

## Charlotta and her dream

During the Middle Ages lived a king called King Radius of Corona. He had a beautiful daughter named Charlotta. She was tall and graceful, and her father loved her more than anything on the world.

But Charlotta had a big secret. She wanted to be a knight. When she was a kid, Sir Rupert, the castle's butler, took her to watch a fight between knights. She loved it and, since then, she had been sure she wanted to become a knight. But her father wanted her to marry Prince Stephan of Limpress. She was furious, so she used to talk with Sir Rupert.

"Oh, Rupert," she said. "I don't want to marry a boring prince. You might know how I can become a knight. Can you tell me how, PLEASE?"

"I know how to," he answered. "But your father forbade it to me."

He used to answer that, till one day...

"My princess," he started. "I'll tell you how to become a knight. But you can't tell anyone that I told you."

"Of course, Rupert," she replied, anxiously. "Tell me."

"You have to cross the forest of Trempleton, pass through the desert of Jimbouff, and get to the kingdom of Limpress," he said. "There you have to ask King Lumos, the leader of ALL the knights in the world, to give you permission to become a knight."

"Ok, great," Charlotta answered. "Thanks, Rupert. You can't imagine how much you have helped me."

That night, when everyone was sleeping, Charlotta put on a hood and she escaped. It was hard, because there were knights all around the castle, but she passed them successfully.

She walked all night, till she got to the forest of Trempleton. That place was DESERTED. She dragged on across the trees until she found a little elf sitting on the floor.

"Young lady," said the elf, as he stood up. "I'm Rumble, the elf of Trempleton. If you want to go on with your journey, you'll have to guess where my ring is."

He showed Charlotta three cups. One was green and it had the drawing of an elf. The second one was grey, with an ogre painted on it. And the last one was pink, with flowers all over it.

"Easy," said the princess. "It's not the green one: it'd be EVIDENT, as your clothes are GREEN. It's not the flowery cup because, as I see no flowers and this is a FOREST, I can guess you hate them. So, that would leave the cup with the drawing of the ogre. I'm pretty sure it's that one."

"You may pass...", said Rumble, not very convinced.

She continued her trip and, in the morning, she arrived at the desert of Jimbouff. There she found a man with a spear. He looked serious and silent. When he saw the girl, he was surprised.

"Miss," he said. "I'm Coop, the oasis guardian. What are you doing here?"

"Sir," replied Charlotta. "I want to get to Limpress. King Radius commanded me to go there."

"Well," answered Coop. "You can't pass, unless you prove you deserve it. Now you'll have to fight with me."

Then, he gave Charlotta a sword, and they started fighting. After a long fight, the girl defeated Coop and she could go on.

That night she reached the kingdom of Limpress. The guards of the castle were at the main entrance, so she went to the back of the castle and entered there.

She soon got to the throne room, where she found King Lumos and his son, Prince Stephan, talking.

"I was wrong," the princess thought. "Prince Stephan is REALLY good-looking."

The guards saw her and wanted to stop her, but she took her hood off and the king and the prince recognised her.

"Wow", Prince Stephan thought. "She's much prettier than in her paintings."

"Princess Charlotta of Corona," King Lumos said. "What in the world are you doing here? Don't you know your father is looking EVERYWHERE for you?"

"I know, your Majesty", she replied. "But I have escaped to ask you for something REALLY urgent."

"So, ask me, my dear," King Lumos told her.

"Sir," she began. "I want to become a knight. I really want to, I SWEAR! Please, let my dream come true."

"Well," he said. "I cannot promise you anything. But please stay here for some days and relax."

Charlotta accepted and she stayed in the castle of Limpress for some days. She walked all the afternoons with Prince Stephan, and they began to fall in love.

“Father”, said Prince Stephan to the king one afternoon. “Princess Charlotta is funny and entertaining. She is different from the other princesses I’ve met. I want her to marry me, but she wants to be a knight. How could it be possible?”

“Dear Stephan”, answered King Lumos, patiently. “I’ll take care of that. You just ask her.”

So, that night, while they were walking, he asked her that important question.

“Charlotta,” he said. “I must confess you something VERY important. I love you, I do very much. Would you marry me?”

“I... I...,” said Charlotta.

She didn’t know what to say. She had fallen in love with Prince Stephan too, but she wanted to be a knight. Then, as if he had read the princess’s mind, the king appeared and he spoke.

“Princess”, he said. “If you love my son, you can marry him and become a knight too. You also would become the leader of the knights when I die. I don’t have a problem with that. But, tell me the truth, do you love Stephan?”

“Of course I do, your Majesty,” she replied, and she turned her sight to Stephan.

“Ok, then,” King Lumos said, very happy. “You’ll get married. When will the wedding be?”

“Tomorrow,” answered Stephan, anxiously. “I can’t wait anymore.”

So Charlotta and Stephan got married and they had two children of their own. Charlotta became a knight and, when King Lumos passed away, she was crowned queen. She also became the leader of the knights, as King Lumos had promised. And they all lived happily ever after.

**The End**