

Princess Carmen's Song

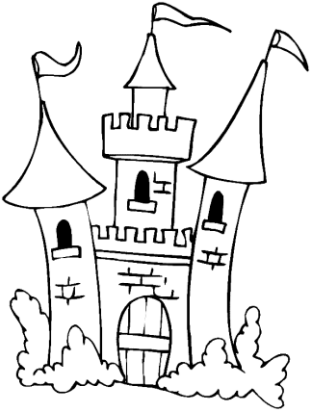


By Hayley Braun and Leanne Johnson

He has put a
new song
in my mouth,
a song of
praise
to our God.

Psalm 40:3

Once upon a time... in a faraway land, where the sea and sky meet, lived a little princess.



Her name was Carmen, which means 'song,' as there was always a song in her heart and a song on her lips. She had beautiful red hair, the colour of fire. She lived in a castle in a kingdom called Cambria with her parents, King William and Queen Audrey and her sister, Hazel.

Princess Carmen's world was a happy world. She played in the castle gardens with her many friends, among the flowers and forest of trees. She sang with the birds and played hide-and-seek with the squirrels. Her puppy, Skyler, used to follow at her heels, yapping loudly.



One cold, winter's day, the Church bells in the kingdom rang to announce Princess Hazel's wedding. The subjects in the kingdom lined the streets with winter blossoms which sparkled in the sunlight.



Suddenly the sun was blocked by a shadow as the dark fairy flew by. She hated happy celebrations. She sprinkled black dust over the crowd.

On that day, sadness entered the kingdom. That night, Queen Audrey grew very ill and fell into a deep sleep. Princess Carmen sat at her mother's bedside singing to her and begging her to awaken. But she did not.

A few days later, the saddest day fell on the kingdom of Cambria. Queen Audrey breathed her last and died. Her subjects lined the streets with red roses as they said goodbye to their gentle and beloved queen.



Princess Carmen's world was no longer happy. The sun stopped shining and the birds stopped singing.

The kingdom of Cambria became dark and grey. She was so sad and lonely and no longer had a song in her heart.

Her father, King William, shut himself away in a corner of the castle. She hardly saw him anymore. She wandered the lonely rooms and passages of the castle all by herself.

Princess Carmen knew her duty was to fill the role of Queen of the castle – but she was so young. She did her best to serve her subjects and look after the castle. She helped the castle cook plan the meals, but there were no more banquets. She never saw her sister as she had moved to a faraway kingdom over the mountains with her prince.

As time passed with the sunrises and sunsets, Princess Carmen got used to her life. She worked hard but she started hating her life. Sometimes she wished she could just run away. This was not how a princess's life should be.

King William grew more and more heartbroken without his queen. He often travelled to distant kingdoms, not returning for many moons. Princess Carmen and her father grew further and further apart.

One spring day, as the pink blossoms burst forth on the bare branches, a Town Crier rode through the village streets of the kingdom of Cambria. The subjects all rushed to the village square to hear his news. It was good news!



He was shouting news of a King who ruled all the kingdoms of the world and who had made all the kingdoms of the world. This king also had a son called the Prince of Peace.

As Princess Carmen listened from the top turret of her castle, her heart started to sing. The more she listened to the Town Crier talk about this King of kings and his kingdom that was more precious than any earthly kingdom, the more her heart started to sing.

Hope started to grow in her heart. Maybe...

She heard the news that in this kingdom, above the clouds, there was no sadness or tears or even death.

This was an ever after kingdom. This King of kings was mightier and more powerful than her earthly father, King William, and all the other kings in the surrounding kingdoms. This king was called King Agape and his kingdom was called Heaven. This all sounded so beautiful to Princess Carmen.

The Town Crier continued with his good news. He explained that King Agape offered rest for all those who were tired and comfort for those who were sad and lonely.

Princess Carmen so wanted to meet this King and visit his kingdom. The song in her heart grew till she thought it would burst.

Her lips started singing a soft song.

The Town Crier turned to see where the soft and gentle melody was coming from. He looked up at the castle. He had the kindest eyes she had ever seen and he seemed to see straight into her heart.

As he continued telling the good news, it seemed as if he was talking only to her. His voice carried on the wind and into her heart. He explained that one day she would be able to meet this Prince of Peace who offers hope, comfort and joy and live in the heavenly kingdom forever. But for now, she had to believe in him with all her heart and choose to live for him.

'How can I live for him if I haven't seen him?' she asked.

'By the gift of faith given to you,' he answered.

'And how can I know how to live for him and worship this king properly?' asked Princess Carmen.

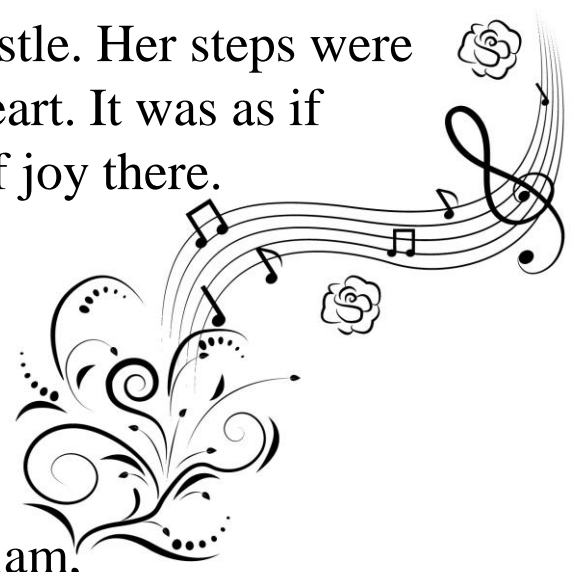
'By following the truth and way outlined in the Glorious Book.'



Princess Carmen knew of this Glorious Book. There was one in the castle library, in a glass cabinet. She rushed down the turret stairs to the library. She carefully lifted the glorious book from the glass cabinet and blew off the dust. As she slowly opened it, the words started coming alive and dancing in front of her.

She rushed outside to find the Town Crier. He was already leaving the village. She begged to go with him but he promised her that one day the Prince of Peace would come and fetch her. Until that time, she was to tell others this good news and hold on to the promises found in the Glorious Book.

Princess Carmen skipped back to the castle. Her steps were light and there was a new song in her heart. It was as if the Town Crier had put this new song of joy there. It bubbled out from her. Back at the castle, her life was still hard and lonely, but the new song and the words from the Glorious Book kept her company. She started telling her father, King William, all about the good news. She invited the children from the village to the castle gardens and she would sit under the tress with them and read to them from the Glorious Book. They all loved her. Colour returned to the Kingdom of Cambria.



Then one night, King Willian became seriously ill. All the doctors in the kingdom could not heal him. He was too weak to rule the kingdom and had to leave the castle and he could no longer look after Princess Carmen. He sent her across the mountains to live with her sister, Princess Hazel, in her kingdom. She left the Glorious Book behind in the castle and it seemed that the Prince of Peace had forgotten her. For a long time the song in her heart went silent.

But King Agape and the Prince of Peace had not forgotten Princess Carmen. She was loved and cherished. One day, while wandering in the hills, a lady appeared in front of her. She introduced herself as Lady Grace. She was a courtier of the King of kings. She walked with Princes Carmen and reminded her of the good news and the promises in the Glorious Book.

Princess Carmen hung her head in shame, *‘I forgot the Glorious Book behind at the castle. My faith has grown weak and I can no longer find the song in my heart.’*



Lady Grace smiled as she opened her lilac handbag. Inside was a new Glorious Book which she placed in Princess Carmen's hands. It was smaller than the one she had left at the castle. It was leather-bound and as she opened it the words started dancing in front of her. She felt the song in her heart.

'I have felt so lonely in this new kingdom,' sighed Princess Carmen.

Lady Grace gently took her hand and started walking with her. *'You are never alone. King Agape, the King of Light, is always watching over you. He never sleeps. If you belong to his kingdom, He has promised to never leave you or forsake you. Whatever he brings across the paths of his subjects is always for their good; to prepare them for his ever after kingdom.'*

But, Princess Carmen, I must warn you - the King of Darkness loves to lie to the King of Light's subjects. He wants to lure you from the path to the Heavenly city to the valley of Destruction. He doesn't want you to sing the new song in your heart, so he will try to discourage you. You must not listen to him or serve him in any way. The Glorious Book helps you to fight the King of Darkness with its words of truth. And remember this: the Prince of Peace was in a battle with the King of Darkness 2000 years ago and he defeated him at the terrible Battle of Golgotha.'

Princess Carmen stopped walking and turned to Lady Grace. *'I don't think I can do this on my own. I am too weak.'*

Lady Grace looked at her so kindly and spoke these words of hope. *'You don't have to do this on your own. King Agape has subjects in little cottages over all the kingdoms of the world. I am one of his subjects. We are all here to help and encourage one another as we wait for the Prince of Peace to return.'*

Together they started walking on the narrow cobbled path between the mountains.

Princess Carmen's heart felt lighter and she started singing a new song of joy.

To this day, Princess Carmen is teaching children all over the kingdoms.

She travels far and wide to tell them the good news found in the Glorious Book.

She has an especially soft heart for little children all over the kingdoms of the world, who like her, have no mother or father. She loves to tell them about the Prince of Peace and King Agape who is the perfect father.

Princess Carmen lives in a little cottage, with a colourful garden and a big tree where the squirrels scamper and the birds sing.

Little children are always welcome to come and visit her and stay with her and hear her sing the new song of joy in her heart.



The end...

God places the lonely in families.

Psalm 69:6

God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path

Psalm 119:105

Princess Carmen's Song

A story for 7-10 year olds

Princess Carmen lives in a castle in the beautiful kingdom of Cambria. But it seems as if those she loves the most leave her until she hears about a King of kings who will never leave her.

Follow her story as she finds joy and a new song in her heart amid the sadness.

The inspiration

Hayley Braun is an independent redhead who is dependent on God's grace everyday.

She grew up in the coastal town of East London but is currently living in Johannesburg where she is a Primary School Teacher.

She loves coffee and the outdoors and has a particular heart for orphans. She is planning a new adventure to teach in China.

Princess Carmen's Song is based on Hayley's own personal biography.



The author... Leanne Johnson

I am a wife and mom and my passion is teaching, counselling and writing, but all motivated out of my love for God and to serve Him with my gifts, talents and desires. I live in Johannesburg and have 2 sons and 2 daughters, one of whom is enjoying the pleasures of Heaven. Most of my writing has been Bible Study material for teen girls and ladies.

Princess Carmen's song is my 3rd children's story. *Mulberry Bee* and *The Township Fairy* are my two previous stories.

