

**The Birth Mark – By Mehrgol Mansoubi**

**ESLEO Unit: Short Stories**

Once upon a time there was a really beautiful girl who lived with her old dad. Her name was Jane and she had a birthmark on her shoulder in the shape of a heart. Her dad was a baker but he could not work well so the beautiful young girl had to work at the bakery because her dad was too old to work and they were poor. Jane and her father lived in a small country which had a very rich king who was old with long white hair. Jane had a hard time; she couldn't do the things that she wanted. She always liked to dance and sing; Jane was a really good dancer. One day she was by the river singing and dancing for herself. She always did that on nice days. She loved dancing with the sound of water and birds. The place that she did these things was always so private because Jane was so shy.

But this time, she wasn't alone. There was a very charming young man leaning on a trunk watching her with a nice smile. Jane did not know that he is watching her, so she danced and danced with her shiny hair under the sun, she was a really talented dancer and everyone who saw her dancing new that. After a few minutes the boy went to her, "Excuse me ma'am" the boy said, "can I talk to you for a moment please?" Jane was so surprised because she didn't know anyone was watching her dancing. "Sure" Jane whispered. "You dance really well. You are a really talented young lady" the boy admitted with a nice smile. "Thank you sir" Jane said with a low voice. "My name is Edward" he said "it's a pleasure that I saw you here dancing because I am the son of king's best friend and I am the teacher of a group of dancers who dance at the king's parties. From what I just saw, none of them are as talented and as good as you are. Do you want to join them?" then he looked at Jane's blue eyes and he thought that her eyes are like the ocean.

"No, I can't" Jane said and looked at her feet "My father is so old that he can't work, so I need to work and make money." "Oh, you get a lot of money if you agree, more than you are earning now. Please, you can at least try." Jane was so shy, but she thought of the money that

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she could have and also she loved dancing; this job was much better than baking. “I think that’s a good idea.” Jane agreed and looked at Edward’s eyes. She liked them because she thought they were deep.

Jane was training for the next two weeks; Jane and Edward spent most of their time together; they danced and talked. The day before the first party, Jane and Edward were sitting by the river where they first met and Edward talked about the king, “He had a daughter that he really loved, because his wife died the day that she was born, so he loved her two times of the normal way that a father loves his child. But on her first birthday she was lost and nobody saw her again. The king was sad and never laughed again” Edward explained. Jane couldn’t wait for next day to go to the castle and see the king.

The next day, they went to the castle with the other dancers and got ready there. When Edward saw her, he suddenly felt that he loved her, then he looked at Jane’s eyes and smiled. Jane loved his smile; she thought he was so kind. After a few minutes they all went to see the king. Jane felt that the king was so familiar to her; she felt that she saw him before. The king was so serious and never smiled while he talked but Jane thought he was so kind and nice. Then the king saw her birthmark and he was so surprised; not everyone had a birthmark in the shape of heart on their shoulders, but her daughter had the exact same birthmark on her shoulder. He smiled and looked at Jane’s eyes; they were exactly like her mother’s eyes.

The king went to her and hugged her without saying anything. Everyone was shocked; nobody saw him like that for 18 years. After some moments, the king told everyone what happened. Jane could not believe it; she was so happy. Jane and her father talked all day and they decided that Jane and the baker would go and live with the king in his castle. Everything was like a dream for Jane but there were something on her mind that she couldn’t stop thinking

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of...Edward. She thought that she really loved him. At the end of the night Edward came to her and asked her to dance. They danced slowly “maybe this is not a good time to say this...”

Edward whispered, “but I can see the ocean in your eyes.... I really love you Jane.” Jane knew that this was the best day of her life so she told him that she loved him. They got married after a few months and lived happily ever after.

The End