

# PANI MAČKA

## -Miss Cat-

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Once upon a time an old and rich man had three sons. The two elder ones deemed themselves to be smarter than the youngest one. The old man wanted to split his heritage between his boys, so they wouldn't fight after his passing. The same day, he called them and announced:

“You'll inherit this, you this and you that.” But the elder sons wanted to leave the youngest empty-handed, so they argued with their father until he said: “All right then, I'm sending all of you into the world and the one who'll return after a year with the most beautiful clothes, will get everything.”

*Thus their journey began.*

The roads split and everyone went on their own. Torns and rocks – this is the road our young boy was left on while the other two went threw a smoothed roads and found a job in castles.

The young boy was travelling and travelling when he saw a black cat. It came to him to get pats and then ran back suggesting he follows while it guides the way. Going after the black ball of hair they arrived before an unknown castle. It slipped threw the gate with the boy behind it. Everything was empty, room after room, just dead silent. Not event the souls of the dead that once lived there.

In one room he found a table with all kinds of food served for one. So he sat down and started to have a feast with the silence and a glass of wine. After the last slice of meat and the last gulp of a wine the door opened and the black cat came in.





„Welcome! Welcome at my place! Fear not. I know what happened and what you’re after. I’ll give you eat each day and even the prettiest clothes, but you must obey me! Every morning I’ll wake you up before the dawn. You will go to the forest nearby and bring a branch from there and beat me with it until I won’t jump up on the door handle. That’s how every day shall be. Tha’s all your job.

„But my dear miss cat, why would I beat you when you never wronged me.“  
„Whatever, you don’t have to if you don’t want to. However you won’t get the clothes you need.“



After that he agreed. And so it went like she demanded. He felt sorry for her but did as she wanted. I mean what else was our boy supposed to do? The whole year went by and she gave him clothes made of gold. He put them underneath the torn ones and went home. He was laughed at when he met his brothers, but he didn’t say a word. Their old man was disappointed of the youngest. Tho they changed their minds after he showed them the golden ones. The elders felt emberrassed and figured he’s the winner. Bu the father announced.

„That’s not enough. Go on a journey again and bring the best horse!“

And they went again. Miss Cat was already waiting for the young boy. She took him to the castle, served him food and suggested him the same work in return of the best horse. The year repeated, with everything the old way. At the end he left with a starved-looking horse.

But there was a little trick, you see, when you pat him he turned into a steed with a golden mane.

The young boy once again exceeded his brother’s expectations and won again. But as it goes in fairy tales, it wasn’t enough yet.

“You must,” says the old man giving them a last request, “go into the world once more. The one who brings the most beautiful bride will inherit everything!“

They all went on their own. Miss Cat was waiting as usual to lead the youngest to the castle. “I know what you need, if you do like the past two years I’ll grant you a bride you won’t be ashamed of.“



“Wake up. Your brothers are returning home with their brides. Today, you won’t beat me with a branch. Instead take this axe to cut down some wood you’ll bring to the courtyard. Also cut off some arrows along the way. Come tell me when you’re finished.“

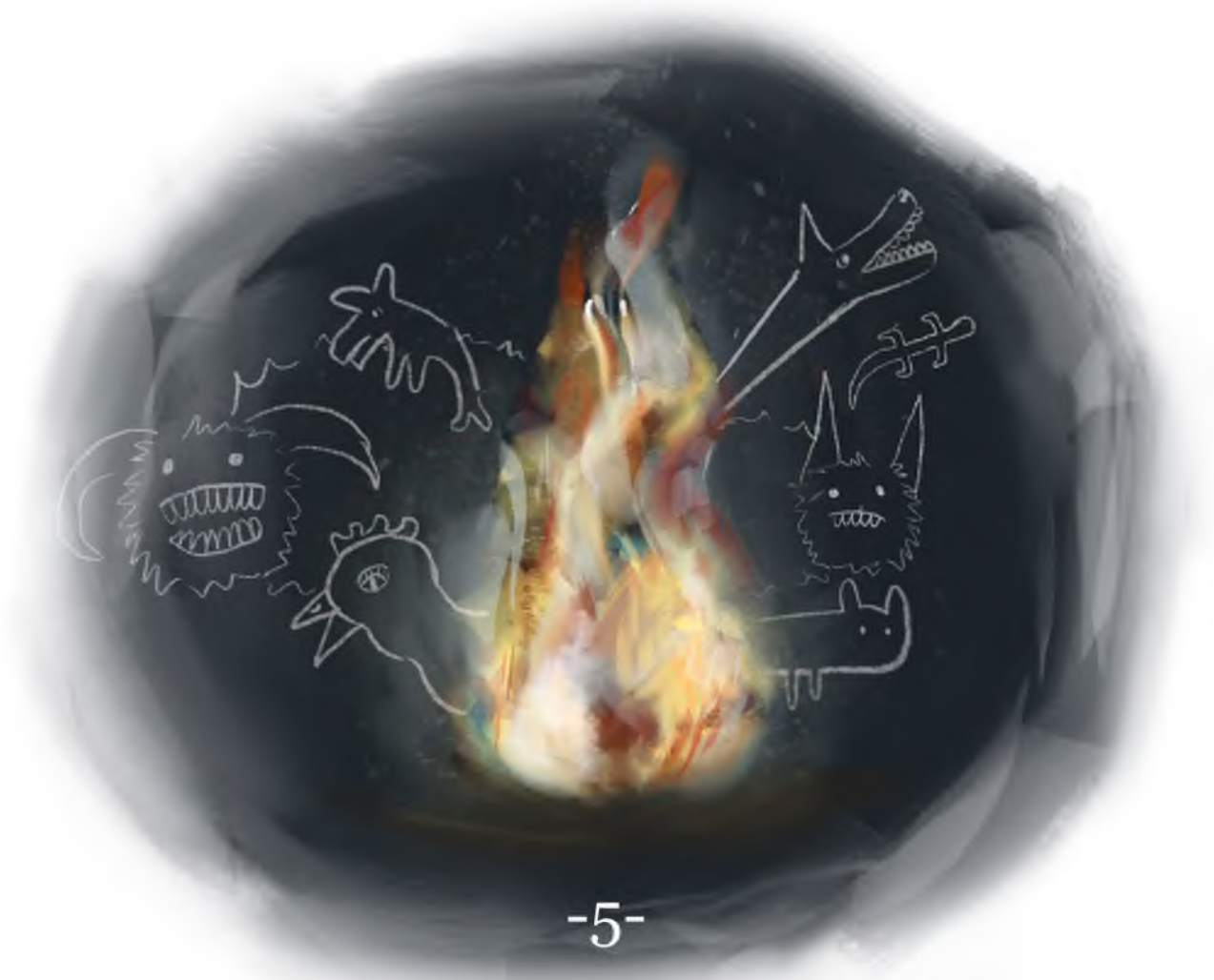
After the job was done he came to tell the dear Miss Cat.

“Good. Now listen closely. Take that sword and cut me into three pieces. Put me on top of the pile of wood and set it on fire. After it burns to ash all kinds of creatures will jump out, you’ll have to shot them with arrows, don’t worry, they’ll disappear. The last one to appear will be a great toad with keys in it’s mouth. It will take more to get rid of that one, but you just keep on beating and cutting it. When you succeed, take the key and oper this door. Now take the sword and do as I said.”

His hands trembled. “Ach, but how could I do that to you?”

“Cut me or else you won’t get your bride!” she screams.

What was he supposed to do? He snatched the sword and cut the dear Miss Cat. Set on the fire and her body burned to ash. Then the creatures jumped out. Then the toad appeared, but he kept on cutting. He took the keys and opened the door where a charming girl waited.



“Thank you! Thank you that you saved me.”

Then the girl explained that her father was a king, but she was left on her own after he died. There came a witch insisting she marries her son, but she declined. She was cursed to be a cat for her rejection. But now she doesn't have to be afraid because that toad was the witch that he rescued her from.

“So if you'd like, I'd gladly be your bride.”

The young boy was happy to agree. Then all the people came thanking him for rescuing them and the young princess. That same day they organized a breathtaking wedding.

After that a carriage harnessed by four horses took them back to the old man.

The one who the old man deemed to be the most beautiful one was the princess, thus the young boy won for the third time.

“My son, three times you showed us that you're the most suitable heir to the property, I leave everything to you.”

“Thank you father, but I have enough of everything. What you're leaving for me, I gladly give to my brothers. May they live here in peace and you my dear father, are going with us to our castle.”





# Thanks for reading!



Source:

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