

Uroš Petrović

Fairy Tales

The Third Seven



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A Koi Fairy Tale



oburu's father was a well-known koi breeder, the twenty-ninth generation of ancient breeding masters.

These vividly-patterned fish were a symbol of their homeland and the best specimens were sold for a veritable fortune. One morning, when Noburu was twelve years old, his father sent him on his first trip



alone. He was supposed to buy a new fish at the famous market at the foot of the cone-shaped mountains, with which they would enrich their strains.

His father sent him on his way with stern words. "Buy one, and buy the best!"



Carrying some food and water in his backpack along with a bag of gold coins, Noburu set off on his journey. He carried an empty water bottle on his back in which he was supposed to bring home the progenitor of the new koi lineage. Along the way, he rehearsed the rules for selecting the most valuable specimens, established by koi masters from the distant past.







On a steep ascent next to the path itself, the boy met a girl dressed in rags, crying.

“Why are you crying?” he asked her cautiously.

He could barely make out the answer she sobbed.

“They are robbing my family of their property. Father was unable to repay a debt because lightning killed all the fish in the lake.”



“So how much did he owe that they're robbing you of your entire estate?” Noburu asked.

She answered him and the sum almost completely matched what the boy was carrying in the bag. Something broke in him and he gave her all the gold coins, leaving only a few copper coins for himself. The girl was shocked by his act.



She looked at him with her big eyes, both cloudy and glazed with streams of clear tears.

“Thank you. My name is Senrigan. May the heavens reward you,” she said, bowing deeply to him and then ran through the fern and underbrush.

The boy continued on his way, pensive and very worried about how he would appear to his father after this transaction. He was desperate. His wise parent would surely be bitterly disappointed in his successor.

When he arrived at the market, it was already bustling. From all sides, lively bargaining, exclamations of agreement and disapproval, bragging, and cursing

