



THE ADVENTURES OF TINY KATO

SETTING: a fairy tale world; enchanted forest.

THEMES: courage; imagination; friendship.

GENRE: children's story; fantasy; adventure.

ADAPTATION: feature animation; feature fantasy film.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Kato is a courageous and curious girl. Her curiosity and love of ice-cream take her on a magical adventure in search of the Water of Everlasting Life to help her friend, the Forest Prince. She crosses mountains and rivers, and meets all kinds of anthropomorphic creatures: Elves, Blackie the Cat, Tiko the Mouse, Orphan the Crow, and the Golden Ram who carries into space where she meets an almighty scientist.

MOVIE REFERENCES:

Alice in Wonderland (1951) an animated film by Walt Disney Studios

The Wizard of Oz (1939) a film by Victor Fleming



CHARACTERS:

Tiny Kato – an adventurous little girl who loves ice-cream and hates boundaries

Dad – Kato's father

Mom – Kato's mother

The Prince – of the enchanted forest who lives under a gigantic oak tree and has a beautiful talent for music

Elves – the prince's servants

Beauty Peal – the Queen of the Roses, the beauty of the enchanted forest

Other inhabitants of fairy land:

Monk the dove

Orphan the Crow

The water-grinding giants

The King of water-grinders' land

Blackie the cat

Tiko the White Mouse

Gold-knitting women

The Golden Ram

The Scientist God



BOOK SAMPLE

SUMMARY:

Tiny Kato is an active, playful five-year-old who loves sweets, especially ice-cream, and hates it when adults forbid her things. One day she disobeys her father and continues to go round in circles on her bicycle until it gets dark. She gets sick and feverish and loses her ice-cream privileges. She goes to bed angry.

This is the night when the magic begins. Tiny Kato is visited by Thumbelina elves wearing green coats rimmed with dandelion fluff and acorn shoes and acorn cap hats. They tell her about their home – a gigantic oak tree in a magic land surrounded by orchards and forests. Their duty is to serve the Forest Prince and protect the oak tree from midges and gnats. They say the prince is a whimsical, gentle creature, who barely moves about and is served by the elves. During the forest carnival, they bring him out and place him on his throne, while all the creatures of the forest come to perform for him: graceful lily-of-the-valley dancers; mischievous singing poppies and, finally, Beauty Peal, the Queen of the Roses, in her carriage. The prince usually ignores the queen and her advances, as his true love is music. The elves bring him thimbles and pins and he plays an enchanting melody, which fills the forest.

Tiny Kato couldn't bear listening to the story without being a part of it, so she asked the elves to take her to the enchanted forest. Apparently, the elves had been sent to her by the prince to soothe her fever with their singing. They start to sing beautifully making music that is out of this world. After the song, Kato sends the elves on a mission to get ice-cream from the fridge. Frost is deadly for the elves, so after opening the refrigerator door, they fall down breathless. Kato finds them in the kitchen and, guilt-ridden, starts to cry, rebuking herself for her greed. She gathers the elves up in a handkerchief and off she goes to the magic forest. She arrives at the oak tree and finds it surrounded by parasites as the elves are not there to protect it. The prince is fast asleep on his glass bed, dead to what is happening. Kato continues to cry and starts to search for a cure for the elves in fairy land, which is when her true adventure begins.

Kato visits many magical places and meets many magical creatures: First is the hut where Monk the dove and Orphan the crow are dining. They send her to the palace of Beauty Peal, the Queen of the Roses, as she is rumored to have the spring with the water of everlasting life at her door. But the queen denies it. So, Kato continues her journey to the land of giants who sit around all day grinding water. The place is a perfect allegory of useless statesmen and officials. She reaches the palace of the king of the water-grinders, who, like all dictators, is afraid of powerful and curious girls, so he takes Tiny Kato prisoner and sends her to jail.

Even more extraordinary things happen. Kato meets a group of prison mice and Blackie the cat, who apparently is in love with a white mouse named Tiko. They help Kato escape and she joins them in a wedding celebration, before continuing her journey.

Next, she meets ladies knitting gold. They make her a golden garment then a golden ram puts her on his back and takes her on a flight into space where she meets god himself. But the god in this story isn't a boring, omnipotent, bearded man, but a scientist, resembling Einstein. Tiny Kato tells him her story, and the god takes her on his spaceship to guide her to her way. Despite not finding the magic spring, Kato learns many valuable lessons in her time with a wise old man such as appreciation for other people's work and suffering. The only way back to the magic land is via the longest ladder from space. Kato doesn't hesitate and begins her climb down. She ruins her dress on the way and acquires a bunch of cuts and scratches. As she starts to bleed gently, her blood splashes onto the elves, still in her pocket, and they wake. Kato is stunned and extremely happy. The elves heal Kato's wounds in a moment, and they all rush to the oak tree, to save the ecosystem and the prince. They overcome midges and gnats in a merciless battle using tiny arrows and lots and lots of claps.

The elves and the prince rejoice and pronounce Kato their queen, spoiling her with sweets and everything she desires. But Tiny Kato is a wise girl now. She starts to remember what's more important than unlimited ice-cream, says goodbye to the dear friends from fairy land and goes back to her mom, whom she misses so much.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Zaira Arsenishvili (1933 – 2015), a writer and screenplay writer, was educated as a philologist, and also graduated from the violin class of a Music College. For some time, she worked as a music teacher and was a violinist in the Opera House orchestra. Later, her talent flourished in a collaboration with Lana Gogoberidze and they produced screenplays for the latter's films: *When Almonds Blossom*, *Turmoil in Salkhineti*, *Several Interviews on Personal Matters* and others.

Zaira Arsenishvili received numerous state prizes in Soviet times, as well as in independent Georgia.

She is the author of several novels and short stories.

Her novel *Woe is Life* is a bestselling favorite of Georgian readers as is the novel *Requiem*, and two short story collections.