



# The Snowdrop

Adapted from a traditional Romanian folk tale

Each year in springtime the sun took the form of a beautiful young girl. When Sun appeared, birds began to sing, and roots stirred underground. The people loved Sun and looked forward to her appearance with great anticipation.

One day, the monster of winter, Zmeu, lay in wait for Sun. This year he would not let go of his hold over the earth. When Sun finally appeared, Zmeu kidnapped her and hid her in his dungeon, where not a single ray of her light could escape to warm the earth. The world became a sad and dark place.

Sun could not imagine how she would be able to escape from the dark dungeon. But one day a young hero, travelling the dark and cold world, heard of the plight of Sun. Even though he knew she was guarded by Zmeu himself, the young hero was determined to set the Sun free. So, he travelled to the lair of Zmeu and challenged him to a duel.

It was a bitter and long battle, but the young hero finally got the better of Zmeu and managed to release Sun from the dungeon. Finally, Sun was able to rise into the sky, warming the earth once more.

The young hero was mortally wounded in the battle with Zmeu. The rays of Sun shone upon the hero to warm him, but despite this, he fell to the ground. Where his drops of blood fell on the earth, the snow melted and the first snowdrops appeared.

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