



The Queen of butterflies  
Short stories  
by  
Yassmin El-Nazer

Edited by  
Mona Al-Gharabawy

*Dedication*

*To all of my  
friends and  
readers to you on  
my 1<sup>st</sup> book 2<sup>nd</sup>  
anniversary on  
the Egyptian love  
day to you*

*Special thanks to*

*Mona Al*

*Gharbawy*

*Marwa Rakha*

*The Queen of  
Butterflies*

*Short stories  
collection*

*By*

*Dr/ Yassmin*

*El-Nazer*

*Edited by :*

*Mona*

*Al-Gharabawy*

## Preface

*A story is a tiny  
miracle of life, a  
small gift to man  
from GOD to keep a  
piece of his  
innocence and  
imagination.*

*A story is capable of  
carrying us to a*

*totally different  
imaginary,  
magnificent world.*

*In just a minute,  
through a story, one  
may get a solution for  
the most difficult  
problem ever, or feel  
inspired by a tiniest  
detail in the story.*

*Stories are a whole*

*world where one can  
forget himself  
through several  
phases of  
imagination by  
sharing this small  
collection I hope I am  
capable to carry you  
to different worlds  
with every story.*

*Enjoy your Reading*

*Yassmin El-Nazer*

**The city of  
colors**



"Hello princess", a  
tiny voice is  
whispering.

Princess! She  
wondered, unsure  
she's awake yet. She

opened her eyes, to find herself in a different place.

“Yes, you are our princess of the day”

Princess of what, and who are you?

I am the color red, the color of passion and blood.

Yes I know you but how?!

You want to know how I am able to talk.



Yes, indeed you are  
just a color.

Yes but I am a color  
in the city of colors,  
so I am an individual  
over here

The city of colors?

Yes and now you are  
our princess.

How come? I fear  
colors, I hardly use  
them!

We know that, that is  
why they sent me;  
they know that you

usually choose me  
when you start  
coloring.

Yes, Red, that is true  
you are the closest to  
my heart with all your  
degrees.

Look, we are trying to  
take away your fear,  
from colors and let  
your fingers and  
drawing soul return to  
us, and color your  
life, so we decided to  
make you our  
princess in our city  
for the day.

So what are the  
Princess  
responsibilities in the  
city of colors?

Well, my princess  
allow me first to take  
you on a tour around?

She could not believe  
that she is going to be  
the princess of colors  
for a day, while she in  
fact she fears the  
colors.

She walked along,  
and Red kept showing  
her around all colors

degrees: "See, the sun  
set, Watch the ocean  
& the sea, Look up to  
the sky, Smell every  
flower touch their  
leaves." She could  
not

believe the numerous  
degrees of natural  
colors. She entered  
the room that  
contained all her  
black and white  
drawings, she looked  
at each drawing, and  
magically thought of  
a color degree, and  
with her finger's tip

she filled in the spaces. She thought of herself as the princess of colors indeed.

She realized that a picture is much brighter in colors and wondered if she could do the same magical coloring touch in her real life?

She woke up finding herself surrounded by many colors' boxes.

She smiled and whispered:

Ok, Red I promise to  
start adding some  
colors to my life.



## The cursed clown



Smile, smile, for  
GODs' sake can't  
you?

What's the matter  
with you? Don't you  
know what your job  
is?

I know, I know  
then smile, you fool,  
how you are supposed  
to make people laugh,  
while you can't even  
smile yourself!  
I'm trying, I'm trying

This was the daily  
usual conversation  
heard in this circus  
between the manager  
and the poor cursed,



frowned-face clown.

The clown was  
thinking, so what!  
I am cursed with a  
frown, and forced to  
be a clown, what can I  
do?

The clown cried and  
tears drew lines on his  
face make up.

Suddenly a child  
dashed into the room  
“ha ha ha” the child  
giggled. What are  
you laughing at? The  
clown wondered.

The kid answered:  
“you”, innocently.  
The child kept trying  
to change the clowns'  
frown by pulling his  
lips up and squeezing  
his cheeks but nothing  
worked out.

What are you trying  
to do?

Trying to make you  
happy, the kid said,  
The clown slightly  
smiled. Yet he felt  
sadder, the clown  
then, got an idea  
Why not use this kid  
in his show?

What? You want a kid  
to take part in the  
show? Are you out of  
your mind? You think  
this is a circus?

The clown bluntly  
answered, it is really  
a circus.

The manager shut up  
and agreed.

The audience loved  
the show and laughed  
a lot at the frowning  
clown.

Yet one day the clown  
realized that  
people laugh at his

sadness but they  
never thought to ask  
what are the reasons  
and the reality behind  
his frowning face.

The clown said to  
himself: I can't take  
this anymore,  
spending my life  
cheering people up  
and making them  
laugh, while my  
frowning never  
vanishes.

I've to quit this job.  
The clown decided  
not to be anyone's  
clown anymore

and to find someone  
who'd give him an  
eternal smile and  
laugh with him not at  
him.

I am no longer a  
clown to entertain  
people.

I've to live for myself.

Well, don't we all  
need to live for  
ourselves?

## The flowerless castle



They were deeply in love, he used to give her flowers, every day, knowing how much she adores them. He never revealed to her the fact that he was seriously ill. He was

the Castle's prince  
where they lived.

One day he was  
giving her the usual  
bunch of flowers, his  
face suddenly turned  
into colors, she was  
scared not knowing  
what was really  
wrong, he held her  
hand and said: I love  
you and my soul will  
always be looking  
after you, don't leave  
my castle.

She spent her life  
living lonely in her

castle with the  
memory of his deep  
love

She decided to  
remove all existing  
flowers from the  
garden, and ordered  
not to plant anymore.  
She prohibited having  
any flower inside the  
castle or anything that  
carries a flower sign  
or picture. One day  
she got really ill,  
lonely as she is,  
isolated from the  
whole world, her



servants could not do anything but to contact her only sister.

Her sister came with her kids. She had one little lovely daughter named Ellen, who was as fond of flowers as her aunt used to be long ago, so she took a bouquet of flowers to her aunt. The moment, she entered her aunt's room and tried to hand her aunt Nadine

the bouquet, Nadine collapsed and kept on screaming and crying while Ellen could not understand what has she done wrong. Nadine took the flowers ripped & shredded them completely. Among the flowers there was a Sun Flower whose seeds flew and rested on the window's edge, which was muddy from last night's rain. The seeds rested there and got planted.

Ellen was so frightened & kept crying hysterically, so her mother took her away while the doctor gave Nadine a tranquilizer injection to make her calm down and sleep.

The next morning, Ellen gently entered the room, kissed her aunt's cheek and sat silently watching her. Nadine opened her eyes to find her niece by her side, she tried

to smile but the pain was so unbearable that she could not even talk. Ellen patted her and said I am sorry auntie I did not mean to make you angry. But why you hate flowers that much? Do they give you a red nose and pink ears like they do to my friend? This time Nadine smiled and tears ran on her face, she held Ellen's hands and kissed them. Ellen went to

call her mother who gave Nadine her medications. Ellen was still wondering, but that night before going to bed, she prayed for a miracle for her aunt to be cured and start to like flowers again. The next morning the miracle arrived, when opening the window at Nadine's room, Lisa Nadine's sister found the whole castle fence full of sun flowers. She

could not believe it, how did this happen? Ellen came in and stared at the lovely view; she reached over for a flower and took it to her aunt. Auntie get up, look, look, what happened look how pretty this flower is. Nadine was surprised by the view. She took the flower and smelled it, surprisingly she felt so fresh and healthy. She asked for the doctor, who came and

took a sample from her and later the analysis showed that the miracle arrived from GOD and that the pollen of the flowers did cure Nadine's chest from an undiagnosed disease. They could not believe it, but it was the flower's power, and since that day the flowerless castle became the castle of flowers. Ellen and Nadine kept planting all types of





## *The butterflies Queen*



In her sleep, she was dreaming a sweet dream; she had wings and could fly away along with the birds and butterflies. Suddenly she felt

something touching her nose, she opened her eyes, to see a very pretty big butterfly with the colors black and orange, one that she has never seen like it before, she kept still and quite while the butterfly was moving on her hand, slowly she raised her hand, surprisingly she heard a voice saying: Oh how pretty she is, how soft her skin is and fair, I wish I was

a human so that she  
can feel me.



The butterfly was  
now moving on her  
shoulder & somehow  
she felt a slight sting.  
The butterfly was

now resting on her  
lips, and again she  
heard a voice: oh how  
soft her lips are,  
cherry red better than  
a rose, now I'll taste  
those lips wishing  
she'd feel my kiss, she  
felt sweet nectar on  
her lips, it was like  
magic. She kept  
telling herself this  
must be part of her  
dream as this can't be  
true. She felt  
something strange  
was happening, she  
raised her arm and

screamed, as her arms were colored like a monarch, few seconds later, she felt something on her head, it was a thin crown with a shiny butterfly in its middle. She noticed that her body was covered now with a soft dress made of flowers and butterflies wings and she was too scared, Not knowing what's happening to her, her arms are still changing into colors.

She realized that her arms are turning into butterfly wings but big ones, and suddenly she was surrounded by butterflies and the big black and orange one was leading them and they carried her up and she heard a voice that was talking to her, "don't worry my queen we selected you to be our queen, 'The Queen of Butterflies'.

*A day at the Cairo  
Opera House*

(A true personal  
story)



Sometimes you'd pass  
through a day that  
you'd think it's the  
worst day in your life,  
a day that you'll never  
forget through all  
your life, a day that

you thought wouldn't  
end but suddenly  
everything changes &  
that day becomes one  
of the best days in  
your life. I'll tell now  
you how my day was.

One day my friend  
& I decided to go to  
the opera to watch a  
ballet show, we were  
too thrilled and  
happy, cause we  
wanted to watch it  
long ago but there  
was no way to do it,  
so it was like a dream  
for us, we decided at



last to fulfill that  
small dream and went  
to the last show.

On the big day we  
were too excited and  
ready but  
unfortunately the day  
started an unpleasant  
start, as I got a bad  
score, was depressed  
and decided to cancel  
going to the show.

But everyone  
reminded me how I  
longed to go to that  
show. So I tried to  
ignore anything that

would spoil my day,  
but by the time my  
friend and I were  
supposed to be on our  
way to the opera, my  
friend was late due to  
a doctor's  
appointment, we were  
late and it was too  
difficult to find  
transportation, so we  
were again late. As  
soon as we arrived to  
the opera I fell on my  
knees and got hurt,  
then we found out that  
the tickets window  
closed 5 minutes

before our arrival and  
there was no way to  
find tickets, we were  
too sad not believing  
what we went through  
all that day. Suddenly  
some security men  
asked us to wait and  
not to leave we were  
surprised, yet they  
came back with two  
tickets in his hand  
saying these tickets  
were for other  
security men who  
didn't show up and as  
the show has already  
started 15 minutes

ago so they returned  
back the tickets to us.  
We wanted to pay for  
the tickets but they  
refused and told us it  
was a small gift for  
two girls who really  
seem to love art, they  
noticed my hurt leg  
and allowed us to use  
the elevator, and  
showed us our seats.

The show was  
marvelous, the  
ballerinas were  
awesome, the clothes  
were too elegant, the  
dancing movements

were too organized,  
they were dancing as  
butterflies, it was like  
a dream to us, and we  
wished for the show  
not to ever end. It was  
really great.

On our way out the  
security men greeted  
us and checked if  
someone was going to  
take us home because  
it was late, my friend  
is a foreigner and was  
amazed of how our  
people are too kind,  
generous and helpful.

I was too proud of our  
country& what those  
security men did, they  
were too noble and  
gentle to us, they  
made up our day  
which was really  
awful but they turned  
it to one of the best  
days in our lives.

I am so grateful for  
them and they have  
given me an  
unforgettable &  
extraordinary day,  
and every time I am  
in the Opera, I keep

recalling that day.

***Winter changed  
its' mind***



One day the seasons had a meeting and each season talked about his role in life. Each explained their specified & preferable time of the year and



why that time was  
picked. The winter  
was too proud of  
himself, but was  
pretty tired and bored,  
He said: Well  
everyone I'm too tired  
and I think it's time  
for me to take a rest  
and let spring start.

Spring answered: it  
will be my pleasure of  
course but are you  
sure of your decision?

Winter: Yes indeed  
I'm handing you

responsibilities in  
front of all others.

The very next day  
Winter started  
collecting his things,  
preparing to leave this  
year. Spring started  
preparing to take  
over. The weather  
started to be a little  
warmer and the Sun  
started to shine, the  
next day Winter  
totally left and spring  
appeared with the  
beauty it brings, so  
plants and roses

started to bloom everywhere. Everyone was very happy with the early start of spring.

A few days later Winter felt better and got bored again, it thought: Why don't I return to this year and get few more days of it?

Winter decided to return and as a result the weather suddenly turned gloomy and rainy, surprisingly

snow started to fall  
everywhere. Everyone  
was astonished;  
spring was taken by  
surprise and  
wondered what to do.  
When winter blew his  
cold breeze, Spring  
confronted him: What  
do you think you are  
doing?

Winter answered:  
what is wrong what  
have I done? I gave  
you few days of mine  
and now I'm taking  
them back.

Spring: You can't  
take back what you  
have given, as this is  
not a game. This is  
life, people have  
already  
accommodated  
themselves to the fact  
that I'm here and have  
forgotten you totally,  
and now all of a  
sudden you come out  
of nowhere and  
change their lives  
head over heels. I  
have to call all the  
seasons for a meeting  
and judge you.

Winter: Well I do not care, do whatever you want I'm the strongest season and I can do whatever I want and till you gather I'll be free and do whatever I want and no one can stop me.

Spring said: Well brother you are mistaken you are not the strongest, there is someone stronger than you.

Winter: Who is that?

Spring answered: The  
one who created us  
all, the one who can  
make you disappear,  
He is GOD.

## *The taxi*



She took a taxi and all of a sudden found herself passing through a very dark alley when the taxi stopped and asked her to step out. Alone in she stood, she ran and did not stop running. She was scared like



hell, not knowing where she was. From the far path some cars lights appeared, she got even more scared feeling trapped, she stood still shivering by the old, shabby wall, and then she saw a ladder, without thinking she climbed it and knocked at the door the ladder lead to. A very handsome young man opened it, and without hesitation he pulled her to his strong arms, hugged

her so tight,  
whispering in her  
ears: 'here you are my  
darling I've waited for  
you for a very long  
time, oh, my love I am  
your charming prince.  
And then she woke  
up.

*The land of the  
long lost*



I opened the radio and  
heard the well known  
deep voice of the  
announcer talking  
about, the land of the  
long lost and how we  
should return to it by

our minds. It made me think of so many things. Things that I never wanted to lose but I lost, things that suddenly disappeared from my life and I lost their trace. I closed my eyes and entered the dream phase, where suddenly I found myself in a very weird island full of old stuff from every kind, even pets and plants. I realized that I was standing on what is

called: the land of the  
long lost. I could not  
believe I was really  
there. I started  
looking for the things  
I lost. I did not  
understand why I  
failed to find my lost  
belongings here.  
I saw an old man  
approaching and was  
surprised by his  
appearance, he called  
for me to come closer,  
he asked: What are  
you doing here my  
child?  
I answered: looking

for some things that I  
long lost.

The old man asked:

Tell me what the  
things you have lost.

Me: Long lost friends,  
feelings that I miss  
feeling them and once  
had them in my heart.

The old man asked if  
I was serious.

I assured him I was.

He answered saying:  
but this is not the  
place for you.

Me: then where I can  
find them?

The old man: Look

deeply in your heart  
and soul and you will  
find the feelings  
buried waiting for you  
to give them life  
again. As for friends  
look for them in your  
real world, those  
whom you've lost  
long ago you can still  
track them and get  
them back into your  
life if they are willing  
to.

Me: You are right, but

Who are you?

The old man: I am  
time my dear. I am

the one who erases  
memories, hurt, pain.  
I am the one who  
clean the land of the  
old lost. If people  
never remember what  
they long lost, I erase  
it forever and they  
will never remember  
it again.

Go my child and  
return what you long  
lost before you forget  
them and can never  
get them back.

I woke up to find  
myself sleeping in my  
room holding my old



phone book; I  
grabbed the phone  
and started the  
journey to find long  
lost friends.

*(INSPIRED BY THE WORDS  
OF THE ANNOUNCER IN  
CAIRO EUROPEAN  
SERVICE: OSAMA KAMAL.  
MANY THANKS TO HIM.)*

*The ballerina  
shoes*



I am so depressed, she  
told him, and I need  
to retreat to my own  
self for a while. You

know I am going to  
attend a ballet show.

He was surprised, a  
ballet show?

Yes, what is wrong  
with that, I can see  
you are so much  
surprised.

Uhh, nothing  
especially that it is  
very rare to meet  
someone who likes  
ballet shows.

It was one of my un-  
accomplished  
dreams?

Your unaccomplished  
dreams!! Did you  
wish to be a ballerina?

Yes, one of my  
dreams is to wear  
those delicate ballet  
shoes.

Oh sweetie, I always  
see you as a ballerina,

with your softness  
and tenderness.

She appreciated his  
compliment, even  
though she doubted it.

After a while,

How was the show  
dear? Are you feeling  
better now?

Yes, much better,  
ballet shows are  
always like sweet  
dreams to me.

I am glad you feel  
that way my love,  
now open your door.

She opened the door,  
a box was placed on  
its entrance wrapped  
with a pink silk  
ribbon.

She opened it to find  
a pink delicate ballet  
shoes and a card  
saying: To my  
beloved ballerina,  
here are the shoes you

never got the chance  
to wear. She smiled,  
and touched the pink  
ballet shoes ribbons,  
and while passing her  
fingers on them she  
opened her eyes and  
the dream ended with  
his voice ringing in  
her ears.

She sighed, she  
thought of how much  
she wishes to hear his  
voice and enjoys his  
care, but it was just a  
dream which simply  
ended there.

*The books fairy*



He does not know of  
your existence

Yes he does



You are just a fool

No real man would  
fall in love with you

No, you are the fool,  
he has known of my  
existence ever since  
he has been a kid, and  
I always visited him  
in his dreams and if  
he realizes my  
existence he will love  
me even more.

You fool, no use of  
talking to you or  
wasting my time in  
advising you

A voice came from  
the other room: Girls,  
girls, why are you  
arguing?

Nothing mother fairy  
it's just that this dull  
book fairy.....

Hush, hush, the book  
fairy silenced her  
sister by covering her  
mouth

Nothing mom we are  
arguing over a weight  
problem

Ok, a girl, watching her weight is a good matter.

The book's fairy didn't sleep that night, she kept thinking of him, the first time he held a book, and how she was by his side helping him to recognize the letters, the first word he spelled, and now the text books he reads. How much she adores everything he writes, his complicated

science essays or the  
poems of his  
mysterious unbound  
love

She knew that now he  
is sleeping as usually  
she does not leave his  
bed side till he  
finishes the novel he  
was reading. How  
romantic he is,  
reading passionately a  
romantic novel of two  
lovers who lived  
worlds apart and  
unlike Romeo and  
Juliet they lived

happily ever after, she thought of going to his bed side again and watch him but she realized the best idea is to go wait for him at the library knowing what book he intends to read.

Early and lonely as usual he headed to the library anxious to live his new adventure between the pages of the book he was intending to read, he picked the ancient

legendary book  
dreaming of all the  
adventures it carries,  
wishing one day he  
could live a love  
story and be a hero  
like the ones in the  
one thousand and one  
nights. He dreamed of  
being "Shahriar"  
falling in love with  
the charming smart  
"Shehrzad". The  
book fairy also had  
her own dream, the  
dream to be a human  
being & falling in  
love with him to

fulfill his Shahriar  
dream.

Suddenly, a soft voice  
interrupted their  
dreams: "Excuse me,  
I wonder if you are  
planning to borrow  
the "*One thousand  
and one nights*"  
because I longed to  
read it for a long time  
now, and it is always  
borrowed or someone  
is living between the  
its legendary, pages  
now I wonder if I can

finally live the  
adventure in it.

He could not utter a  
single word he was  
dazzled by her  
shinning eyes, bright  
smile and mostly the  
softest angelic voice  
he has ever heard, all  
he could do was just  
hand her the book  
when their fingers  
brused, she felt as if  
she was electrified  
and the book fell from  
her hands they both  
bent to grab it and



their eyes met in a magical moment. She thanked him, took the book and left, they had no chance to be introduced but he realized that he had to know her name. He ran to the front office asking about the name of the last borrower of the legendary book surprisingly he found that her name was "Shehrazad".

The fairy noticed that the pretty princess

who dazzled the young man looked like her, she felt bitterness, but could not help being happy for him. She decided to follow the book and whisper to the girl to be back again to the library and talk to him, and she did.

And a love story emerged, and tied two hearts together. The fairy book realized that her role in life is to play Cupid to

entwine the hearts of  
real human beings.



## *The land of hearts*



Once upon a time, in  
an island called (the  
land of hearts),  
5 hearts lived for  
ages: Happy, Broken,  
Lonely,  
Confused & Selfish.  
One morning they had  
a conversation:  
Lonely: Oh I wish I  
had company ,I wish

to fall in love.

Broken : Please don't  
wish for something  
you don't know its  
consequences.

Happy: Don't say that  
look at me, I'm happy  
because I fell in love.

Broken: Speak about  
yourself, look at me  
sad & broken because  
I fell  
in love.

Confused : Now, now  
that's why I'm  
confused , I want to  
fall in love and be  
happy yet I'm afraid

to be broken .  
Selfish: No one  
deserves to be loved,  
just love yourself.  
They stood silent for a  
moment not knowing  
who's right.

Then a voice broke  
the silence  
*'Love is never  
harmful, if you find  
your true love you'll  
be happy forever,  
even if you love the  
wrong person and get  
hurt still someday  
you'll find your true  
love who'll cure your*

*hurt and make you  
happy and your  
previous experience  
will teach you to know  
your true love from  
the wrong one, it'll  
teach you to get over  
your pain and start  
over again.'*

They all screamed in excitement: Yes, yes that's true ,that's the right answer, they wondered who was speaking.

They asked: But who are you?

The voice answered:  
I'm the one who  
passed throughout all  
your stages and  
learned a lot from this  
journey.

I'm the "Wise" heart.



## The little bird



Fly away little bird,  
spread your wings  
and fly up, up high.  
The little bird was  
learning to fly  
fighting to fall, he  
keeps trying and

trying, he is never  
bored nor  
surrendering. At last  
the bird succeeds, He  
flies up there enjoying  
the blue sky, races  
through the clouds,  
sings with the wind,  
then slows down to  
the earth to reach  
back a rose, he sees a  
girl smelling the rose,  
while a butterfly was  
dancing around in  
perfect harmony. He  
looks around and  
realizes the beauty  
and peacefulness of

nature, the girl  
advised him " Little  
Bird enjoy your  
freedom, pray for me  
that one day I will the  
freedom of a heart,  
freedom of will, the  
freedom to dream  
without fear ,the  
freedom to speak  
without being scared,  
just for me pray little  
bird. Pray for me that  
one day my soul  
would be roaming up  
there with you, how  
pretty, how pure you  
look, I wonder why

would man thinks of  
killing such a  
peaceful soul? Are  
you the one who  
comes to my window  
every morning to  
wake me up? You  
know I miss you  
when you don't show  
up, and wonder if you  
were ever harmed.  
Take care little bird,  
many people like to  
kill and destroy to  
destroy & break  
other's joy and pretty  
surroundings. Do not  
be scared, in your

heart you've the  
strength of a million  
soldiers, live your life  
as you should always  
be and let what will  
be will just be and do  
not forget to pray for  
him and me.

## The veil



Once upon a time, in  
Alexandria “one of

Egypt's governorates" lived a man with his two little daughters. Nora his eldest daughter who was 7, while Eman was 5. The father, Amin, was a fisherman, who lived by the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, everyday he would go fishing with his fellow fishermen, on one of the big boats, and by the end of the day he would sell the fish keeping aside some pieces to

feed his family. The Mediterranean Sea was the only home they knew, breathing the fresh air around, the waves sparkling tiny drops on their faces, the sea shells kept their secrets. The only music they heard was the sound of the waves hitting sea shore. They were poor, yet happy, with the little they had. When the girls return from school, they split the home chores,



Nora cooks, and Eman tides the small hut that contained poor & very few pieces of furniture. The girls waited for their father until he is back, to eat together, and talk about their day. After lunch the girls do their school assignments, then help their father in fixing and knitting the fishing nets. One day when Amin was selling his fish in the market, he noticed a

woman selling  
colored veils which  
were knitted with  
shiny beads that  
formed the word  
'Alexandria' in Arabic  
handwriting. With no  
hesitation Amin,  
bought a navy one,  
hurried to the hut to  
show it to the girls,  
who loved the veil  
and decided to take it  
to their bed that night,  
and day after day they  
would take it  
everywhere with  
them.

Another fisherman family lived, some distance far away from Alexandria, in another small island in the Mediterranean Sea. Tony's family lived in Crete, Tony lived with Sarah his wife, and his two little daughters, Celia who is 6 and Lisa who is 8. They were a poor family, shut in a small world of their own, never realizing or aware that on the same share, another

life, and another culture exists.

Tony's family led the same life, as Amin's, they shared the same sea, fresh air, and waves music, but Tony has Sarah the wife to take care of the house chores and their two little girls.

The news about global warming was spreading between the fishermen in both regions. People were worried to hear how

the oceans and seas would over flood if the poles started to melt, many islands may vanish, along with the sea shores. The fishermen heard about Tsunami and of what happened in the Bahamas, and they were all wondering about global warming but no one ever expected that huge strong earthquake that suddenly hit the Mediterranean Sea.

A sudden strong earthquake hit the Mediterranean Sea and shook the shores of both Alexandria and Crete. In Alexandria, Eman and Nora were at school, while their father was at the market selling his fish as usual, when the earthquake hit, and the waves were too high and swamped the shore and their hut drawn by the waves carrying away their veil into

the sea. Everything was destroyed, everyone was acting in panic, no one knew who was alive or who was hurt. The fishermen were running in all directions to look for their families and try to save them. Luckily Amin & Tony families were all saved, but lost their homes.

The fishermen in both sides lost nearly all

ships and they could hardly think of sailing or fishing, they didn't know what to do, and both wondered if there were others who encountered the same fate. Amin and his fellow fishermen decided to build a new huge boat so that they would take turns on sailing and fishing. The very same idea crossed the fishermen's minds in Crete and while they were discussing it, the



knitted veil with  
beads landed in  
Crete's shore, Lisa,  
Tonys' young  
daughter saw it and  
run to collect, she  
carried it to her  
mother with  
happiness, the veil  
was so wet, yet  
everyone wondered  
about the meaning of  
the embroidered  
word. They looked for  
the old man in the  
area who explained  
them its meaning.  
Tony & his friends

the fishermen  
wondered how the  
Alexandrian  
fishermen dealt with  
the catastrophe and  
decided to sail as soon  
as they finish their  
ship to the shores of  
Alexandria. They  
wanted to explore the  
lives of their sea  
brothers in another  
land they never knew  
of its existence. Lisa  
insisted in joining her  
father in his journey,  
she wanted to see the  
place of that lovely

veil. Lisa took the veil with her and was dreaming all the way long while the boat carried her and her father to the shores of Alexandria. They couldn't believe the similarity between the two places, the boats, the poor café and every single thing around, looked exactly the same as their island. They headed to the café, where Amin was sitting while his

daughters who were off from school that day were playing around. The girls took sight of Lisa who were carrying their veil and ran to her to ask her how she found it. Lisa was so excited to tell the story and to make friends with them but unfortunately they could not understand each other nor did their fathers, yet they managed to find a translator who helped

them a lot and the fishermen agreed they have to make a good plan to be prepared for the next expected catastrophes since it's the very same sea. They agreed they should consult experts and scientists so Tony and Lisa stayed with Amin's family who was staying with his mother as her hut was not destroyed. The three girls enjoyed their time together, and before Lisa

departure            the  
grandmother        took  
them to the market  
and bought them all  
new veils, she also  
got one for Sarah,  
Tonys' wife and his  
other daughter Celia.

Tony felt so much at  
home when he stayed  
with Amin and his  
family. He learned  
that there are others  
living a very same life  
like his, on the shores  
of the same sea, and  
he promised to live

and tell the story of  
the veil that brought  
two worlds together.

## *The old boat*



Over there on the  
shore, rested an old  
small deserted boat,  
where the waves  
kissed all day long  
and the small scared  
crabs                   hide  
underneath.       Too  
many broken smashed



sea shells were  
around and the waves  
kept carrying more  
sand and sea shells to  
it.

Every day she would  
walk on the shore for  
hours before the sun  
set to smell the sea  
scent, whispering her  
pain to the waves and  
enjoying the salty  
sparkle on her face.  
The birds on shore  
were her friends, she  
felt they were as  
lonely as her. One day

while she was resting on the old boat, she saw a young fisherman approaching, carrying some tools in his hands. She wondered if he is going to fix the old boat but didn't dare to ask and she simply walked away from the boat. He shyly asked for her name, she blushed and whispered "Rose", he whispered: yes, indeed you are, she blushed again and

hurried away realizing she didn't ask him for his name. The next morning he had to go fishing and was thinking of her all the time. He caught sea shell and when he opened it he found a pearl, and was so excited that he made his mind to make a ring for her, a proposal ring. He thought how stupid he is, he was just charmed by her eyes, he know nothing

about her, even her name, and he may not see her again.

The next day, she walked slowly to the old boat and sat looking to the sea expecting him to appear any second but he did not. She was drawing, she drew a heart, an old boat and a fisherman, and she wrote something on the drawing paper and left it in the boat. She took a shell in her

hands and whispered to her secret to her. The shell revealed the secret of love, and letter was there waiting for the fisherman. When he saw the drawing, he remembered that he dreamt of her last night and now that's a sign, she was thinking of him as well. He kept working on the boat and decided to wait for her, to talk to her, to let her know his dreams and hopes.

He'd tell her how he's dreaming of being a university professor, yes no joking, he loves literature and he adores adventure, but what about fishing, well he replied to himself, not realizing that he was speaking in a loud voice, fishing is sort of a family tradition, but I'm well and highly educated, my ambition is way higher than the hobby of fishing because

that's what it is to me.  
He didn't hear  
approaching, and that  
she is now behind  
him, he touched the  
shell, lucky you he  
was talking to the  
shell, she touched,  
and held you. She is  
such a pretty and  
lovely girl, and then  
he could hear her  
moves behind his  
back. He got up  
handed her the shell,  
and the pearl, and  
asked her to sit beside  
him, they sat together

hand in hand and  
were engaged in a  
very long talk all the  
night, waiting for sun  
rise on a new life for  
Rose and Paul.



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