

The Ruby Gate



Yavuz DEMİRKIRAN

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Prince Leo lived in a castle on a hill. He was ten years old, with light skin, freckles, and short wavy chestnut hair. His bright green eyes sparkled with curiosity. He wore a cream tunic with gold trim and a red sash. A simple gold circlet rested on his head. One sunny morning, Leo decided to explore the castle wall.



As Leo walked along the wall, he spotted something shiny between the stones. It was a small gate made of deep red stone that sparkled like a ruby. Leo had never seen it before. He pushed the gate, and it creaked open. Beyond it, tall weeds and wild flowers swayed in the breeze. He stepped through, his heart beating fast.



Behind the ruby gate lay a secret garden. Vines twisted around broken statues, and moss covered the cracked paths. Leo saw a stone bench and a dry fountain. 'This place is full of history,' said a voice. It was Old Gardener Finn, with his straw hat and round spectacles. 'Long ago, kingdoms met here to make peace,' he said.



Leo's eyes grew wide. 'Kingdoms met here?' he asked. Finn nodded. 'Yes, this garden was a place of friendship. Rulers came from far and wide to talk and share ideas. But over time, people forgot about it. The weeds took over, and the gate was closed.' Leo looked around and felt a tug at his heart. He wanted to bring the garden back to life.



The next day, Leo returned with a plan. He pulled on his gloves and started pulling weeds. It was hard work, and the sun was hot. But Leo was determined. He clipped vines and cleared the paths. Old Gardener Finn helped him. 'You're doing a fine job, Prince Leo,' Finn said. 'This garden will be beautiful again.'



Leo worked for many days. He fixed the fountain so water flowed again. He planted flowers and trimmed the hedges. The secret garden began to shine. One afternoon, Leo found an old stone tablet under a bush. It had words carved into it: 'Here, peace was made. Let friendship grow.' Leo knew he had to share this treasure.



Leo thought about the rulers from nearby kingdoms. He wanted them to see the garden. So he wrote invitations with his best handwriting. 'Please come to a garden party,' he wrote. 'Celebrate our shared history.' He sent the invitations to King Alric, Queen Marisol, and other rulers. Then he waited, hoping they would come.



The day of the party arrived. King Alric was the first to arrive. He was tall and broad, with deep brown skin and a trimmed black beard. He wore a royal blue robe with silver embroidery. 'I remember this garden,' he said. 'My father told me stories about it.' Leo smiled and led him through the ruby gate.



Queen Marisol arrived next. She was graceful, with olive skin and long dark hair in a braided crown. Her emerald green gown shimmered in the sunlight. 'What a wonderful place!' she said. 'I have heard of the peace meetings held here long ago.' Leo showed her the stone tablet. 'We must keep this history safe,' he said.



More guests arrived, and the garden was filled with laughter. Leo gave a tour, showing the fountain and the flowers. King Alric told stories of old peace meetings. Queen Marisol shared how the kingdoms had helped each other. Everyone listened, and Leo felt proud. The ruby gate stood open, welcoming all.



Then Finn brought out a special surprise. He had found an old chest in the garden shed. Inside were letters and drawings from long ago. They showed rulers shaking hands and sharing meals. 'These are treasures,' Leo said. 'We should put them in a museum for everyone to see.' The rulers agreed, and they all cheered.



Leo stood by the fountain and raised his cup. 'To the ruby gate and the secret garden!' he said. 'May we always remember our shared history.' Everyone raised their cups and cheered. King Alric said, 'You have taught us that history is a treasure.' Queen Marisol added, 'And friendship makes it shine.' Leo's freckled face beamed with joy.



The party lasted until sunset. Music played, and children danced. Leo felt happy. He had restored the garden and brought people together. The ruby gate was no longer a secret. It stood open for all to enjoy. And the garden was full of life again, just as it had been long ago.



From that day on, the ruby gate stayed open. People came from near and far to visit the secret garden. Leo often walked there with Finn, learning more about its history. He knew that keeping history safe was important. It helped people remember the past and build a better future. The garden was a treasure for all.



Leo learned that history is not just old stones and dust. It is stories of friendship and peace. The ruby gate reminded everyone that the past can teach us how to live together. Leo smiled as he looked at the garden. He knew he had done something good. And the ruby gate stood open, a symbol of friendship.



So the ruby gate still stands, shiny and red. The secret garden is secret no more. It is a place where kingdoms meet and celebrate their shared past. Leo visits often, and sometimes King Alric and Queen Marisol come too. They sit by the fountain and talk about old times. And the garden grows more beautiful every day.