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Once Upon a Time ★★☆☆



Once Upon a Time
世界の童話

The marksman

ドイツの物語、「魔法の弾丸」の主人公は森に住む射撃の名手。優勝すれば愛する人との結婚がかなう射撃の大会で勝利を狙うも2日目でよそ者に負けてしまい、窮地に陥っていた。

1 Once upon a time, there was a **forester** called Max. He was in love with Agathe, the daughter of the head forester.

2 Agathe's father told Max that the winner of the village **marksmanship** contest would marry Agathe. Everybody thought Max would win. He was the best **shot** in the village.

3 On the first day of the contest, Max's bullets flew **true**. But on the second day, he lost to a **stranger** from far away. There was still a day left, but Max was worried. In his mind, he saw Agathe **turning her face away from him**.

4 The night before the last day of the contest, Max walked through the forest. Suddenly, a man **in black** appeared, and said his name was Samiel.

5 He told Max that he could give him a bag of magic bullets that always shot true. All he wanted, he said, was Max's happiness.

6 Max didn't believe they would shoot true, so Samiel gave him a gun: "See that eagle? Shoot it."

7 "But it's too far away!"



YU YAMAMOTO ILLUSTRATION

8 "Just **fire**," Samiel said. So Max did, and even though the eagle was just a dot in the sky, it fell dead to the ground.

9 "I **have blessed** each one of these bullets," Samiel said. "They will all be **true to you, except** the last one. That one belongs to me." Max was worried about the **price**, but he thought of Agathe, and he took the bullets.

10 The next day, Max won the contest easily. He shot a dot of red paint on a red leaf **from** a hundred **paces away**. He shot a running

deer from the other side of a hill. And he married Agathe. The years passed quickly and in great happiness. Max became even more famous for his marksmanship. He never missed a shot.

11 Then one day Max was hunting when he saw a man far away who looked like Samiel. Suddenly **scared**, Max took out his gun and fired a bullet at the man. But it flew around hills and over rivers and killed Agathe in her bed. It was the last bullet, and it belonged to the devil.

Extra Reading

German tales of "der frieschütz" ("the marksman") were around as early as the 14th century. In all of them, a marksman **makes a deal** with the devil. The devil gives him magic bullets. All of the bullets will shoot whatever the marksman wants — except for the last bullet, which belongs to the devil.

There are many different versions of the tale. Some have only seven bullets. Some have a second marksman who has also made a deal with the devil. One important version of the tale even has a happy ending — the 1821 opera *Der Frieschütz* by German **composer** Carl Maria von Weber.

But the **message** of all the tales is clear: If you make a deal with the devil, he will **twist** it until it **backfires on** you. (T)

魔法の弾丸

(見出し) marksman 射手。

1 forester 森に住む人。

2 marksmanship 射撃技術。shot 射手。

3 true 正確に。stranger よそ者。turning ... from ~ ~から顔を背ける。

4 in black 黒い服を着た。

8 fire 発砲する。

9 have blessed ~を清めた。true to ~ ~

に忠実な。except ~を除いて。price 代償、リスク。

10 from ~ paces away ~歩離れたところから。

11 scared おびえた。

(Extra Reading) were around あった、存在した。makes a deal 取り引きする。composer 作曲家。message 教訓。twist ~をねじ曲げる。backfires on ~ ~がしっぺ返しを食らう。 [本文 — 350 words]

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