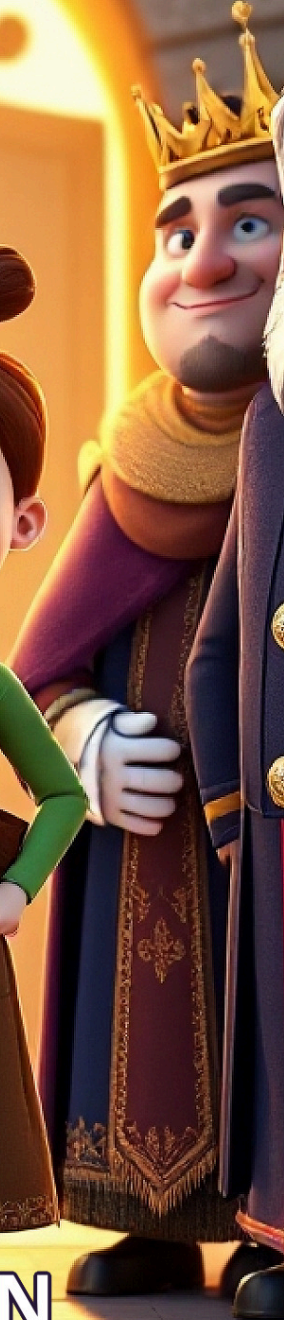


The Unicorn's Secret Hobby



Yavuz DEMİRKIRAN

The Unicorn's Secret Hobby

Yavuz DEMİRKİRAN



In a castle on a sunny hill lived Princess Pearl, a unicorn with a soft white coat and a flowing pink mane. She wore a small silver tiara and a pale blue saddle blanket with gold trim. Everyone expected Pearl to love flowers and dancing. But Pearl had a secret. Under her blanket, she hid a leather tool belt filled with tiny wrenches and screwdrivers.



Each morning, Pearl smiled through garden parties and ballet lessons. She nodded politely when ladies said, 'What a lovely dancer!' But inside, her mind buzzed with gears, springs, and levers. She longed to build and tinker. At night, she slipped away to a hidden workshop behind the royal stables. Only her friend Tobin knew about it.



Tobin was a boy with messy copper hair and a gap-toothed grin. He wore a brown work apron and kept a small wrench in his pocket. Together, they built wonderful inventions: a self-watering flowerpot, a tiny wind-up dragon, and a music box that played silly songs. 'Your talent is amazing, Pearl,' Tobin said. 'Why keep it secret?' Pearl sighed. 'Everyone expects me to be a proper princess.'



One day, the king announced a grand journey to visit a neighboring kingdom. The royal carriage, polished and golden, waited in the courtyard. Queen Rosalind smiled and said, 'Pearl, you will love the dancing at the ball.' King Aldric laughed heartily. 'And the flower parade!' Pearl nodded, but her hooves tingled with worry. She had not finished her latest invention.



As the royal family climbed into the carriage, a loud CRACK echoed through the courtyard. The carriage tilted to one side. The axle had snapped! The horses neighed nervously. King Aldric frowned. 'We cannot travel now!' Queen Rosalind looked worried. 'The journey is so important.' Everyone gathered around, but nobody knew how to fix it.



Pearl's heart pounded. She knew she could fix the axle with her tools. But that meant revealing her secret. She looked at Tobin, who nodded encouragingly. Pearl took a deep breath. 'I can fix it,' she said softly. The king and queen stared. 'You, Pearl?' asked the queen. 'How?' Pearl's voice trembled. 'I have a workshop. I build things.'



The queen's eyes widened. The king raised an eyebrow. 'A workshop?' he said. Pearl led them behind the stables to a small wooden door. She pushed it open, and everyone gasped. The workshop was filled with shelves of gears, springs, and tools. A half-built flying machine hung from the ceiling. Tobin stood proudly by the workbench.



Pearl trotted to her tool belt and strapped it on. She selected a wrench and a screwdriver. 'I need a new axle piece,' she said. Tobin handed her a metal rod. 'I'll help.' Together, they measured, sawed, and tightened. The king and queen watched in amazement as Pearl's delicate hooves moved with skill and speed. She was a natural inventor.



Pearl slid under the carriage and worked carefully. Clank, clank, twist! She replaced the broken axle with a stronger one. Tobin handed her a bolt. 'Almost done!' Pearl called. She tightened the last screw and rolled out. 'Try it now,' she said, her violet eyes shining. The coachman climbed up and gave the wheels a spin. They turned smoothly.



King Aldric clapped his hands. 'Remarkable!' he boomed. Queen Rosalind knelt beside Pearl. 'Why did you hide this from us?' Pearl looked down. 'I thought you wanted a princess who loves flowers and dancing.' The queen hugged her. 'We want a princess who is happy and brave. And you are both!' The king nodded. 'Your talent is a gift.'



The royal family marveled at Pearl's inventions. The self-watering flowerpot kept the queen's roses fresh. The wind-up dragon made the king laugh. 'You must show us everything!' he said. Pearl smiled, her shyness melting away. Tobin cheered. 'I told you they'd love it!' Pearl felt warm and proud. Her secret was out, and it felt wonderful.



From that day on, Pearl's workshop became a favorite place. Queen Rosalind brought tea and asked questions. King Aldric requested a machine that could polish his boots. Pearl happily built it. She even invented a dancing flower that twirled to music. 'See?' said Tobin. 'You can love flowers and gears!' Pearl laughed. 'And dancing too!'



The royal journey was a great success. At the ball, Pearl danced with the other princesses, but she also showed them her tiny wind-up dragon. They were amazed. 'You made this?' they asked. Pearl nodded proudly. 'I'm an inventor.' The king and queen watched with smiles. They knew that Pearl's unusual hobby was a wonderful talent.



Back home, Pearl added a new sign to her workshop: 'Princess Pearl's Inventions.' Tobin painted it in bright colors. 'What will you build next?' he asked. Pearl looked at a pile of gears and springs. 'A machine that helps with garden parties,' she said with a twinkle in her eye. 'So I can dance and build at the same time!'



Queen Rosalind and King Aldric learned an important lesson. They promised never to limit Pearl's interests again. 'Your talent should never be hidden,' said the queen. 'We are proud of you, no matter what you love.' Pearl nuzzled them both. 'Thank you for understanding,' she said. 'I'm glad I don't have to hide anymore.'



Pearl continued to build amazing inventions, and her family cheered her on. She learned that being true to yourself is the best gift of all. And whenever someone said, 'But princesses don't build machines,' Pearl would smile and say, 'This one does!' Her workshop glowed with creativity, and her heart was full of joy.