

## LEIA FINDS HER WAY

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far, away, there lived a princess. She had long black hair, big dark eyes, and her face always seemed to be lit with the purest sunlight. This princess's name was Leia. Leia lived in a palace made of pearly, white marble and even the chandeliers were made of real clear and dazzling crystals. This pretty girl's palace was on a planet named Cruton.

But one day, the queen, Leia's also beautiful mom, died quite mysteriously. Everyone in the kingdom, Fountain Sprout, was shocked and sad. It was a big loss to the royal family, especially Leia. She missed her mother dearly.

Five years later, the king fell for another woman. He decided to marry her despite his daughter's protest about 'staying loyal' to the dead queen. At the wedding, Leia didn't dance like the others, but instead she sulked. She thought the wedding was a dishonor to her dead mother. *How could they dance so happily?*, she thought.

When Leia was about 18, she couldn't stand it. Her new mom was nasty. She was a plump, short woman with startling red hair, and big, bulging, bloodshot eyes. Her name was Sheen. Sheen hated Leia and ordered her around like a servant when the king was not there. Leia knew she had to flee. She crept out of her elegant bedroom on a dark and stormy night and went down the spiral staircase and into the throne room. Then Leia pried a stick through the door. It didn't work. She was disappointed because there was only one exit and it was in the throne room. And most unfortunately it was locked. But Leia wasn't going to give up just yet. She felt for the shining stones on the floor to see if one was loose. One was! Leia pushed open the stone and fell through the hole and onto the safety of the grass. *Thud!*

Leia had found a way to the lush green forest, and reached a small yellow straw hut. She rushed towards it. "Would you please, if you do not mind, let me in?" she asked, anxiously knocking on the door. "Come in!" said a hoarse voice. Leia pushed the rusty, green, copper door aside. She stopped and stared around, astounded. The house (which was so small that I think you could consider that a room) was nothing like the palace that Leia lived in. In this dim lit 'house' there were old books all over the floor, a blue desk that looked so tiny that probably you would not be able to fit a basket on it, a tiny wooden dining table, and finally a shining rug that was spread over the floor, made of all kinds of dazzling jewels. And in one of the narrow, dark corners, filled with cobwebs, there was a wizard. He had a long white beard, and wore a black robe scattered with stars that matched his pointed hat. "Sit down, sit down," he said, gesturing to the jewel rug. Leia sat down, her pale face glowing against the dirty wall. "Now to what do I owe this late pleasure?" the wizard asked her. "Well... you see, I fled because the kingdom has a new queen and she treats me like dung." Leia replied. "And I..." Suddenly, there was a loud BANG!

"Ahhh..." sighed Sheen, dozing lazily. It was the day before a ball dance and Sheen was sleeping on the comfortable, lush and green grass making the king scurry around with all the planning. She was dreaming about conquering the whole of Fountain Sprout. *How wonderful*, Sheen dreamed, *that if I just murder the king without anyone knowing, everything is mine! Mine! Mine! Mine!*

Leia kept on screaming. She kept on doing this until the wizard assured her that the noise was just thunder. "My house is trouble-proof, so we will be all right. So do not worry my dear," the black robed wizard with stars added. "But now it is time to rest, I think," he said, noticing how tired Leia looked. And so they both lay on the shiny jewel rug, trying to sleep.

"20 more minutes to go to the ball, honey," the king said sweetly to his wife. "And remember that we still have to decorate everything." "All right, don't worry, I will remember," replied Sheen, pretending to be kind. As the king left, Sheen secretly poured a whole bottle of blood red poison on his dessert, a raspberry pie. The king had a soft spot for raspberries. The sauce on the pie would look like the poison. *Good riddance to bad rubbish!* Sheen smiled, sinisterly. Then, she started decorating the ball room at top speed. Just as Sheen finished, the king came in. "5 more minutes," he said winking at her.

Screech! Screech! Screech! Leia woke up with a jerk. Where was she? Then she remembered everything. *Oh well, I should be grateful to be in this hut*, Leia thought. *Otherwise, I would have been so cold.* "You have woken up!" said a voice. Leia jumped. The wizard was peering down at her. "Oh... right," she said. "Last night we probably both agree, that we were too tired to tell each other our names?" asked the wizard. "Right," answered Leia. "Okay then, my name is Silas. What is your name?" questioned Silas. "Leia," she said, a little bored. "Oh, you're the king's

daughter. Anyway, what did you say last night?" pressed Silas. "Oh...that... I fled because as you know Fountain Sprout has a new queen and she treats me like dung," answered Leia. "I see," the wizard replied. "And did you know that she murdered the original queen?" "No," she gulped, suddenly interested. "Well that is enough," said Silas. "Let us eat our breakfast now. It is getting cold."

"Welcome! Welcome!" boomed the king. "Welcome to the ball dance! And now we will start! Then the queen came down. She was dressed in a royal red dress. Everyone danced, twirling and gliding across the pure white floor. Then the people went to eat and drink the refreshments. They munched and crunched on their food talking merrily, until every crumb was eaten. "Ladies and gentlemen, my wife and I hope you enjoyed it! Have a wonderful day!" said the king. And so the people of Fountain Sprout left.

"This is really good food," commented Leia, hungrily. "I hope so," laughed Silas. "It looks like you haven't eaten for days!" "Well, I have not eaten for one day!" said Leia happily. "And this is the best food ever!" "Are you serious? This food is even better than the palace food?" asked Silas. "Yeah, Sheen makes the cook prepare my food purposely bad," answered Leia. "I feel so bad for you, but anyway, are you done?" he questioned. "Yup," she responded. "Then let us sit on the rug, and I will tell you something," said Silas. Once they sat on the rug, Silas started to talk in his hoarse voice. "Now, I want you to dress up as a waitress that serves the king and queen. You must catch Sheen red-handed." "Catch Sheen red-handed for what?" asked Leia, curiously. "Oh, she is going to poison the king," responded Silas. "How do you know that?" Leia said, wonderingly. "I can read anyone's mind if I want to," he told her. "Then why did you ask all those questions when you could have just read my mind!" Leia said, a little irritated. "I didn't want to," chuckled Silas. "But now we have to get going on our plan." "Why me?" asked Leia. "Because, forgive me, but you are too timid and you need to learn to stand up for your rights. We will go now otherwise the king will already be poisoned," answered Silas.

"I have a special dessert for you. It is raspberry pie," Sheen said to the king. They walked towards the dining room, hand-in-hand, Sheen now smirking horribly. "Sit down, sit down, your majesties," said a nervous waitress girl, who was actually Leia. They did. Leia hid behind a nearby pillar that was white and covered with swirly, green vines. And just as the king was about take a big bite out of his red raspberry pie, she jumped out from behind it. "I think that Angela, the maid, needs your help," Leia told them. So they both left the decadent pie and followed her, Sheen a little disappointed that there was a delay to the king's death. *What if the king does not eat his pie after all?*, she thought. Now of course Leia was not going to lead them to the maid. Instead, she led them to the garden, where the whole of Fountain Sprout was gathered in large groups. Sheen was scared that they had found out that she was going to poison the king. Did they?

"MURDERER!" the crowd yelled, when they saw Sheen. "Please be quiet," Leia told them, loudly. They silenced immediately, as if she was *their* queen. That made Sheen jealous of her, despite her other worries of being caught. "Anyway," Leia turned to Sheen. "We owe you an explanation." "Why?" demanded the queen. Leia sighed heavily. "You know! We all know! You were going to poison the king with your raspberry pie." What raspberry pie?" Sheen asked. "Wait, you mean the pie Sheen gave me?" the king interrupted. "Yes, that one," Leia told the king. "I don't believe it! Let her eat the raspberry pie so we can see if it is poison or not," he told Leia. "All right," she agreed. "BRING THE PIE!" the king ordered his servants. The servants did as they were told. "Please take a bite were the red sauce is," he told his wife. Sheen was horrified. "But...I didn't try to poison you..., my dear," she said to the king. "You will prove it when you eat the pie," he responded. "No, actually, you have already proven *my* point." Then the king snapped his fingers. Two guards came to him obediently. "Take her away!" he told them. The king turned to Leia. "Thank you," he bowed. "Do you want to be set free from working here?" "Yes please," she said, politely. "You may go," he said. And so Leia soon disappeared into the forest. She would rather live with Silas. Nobody ever knew that it was Leia who had saved the king.

Leia now lives with Silas. If you ever want to see them, go to planet Cruton and walk to the nearest forest. Then, whisper their names. I promise you, they will come.

Name: Aida A