

## **Stubborn Maryann**

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## Stubborn Maryann

Once there was an incredibly stubborn princess named Maryann who lived in a grand palace. She would not listen to her elders and would not take advice from anyone. She liked to be left alone to walk around the castle and wonder what life was like without servants outside the palace walls. She was incredibly unhappy despite her elegant lifestyle. At night, while she was laying in bed, she was able to hear all the noises from of the city and wondered if she would ever be able to leave the palace. Everyday Maryann would ask for permission to leave the palace. Her mother and father would simply say, “The city is too dangerous for you. Absolutely not. You have everything you can want here.”

On Maryann’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the king and queen held a huge ball in order for Maryann to marry a proper prince. Many princes came from near and far to see the princess. Many were interested in marrying her because she was said to be beautiful. She was indeed beautiful, however, the suitors soon found out she was extremely stubborn. None of the princes ended up wanting to marry her because she would not listen to them. One prince, who was not handsome at all decided to take the princess’s hand in marriage.

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The couple were soon after married.

The newly married couple traveled to the prince's palace. When they arrived the prince told the princess she could not travel outside of the palace walls. The princess became very upset and refused to listen to the prince. The prince yelled at her saying, "If you disobey me, terrible things will happen to you!" The princess became scared because no one had ever threatened her before. She obeyed his every command while he was present, but as time wore on, she became restless and refused to take commands from her husband.

One afternoon while her husband was gone, she decided to escape from the palace and explore the world outside of the palace walls. Maryann wandered around town, exploring all the shops and people in them. She couldn't believe how amazing it all was. She got so caught up in the excitement that she bought a beautiful new dress. It was the deepest color of blue that ever was seen. She paid for the dress and decided to return home since she was expecting her husband to return any moment. When she arrived at the palace later that day, she was grateful to find that no one noticed that she was missing.

The prince arrived on time for dinner and Maryann greeted him wearing her new gown. The prince looked at her curiously and asked her where she got the dress. Maryann completely forgot that she was simply trying it on and forgot to take it off before dinner

since it looked so beautiful on her. The prince threw up his arms in disgrace and told her

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that she had betrayed his trust and that if she ever wanted to see him again she would have to find him in the thrice tenth kingdom. After the prince cried his last, he vanished.

The princess Maryann cried and didn't know what to do. She knew she had to find her husband because she would not be able to survive on her own. She cried day and night for three days. The servants of the castle felt bad for Maryann and sent her a dove to help her find Baba Yaga who might be able to help her find her prince. Maryann took the dove and it flew her to Baba Yaga's chicken leg hut. Baba Yaga instructed her to drink one sip of vodka and one piece of bread or she would be eaten. The first Baba Yaga listened to Maryann after she did what she was instructed to do. Baba Yaga had no idea where to find the thrice tenth kingdom and sent Maryann to her sister. The second Baba Yaga instructed Maryann to also drink one sip of vodka and to eat one piece of bread. Maryann asked the second Baba Yaga if she knew of the thrice tenth kingdom. Baba Yaga explained that she did know where the kingdom was at and asked why she wanted to go there. Maryann explained that she had to find her husband who left her. Baba Yaga asked her why he decided to leave and the princess told her that she had disobeyed his orders. Baba Yaga shook her head and told her that her husband had forgotten her and planned to take a new

wife in three days. Baba Yaga told her not to worry and told her that she would help the princess. The Baba Yaga gave Maryann an egg and instructed that she must feed the egg to her prince before he remarried. Maryann thanked the Baba Yaga and the dove flew her

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to the thrice tenth kingdom where her husband lived.

Maryann decided to disguise herself in a dirty brown dress and pretend to be a servant. She snuck into the dining room and switched the egg he was going to eat with the one Baba Yaga gave to Maryann. Just as Maryann was switching the eggs, the cook came in and began yelling that the princess was a thief. Maryann didn't know what to do. The prince came running into the dining room with his soon to be wife and asked what was going on. Maryann explained who she was while taking off her disguise. She exposed her beautiful blue gown. The prince looked at her in astonishment and remembered her as his true wife. The prince called off his wedding and returned home with Maryann. She never disobeyed him again.