Is-Seħer tal-Prinċipessa Aurora

Janet Mallia, Louiselle Sciberras (ill.)

Contents

Excerpt in Maltese 1
English translation by Janet Mallia...4

Excerpt in Maltese

Kapitlu Wieħed

Jekk hawn post li kapaċi iġiblek għajnejk wara widnejk, dan żgur hu l-Palazz Kostanzo, li jinsab qrib masġar enormi, imdawwar bis-sbuħija tan-natura. Kull min kellu x-xorti li jidħol fih, min għall-bżonn u min għall-ieħor, jgħidlek li s-sbuħija tal-palazz hi bilwisq akbar minn ġewwa milli minn barra.

Il-Palazz Kostanzo imsemmi għar-re li bnieh. Hu meravilja tal-meravilji b'kmamar kbar, arjużi u b'kurituri li ma jispiċċaw qatt. L-għamara tal-palazz hi magħmula b'sengħa u ħila kbira, filwaqt li l-pitturi huma tal-aqwa artisti ta' kull żmien. It-twieqi għoljin tal-palazz iħarsu fuq veduta mill-isbaħ tal-ġonna privati tar-re u l-masġar viċin, fejn jgħixu kull xorta ta' ħlejqiet.

Il-Palazz Kostanzo hu rfinut sal-iċken dettall. Mit-tiżjin mas-soqfa sal-istatwi indurati bid-deheb fil-ġonna privati tiegħu... kollox hu mill-aqwa. S'intendi, il-palazz hu armat sa sninu b'suldati li lesti jobdu kull ordni li jingħataw. F'kull rokna hemm suldat jew tnejn imlibbsin korazzi mill-itqal b'għajnejhom imberqin lesti biex jiddefendu r-re.

U xi ngħidu għas-servitu? Sefturi, kokijiet, qaddejja, ġardinara... numri abbundanti ta' nies lesti jaqdu lir-re skont il-bżonn. Kokijiet hemm wieħed, tnejn, tlieta... għoxrin, saħanistra anki tletin. Insomma, ir-Re Kostanzo żgur li qatt ma ġie servut l-istess platt darbtejn tul ħajtu kollha, għaliex koki kellu bil-gzuz! Iżda, kif jgħidu, mhux kull ma jleqq hu deheb. Għalkemm ir-Re Kostanzo kien imdawwar b'dan il-lussu kollu u b'dawk il-persuni kollha lesti jservuh kulma jrid, ta' spiss kien ikun imdejjaq. Biex jipprova iderri beda jieħu passiġġati twal fil-ġonna privati tiegħu waqt li jgedwed waħdu.

L-inkwiet ewlieni li kien qed itaqqallu moħħu kien l-atteġġjament ta' bintu - il-Prinċipessa Aurora, li aktar ma jgħaddi ż-żmien aktar beda sejjer mill-ħażin għall-agħar. Il-prinċipessa trabbiet geddumha fix-xgħir mingħajr ma naqasha xejn.

Jekk riedet gwardarobba ilbiesi ġodda magħmula apposta għalija minn disinjatur magħruf, kienet toħodha. Jekk xtaqet sett ġdid ta' ġojjelli bid-djamanti, kienet tordnahom. Dan l-aħħar fettlilha li titwebbel għal sett ieħor ta' kuruni mżejjna b'ġawhar prezzjuż u, minkejja li r-Re Kostanzo saħaq li aħjar tevita mill-infiq żejjed u bla bżonn, xorta baqgħet teqred sakemm akkwistathom!

Il-Prinċipessa Aurora qatt ma naqasha xejn u, minkejja li għandha ħafna oġġetti prezzjużi, qatt mhi kuntenta u dejjem tara x'se tivvinta! Apparti li ma tapprezza xejn, lanqas taf x'jiġifieri tagħmel sagrifiċċju biex takkwista xi ħaġa, għaliex qatt ma ħadmet ġurnata waħda f'ħajjitha!

Il-kapriċċi u l-imġieba stravaganti tal-prinċipessa bdew jagħtu f'għajn ir-Re Kostanzo minħabba li naqas jara fiha persuna li, għada pitgħada, tasal li tmexxi l-palazz b'mod għaqli. Il-verità kollha kienet li l-prinċipessa m'għandha ebda ħjiel ta' għaqal. Dan ġie konfermat mit-talbiet esaġerati tagħha u t-tkeċċija ta' numru kbir ta' servitù, ħafna drabi għalxejn b'xejn.

Ir-Re Kostanzo beda jirrealizza li kellu problema kbira fuq moħħu, li kulma jmur kienet qed tiggrava mhux ħażin, u għalhekk kien jeħtieġlu jsolviha malajr kemm jista' jkun. Iżda x'se jaqbad jagħmel?

Kapitlu Tnejn

Fuq fergħa ta' siġra twila fil-ġonna tal-Palazz Kostanzo, kokka kienet medhija żżoqqi lil ulieda żgħar. Din il-kokka – li ġġib l-isem ta' Kyla – innutat li r-Re Kostanzo kellu xi ħaġa li qed tinkwetah.

Iktar kemm ir-re beda jtawwal il-passiġġati tiegħu, iktar kien jidher inkurlat u, f'xi waqtiet tant kien jitbaqbaq, li kien jitlagħlu demmu għal rasu u jsir aħmar peprin. L-inkwiet ma kienx jagħmel tajjeb għar-re, speċjalment issa li ma kienx għadu żgħir, u mhux l-ewwel darba li l-pressjoni kienet titlagħlu sew!

Darba minnhom, Kyla l-Kokka ddeċiedet li ssegwi lir-Re Kostanzo mill-bogħod, billi tivvjaġġa fil-baxx u tistaħba wara xi pjanta jew ġebla kbira tal-masġar. Xejn xejn tiskopri dak li qed iwasslu biex ikun daqshekk imdejjaq.

"Ma jistax ikun nibqa' għaddej hekk," instema' jgħid ir-Re Kostanzo waqt il-passiġġata ta' rutina tiegħu. "Il-Prinċipessa Aurora trid tieqaf tkun rgħiba u egosita. Dan mhux atteġġjament xieraq u mistenni minn binti l-prinċipessa."

"Imma kif se naqbad inwaqqafha? Kull darba li ppruvajt, dejjem rat kif għamlet u marret minn wara dahri biex tieħu dak li riedet. Għandi bżonn ta' soluzzjoni mill-aktar fis," kompla jitmasħan bejnu u bejn ruħu r-re.

Ftit metri 'l bogħod, Kyla l-Kokka semgħet dak kollu li r-Re Kostanzo beda jhewden fuqu u, minkejja li r-re għadu ma sabx soluzzjoni, il-kokka bdiet taħmi pjan dettaljat f'moħħha li kellu jwassal biex il-Prinċipessa Aurora taqbad it-triq tal-għaqal!

English translation by Janet Mallia

Chapter One

If there's a place that can capture your attention, it's definitely the Costance Palace, located near a vast forest surrounded by the beauty of nature. Everyone fortunate enough to enter, whether for need or other reasons, will tell you that the palace's beauty is far greater inside than outside.

The Costance Palace, named after the king who built it, is a marvel, with large rooms, arches, and endless corridors. The palace's furniture is crafted with great skill, and the paintings are by the best artists of all time. The palace's high windows offer a breathtaking view of the king's private gardens and the nearby forest, home to many creatures.

The Costance Palace is refined down to the smallest detail. From the decoration on the ceilings to the golden statues in its private gardens... everything is of the highest quality. Of course, the palace is heavily guarded by soldiers ready to follow any command given. In every corner, there is a soldier or two clad in heavy armour with watchful eyes, ready to defend the king.

And what about the servants? There are butlers, cooks, gardeners, and many others ready to serve the king as needed. There are one, two, three... even twenty cooks! In short, King Costance is sure to never be served the same dish twice in his life, for he has a plethora of cooks! But, as they say, not everything that glitters is gold. Although King Costance was surrounded by all this luxury and people eager to serve him, he often felt frustrated. To try and ease his mind, he started taking long walks in his private gardens, while pondering all alone.

The main concern on his mind was the behaviour of his daughter – Princess Aurora, whose actions were becoming increasingly irresponsible. The princess was spoiled and pampered without any boundaries.

Whenever she wanted a new wardrobe designed by a famous designer, she got it. If she wanted a new set of diamond jewellery, she ordered it. Recently, she even demanded a new set of crowns adorned with precious gems. Despite King

Costance's insistence that she avoid excessive spending, she ignored his advice and acquired them anyway.

Princess Aurora had everything, but she was never satisfied and always wanted more! Despite having many precious things, she never appreciated them and didn't understand what it meant to make sacrifices. After all, she had never worked a day in her life!

Her extravagant behaviour and whims began to frustrate King Costance, as he saw no future for the palace under her leadership. The truth was that the princess showed no signs of wisdom. This was evident from her exaggerated demands and the dismissal of many servants, often without cause.

King Costance began to realize that he had a major problem on his hands, and it was only getting worse. He knew he needed to solve it quickly, but how?

Chapter Two

On a branch of a tall tree in the Costance Palace gardens, an owl named Kyla was quietly observing the situation. Kyla had noticed that King Costance seemed troubled.

The more the king took his long walks, the more agitated he seemed, and sometimes, he became so stressed that his face would turn red. The pressure was taking its toll on him, especially now that he wasn't as young as before. It wasn't the first time that the stress had affected him badly.

One day, Kyla the Owl decided to follow King Costance from a distance, by flying low and hiding behind plants or large rocks in the forest. She wanted to discover the source of his distress.

"I can't go on like this," King Costance was heard saying during his usual walk. "Princess Aurora needs to stop being so selfish and egoistical. This is not the attitude I expect from my daughter."

"But how do I stop her? Every time I try, she just takes what she wants behind my back. I need a solution, and fast," he continued to mumble to himself.

Kyla the Owl, a few meters away, heard everything the king was saying. While the king had yet to find a solution, the owl began to formulate a detailed plan in her mind that would lead Princess Aurora onto the path of wisdom!