

The Tooth Fairies (by Ute Maria Sproulle)

The three tooth fairies were arguing as usual. Everyone thinks there is only one tooth fairy but no, there are lots, all over the world. Just think about it: children are losing teeth every day and how could only one fairy get around to every child? That would be exhausting.

These particular three were the colourful Tooth Fairies: Betty Blue, Ruby Red and Pansy Pink and they were arguing about who had had the most exciting adventure and had helped children the most. The bland Tooth Fairies, Benny Brush, Patrick Paste and Gary Gargle, never argued.

The Chief Tooth Fairy was asked to decide on the matter. She was a wise old fairy who floated about all day, offering advice here, settling a quarrel there.

“Alright, Fairies,” she said. “Tell me why you’re arguing and maybe we can find a solution. And some peace.”

Betty Blue was the first. She had a beautiful dress covered in blue ribbons, a diamond tiara and sparkly wings, of course.

“I’ve had the most incredible adventure,” she said, flicking her wings. “I heard a little girl, named Cynthia, crying. At first I thought her tooth was painful but it wasn’t that. She was worried about her little brother who was in hospital. I whispered into her ear, ‘Go to sleep, he’ll be alright. You’ll see, in the morning he’ll be much, much better.’ And he was!” You could tell that Betty Blue felt very proud of herself.

Then it was Ruby Red’s turn. Her dress was scarlet, a very deep red, and it matched her glittering wings beautifully.

“I came across a little boy, named Sam, who had lost his dog. He was looking for him everywhere: in the woods, in the fields, down street after street. I flew overhead and suddenly I heard a whimpering coming from the barn on Sam’s farm. I unlatched the door, the little dog ran out, straight into his master’s arms. You’ve never seen such a happy pair!” Ruby Red, too, felt very proud of herself.

Last but not least came Pansy Pink. Her lovely pink dress was very plain but her wings cast shimmering twinkles of light.

“Well, the little boy I saw - his name was David - was being bullied in the school playground. And the bully’s sister was teasing David’s sister, Sophie, calling her all sorts of names until Sophie started crying. They were both so unhappy and the two bullies so mean that I had to do something. So I swapped the bully’s red jacket for a pink one.”

“I know I shouldn’t have done it,” Pansy Pink confessed, “but I wanted the bully to understand what it felt like to be different, to have people laughing at you. And he did,” she nodded. “Everyone in the school laughed at the bully, everyone except David and Sophie. They came up and put their arms around him and told him not to mind. David even gave the bully his own jacket! And when the bully’s sister wanted to tease Sophie again, the bully said, ‘No, don’t! They’re alright, they’re my friends.’ It was really nice to see.” Pansy Pink finished quietly and her wings drooped.

“Well,” said Chief Fairy. “You’ve all had amazing adventures. But I can’t make up my mind. So, who do you think helped the most?”

“I did!” shouted Betty Blue.

“No, me!” called out Ruby Red.

“Well, I’m sure the others did,” said Pansy Pink.

“Well done, Pansy,” said Chief Fairy. “But I think you did. Because you have learnt to be modest and to praise others and not just yourself. And you helped David and Sophie - and even the bully - a lot.”

“Remember,” and you had the feeling that Chief Fairy was looking at Betty Blue and Ruby Red while she was saying this, “you will win more friends - and there will be fewer arguments - if you are not so boastful. And now, it’s time for a cup of teeth!”

And with that, she flew away searching for children whose teeth were about to fall out.