

The Legend about Maija –
the Rose of Turaida



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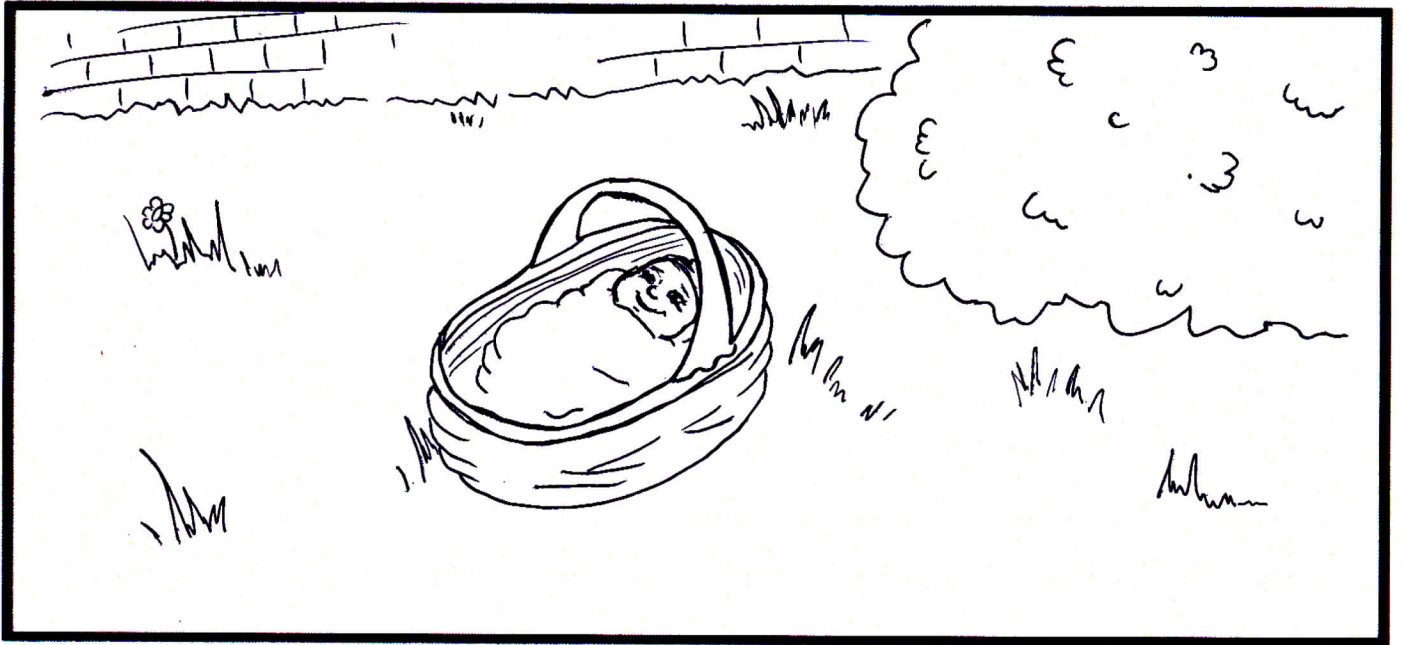
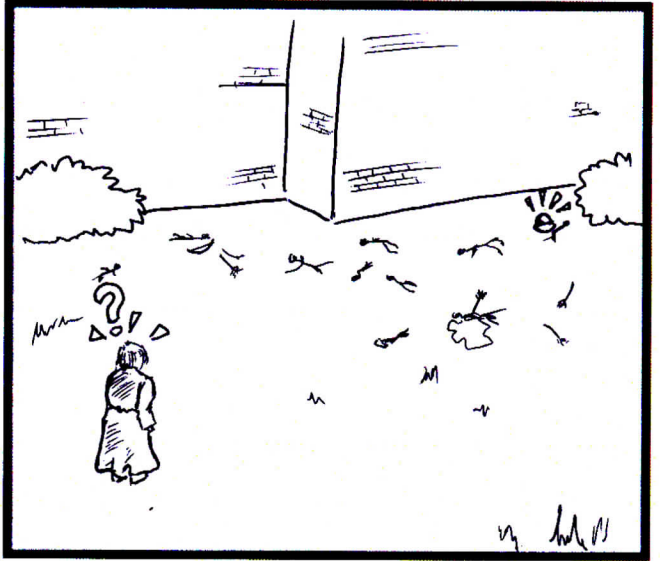
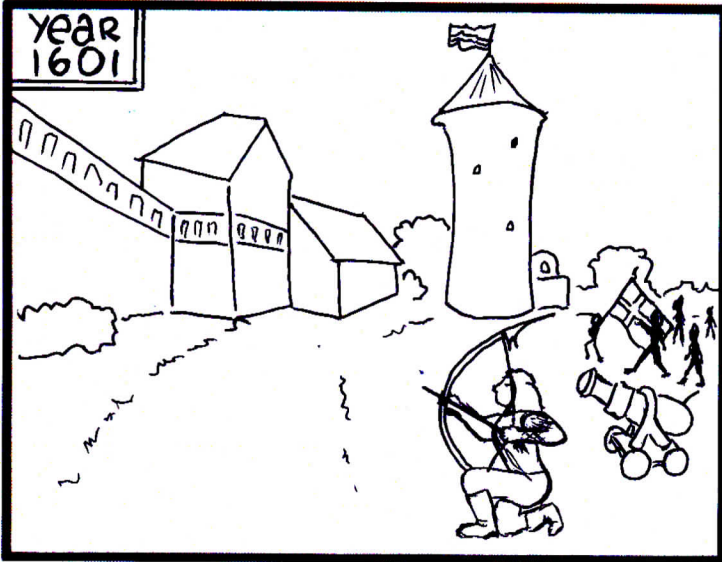
In 1601, Swedish troops captured Turaida castle. After the battle, a clerk of the castle Mr Greif found among the dead a small girl. He undertook to bring up the orphan and named her Maija.

The years passed by and Maija grew up so beautiful, that people named her the Rose of Turaida. Gardener Victor Heil, the groom of Maija, lived in Sigulda castle. In the evenings, they met each other at Gutmanis cave.

Adam Jakubovsky, who then was in service in Turaida castle, made proposal to Maija also. Maija rejected him and Jakubovsky decided to get her by deceit. He wrote a note, as it were from Victor, and invited her to meet at Gutmanis cave. When Maija arrived, she understood that she was deceived. The girl decided better to die and remain faithful to her fiancé.

She had a red silk scarf around her neck and she told Jakubovsky that it would protect from the sword cut and asked to try. Jakubovsky tried and Maija lifeless fell down at his feet.

Victor Heil found the murdered girl and he rushed in despair to Turaida for help. At the cave there was found gardener's axe, lost in a hurry, therefore suspicion about Maija's murder fell on Victor. He was arrested and tried. The course of events changed, when arrived Skudritz, a comrade-in-arms of Jakubovsky, who arrived in the court and told the truth. Victor was justified, but Maija was buried at the edge of Turaida graveyard, where Victor planted a linden tree on her grave.



YEAR
1619

