**The Danube’s Legend**

It is said that back when there were no people on Earth, the Moon fell in love with the Sun. Every day, she would come before him, dressed in a silvery dress, hemmed with rays of light and embroidered with thousands of diamonds. She was so beautiful and bright that the sky remained speechless by her splendour and no cloud dared eclipse her.

However, little did the Sun care about her glow. He was in love with a little, distant star, that lived somewhere on the edge of the galaxy. The little star named Danube shared his love, so the Sun asked her to marry him. How great was the Moon’s sorrow when she heard these tidings! Her face darkened, her rays palled and jealousy filled her heart. „You will pay for my grief, Sun! I swear I will have my revenge.”

Baleful, the Queen of Nights summoned three evil spirits to counsel her.

– If the Sun is not mine, then no one else will have him! She told the spirits.

– Set your mind at rest, my queen. No matter how strong the Sun’s love is for that star, we know how you can punish him! And the spirits whispered to the Moon how to avenge her wounded love.

When the wedding day arrived, the Moon wore her best dress and came to wish the couple happiness. However, a dreadful thought was hiding behind her smile. As soon as the Danube remained alone, the Moon approached and whispered threateningly: ”I curse you to suffer as I suffer and never to enjoy your groom!”.

Out of nowhere the three evil spirits appeared and threw the poor star from the sky in the middle of a dark forest in the Black Forrest mountain. There, the Danube turned in a cold deep lake that the Sun would never see because of the impenetrable forest. The Danube cried for many days and many nights for the Sun’s longing until she was heard by a good fairy that lived nearby.

– Who are you and why are you crying? Wondered the fairy who had never seen a living lake.

– Good fairy, I had been once a star in the sky! Jealous of the Sun’s love for me, the Moon cursed me to become still water. Please, be kind. I only want to see the face of my beautiful groom!

Relented, the fairy turned the Danube into a river, that since flows towards the sunrise, the place where the Sun rises in the sky. Then, she sprang many small rivers to flow in the Danube’s waters, thus helping her to arrive at the big sea. Every morning, the Sun comes up from the sea’s waters and for a little while, he embraces his lover.

Now you know the Danube’s legend, a beautiful love story filled with magic and wonder.