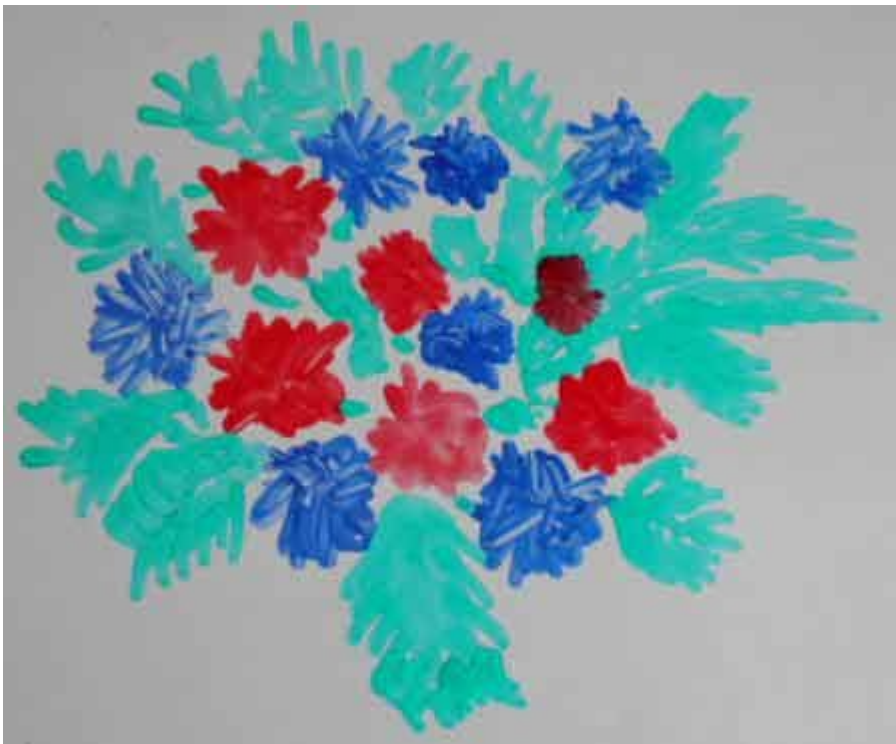


The thaw.

Kate AKS



- What? - Asked half asleep Georgia herself, because she was in bed alone.

- What? - Repeated she when sound didn't stop. She went home yesterday too late, last preparations for Christmas always took time, especially when tree in the hall of City Hall fall with all decorations. But it's big secret and whole damage is under cover, as broken balls still in boxes in her car.

Georgia woke up. Sound didn't stop, it was persistent, somewhere near, but she can't get from where. Drop by drop, drop by drop.

Here weren't helpers who could answer to new mayor for every question. It's her first Christmas. Not first in this town, she was born here some decades ago. Drop by drop, drop by drop.

Georgia walked in the bathroom, taps were quiet. Drop by drop, drop by drop.

She checked clock, almost ten. Holiday season, she should be in the City Hall for eleven. It's two streets from her house, but she saw her hair in the mirror. Drop by drop, drop by drop.

- What? - Georgia opened curtains on the window. Bright sun was everywhere. Now she knew what it means. Disaster.

Phone ringed and she heard scream of her helper, Bridged.

- Thaw!!

- Morning, Bridget. Nice to hear you. What is my schedule for today? - Asked Georgia when opened window, air was also warm like in beginning of spring.

- Thaw! What you will do? Thaw! - Bridged screamed and Georgia hoped that she didn't wait from her powers to change weather.

- I noticed. We will have warm Christmas or all will change and we will have enough snow. We will survive, Bridged.

- And The War, Georgia.

- The War. - Georgia walked away from window and sat on the bed. - I will call you later, phone call at other line.

Georgia looked in front of herself. Since childhood, she remembered The War – big battle with snowballs in front of City Hall. Every child took black or white ball and teams were formed. Honest, not without tears and battle began. Which battle will be in a thaw?

Georgia came to close the window and saw like neighbour's boy cried to mother that without snow they won't win. Georgia received such look from Mrs Tiny, which better she use to froze everything to length of thousand miles.

- What to do?

Georgia believed that couldn't postpone it, whole town will be lost for her. She opened her wardrobe, clothes will help to find proper tone, when she will announce it. On the bottom she noticed jeans which were destroyed after paint-ball with Walter, sweet times, before she won mayor's place in second round with him.

- Why not? It won't be worse. - And Georgia found proper number in the phone.

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At the noon children and their parents start to come from different directions to the City Hall. Georgia already was on the stairs, little tribune was in front of her. Children looked like they already didn't receive all presents for Christmas. They divide for two teams, as usual. Playground with fortresses was on place, but there wasn't snow, main attraction of the battle.

Georgia decided if she will wait for more minutes, children will start to cry and teenagers will begin.

- Welcome. I'm glad that you gathered here. - Started Georgia.

- What for? - Asked not tiny child's voice.

- For The War. - Georgia said.

- Without snow? - Asked this time kid's.

- Someone said The War? - Loud Walter's voice made everyone turn heads.

- I said The War. - Georgia already put hood of her raincoat on head. - Are you ready?

- I am. - Answered Walter. - Let's start.

And Walter with Georgia throw at each other balls with paint. For a moment was pause, then victorious scream from all children and few adults.

- Raincoats on the left, weapons inside each fortress. - Repeated again and again Georgia.

She didn't stop thaw, but day was saved.

December 2018