

very gently and the oversized horses were back in their right measurements.”

“I have never ever teased Ed,” thought Marilyn and fell asleep, dreaming of many horses.

“It’s a good thing we have no horses,” Ed thought and fell asleep right there, on Marilyn’s belly.

The Sandman sat on the edge of the bed, kicking his heels for a while, and then hurried to work.

## Crybaby Lena

Sandman seemed especially happy today. He got a huge handkerchief from his pocket, blew his nose strongly and snickered to himself.

“Today I went to put a very sad girl to sleep,” the Sandman said. “I’ve never cried so much before in my entire life, you know.”

“But why are you so happy when the girl was so sad?” Marilyn asked.

“Hold on, let me tell you the story from the beginning. I didn’t really know the reason why she was sad at first,” the Sandman said. “She was just sad and that was it. Everything we tried to discuss seemed sad straight away.”

“Sometimes it’s the same thing with me,” Marilyn said.

“I just feel sad and that’s it.”

“Yes, but with you it will pass. After sadness come joy and happiness. But for this girl, who was called Helena, the sadness never passed. They used to call her the Crybaby Lena at the kindergarten and after she went to school, it continued – everyone kept calling her Crybaby Lena. This made her even unhappier.”

“Maybe she had some trouble that kept her worried all the time,” Marilyn guessed.

“She did,” the Sandman said. “I figured everything out until the very bottom of it.”

“And what was the trouble then?” Marilyn asked.

“Her trouble was that nobody ever listened to what she



had to say. She couldn't pour her soul out to anybody. Dad came home from work late and felt tired. He sat in front of the TV and started to read the newspaper. Mum came a little bit earlier but she started to clean and cook right away. Nobody spoke to Helena at home. They hardly ever spoke to her, do you understand?"

"This is awful," Marilyn said.

"Well, and she kept sitting in her room and kept all her worries inside her. They kept gathering and gathering. In the end, the small girl was only one big worry. No wonder they called her Crybaby Lena."

"Could you help her in any way?" Marilyn asked.

"Well, first I listened to all her worries. Then I went and brought her Mum and Dad to her bedside and had them listen to all her worries as well. It turned out that they knew how to listen very well, and after Helena had been able to tell them about her biggest worries twice in a row, she felt a lot happier. In the end I played all sorts of tricks and even made her laugh.

Then her dad told us how once when he sneezed in the math lesson, a booger flew three meters from his nose. Then Helena's Mum remembered how the teacher had cleaned the blackboard and the blackboard wipe had fallen on her head."

"And Crybaby Lena kept on laughing?" Marilyn asked.

"That's right," the Sandman said. "She kept laughing so hard that she had to hold her belly and slap the soles of her feet. I couldn't stop either and went on giggling."



“How beautiful!” Marilyn sighed and caressed the Sandman’s head.

“Now I remember!” Sandman lifted his finger. “She hadn’t been caressed or hugged at all either. Then I stroked her about twenty or thirty times and gave her some big hugs. And so did Helena’s Mum and Dad. In the end they were having such a good time among themselves that I snuck away quietly.” Sandman tucked the blanket under Marilyn’s jaw and kissed her on the forehead. Marilyn hugged the Sandman, blinked her eyes for a couple of times and then fell into peaceful sleep.

## The pirate

“You know,” the Sandman said. “Today I’m going to tell you a story about a pirate.”

“A pirate?” Marilyn asked. “There are so many stories about pirates. Can’t you tell me about something new?”

“No, Marilyn, this pirate was very special. He didn’t steal treasures from ships. He even didn’t steal ships. He stole seas. He drank the seas up to the very last drop and took them to another place.”

“Where did he keep the sea?” Marilyn asked.

“In his cheeks,” the Sandman explained. “Once he had