TALES OF ORIGS

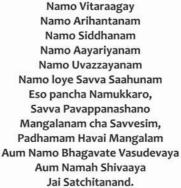
Lovable Laura

Book-9















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Lovable

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Autumn made way for winter in Orrington. The weather was freezing cold. It was snowing. Little Origs had got cozy in their fur coats, put on their wooly hats and worn their mittens. It was vacation time - scope to do something unique and learn something different.



Lovable Laura was a beautiful and attractive Orig. Her warm, brown eyes complemented her long brown hair well. She was eager to learn how to ice skate and attending the special Ice Skating course at the frozen lake seemed a unique way of enjoying the winter. She was very excited. As she approached the lake she saw other Origs from her school. There was Angry Henry, Scared Hegrid and Obstinate Ollie.



She sat down on a fallen tree trunk and put on her ice skates. In the excitement she forgot to tie her laces. She stood up and slowly tried to glide towards the others. But alas! As luck would have it, one of the laces got caught in her skates causing her to fall! She landed flat on the ice, which in turn made Angry Henry tumble down with a thud causing the ice to crack!

The freezing water beneath the ice splashed

onto Henry's face.



"You twit, what do you think you are doing? Does winter bring snow blindness in you? You girls just don't know how to skate!"

"Sorry Henry I forgot to tie my laces," Laura said feeling guilty.

"Then why don't you find a means of improving your memory first, and then come to learn skating!" frowned Henry.

"Sure I will, but first wipe your face or else you will catch cold!" She took out a handkerchief from her pocket and gave it to Henry.



She then got up and gave him a hand up.

Henry stood up.

"Hmmm, looks like you aren't hurt much which is good," said Laura looking at Henry. "Take care. Bye." Laura left.

This whole incident kept Angry Henry thinking. He was an analytical Origafter all...

'I have always yelled at people and they either shout back at me or feel scared and aren't able to utter a word. This is the first time someone has shown care in spite of my anger!'



Five days passed by. Now Laura was starting to get the hang of skating. She was able to glide freely around the lake without stopping. She was enjoying her newly-learnt skill, when a voice grabbed her attention...

"I-I-I N-n-no..."

It was Scared Hegrid.

"Come on, just let go and stop being scared!" cried Obstinate Ollie.

Hegrid looked nervous.

"Hi Ollie, Hi Hegrid!"



"Oh Laura, look at Hegrid! This skating class began five days ago and this boy has not even attempted to come onto the ice!"

Laura looked at how nervous Hegrid was.

"You know what, Hegrid? Even I was scared in the beginning. But trust me, skating is as simple as eating chocolate!"

"Really? Uhm... N-n-no I will fall," he mumbled. "No you won't. Come, let me hold your hand and skate with you."

Laura's comforting words touched Hegrid. He gathered the tiniest bit of confidence, but once again hesitated,

"What if I fall?" he asked.

"I will skate with you. You hold on to my hand."



With a little help from Laura, Hegrid stepped onto the ice.

"Good. Now keep your knees slightly bent and your weight a little forward."

"Good going Hegrid." Now they started making slow moves. Laura felt it was time to leave his hand and so she let go and...



THUDDDD

Hegrid fell.

Laura quickly held out her hand and helped him up. "Sometimes, we do fall, but that is normal. That's how we learn to stand up. It is only in difficult situations that we learn important lessons in life." Hegrid's spirits had taken a dive again.

"I must say Hegrid, you are missing one of the most amazing experiences. You will forget everything when you get the sensation of the cool breeze in your face."

The curiosity to feel the enjoyment created a new drive in Hegrid and he got up.

"But you are not going to leave my hand now, are you? I don't want to fall," said Hegrid in a stubborn tone.

"No, I won't!" she reassured him.



Laura held out her hand, which Hegrid gripped tightly and they both started skating again. This time they were moving with a little more speed. After a while Laura gently took away her hand. Hegrid wobbled at first and to his utter amazement he managed to keep his balance.



He was now gliding - ALL BY HIMSELF!

He skated the whole way around the lake twice then slowed down.

"It was amazing," he cried in excitement.

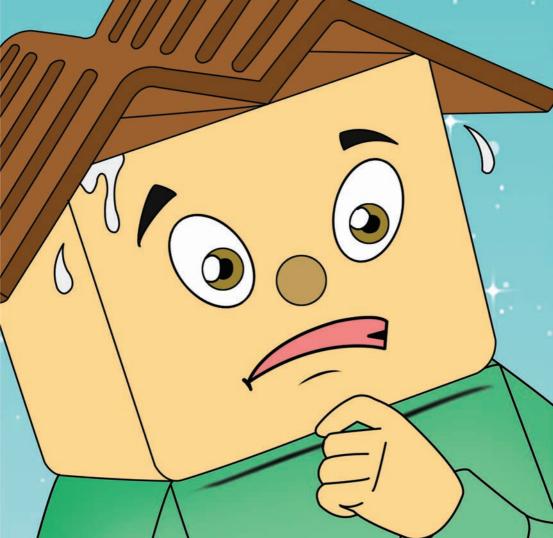
"I don't think I have ever experienced such thrill and fun before. Thanks Laura!"

"You are welcome. Fear is only as deep as the mind allows. So never let it overcome you. Good Luck." Saying this, Laura skated off by herself.



Fifteen days had passed by and the skating course was coming to an end. As a fun way to end the course, it was competition time for the students.

Scared Hegrid got scared again. He kept thinking, 'Oh no. If I don't win the competition mum will not allow me to enter the advanced course next winter. What do I do? The only champ in this year's batch is Laura and skating better than her is difficult.' He thought, 'Hmm... I think I have only one option...' and while plotting his plan he fell asleep.



THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION.

The lake was bustling with noise and excitement. Origs' parents had come to cheer them on. Hegrid had already arrived and his attention was focused on where Laura was standing. She was talking to her mother. She appeared all set and ready for the contest. Hegrid sneaked up behind her and bent down to look at her skates. The laces were neatly done up. He reached out and tied both skates' laces together and hurried back to his place.





Angry Henry arrived with his mother. He saw Lovable Laura and went to her.

"Hello Laura, good luck," he wished her. "Thanks and good luck to you too, Henry,"

Laura smiled.

And then, Henry spotted something...



"Laura, it looks like you want to have another fall today. What is this? Why are your skates tied together?" he asked as he pointed at her ice skates.

"What? Oh no!" She bent down to tie them up properly.

"I don't remember tying them like that," she said in astonishment.

"Hmm then it looks like somebody has tried to play a trick on you. Who could it be? You would have had a terrible fall!" Henry looked around suspiciously. Scared Hegrid was watching all of this from a distance. His conscience started to bite him. He was an *analytical* Orig after all.

'Oh no, what have I done! I am trying to cheat the person who helped me and gave me the confidence to skate!'

Without wasting any time he went straight to Laura and confessed everything. "Laura, it was me. I was the one who tied your laces together," he said with a trembling voice.

"But why did you do that?" Laura was surprised.

He then explained his whole story.





"Do you realize what could have happened? Falling on the ice could have resulted in broken bones and even breaking her head open! Do you have any sense?" Henry was furning.

"Relax Henry... Hegrid, if only you had told me. I would have willingly come last in the competition for you," said Laura compassionately. "Last? For me? For the one who plotted your failure? Laura you are unbelievable!" gasped Hegrid.

"Come on Hegrid, whether you win or I win it is the same thing. Now let's get ready to skate. We need to show your mum you deserve to enroll on to the advanced course!" Rona, the Orig maker was sitting in her room watching the goings on in Orrington, and exclaimed with satisfaction, "Well done Laura, you lived up to the true nature of TRUE LOVE, which does not change no matter how others behave with you... and it is simply selfless!

Rona lifted the little Orig girl and hugged her.





Rona



Noble Noel



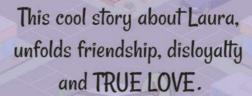
Liar Lancely



Jealous Joanna



Patient Patrick





Sincere Samuel



Positive Percy



Proud Peter



Lovable Laura





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Book of Happiness