



Karshakyz and the Fox

Маржан Мухамбетбеккызы



Once upon a time, an old man and an old woman lived in a quiet village, wishing they had a child to share their home. One winter morning, as the snow piled high, they decided to go outside and build a daughter made entirely of snow.



They worked together to shape the snow into a beautiful girl with a kind face and a gentle smile. Just as they finished their work, the snow girl miraculously opened her eyes and smiled back at them, coming to life before their very eyes.



The old couple was overjoyed and named her Karshakyz, welcoming her into their warm home as their own beloved daughter. They lived together in perfect harmony, filling their days with laughter and the cozy comforts of family life.



One day, Karshakyz went into the forest with her friends to gather fallen branches for the fireplace. She wandered deep into the woods, captivated by the beauty of the winter trees, and soon lost sight of her companions.



As darkness fell and the air grew cold, Karshakyz realized she was lost and became very frightened. She climbed a tall tree to stay safe from the shadows and began to cry, hoping someone would hear her calling for her parents.



A large, lumbering bear happened to pass by and heard her sobbing, offering to carry her back to the village on his broad back. Karshakyz was too scared of the bear's size and strength, so she politely refused and stayed high in the tree.



A little while later, a hungry-looking wolf stopped under the tree and asked why she was crying, offering his help to find her home. Fearful of the wolf's sharp teeth, Karshakyz shook her head and continued to weep, feeling more alone than ever.



Finally, a clever and friendly fox arrived with a small wooden sled and spoke to her with a soft, comforting voice. Sensing that the fox was truly kind and meant no harm, Karshakyz finally felt safe enough to climb down from her high perch.



The fox helped Karshakyz onto the sled and pulled her quickly through the moonlit forest toward the lights of the village. When they reached the cottage, the old man and woman were moved to tears of joy to see their daughter return safe and sound.



To show their deep gratitude, the couple prepared a wonderful feast for the fox and treated him as an honored guest in their home. From that day on, the villagers and the foxes lived in peace, always sharing food and kind words in memory of the fox's brave deed.