

## **INTRODUCTION:**

In Santa Francisca hospital there is a young woman of a special beauty, she is red, her big violet eyes give off a great and her smile comes out sweet and innocent.

She is in room 402, lying on a stretcher. She is alone with no one to accompany her, waiting for the moment of giving birth.

Suddenly an intense pain makes her shrink, the baby is about to arrive. At that moment a young doctor, tall, dark and serious expression enters the room, is responsible for controlling the state of the girl at all times.

Worried, he comes up to her and says:

-Does Melissa want me to call a relative?

Melissa smiling said:

-No, thank you.

Then she closes her eyes and relaxes a little.

After a while, Melissa's contractions are strong and more and more frequent, so she starts screaming.

The doctor listens to her and comes quickly to the room.

When she enters, she immediately sees that Melissa has broken the water, and then she tells the nurses to take her to the delivery room.

One of them comes running and says:

-Dr. Danes, the whole room is occupied and there is no room.

The doctor stares at her and answers:

-All right, we'll take care of her right here, she's in labor. Quickly, let two more nurses come.

In a few seconds, both of them arrive, preparing everything necessary for the birth. The doctor puts Melissa in a position to take care of her and the baby that is about to be born. Melissa with her sweaty face collaborates as much as possible so that the doctor extracts the baby without problems.

The doctor encourages her.

- Push Melissa, she's almost out already.

Suddenly the lights in the room start to blink, a spark hits and they all go out. The nurses are momentarily paralyzed. The auxiliary lights don't come on either.

The doctor reacts quickly and orders:

-Open the blinds, don't stand still, the baby is about to come out.

Quickly one of the nurses opens the blinds.

The doctor with a slight smile continues:

-Let's go, Melissa, one last effort and we've got it.

Melissa squeezes with all her strength until the doctor completely takes out the newborn. Melissa surrendered on the stretcher, hears a slap and after a few moments the baby begins to cry.

The doctor approaches and gives the child to Melissa very carefully.

She with tearful eyes takes him in her arms and exclaims:

-You are precious my life!

Then she asks:

-What is your name, doctor?

The doctor answers:

- My name is Javier... Javier Danés.

Melissa smiles and says:

-Thanks for everything Javier, without you it wouldn't have been so easy.

- We both did our part. You have also been a very good patient, without your effort childbirth would have been more difficult. Now what you need is rest. I am going to take the child to the nurses to examine him and check that everything is all right, rest, then we bring him back to you again.

Melissa with a wide smile:

- A little rest won't go badly.

The doctor leaves the child in the nursery. Suddenly, he notices something strange that frightens him; the baby is as cold as an ice float.

At this very moment you hear it through the loudspeaker:

- Danish doctor! Danish doctor! Emergency on 402.

The doctor rushes to Melissa's room; the nurse informs him when he arrives:

-Doctor, the patient is without knowledge and her constants are being lost.

-I don't understand, she was lying quietly when I left her and she didn't have any strange symptoms. Quickly we will inject epinephrine so that she recovers her heart rhythm.

At times Melissa regains consciousness and exhausted whispers:

-Please doctor, come closer.

This one approaches and she remembers him:

-Earlier you told me if I could call a close relative.

To which the doctor replies affirmatively.

-Yes, what do you want me to do?

-Just give the letter I have in my purse to an older man who will come and answer Eladio's name, and please give him my child. Promise me you will.

-All right, I'll do it, I promise you.

Just when Melissa hears these words, she smiles and vanishes into the doctor's arms.

The nurses prepare the defibrillators, but the doctor stops them.

-It's no use she's dead, and she gives the order to be taken to the morgue.

Then, saddened, he takes the letter from the bag and keeps it in his coat pocket.

He is very affected by what happened, yet he goes to see the baby quickly, to take care of him.

When he is in front of the cot, he realizes that the bars are frozen and seem to have frost. Surprised, he crouches to catch the child, but is perplexed when he sees him looking at the ceiling with his eyes wide open as if he were watching someone. Suddenly the cot returns to its normal temperature and so does the child, closing his eyes and falling asleep peacefully.

At that moment a very worried nurse appears informing him that Melissa's body has disappeared and is nowhere to be found in the hospital.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **GRANDFATHER ARRIVES AT THE HOSPITAL**

The days go by and no one comes to the hospital asking for the child or Melissa.

Javier Danés, surprised, wonders how nobody has claimed the baby. So he plans to open the letter to

get some more information about this mysterious baby that he has to deliver to a man equally mysterious to him. Perhaps with luck he can obtain some valuable information that will help him to understand better, since everything is very strange. On the other hand he remembers that he promised to give this letter to the older man.

At the end, sitting in his office, thinking, he leaves the letter on the table and goes to see the child.

He walks down the corridor of the hospital when he hears knocks through the air-conditioning tube. Quickly he stops looking at him, he feels as if someone is following his moves.

The blows and noises cease and he continues his way to the cradle where Melissa's son is.

When he arrives he has the sensation that the cradle of the baby next to him has been moved together with that of the child, as if to accompany him. Although he reconsiders and thinks it is silly and that the cribs should already be like this, since there is no one else in the room to move them.

The doctor decides to take a sample of the baby's blood for analysis, but the needle breaks when he wants to take it out. Try another needle again with the same luck. When you put it in contact with the skin, the needle bends until it breaks. The doctor, strange and restless, rushes to his table, where he has left the letter, ready to read it.

At this very moment he is called by telephone, warning him that there is a man asking for Melissa. The doctor tells the nurse to take him up to his office and the nurse accompanies him there.

The doctor receives him, pleasantly surprised, when he behaves like an old man with a white beard, a reassuring smile and a clean look.

Dr. Danes holds out his hand as he asks:

-Are you Don Eladio, Melissa's acquaintance?

-Yes, my name is Eladio, I am Melissa's father. I came as soon as possible.

The doctor gets closer to him and tells him everything that happened.

Eladio's cheeks are filled with tears when he learns that Melissa is dead.

Then Eladio tells the doctor that Melissa had told him through an acquaintance, since he was absent, to go to the hospital urgently, but without telling him anything about what was happening. The doctor interrupts him:

-Yes, everything is a little mysterious. I think she knew everything that was going to happen. Before she died, Don Eladio left me a letter for you, as well as her baby in the cradle.

Eladio was surprised:

-I'm just as lost as you are, Danish doctor. I don't know the contents of the letter, let alone the existence

of a baby. When I first introduced myself, I told you that I was your father, but that is not exactly the case. I found her abandoned in the woods and welcomed her as if she were my own daughter. When she grew up I told her the truth. She understood it perfectly, never asked me anything and always felt at ease with me.

A few months ago, she went for a walk in the woods, it was a stormy day and I never heard from her again, worried about what might have happened to her, during all this time, I haven't stopped looking for her without getting an answer.

The doctor takes Eladio's hand and gives him Melissa's letter.

-This is the letter I've told you before, I suppose it will explain the reason for everything. Take it and sign these sheets for me, please, it's the documentation so you can take the baby with you. Having said that, I have fulfilled the word I gave to Melissa, I don't think I can do anything else.

Eladio excited:

-He has done enough. Thank you for everything. You are an honest man, another person would have ignored the child. I am indebted to you.

Eladio takes the child, but before leaving the doctor tells him:

-Take good care of the child, I have noticed extraordinary things. This baby is special. And don't worry; it's just between the two of us.

Eladio with an accomplice smile says:

-You know, I don't think it was a coincidence that I ran into you, doctor. I'm sure he was the person chosen to take care of the child these days. Who knows? Maybe later our lives will cross again. Thank you very much for everything again and goodbye doctor.

Eladio walks through the hospital exit door with the baby and disappears, heading home.

He lives in mountains far from any city. The only thing nearby is a hermit or a house like his. This one is small, with two bedrooms and a living-dining room with a fireplace, very cosy. Painted white on the outside.

When she arrives home, she prepares a baby's bottle for her grandson. When his grandson falls asleep, he lights a candle and opens the letter to read it.

*My dear Eladio,*

*You've been the best father in the world. I suppose you are already with my son in your hands and you know that I have passed away. Forgive me for not telling you any of this before, but I didn't know how to tell you. I didn't want you to feel bad, I didn't want you to worry about me, and how it would have been to know what was going to happen, because you are what I want most in this life. And now I give you my most valuable treasure, my son. You are grandfather Eladio; I am convinced that you are happy. I would*

*like you to call him Angel. But first you must know who the father is, because he is different from us two dads. So pay attention.*

Eladio reads this part of the letter carefully, and each line is more surprised, as if what he were reading was a dream.

When he finishes, his eyes are lost on the horizon and his whole body is as if petrified. He is stunned, at the same time the candle is extinguished, when he returns to reality, he lights it again and keeps the letter in his pocket.

Then he goes to the child, kisses him on the forehead and murmurs:

-Good night, Angel, he's waiting for us.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **ANGEL IS ALREADY A CHILD**

It's been 12 years. Angel has become a child with black eyes and a deep look; he has dark hair and a face from which he has great sympathy. He is thin but strong, with a surprising vitality. He always wears jeans, a black t-shirt and slippers.

-Angel, Angel! shouts Eladio in the middle of the forest.

Suddenly you see Angel jumping into the void, from the top of a tree twenty-five meters high and falling standing, He is laughing, right in front of Eladio.

-Grandfather, what do you want in such a hurry? He was following a squirrel.

Eladio looks the same as always, he says:

-I'm going to prepare the fire to eat, bring me a wild boar or whatever you see that we'll eat it.

-Well grandfather, I'm flying.

Angel starts running like a tiger until he hears a roar and stops dry. He sees a bear sharpening its nails in a tree. Then he leaps in front of the animal and yells at it:

-Hello, Mr. Bear.

The bear, ten times his size, turns around looking at Angel as if it were an appetizing snack and throws a powerful paw at him. Angel avoids him by jumping over him, and when he falls to the ground, he jumps to the bear and with a closed fist he hits the whole belly, which makes the animal fall to the ground.

Angel with a tone of victory:

-That's what you get for being a bad bear. Now you'll see my grandfather in the pot.

Angel goes under the animal and lifts it up without you being able to see him and runs to his house. When he arrives he throws it with both hands to where the grandfather had the fire lit.

Eladio, pleasantly surprised, exclaims:

-Wow, what a big bear you've caught. Every day you are stronger. I think it's time to go to the house behind the Sacred Mountain, which I've told you about so many times; there are an endless number of great and rare creatures.

Enthusiastic Angel:

-I really want to go grandfather; you have told me so many wonderful things about that place that I want to know it.

Eladio:

-After lunch, we'll leave.

So they roast the bear in the fire and both of them eat it as if nothing had happened. Once their appetite is satisfied, they walk towards the mountain.

As they advance it begins to get dark and when they reach the foot of the mountain it is already a closed night.

There they enter a cave whose entrance has an engraving on the upper part, in which it can be read "Only people or creatures different from others will pass to the other side of the Sacred Mountain".

Angel sees it and asks:

-What does this mean, grandfather?

Eladio answers:

- Many years ago, humans, witches, werewolves, vampires, dragons, trolls and other kinds of mythological beings lived together in the world. But unfortunately, whether out of fear or because there was evil in the hearts of some, there were many confrontations, and the people and beings that were good could do nothing to prevent the bad relationships that arose.

There was a witch with a great power, who decided to create two worlds in one.

One where humans could live peacefully and the other where people and mythological beings who had different gifts could live in peace, leaving this writing in case any human who had some special power could cross from one world to another.

Angel says:





Grandfather pats him on the back.

-Let's go home, Angel. I'll make you something to eat.

When they arrive, Angel sees a man of clay, quite big, bringing firewood to his grandfather's house. And he asks:

-Grandpa, why does this giant bring firewood to your house?

Grandfather answers:

-It's a golem; it helps me do the housework. He's at my service.

-He's a very tall grandfather.

-And more than that. He's always growing. There comes a time when it is so great that you have to get rid of it.

Angel:

And how do you do it, grandfather?

-Do you see the forehead? It's written "Emet".

-Yes, I see it.

-Well, if you erase the first E from the forehead, it's written Met, which means death in Greek, and it melts. Then, in order to be born again, all you have to do is say the word Emet, which means 'Truth'. The 'Golem' is harmless and hardworking. But come on let's eat something. Go to the well to get some water to drink, while I make fire and roast the fillets of dinosaur tail.

The house was an exact replica of the one they had in the human world.

Eladio comes in and takes the steaks that are on the table, seasons them and then roasts them on the already prepared coals. When they finish eating they are so exhausted of the experience that they have just lived that they sleep in front of the fire.

