How much longer until we get there?

Analisa: We've been walking forever.

Lily: It shouldn't be too much longer.

Narrator: Just as she said that the light broke through the woods.

All: Look! The city!

Narrator: They all took off running to get out of the woods. However, they were running so fast that they didn't see the people waiting at the edge of town.

Ornesto: SHHH. You shouldn't be out here!

Isabella: Please be quiet!

Analisa: Isabella?!

Isabella: Analisa?!

Narrator: Little did Analisa's new friends realize that her long lost best friend was the princess! The two lost friends hugged and were so excited to be reunited. But before the friends could say much more, another girl came running up with her cat and her violin.

Daisy: Sorry I'm late, I got here as quickly as I could!

Narrator: Just then, Lily turned around.

Daisy & Lily: Woah... you look just like me! No, you look just like ME!

Everyone else: What's happening??

Lily: I can't explain it, but you're the reason why I traveled here.

Daisy: I feel the same way, as if I just met a long lost friend, or sister.

Narrator: Feeling nervous, both girls pulled out the pictures they brought with them for good luck. Upon looking at them both, they realized that both pictures were split right down the middle. On Daisy's picture stood her, her mom, and her cat Emily. On Lily's side stood her, her dad, and her cat Rose. Like magic, they held the pictures together and realized something special.

Lily & Daisy: Woah... we're like... sisters.

Rose & Emily: And so are we!!

The girls all hug, the others, except Ornesto, cheer

Ornesto: Alright, this is nice and all, but we have to figure out how to overthrow the throne here.

Narrator: So, this ragtag group all huddled together to form a plan. They would use the things that the queen hates most to end this terrible decree and bring joy back to their city! After they had formed their plan, Isabella and Ornesto led them back towards the castle. The group traveled all throughout the city, as sneakily as possible. Eventually, they reached the palace and Isabella led them into a backdoor. Soon the Queen would be arriving for her evening tea. Everyone hid.

Queen: ISABELLA! What are you doing here? And where is Ornesto?

Isabella: I don't know step-mother. But wait! I have something special to show you!

Narrator: Just then, the queen's favorite song started playing on the violin and Isabella started dancing.

Queen: Where is that coming from?! And why are you dancing?? I.... oh I haven't heard this in a long time. And your dancing... I can't explain it it's making me feel... happy.

Narrator: The queen felt so happy and relaxed that she sat back in the chair and closed her eyes.

Rose, Emily, and Analisia: NOW!

Narrator: Just then everyone jumped out and tied the queen to the chair.

Ornesto: We won't let you go until you undo your decree.

Daisy: The city is sad without art!

Lily: Everyone's sad!

Rose, Emily, and Analisia: Sign here please!

Queen: I have to admit, hearing this song and seeing your dance brought me back to my childhood. I remember why art is so important in the first place. I will sign the paper, and Isabella, you will rule over the kingdom now. I don't deserve it. Ornesto, you are free to live your life as you choose.

Ornesto: YES!!!

Narrator: And so, the Queen's decree was undone through the power of teamwork, friendship, and art. Our long lost sisters and friends were reunited, Ornesto became a free man, and Isabella ruled over the kingdom with love, kindness, and dancing. The citizens of Memorial all lived happily ever after.

All: The End!