

# The Unhappy Dog

By

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## Plot type: Rebirth

### Stage 1: Dark spell on Protagonist

Once upon a time there was a little girl who lived with her mother in a big castle. They were poor peasants that had been looking for berries when they had stumbled across the castle. The castle was empty when they found it, except for a very large family of cats that walked its halls and chambers. It was as if one day the people that owned it got up and left and never came back.

They had been living in the castle for a while now and still hadn't been in every room for the castle was so big. Today was no other day as they went looking around to see what new treasures they could find. They wandered about and then out of nowhere they came face to face with a large stairway. As they looked up it seemed the stairway went on forever. They started to climb the stairs. It was a long way up. Finally, at the top, they came to a large dark room. As they entered, they saw two round shiny things glowing in the corner of the room. They were a bit scared but also curious and so stepped closer. As they got nearer, they saw that these two shiny things were actually eyes, the eyes of a very big dog. The dog looked sad and lonely; he was also hungry since he only ate the occasional bird that accidentally flew into the castle room. Lying next to dog was a crown. At first the girl and her mother thought that the dog was must have been left behind by the inhabitants of the castle.

### Stage 2: Physical / Spiritual metaphoric prison

They felt sorry for the dog all on his own upstairs in his huge castle room, with no-one to play with and they decided to bring him downstairs. This was rather tricky since he was large, and the steps of the stairway were very narrow. They carefully led the way so that he would not fall. When they finally got the dog downstairs the first thing he did was look around, running from room to room. Suddenly, out of nowhere a cat jumped in front of him. He barked at the cat and chased it through the castle. Funnily enough, he looked rather sad after this, as if he regretted chasing the cat away as he was now lonely again. He seemed to be lonely and being a dog was not helping him make friends. The girl and her mother saw this and took pity upon him and decided to help.

### **Stage 3: Intervention breaks the dark spell**

Over the next few months, they coaxed the dog in to being in the same room as the cats. Day by day they were able to get them a little closer to each other. Until one day, as the girl and her mother were cooking in the large kitchen, the dog walked over to a beautiful grey cat with green eyes and nudged her with his nose. At first, it looked like they were going to fight again but the cat did something very unexpected and pressed her head lovingly into his. They lay down together and seemed to be very happy with each other's company.

Suddenly, a strong gust of wind blew through the castle and for a while you couldn't see anything at all. When the wind died down the girl and her mother suddenly saw that the cats and the dog had become people. They were princesses, princes, maidens and where the grey cat had been lying was a beautiful queen with grey hair and green eyes.

### **Stage 4: They live happily ever after.**

It turned out that one day a witch who regularly visited the castle to sell her wares had once again witnessed the King picking fights with his wife (the grey cat) and the rest of his court and was so saddened by this that she had put a spell on them that they became fighting cats & dogs. The spell could only be broken if they could get along again. They were all so happy and also very grateful towards the girl and her mother for helping them and the King promised he would never ever fight again as he had realised that he had been so lonely as a dog and never wanted to feel like that again. As thanks, they let the girl & her mother stay as guests of honour for as long as they wanted to stay. And they all lived happily ever after..

## Lesson to be learned

Appreciate those around you and be kind.

## Chosen Elements

1. Castle
2. Goodness
3. Royalty
4. Spell
5. Witch

## Literary Elements

### Plot summary:

A girl and her mother find an empty castle in the forest. They live there happily until one day they stumble across a dark stairway leading all the way up into the top of the castle. At the top lives a large lonely dog. It turns out that the old dog is actually the previous King who lived in the castle and who was turned into the dog by a witch one day because he was always arguing with the rest of his castle inhabitants. The witch had turned the rest of the inhabitants into cats, so that they would stay away from the dog. The girl and her mother teach the cats to like the dog and when that works the spell is broken and they all turn back to their normal selves. Everyone is happy, the King is grateful and never fights with his court again and the girl and her mother get to stay in the castle as guests for as long as they wish.

### Setting:

A Castle in a forest

### Characters:

**Protagonist:** Dog

**Antagonist:** The dark spell

**Redemption** figures: Girl & her mother

### Conflict:

The dog & the cats need to get along so that the dog is not lonely. The girl and her mother help them.

### Resolution:

The girl & her mother help the dog and cats to find a way to be friends and the spell is broken