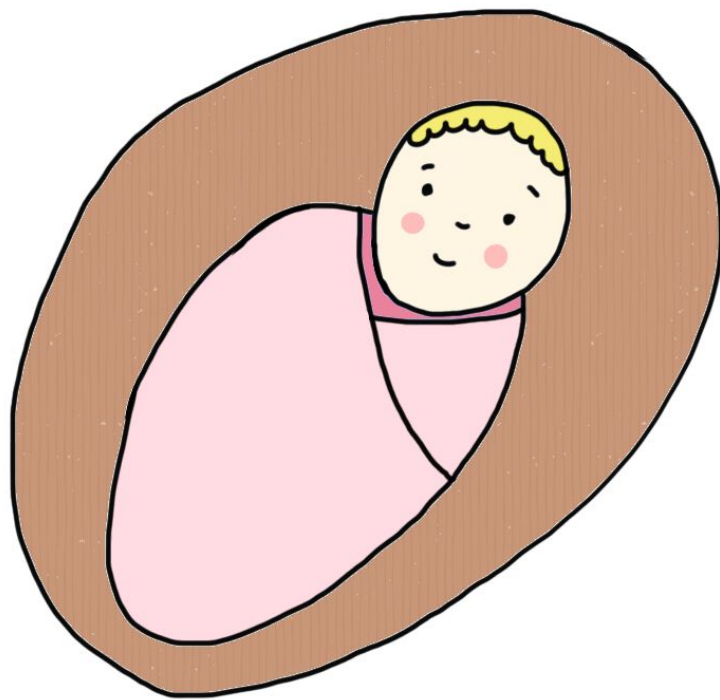


# LADY LUCK

*Vivadi*

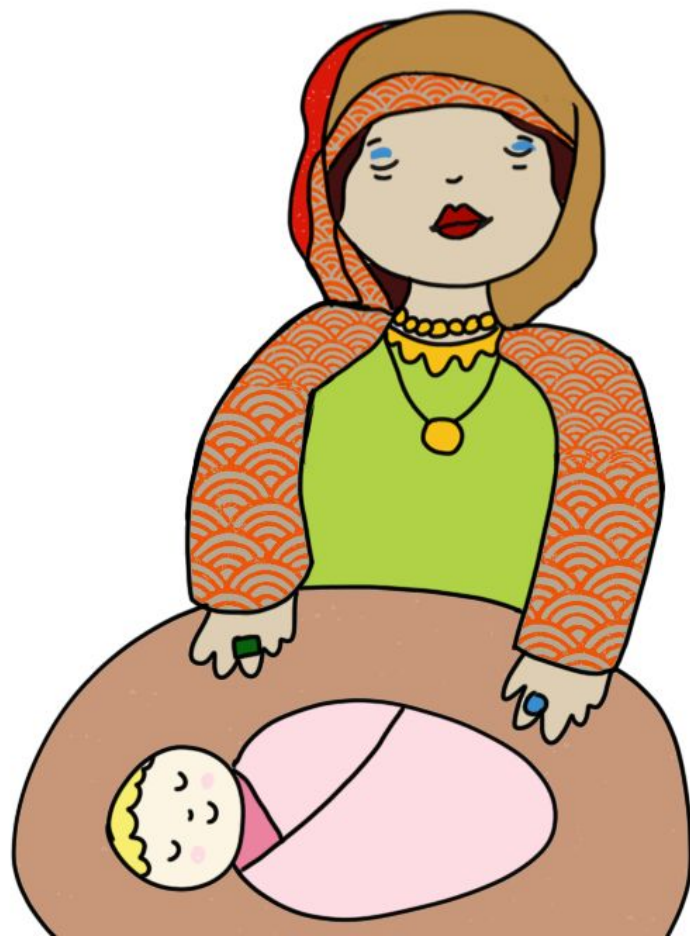




ONCE UPON A TIME A BABY GIRL WAS BORN.  
HER PARENTS CALLED HER ANNA. AS THEY  
CELEBRATED ANNA'S BIRTH WITH THEIR  
FRIENDS, A STRANGE WOMAN NO ONE HAD  
EVER SEEN BEFORE WALKED INTO THE ROOM.

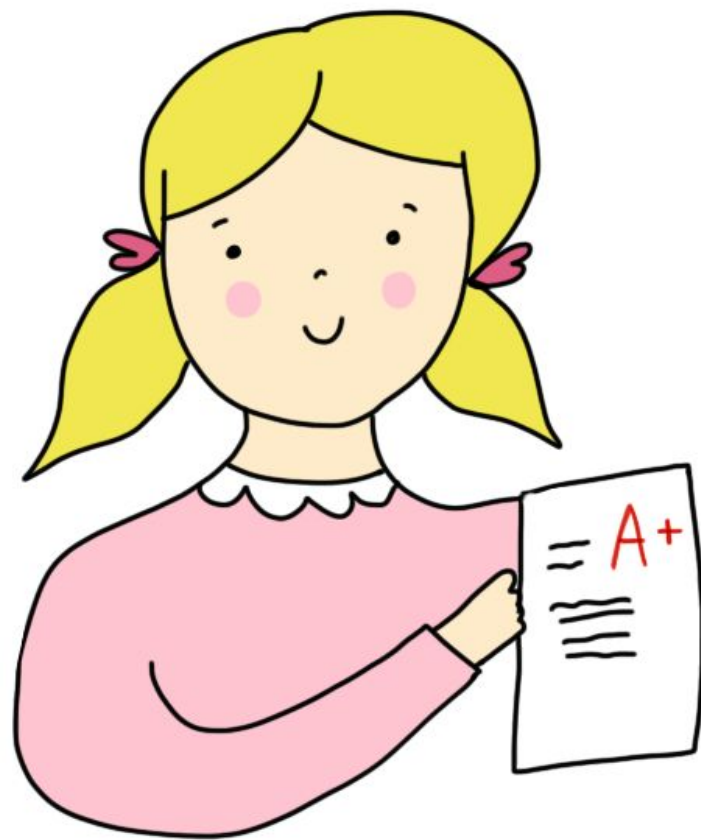


"HELLO," SAID THE WOMAN, WHO WORE STRANGE SHAWLS  
AND SCARVES AND MANY RINGS. "I'M LADY LUCK, AND I'VE  
COME TO ASK TO BE YOUR CHILD'S GODMOTHER."

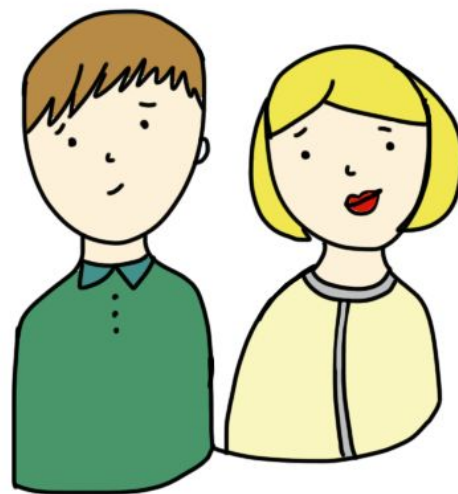
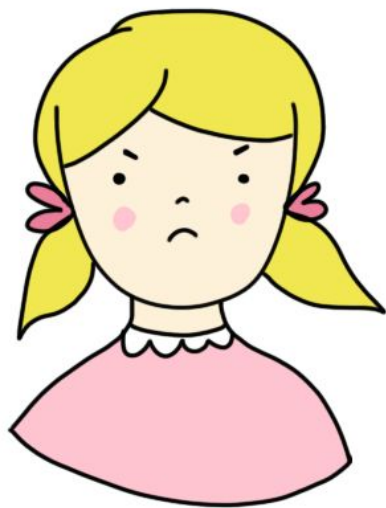


FOR A MOMENT THE PARENTS WERE TOO STARTLED TO ANSWER, BUT AFTER CONSULTING WITH EACH OTHER, THEY AGREED. NOTHING COULD BE A BETTER BLESSING THAN LUCK, AND SO THEY WELCOMED THE LADY AS ANNA'S GODMOTHER. THE LADY SMILED AND WAVED HER ARMS OVER THE CHILD IN HER CRADLE. "LUCK WILL FOLLOW YOU ALWAYS," SHE SAID, AND WITH THAT SHE DISAPPEARED.





AS ANNA GREW OLDER, HER GODMOTHER'S BLESSING PROVED TRUE. ALTHOUGH HER PARENTS WERE OF MODEST MEANS, THEIR DAUGHTER WAS SHOWERED WITH EVERY KIND OF LUCK IMAGINABLE. WHEN ANNA FELL FROM THE SWING, A SOFT MOUND OF GRASS APPEARED TO BREAK HER FALL. WHEN SHE PLAYED GAMES, SHE ALWAYS WON. WHEN SHE STUDIED, LUCK FOLLOWED HER, AND SHE EASILY PASSED EVERY TEST. OTHER CHILDREN ALWAYS LIKED HER, AND SO DID ADULTS. "WHAT A LUCKY GIRL," PEOPLE SAID, NOTING THAT ANNA NEVER SEEMED TO HAVE THE TROUBLES OTHER CHILDREN HAD.



BUT ANNA WAS DISSATISFIED WITH HER GIFTS. "I WISH WE WERE WEALTHY," SHE COMPLAINED TO HER PARENTS.

"WE ARE WEALTHY," HER PARENTS SAID. "WE ARE BLESSED WITH A LUCKY CHILD."

"BUT I WANT CLOTHING AND JEWELS, AND I WANT TO LIVE IN A MANSION," ANNA WAILED. "I WISH MY GODMOTHER HAD GIVEN ME A FORTUNE."



ONE DAY LADY LUCK APPEARED IN ANNA'S ROOM, JUST AS SUDDENLY AS SHE HAD FIRST APPEARED AFTER HER BIRTH.

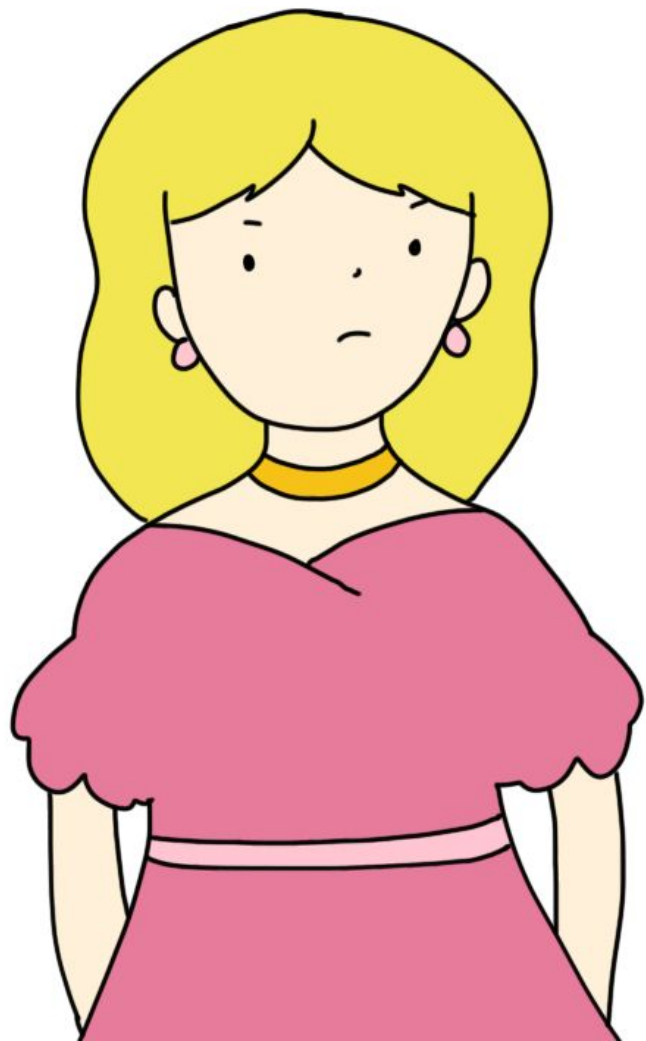
"SURELY YOU ARE NOT COMPLAINING," SAID LADY LUCK TO ANNA.

"I AM," ANNA POUTED. "MY FRIEND SARAH LIVES IN A MANSION. AND ELEANOR HAS BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES. ALLISON HAS A HORSE. JULIA HAS GOLD JEWELRY."

"I AM LUCK," SAID THE LADY, "I AM NOT FORTUNE. BUT WITH YOUR LUCK, WHATEVER WORK YOU DO IS BOUND TO BRING YOU FORTUNE."

"I DON'T WANT TO WORK," ANNA WHINED. "I DON'T LIKE TO WORK."

LADY LUCK JUST SHOOK HER HEAD. "MY CHILD," SHE SAID, "DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR GIFTS."



BUT ANNA REMAINED UNHAPPY, AND AS THE YEARS PASSED, SHE GREW MORE SO. STILL, LADY LUCK WAS FAITHFUL. WHEN ANNA WORKED, HER POCKETS FILLED WITH COINS. WHEN SHE HAD EARNED A PURSE FULL OF MONEY, SHE BOUGHT A BEAUTIFUL DRESS, AND THAT VERY AFTERNOON SHE RENTED A CARRIAGE TO TAKE HER INTO THE CITY. THERE SHE SAW ELEGANT MANSIONS AND HANDSOME MEN IN FANCY SUITS, AND ANNA KNEW SHE COULD NOT RETURN HOME.





"I MUST STAY IN THIS CITY," SHE SAID, "AND I WILL BECOME A LADY OF FORTUNE. I WILL MARRY A WEALTHY MAN. I DON'T NEED MY FAMILY."

WHEN LADY LUCK, WHO WAS NEVER FAR AWAY, HEARD ANNA'S WISH AND HER PLAN, SHE WEPT. "I AM NOT THE RIGHT GODMOTHER FOR THIS GIRL," SHE SAID, AND SHE WENT TO VISIT LADY FORTUNE.



"MY GODDAUGHTER WISHES YOU WERE HER GODMOTHER,"  
LADY LUCK SAID. "WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRADE CHILDREN?  
DO YOU HAVE A YOUNG WOMAN WHO WOULD ENJOY MY  
GIFTS?"

"I DO INDEED," SAID LADY FORTUNE. "MY GODDAUGHTER  
ELEANOR HAS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT YOUR  
GODDAUGHTER, ANNA. SHE HAS WISHED AND WISHED SHE  
HAD SUCH LUCK."

SO THE TWO WOMEN TRADED.



SOON AFTERWARD ANNA MET AND MARRIED A HANDSOME  
MERCHANT WHO LIVED IN A FINE MANSION. HE SHOWERED  
HER WITH JEWELS AND PARASOLS, WITH SILKS AND  
SATINS, AND WITH FINE WHITE STEEDS AND CARRIAGES.  
NOW ANNA WAS AMONG THE WEALTHIEST OF WOMEN,  
AND SHE CONSIDERED THIS HER LUCK.



BUT ONE DAY AS SHE WAS WALKING THROUGH HER  
MAGNIFICENT GARDEN, SHE SLIPPED IN A PUDDLE AND  
FELL AND BROKE HER ARM.

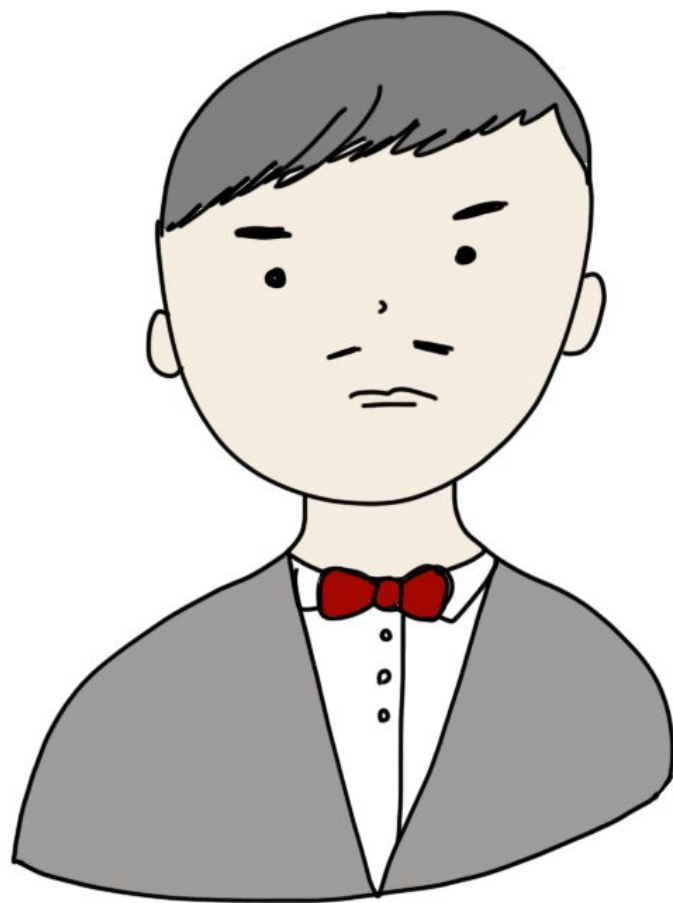
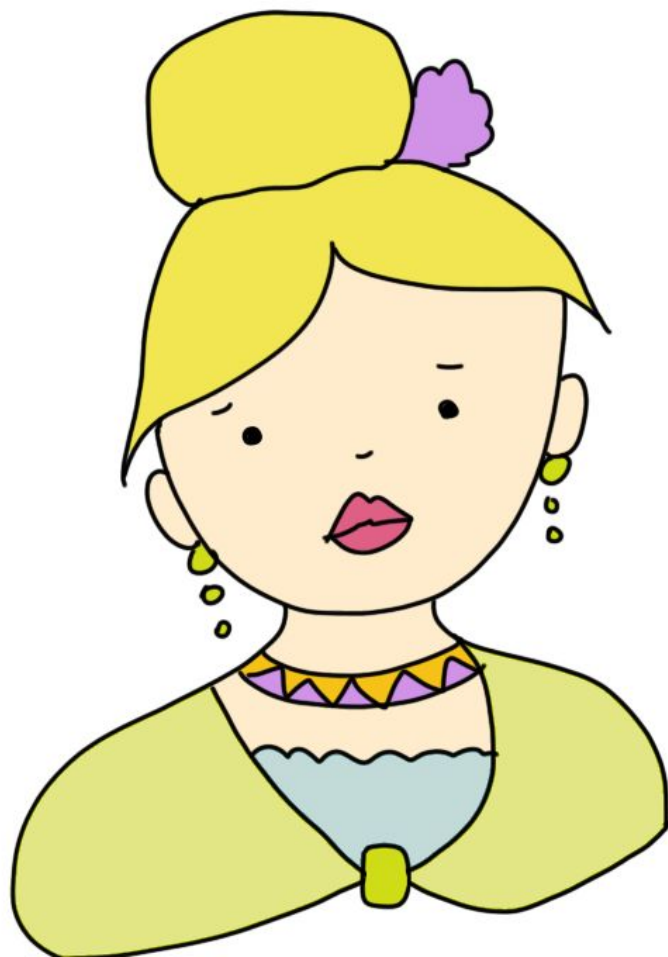
"HOW CAN THIS BE?" SHE CRIED. "I NEVER FALL. I NEVER  
BREAK MY BONES. I NEVER, EVER HAVE BAD LUCK." SHE  
BEGAN TO CRY.





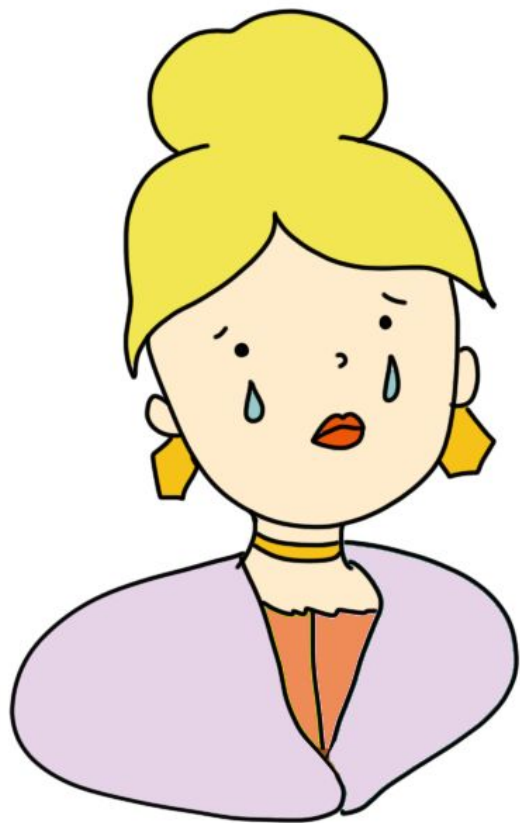
LADY FORTUNE, LIKE HER MAGICAL FRIEND LADY LUCK, SUDDENLY APPEARED IN ANNA'S GARDEN. "HELLO, MY CHILD," LADY FORTUNE SAID. "I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU. YOUR GODMOTHER, LADY LUCK, AND I TRADED GODDAUGHTERS. NOW YOU SHALL ALWAYS HAVE FORTUNE, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN DO LITTLE ABOUT YOUR LUCK."

"NEVER MIND," ANNA SAID, AS SHE STOOD. "HAVING FORTUNE WILL BE MUCH BETTER THAN HAVING LUCK."



ALAS, THIS WAS NOT SO. ANNA LOVED HER JEWELS AND HER CLOTHES, AND SHE LOVED HER MANSION, AND SHE LOVED HER CARRIAGES AND STEEDS, BUT HER HUSBAND WAS A SOUR FELLOW WHO SELDOM SMILED, AND BEFORE LONG ANNA REALIZED SHE DID NOT LOVE HIM.

"JUST MY LUCK," SHE WAILED, "TO MARRY A MAN I DO NOT LOVE. PLEASE, GODMOTHER, COME AND TALK TO ME," AND TO HER AMAZEMENT, LADY LUCK APPEARED.



"I'VE MISSED YOU, ANNA, AND I'VE MISSED GIVING YOU LUCK, BUT I KNOW YOU DO NOT CARE FOR LUCK NEARLY SO MUCH AS YOU CARE FOR YOUR CLOTHING AND JEWELS."

"NO, NO," ANNA SAID, "THAT'S NOT TRUE. I MISS YOU, LADY LUCK." AND ANNA SMILED, FOR SHE WAS HOPEFUL THAT HER LADY LUCK WOULD NOW RETURN FOREVER.

"THE TROUBLE IS," SAID LADY LUCK, "WE GODMOTHERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO TRADE CHILDREN MORE THAN ONCE. YOU GOT YOUR WISH, MY CHILD. YOU HAD YOUR LUCK." AND WITH THAT LADY LUCK DISAPPEARED. ANNA WAS LEFT WITH ONLY HER GOOD FORTUNE.