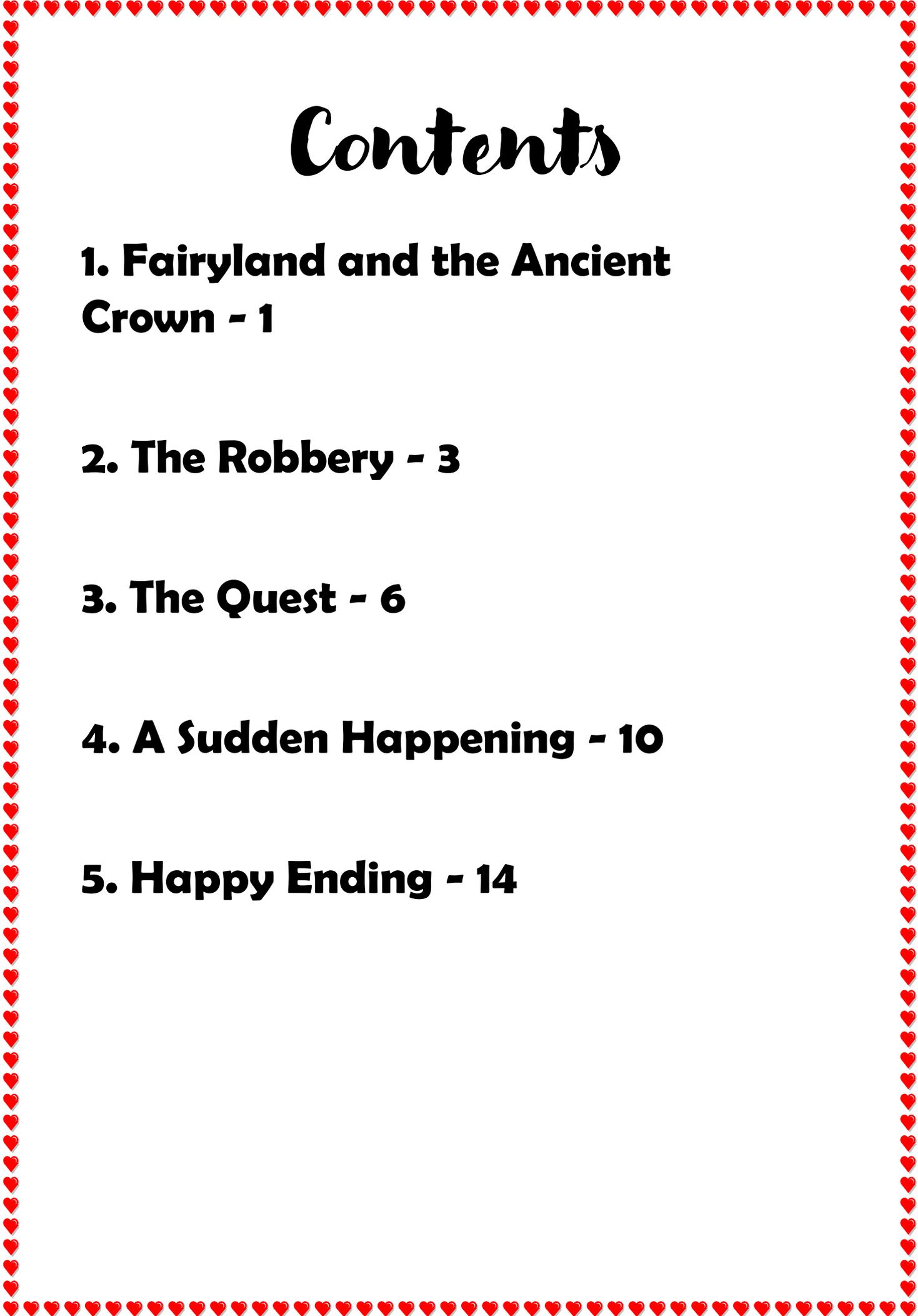


# The Mystery of the Ancient Crown



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# About the Author

*Sathvika Kandula is an aspiring girl who is brought up in Bangalore, and studies in National Public School, Koramangala. She enjoys and is passionate for singing, drawing and reading books, especially books by Enid Blyton and Roald Dahl. Sathvika is really good in expressing herself and is very imaginative.*



# Chapter 1

## Fairyland and the Ancient Crown

Once upon a time, in a wonderful place called Fairyland, lived many elves, fairies, gnomes and other wonderful fairy tale creatures. The ruler of the land at that time was a princess named Sahana. Princess Sahana was known all over the land, and she was not only beautiful but also known for her wit and intelligence. She had black eyes and the most beautiful long honey brown hair. Princess Sahana had inherited an ancient crown which was passed on from her ancestors. The crown had emeralds and rubies which shimmered in the sunlight. It was extremely

important to the princess' family as it was said to be magical and that it glowed when a true ruler wears it and sits on the throne. The crown glowed when it was given to Sahana, which proves that she was the perfect ruler for the land. It could also heal any sickness ever known. The crown was placed in a glass box inside the royal treasure. Its key was entrusted to princess Sahana's most trusted and loyal minister.



## Chapter 2

### The Robbery

One sunny morning, princess Sahana awoke to the noise of one of her soldiers shouting. She wanted to find what the commotion was all about.



So, she walked towards the soldier. She found out that the ancient crown was missing and the soldier was accusing her loyal minister for stealing it! She was still in confusion, so she asked the soldier to direct her to the place where the crown was located. A few minutes later, she was standing in front of the glass box, and to her horror, the crown was missing!



Everyone around her were speechless including the princess. Finally, she asked the soldier, "Did you see the minister stealing it?". The soldier

shook his head. Princess Sahana then asked the soldier, "Why then, do you accuse such an innocent man to steal such a precious object?". The soldier answered guiltily, "Your majesty, I am so sorry for my blind accusation. But I still think this minister stole it, because he is the one who has the key to the box and lives the closest to the royal treasure." Princess Sahana thought about for a while. She knew very well that her minister would never commit such an evil deed. A while later, she said, "I do not suspect the minister because the one who stole the crown broke the glass of the box and stole the crown, but if the minister stole the crown, he would have used the key. But I will take action by sending the royal guards to search the whole kingdom for the lost crown." The minister said, "Yes, your majesty, that is indeed a wise decision."

# Chapter 3

## The Quest

Now, the princess had also given an offer for every creature in Fairyland that those who find the ancient crown will get a thousand gold coins and whatever else they wanted from the kingdom. In a small village in Fairyland, there was a certain elf from the kingdom who wasn't very smart and no one liked to spend time with him. His name was Devansh. On that particular day, he saw his two brothers going on horses towards the forest.



He asked them, "Where are you going, my dear brothers?". "It's none of your business" said one of the brothers. But Devansh was persistent. He again asked, "Come on now, just please tell me where you are going..." The oldest brother said with a sigh, "We are going to bring back the lost crown that was stolen." "What? The princess' crown! We must hurry!" said Devansh. But his brothers told him, "You are not brave enough. You will not be coming." Devansh was disheartened, he really wanted to come.....but sadly he could not. But he paid no heed to his brother's words, he ran back home and took his favourite horse in the stable. He then rushed back to his brothers and picked up fruits on the way to give to the princess. Devansh directed his horse to a nearby pond to rest and to drink water. There he found a few geese swimming there.



He thought to himself, these geese look nice and fat. Let me just take one of them and kill it so that I can eat it. I feel hungry after this long journey. As Devansh took one of the geese, the goose spoke and said, "Young man, please have a heart and do not eat me. I have children to feed and a loving husband. Please have mercy on me." Even though Devansh wasn't very smart, he had a kind heart. He left the goose even though he was hungry. The goose shouted after him, "Thank you young man, you have a kind heart! You know someday, even I may help

you somehow or the other! Remember, your kindness will be repaid!" Devansh just smiled back, wondering how a goose could help an elf. He joined his brothers and they set off into the woods to find the crown. Two days passed and there was no luck in finding the crown.

# Chapter 4

## A Sudden Happening

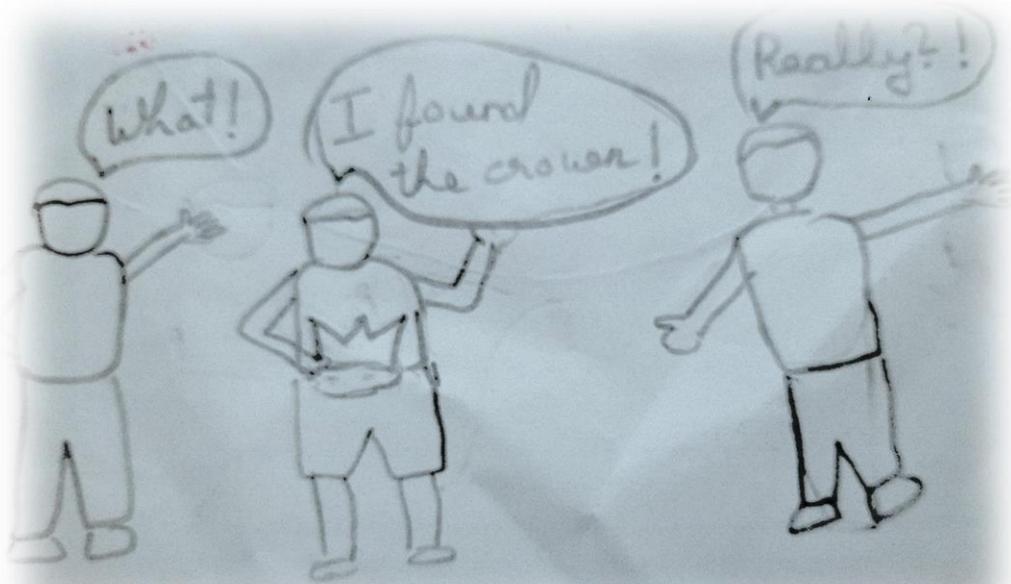
On the third day they gave up and decided to return home. While they were coming back, Devansh noticed the same pond he had met the goose a few days ago. He again went there and sat gloomily with his horse. The goose which he was going to harm a few days ago noticed him and asked, "What is wrong young man? Can I help you?". With a sigh, Devansh replied, "A few days ago, my brothers and me found out that princess Sahana had lost her precious crown and she announced to everyone in the kingdom that whoever finds her crown would be rewarded handsomely with a thousand gold coins and whatever else they wished for. So, my brothers and me set out from our house to bring back the crown...." "But you did not find it, am I right?", the goose interrupted impatiently.

"Yes" replied Devansh sadly. The goose began to laugh.



When Devansh asked him why the goose was laughing, the goose said, "Oh young man, if you had told me about this matter before, I would have helped you and would have brought good fortune to your family. "How? I still do not understand my little goose friend. Please explain..." The goose answered, "You see, it all started a few weeks ago when a naughty gnome came here with the crown. I thought he was the new keeper of the crown so I asked him what his

name was. He told me that his name was Kabir. He said that he had come to the pond for a sip of water. While he was drinking water, the crown that he held in his hands fell into the pond. Ever since then we have guarded the crown. The crown is in the bottom of this pond..." Devansh jumped with joy when he got this piece of news. He was the happiest elf in fairyland! He eagerly asked the goose to lift the crown out of the pond. Feeling honoured to help the queen, the goose led its babies to help it lift the crown out. They pulled with all their might and finally the crown was out! The goose then said to Devansh, "Good things come for the kind..." Devansh ran back to his brothers and showed them the crown. They stared with their mouths open for a moment, not knowing what to say.



Then suddenly both of them began to speak randomly, both asking the elf questions at the same time. One of them asked, "Who stole it?". The other one asked, "No, where did you find it?" and again, the first one asked, "What will we ask from the princess?". This went on for a few minutes and came to a halt, when Devansh said, "Stop!!". The brothers looked at each other and stopped.

# Chapter 5

## A Happy Ending

"Let's hurry to the palace and present this crown to the princess. Can one of you please let me ride on one of your horses with you?"

Devansh asked them. His brothers immediately followed his orders. They rushed to the palace; their hearts filled with joy. When they reached the palace, they found princess Sahana sitting on the throne. She saw them and asked, "Who are you and why have you come here at such an odd time without permission?". Devansh answered, "Your majesty, we are very sorry for coming here without permission, but we have something very important to tell you. My brothers and I are the sons of the elf, Abram. My name is Devansh, and these are my brothers - Lakshit and Divin. I am the youngest. We have come to tell you something

that will brighten your eyes and give you hope..." Hearing this, the princess straightened her back and her ears were sharp. Devansh continued, "No one thinks I'm of any use, so I'm sure they wouldn't believe me if I told them that...I found your crown!" "Here it is!", he cried showing the princess the crown. She asked him, "Devansh, did you really find the crown?". "Yes" he replied innocently. Then the princess asked him, "Where exactly did you find it?". With a slight grin on his face he answered, "I found it at the bottom of a pond near a forest." "How did you know it was there?" The princess asked. "A goose which I had spared told me all about it" he answered. "Who stole it?" she asked. "The goose told me that a gnome called Kabir stole it and dropped it in the bottom of the pond." "Does your goose friend know why the gnome Kabir stole the crown?" the princess asked Devansh. "I am sorry your majesty, but I am sure that even the goose doesn't know the

answer to this question" Devansh answered. But princess Sahana wasn't satisfied. She wanted to know why Kabir wanted the crown and help him. So, she sent the guards to search for Kabir and bring him to the palace. Kabir was found in the corner of the city, going through the trash. He was brought to the palace, in front of the princess. When the princess saw him, she said- "You must be Kabir." "Y... yes" Kabir stammered. "Was it you who stole the crown or was it someone else?" princess Sahana asked. Kabir said- "It was...me your majesty". She glared at him and asked- "Why did you do this?". Kabir sighed and said "I am very sorry your majesty, the truth is that I work for a gang of robbers and they really wanted to lay their hands on your crown. So, they sent me to steal it. I dropped the crown at the bottom of the pond while drinking water. I am very sorry for this misdeed". The princess was not very happy with his answer. But as a princess,

she thought that he should help the poor gnome. So, she said to him- " Yes Kabir, what you did was extremely wrong. But I am sure that this was not your fault. Can you please tell me where the gang of robbers went?" Kabir was willing to help the princess after the confusion he had caused among the people. He said- "Certainly, your majesty. The gang of robbers went past the enchanted forest and on the bridge over the river of magical waters. Their hideout is a cave in the mountain of courage.



They must be hiding there, your majesty." The princess heard the words of Kabir, and immediately sent her guards to find the gang of robbers according to his directions. While the guards had gone to search for the robbers, princess Sahana asked Kabir- "Do you know why the robbers wanted the crown, Kabir?" "I do not know why the robbers wanted the crown. I am afraid you've got to ask them." he answered. "Yes, I think I have to do that. But it will take at least a day or two to find the robbers. Till then, you can stay in a room of the palace and tell me a little more about yourself." the princess told him. Kabir answered- "How can I thank you your majesty? And yes, I will tell you about myself, my family and the gang of robbers I work for." The princess smiled at him and they began to talk to each other. Princess Sahana took him on a tour inside the palace. Kabir told her that he was born to a poor couple in North Star, a village of Fairyland. He was the

eldest and the only boy child in his family as he had five younger sisters. Kabir told the princess that his father had fallen ill and so, his mother had to work as a basket weaver, selling woven baskets beside the streets.



The poor family didn't get much money from selling baskets, and feeding a family of eight and buying medicines for their father was impossible at such a time like this. As the only

boy in his family, Kabir was forced to earn more money. He wasn't given any jobs as he was only a child, except for a job offered by a gang of robbers. His parents didn't want him to take this job, but since it was their only choice, he chose it. A year had passed like this, with Kabir helping the robbers steal. Over the months, the gang of robbers stole many valuable diamonds and gold. The robbers were still not happy with what they had. They wanted to make their greatest attempt until now—stealing Princess Sahana's magical crown. So, they made a plan and sent Kabir to steal the crown. Following the plan, Kabir made a hole in the roof of the palace and jumped into the royal treasure. There he broke the box with a sharp piece of broken glass. He climbed back up the opening in the roof and went to the robbers to give them the crown. Kabir was thirsty after a long journey and so stopped at a pond to drink water. There was a goose who asked me who he

was. He told the goose his name and then drank some water. While drinking water, the crown fell into the pond. The goose soon realized that Kabir was a thief and refused to give him the crown. When the gang of robbers heard that Kabir had failed to get the crown, they did not allow him to work for them anymore and sent him away. The next day he went to the trash cans to search for leftovers of food to feed his family. It was at that time when he was found by the guards and brought to the palace. Princess Sahana was touched by Kabir's story and was eager to help his family. She asked Kabir in a low voice to allow her to go to her

chamber for a while. Kabir nodded and he too was given a room to rest in. In her room, Princess Sahana lay down on her bed and thought in deep silence. First, she thought of the poverty of her people. Then she thought about her great wealth and wisdom. She realized that there were many families out there who are in need of help. A few hours later, she came out of her chamber and called for Kabir. She again talked with him for a few minutes, asking him if he knew any other families suffering of poverty. He told her that his whole village had been exceedingly poor as there was a spreading disease that even affected the strongest of people- including his father. "But how come no one told me about this?" she said, interrupting Kabir. He told her that it was because North Star wasn't a very large village and no one would have cared even in a time like this. "I care!" princess Sahana again interrupted, "Imagine all those people- actually a whole village, in a

state of poverty!" "Um... actually there only 4-5 families living in North Star" Kabir told the princess. The princess calmed down a little bit, but still offered to help those families. So, the next day, princess Sahana disguised herself as a villager and set off for North Star. She decided to call herself Keerthi for a day. Kabir came along with her to introduce her to the people of North Star. When they reached North Star, Kabir introduced her to the village and said, "Hello everyone, this is Keerthi from the village of Rosemary. She has come here for a day's visit and would like to stay in someone's house. Who is willing to volunteer?"



A young fairy answered, "The Roger family has moved out of their house. It is empty and Keerthi can stay there for the night. But first we must ask for their permission." The Roger family was asked for permission and Keerthi was allowed to stay for the night. The princess (disguised as Keerthi) carefully observed the behavior of the people and the problems they

faced. She observed the food they ate and the clothes they wore. She was careful to not miss any group discussion or talk in the village. She observed the environment which they lived in and how they maintained it. But the main thing she observed was their manners and how they welcomed her into the village. The people were very kind to her and even through their poverty, she saw a smile of courage in their faces. The next morning, she set off for the palace. At the palace, she removed her disguise and thought about the people. She thought about the kindness of the villagers. Princess Sahana did not understand why the villagers were so kind and courageous. She decided to ask Kabir. By that time, the guards who had gone to search for the gang of robbers arrived. They had brought the robbers. Princess Sahana ordered to put them in prison. She asked Kabir how the villagers were so kind and courageous. Kabir said, "Your majesty, the secret behind our

kindness towards you is nothing but love. For years, our ancestors have always loved and cared for one another. And we continue to do that even today. This method taught us kindness." Princess Sahana was very happy hearing these words. She was proud that such people lived in her kingdom. She gifted Kabir with a large sum of money and told him to divide this money equally among the villagers. Kabir went home and happily did what he was told. The robbers on the other hand, weren't very happy in prison. They asked the princess to forgive them, but she wouldn't. They told her that they had to pay a huge sum of money to a rich man, but they didn't have the money. So, their only option was to steal the great crown of Fairyland and get away with it. Princess Sahana also remembered her promise to the creatures of Fairyland. She rewarded Devansh and his brothers with a thousand gold coins. When she asked Devansh and his brothers what

they wanted, they talked about it and Devansh said, "You have already given us a thousand gold coins which is more than we wanted. Your majesty, the only thing we desire is to work as soldiers in your army and protect the land."

The princess kindly agreed and provided everything for Devansh. All the poor families in Fairyland were given a small sum of money. The kingdom continued to strengthen and everyone lived happily ever after....

**THE END**



# Blurb

Princess Sahana had inherited an ancient crown that was passed on to her from her ancestors. When the princess hears that the crown is lost, she's really worried. But soon there's a ray of hope as an elf, not known by many other creatures, finds a way to please princess Sahana while she sits on her throne in sadness. Princess Sahana gets to know who the thief is. But she's still not satisfied. She wants to know why the thief stole the crown and help him even though he was guilty. Read this book to find out who stole the crown, why it was stolen, where the crown was found and most importantly -

**HOW THIS MYSTERIOUS  
STORY ENDS!!**