



# PORTUGUESE STORIES

LEARNING THROUGH  
THEATRE  
AND TECHNOLOGY

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# I N D E X

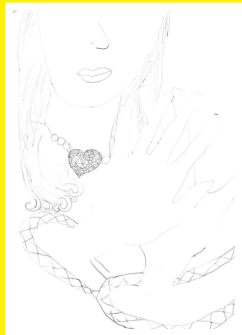
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## PEDRO AND INÊS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LOVE STORY

It is the XIV century and this story begins with an arranged marriage between Dom Pedro, the son of King Dom Afonso IV, heir to the throne, and a noble woman of the Spanish monarchy. Dom Pedro did as he was told and married this woman, but felt no real love towards her. However, his wife's lady in waiting, Inês de Castro, immediately caught his eye and Pedro instantly fell in love with her. Inês and Pedro began sneaking around the courtyard after dark and remained that way for many years, as Pedro's father would disapprove of Inês and her social status.

To their fortune, Pedro's wife passed away a few years later, giving birth to their third child, allowing Pedro to finally be open with everyone about his relationship with Inês. Upon hearing that Pedro would marry her, his father became outraged and demanded Pedro not to go through with it. Naturally, Pedro was so filled with love that he completely disregarded his father's demands and went forth with planning the wedding. They were together for years and had some children. His father worried about his official grandson, the son of D Pedro and D Constança. He thought that his place as a future king would be endangered by his bastard brothers and he did not want Inês to hold any influence over the prince's decisions, so he worked to ensure that Inês would be murdered.

Late one afternoon when Pedro had returned from hunting, he went to look for Inês, only to find that she had disappeared. His father's counsellors then told him that Inês had been brutally murdered in the courtyards of the Quinta das Lagrimas, Coimbra, in front of their children. Outraged and hurt, Pedro vowed to seek revenge on those who harmed his beloved, however, he could not act



right away as they had been ordered by King Afonso to commit the crime.

Shortly after his father's death, Dom Pedro became the King of Portugal and vowed to never love anyone the same way he loved Inês. His love for her was so deep that Pedro proclaimed that they had secretly been married all those years (after his first wife had died) and announced that Inês do Castro, even in her death, was the queen of Portugal until his reign was over. So, for the sake of his beloved, he recovered Inês's corps from the tomb, had her dressed as a queen and had the Court kiss her hand as recognition of her place in the kingdom. It is believed that Pedro also sent for the men who murdered his beloved, and killed them by taking their hearts out from their backs and eating them.

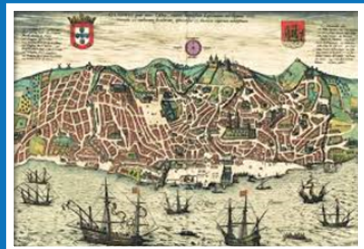
Inês was firstly buried in Coimbra but D Pedro had her taken to Mosteiro de Alcobaça, built her a tomb where he had engraved the following: "Together to the end of times". Until these days, these are said to be the most beautiful tombs of Portugal, with realistic representations of their love. They are set opposite one another so that on the day of Final Judgement, both lovers can rise and immediately see each other.

It is said that if you visit the Quinta Das Lagrimas in Coimbra, that you can still hear Inês's cries and Pedro's pleas for his love to return as well as see red water running through the fountain, a reminder of the blood shed as she was murdered. This well-known tale has been passed down through generations as a representation of prevailing love.



## THE LEGEND OF THE SEVEN HILLS OF LISBON

For many, many years, says the legend, there was a kingdom called Ofiusa, the kingdom of snakes. The great Ulysses arrived with his companions in this kingdom. The queen of the snakes, who was half-serpent, half-woman, acted like a nice and seductive girl to charm Ulysses and try to conquer him, but she didn't manage it, because he was smarter. He pretended to love her, so that she would satisfy his greatest desire: let his companions land to build a city there. He got what he wanted, so he called his friends who took out of the boat building materials and built a beautiful city. When they left, the queen, who felt herself deceived, was furious, tried to chase after her beloved, whom she considered a great traitor, spreading her serpentine body, twisting in rush and anger, forming seven protuberances which, according to the legend, gave rise to the seven hills of Lisbon.



## THE LEGEND OF THE ALJUBARROTA BAKER

It was in Aljubarrota that on 14th of August 1385 happened a battle between the Portuguese army and the Castilian army. Even that it seemed a loose war, the Castilians were 30.000 against the 7000 Portuguese, the reality is that Portugal won and ended the crisis of 1383-1385 and consolidated D. João I as the King of Portugal. The Aljubarrota baker was a woman, born with the name of Brites de Almeida in the South of Portugal. She never had an easy life. Beauty was not one of her charms, lost the parents soon, and after living in other cities, end up in Aljubarrota as a baker and married a farmer from the village,

Says the legend, that in the day of the battle, Brites was coming home and realized that the door was closed, when it was not supposed to be. Checking in the oven, Brites discovered seven Castilians that had run away from the battle and found the oven to rest. Brites or Padeira de Aljubarrota stood fast with the shovel of the work, put them to run and with one stroke on each killed them all. Even today, on 14<sup>th</sup> of August in the village is celebrated and remembered the day that Brites de Almeida won against seven people, showing that Portugal was an independent country.



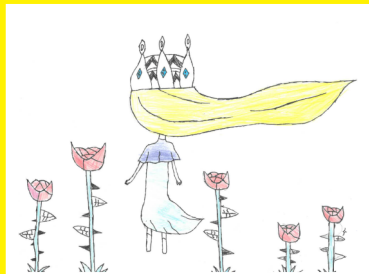
## THE LEGEND OF THE MIRACLE OF ROSES

Once upon a time ... King D. Dinis lived with his wife, Queen Santa Isabel, in the Castle of Leiria. Santa Isabel, who was very charitable and gave many alms to the poor, what, sometimes, contradicted the King, who was a good manager of the kingdom and of its lands, mainly because his wife's alms were large and frequent.

One day the queen was carrying a large amount of bread in her mantle, to distribute by the poorest of the poor, when her husband and King appeared to her. He knew too well the Queen's spirit of well-being and calculating what she carried on the fold of her robe, asked her: - "What are you carrying, Lady?"

And the Queen, somewhat flushed to know the less charitable King, answered him: - "Roses, Lord!"

And the Holy Queen, opening the mantle in which she carried the bread destined for her poor ones, let them fall already transformed into beautiful roses, fresh and green, that filled the air of a perfume never felt. The King went on his way, smiling happily, and the Queen was even happier.



## THE LITTLE BOAT IN THE MOONLIGHT

There was once a boy named Thomas who lived near a very calm beach. He really liked boats and the sea. He dreamed he could one day sail around the world in a little boat built by him.

Thus, Thomas made a small paper boat, so that he could navigate on it. When the boat was ready, he, alone, began a journey. The excitement was so great that he even cried... and one of his tears flowed, rolling down the face and when it fell into the bottom of the boat, this grew in size. Thomas was amazed and said:

- "I do not believe! It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

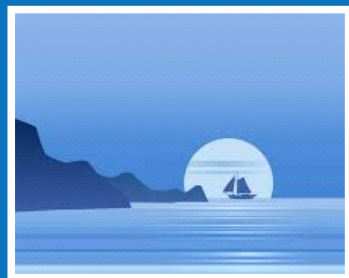
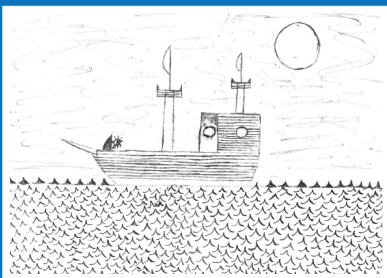
Suddenly a giant wave rose and pushed the little boat that began to fly. It flew, flew to the moon. Now, on every full moon nights, you can see a little boat sailing in the moonlight.

- "Thomas, Thomas ... wake up!"

- "Yes? Mother? ... Where am I?"

- "You're still in your bed, but it's time to get up! Or have you forgotten about the trip?"

- "Trip?!..."



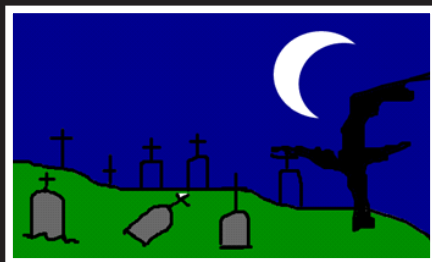


## AN ADVENTURE

Once upon a time... six girls had a very crazy idea, to explore an abandoned house. They had heard, in familiar conversations, that there was a cemetery in the garden, where all the former inhabitants were buried. When they got there, the door opened without anyone touch it and the windows opened and closed as if they were automatic. They were very frightened but they entered and soon everything stopped. So they decided to check the doors and windows and saw that they were tied with long strings that followed up the stairs.

They heard a very loud noise on the first floor. It was as if a lot of people were running around the house. More and more frightened, but full of courage, they went up the stairs and came face to face with family and friends who were holding a large banner where was written: CONGRATULATIONS.

The cemetery and the ghosts were part of a staging to take the group to the house, because they knew that they liked to explore abandoned houses and so they could organize a surprise party. And this way, began another birthday party of one of the adventurous friends.



# AN ADVENTURE IN THE FOREST

## Act I Scene 1

Forest. Day time.

We can hear the twittering of the birds.

Two explorers are walking through the forest.

**Sara** (delighted):

- What a magnificent forest... so many birds of so many species...

**Scott** (trying to talk to the parrot):

- Hello! Hello! Why don't you say hello to me?!

(**Sara** and **Scott** contemplate the various species of birds, when they are taken by surprise with a voice.)

**Parrot João:**

- You are nuts! You are nuts!

**Sara** (laughing):

- You are so funny!

**Scott:**

- Oh, so you can talk...

**Parrot João:**

-Of course I can! We are not only copycats! We have our own language!  
What about getting to know my friends?

**Sara** (excited):

- Good idea! Do your friends also talk?

**Parrot João:**

- you will see.

(Scott although constrained, accepts the invitation.)

## Scene II

In the middle of the forest.

Around noon.

**Parrot João:**

- Carlos must be around here somewhere...

(Everyone is pushed by the wind the male-eagle causes.)

**Eagle Carlos:**

- Hello João! Aren't you going to introduce me to your friends?

**Parrot João:**

- In fact...You haven't told me your names yet!

**Sara:**

- My name is Sara!

**Scott (not so constrained):**

- I am Scott, we are explorers.

**Eagle Carlos:**

- Come! I am Carlos. I am going to introduce you to the rest of the group.

They leave heading for the beach.

## Act 2 Scene I

On a cliff. In the afternoon. Swallow Dora and seagull Sinhá get out of the cave where they usually get shelter. The eagle-owl sets his head out of the cave but stays inside because it doesn't like daylight but still paying attention to all the rustle...

**Swallow Dora** (kind):

- Hello! My name is Dora.

**Seagull Sinhá** (curious):

- I'm Sinhá. What about you, who are you? What are your names?

**Sara:**

- I'm Sara and he's Scott. We are explorers.

**The black stork Storky** (name of student) flies by them and says:

- My name's Storky. I have to be very careful when I fly over you so that I don't crash against a high voltage pole!

Look out!! Coming down.....

They sit in a circle on the top of the cliff.

**Scott:**

- So... Tell us about your adventures.

Carlos starts talking...

**Eagle Carlos:**

- Well, to tell you the truth, we have not always lived here.

**Seagull Sinhá:**

- Until a few months ago we had beautiful nests.

**Parrot João** (remembering):

- Fantastic nests...

**Teal Quak** (name of student)... (walking fast and looking around for hunters):

- quak quak... hey, what is going on? Did anyone see any hunter around??? I heard noise...

**Seagull Sinhá:**

- Do not worry Quak! These are all friends. We were just telling them about the reason why we all live here, in fear, instead of in our own habitats...

**Eagle Carlos:**

- Come, sit with us. Let's tell them our stories...

**Swallow Dora:**

- We lived happily with our families until one day some men, who worked for a big timber company, decided that those trees would make excellent furniture.

**Eagle Carlos (furious):**

- They decided to make furniture!!!! What they decided was to bring down our homes, our lives, our species!!!

**Parrot João (with a gloomy voice):**

- Without letting us know in advance... from night to day...

**The eagle-owl EGO** (name of student) gets outside the cave with his eyes semi closed:

- Did anyone say it was night??? Is it time for me to get out? Ohh... but it's day time!!!

**Swallow Dora (sad):**

- Sit here with us EGO, we are telling these new friends how we came to live here all together.

**The eagle-owl EGO:**

- That was a very sad day...very complicated... They stole all my eggs and then destroyed my nest! It was a nightmare!

**Scott (astonished):**

-Dear God...How did you outlive that situation?

**Seagull Sinhá:**

- Our families were forced to migrate much earlier than usual... and we stood together, all of us, different species, with the same fate.

**Sara (surprised by that hard reality):**

- What about you? Why didn't you leave with your families?

**Eagle Carlos:**

- Unfortunately we were not able to keep up with them. We were caught by surprise, you see...

**The black stork Storky:**

- Our families had to take the chance to escape and we were left behind! It was each one on its own... Maybe one day we will meet them again...

**Parrot João:**

- Maybe... but after those men who destroyed the trees, others came and started hunting in the forest and then came the builders and started lifting electricity poles ... you see, none of us are out of danger around here anymore...

**Swallow Dora:**

- For two days we flew around what was left of the forest to find some place to stay and begin a new life.

**Sara (curious):**

- And how did you get here? How did you find this cave?

**Parrot João:**

- We saw a placard displaying this magnificent nature reserve, which welcomes every type of animals, allowing them to be free.

**Teal Quak:**

- Now, we are happy here! Although we miss our family!

**Scott (thinking):**

- I think I've had an idea! Sara and I could help rebuild your forest!

**Seagull Sinhá (cheered up):**

-Yes! Yes! Yes! All of you could come and work here!

**Sara:**

- I would love to work here.

**Eagle Carlos:**

-It is settled than. I will tell you where the cabin of the responsible for this reserve is.

## Act 3

### Scene I

The following day. In the forest. All the birds together.

Identical set to the first act, adding a cabin.

Sara and Scott leave the cabin with a man, but are looking very disappointed.

**Swallow Dora** (worried):

- What happened? Aren't we allowed to stay here?

**Sara and Scott** (together with a big smile):

- Of course we are! We made it!

**The Park Director** (enthusiastic):

- My name is Mr Smith. I am the Director of this Park. Here, in our space, by accepting all kind of species, we are going to promote a new project to make people and great companies aware that all animals need protection. You all deserve to be saved and preserved!

**Parrot João** (repeting):

- Excellent! Excellent!

(All birds applaude!)

**Sara:**

- And what can we do to help?

**The Park Director:**

- You can help us make billboards to raise awareness to all the people who come here as well as provide activities to get everyone to know the importance of the forests!

**Scott:**

- It is important to make people aware of habitat preservation, make them remember that all animals should have a home, such as we humans do, without the constant fear of someone destroying it.

**All birds** (emotional):

- Thank you! Thank you so much for everything you have done for us.

## Scene II

Forest. During a party.

All together listen attentively to the end of the speech by Eagle Carlos.

**Eagle Carlos:**

- ... and we, animals, deserve, as much as humans, to have a house, a home we can live in. All we ask is that you do not destroy our habitats. We all have to learn is to respect ther space of each species and to preserve life.

(Everyone applauds and cheers.)

**Parrot João** (shouting when the applauses end):

- You have all done very well! Congratulations and, once again...Thank you Sara and Scott.

**Sara** (a little embarrassed):

- You don't need to thank us. Mr Smith is the main responsible for this project!

**Scott** (hugging parrot João):

- You all deserve it!

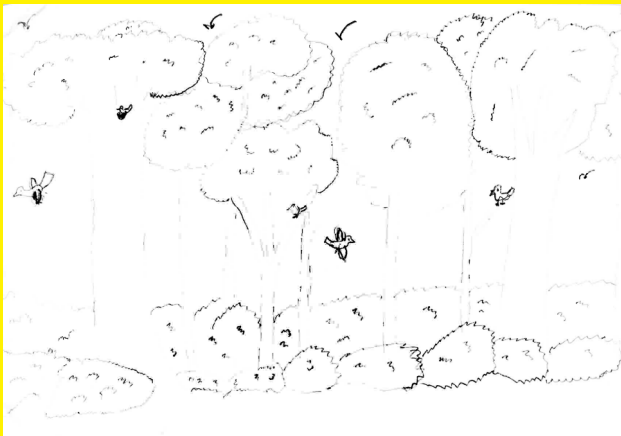
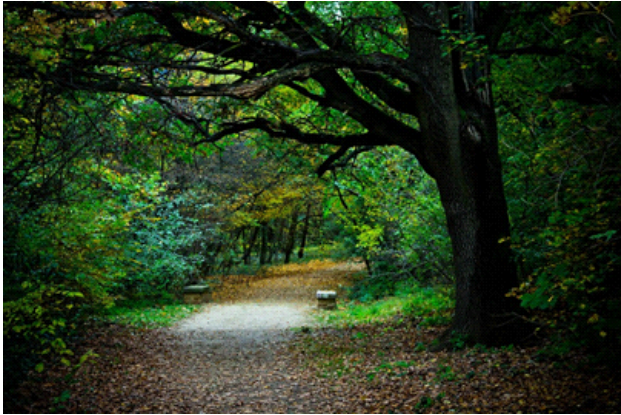
Parrot João:

- You're nuts! You're nuts!

Everybody laughs. Everyone is happy.

Strong lights light up the stage.





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