

How Lucy Became a War Nurse



Boys had gathered behind the lilac tree in the yard to discuss their secret plan. Everyone was holding a wooden gun, some had rifles, others automatic guns or hand pistols. They were about to fight a huge war with the boys from the neighbouring yard. The most important goal was to conquer the hill behind the house.



On the top of the hill a hole had been dug, which was the perfect spot to ambush. The boys

from the neighbouring yard had made their headquarters there, so the hill had to be reconquered.

“I want to fight in the war as well,” said little Lucy and tucked Andy from the sleeve.

“I know how to give medicine and how to bandage wounds.”



“You’re still too little,” Tom from next door said. “You aren’t fast enough to run away and so you’ll get killed right away.”

Lucy got tears in her eyes, so Andy said:

“Let her come along anyway. We’ll just leave her in the base and bring the wounded soldiers to be bandaged back here by ourselves.”

“Alright,” Tom agreed. “But make sure you don’t stick your head out of the bush!”

Lucy felt very happy and hurried home to ask Mum for bandage and medicine. Mum gave her a roll of gauze bandage and a bottle of vitamins.



She put these in her old handbag and put the bag across Lucy's body. Now Lucy looked like a proper nurse. She hurried back outside as she didn't want to be late for the war.

"Andy and Mark!" Tom ordered as he was the most important of the boys. "You are going on a reconnaissance mission!"



"Sir, yes, Sir!" Andy and Mark roared together.

“You will sneak around the house and check how many of them there are. Got it?”

“Sir, yes, Sir!” Andy and Mark answered. “We’ll check how many of them there are!” They crouched and sneaked away along the house wall.

“I want to do something as well,” Lucy said when the boys had lied down behind the bush, ambushing the enemies, who were about the attack.

“Get down, Lucy, otherwise you’ll get shot right away and then we’ll be left without a nurse,” Tom whispered over his shoulder.

So Lucy lied down on her back on the grass and looked at the clouds.



“I guess it’s going to rain soon,” she thought out loud.

“Hush!” the boys whispered. “You will give away our location!” And Lucy stayed quiet. She was quiet for quite a while and kept watching the clouds passing by. There were so many things she saw in the clouds: one cloud reminded her of a house, another looked like a ship, there was also one that was shaped like their pretty car and one smaller cloud looked like a little girl wearing a wide skirt. “That must be me,” Lucy thought.

When she had been looking at the clouds for quite a long time she got sleepy. Her eyelids got heavy and she dreamt that she was running on the battlefield and there were bombs exploding everywhere around her. Tanks were rumbling and fighters flying above her head. Someone was shouting something in a loud voice and soldiers fell to the ground. Suddenly she noticed Andy who had been hurt and lied on his side on the ground. Lucy quickly got the bandage roll from her bag and treated Andy’s wounded leg. Then she helped her brother get up and Andy limped across the battlefield to the lilac tree, supported by Lucy. When they got behind the lilac tree, Lucy helped Andy lie down and put her bag under his head. He

stroked Andy's head gently and comforted him:

“You'll be just fine, Andy. Don't cry!”

“I'm not crying,” Andy answered. “Boys don't cry!”



Then Andy grasped Lucy's arm and said in a meaningful voice: “You know, Lucy, you need to go and get my rifle. I left it in the place I was

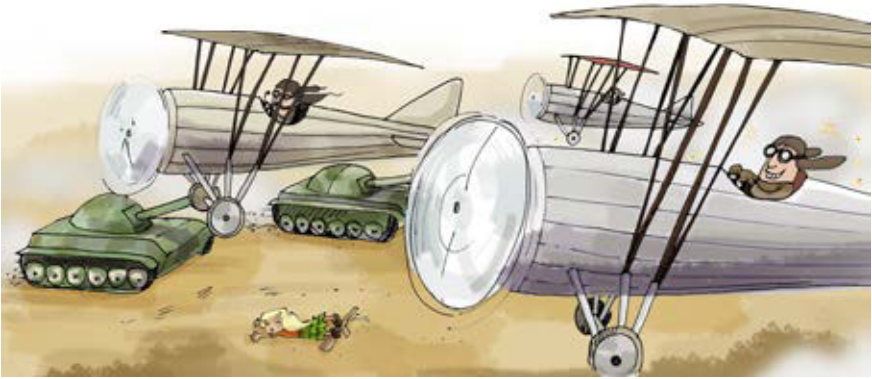
wounded. Are you up for it?”

“Of course I am!” Lucy was ready to go straight away. “I will bring you your rifle, Andy!” So she got running towards the place she’d found her wounded brother.



Once again there were bombs exploding and rifles shooting. The fighters were flying just above her head and tanks driving past her. Making way among wounded soldiers, Lucy kept running back and forth but couldn’t see Andy’s rifle anywhere. Then she stumbled on something and there it was – her brother’s wooden rifle. Only now the barrel looked like that of a real rifle and it also had a trigger that you could pull to make a loud bang. Lucy stood up and looked around her. There were

wounded soldiers everywhere.



On top of the hill that Andy and his friends wanted to conquer there was a blue enemy flag. Lucy figured that if all soldiers had been hurt she could just as well become a soldier herself. Besides, now she had her brother's gun. Lucy picked the rifle from the ground and stepped decisively towards the hill. She got on her hands and knees and crawled up the hill slope. Once she had almost reached the top, she took the rifle and placed the barrel on the edge of the hole. Then she peeked over the edge into the hole and saw Bill, the largest boy from the yard next door.

“Hands up!” Lucy commanded. Bill put his hands up when the barrel was directed at his face.



“Throw the flag down the hill!” Lucy kept on giving commands and Bill did as he was told. Now Lucy got a pink handkerchief from her pocket, picked a branch from the ground and tied the handkerchief to the branch.

“I’m taking you prisoner now,” Lucy told Bill and stuck the branch in ground. “And now there’s our flag on top of the hill, so the hill is ours!” They started walking towards the lilac tree, Bill walking first and Lucy following him and pointing the gun at him. When they got to the lilac tree,

they were greeted by cheering boys who shouted “Hurray!”



Lucy felt really proud. Everyone had dirty faces and mud all over them but they were still very happy for winning back the hill.



“Lucy,” someone shook her shoulder all of a sudden. “Wake up!”

Lucy got up, all sleepy, and couldn’t understand a thing.

“Mum is calling, it’s lunch time,” Andy said, kneeling beside her.

“What about the war?” Lucy asked. “We did win the war, didn’t we?”

“Of course we did,” Andy replied and showed his hurt knee. “Let’s go home now, so you can help me bandage my knee.”

Lucy was up in no time and took Andy’s hand.

They went home. Mum cleaned Andy's knee and then Lucy put a bandage on it very carefully.



“Is it better now?” Lucy asked.

“It is,” Andy replied and added:

“You know, Lucy, you are a really good nurse.”