



THE VERITAS

March 2015 Issue

The Origin of The Easter Bunny and Eggs

By: Isabel Padolina

Since Easter is but a few days away, it is time to finally know the origin of two popular items everyone or most people know about, the Easter bunny and Easter eggs. Ever since we were little, we have always heard of the famous Easter bunny and how he hides eggs but has anyone ever told you the origin of it? Well, now you will know.

It is thought that the word Easter came from the Eastre, the goddess of spring who was celebrated by the Northern Saxon Europeans. Her symbol on earth was the rabbit also known as the symbol of fertility and rebirth. Since the rabbit gives birth to quite a number of bunnies, it is quite understandable why the rabbit was chosen to be the symbol of fertility. The goddess's holiday was celebrated during the spring equinox in which the Northern Saxon Europeans would honor her. The name of the holiday was later adapted to the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ. The name Eastre was also changed to Easter as well but it is still very much the same with only the last two letters changed.

The legend of the Easter Bunny hiding eggs originated from settlers from southwestern Germany who settled in Pennsylvania, United States. The legend has it that the Easter Bunny also known as the Spring Bunny or Easter Hare brings baskets full of colored eggs and toys to homes of children the night before Easter. It is very similar to Santa Claus bringing toys for children the night before Christmas. The Easter Bunny would either hide the eggs in a specific area or hide them around the house or garden. The children would wake up in the morning and look for the eggs thus began the tradition of Easter egg hunting.

There is also another type of egg that has an origin, the chocolate Easter eggs. They were originally boiled eggs that people would have it on Easter because, eggs were considered dairy and they were not allowed to have any dairy or meat during Lent. Since eggs were considered dairy and not allowed during Lent, people thought eggs to be very prized things for Easter and they even gave eggs to children as presents. Later on, the chocolate eggs were used to substitute the boiled eggs and were hidden for the children on Easter. People would also give plastic eggs filled with candy such as jellybeans and painted or dyed hard-boiled eggs.

In conclusion, there are the reasons for the origins of the ever so popular Easter Bunny and eggs. Though you may or may not believe in the origins of these Easter traditions, I hope you enjoyed it. Now that you know the origin of the Easter Bunny, Easter eggs and chocolate eggs, I hope you will take them into consideration during the remaining time of Lent and the whole of Easter. Here is a quote about Easter. "Bunnies are cuddly the large and the small but I like chocolate ones best of all." Have a Happy Easter!



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Hello Readers,

Happy Easter! Welcome to our 3rd issue of Veritas 2014-15. We hope everyone had a great Easter break and ate a lot of chocolate (but not too much). :)

We are very excited to bring you this issue filled with articles about a variety of topics including St. Patrick's Day, the Rome trip, and tips for keeping your closet looking innovative and organized. We have also included a special page of trends for Spring 2015 based on student feedback, so be sure to check that out!

On the last page there is a scavenger hunt, which you can complete in order to receive a prize. The first person to finish all the items on the list and bring them to us will receive the prize.

We would love to receive your suggestions and comments, so please email them to us at hawthornveritas@hotmail.com.

Hope you enjoy this issue!

Domenica



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Earth: The Tiny Planet

By Guinevere Santaguida

Humans are, on average, five feet tall. We here at Hawthorn live in a city. Our city is 630.2km². Our city is located in a province, which is 1,076,395km². Our province is located in a country that is 9,984,670km². Our country is located in a continent that is 24,709,000km². Our continent shares a world with other continents and our world has a surface area of 510,072,000km². I know exactly what you're thinking... "Wow our world is so tiny!" No? You weren't thinking that? Well let me put things into perspective for you!

We've all watched those cheesy movies in which a stereotypical couple is holding hands, lying on the grass, looking up at the stars, talking about how microscopic they are in the grand scheme things. I know that personally I paid more attention to the romantic scene that usually followed this discussion, but recently I've actually found myself looking up at the sky and wondering how small we really are.

When we wake up in the morning, we open our eyes and proceed to wince at the bright light of our magnificent sun. Although it is not advisable to look up at this celestial object in our sky that allows us to live life on earth, it is breathtaking. The sun is 149,500,000 km away, which makes up one Astronomical Unit. With our modern technology, it would still take 19 years to travel the distance of one Astronomical Unit. Now the sun is actually incredibly close to earth, despite what I just told you. The sun, a celestial object obviously within our solar system, is a microscopic part of our own Milky Way galaxy.

Let's discuss stars now. Stars come in all shapes, colours and sizes. They are measured based on their luminosity, or how bright they are. Their luminosity and colour determine their size. Stars all have an absolute magnitude, meaning how bright they really are, taking into account

their distance from Earth. Our sun is actually an incredibly dull star and has an absolute magnitude of 4.83, whereas an average-sized star has an absolute magnitude of 11. Our sun is 149,500,000 km away and still looks that bright. In our night sky we see stars. Some stars we see are very bright, and the closest star to the Earth, apart from the sun, is Alpha Centauri which is $4.13425091 \times 10^{13}$ kilometers away. There are about 300 billion stars in our galaxy. So if the closest star to Earth is so far away that it needs to be written with scientific notation, how far away are the other 300 billion?

In our observable universe, astronomers estimate there are 100 billion galaxies. There are 63239.7263 Astronomical Units in one light year. One small galaxy can have a surface area of millions of light years. One light year is equivalent to 3.1038479×10^{16} feet. In one light year you can fit 62076958 with 15 zeroes after it. In one light year you could fit 23820923.5939 cities of Toronto.

As the skies clear up as our seasons change, find time this spring to lie on the grass gazing up at the beautiful stars. As you do so, think to yourself about how beautiful and immense our universe truly is.

A Roman Holiday

By Claire Trotter

There are two ways of celebrating the luxurious two week break: by either completely relaxing so much that one forgets to eat and socialize, and generally ignore the assignments that they should really get ahead on; or by using the brief respite of freedom to find another place to escape the ordinary. For a small group of Upper School students and teachers, and even two mothers to keep us all in check, we chose option B, and boarded a plane to Italy for the sightseeing experience of a lifetime. –And yes, we did do other things than just eat gelato and sing the llama song.

Although there were too many interesting things to talk about in approximately 500 words, I thought I'd share with you my top 5 experiences from the city of Rome. From least exciting (although it can hardly be called that) to most exciting; my top five experiences were:

5. **Gelato:** Okay, maybe we had it a bit too often, but who can blame us? With as many flavours as regular icecream, but softer and creamier, who can help it? And we didn't have it EVERY day. Just most days.



4. Being able to stand in two countries at once:

If this is on your bucket list, I'd recommend going to Rome, as the Vatican City is inside of it, and the border is marked quite clearly with a thick white line. This makes it easy to tell exactly where you are. Also, you don't have to go through Customs, or anything, so that's a plus. And it may not seem like much at the time, but it sure makes a nice story to tell at parties. –One thing that I just find so funny is that despite it's being one of the smallest countries in the world, and fitting INSIDE a city, it has at least 3 post office branches!!!! :D



3. **The Borghese Galleries:** Going to the Borghese Galleries, I had absolutely no idea what they were. I'd deduced so much as to guess that they had something to do with an art museum...and I wasn't wrong. What really amazed me (apart from the breathtaking artwork), was the history of the Galleries. I had always considered the concept of an Art Gallery as a more recent or modern one, and was fascinated to learn that it had been intended as a public art gallery since the Renaissance. Through the audio guides we rented, I learned all sorts of interesting facts about the different rooms and pieces of artwork, some of which have long and entertaining stories accompanying them, because they were so valued. But, if museums aren't your thing, the gardens are super beautiful to walk in, and they're definitely on my list of things to see if I have the good luck to go back someday.

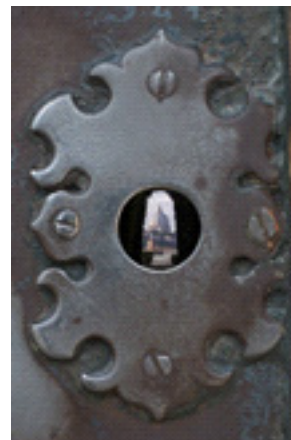
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2. **St. Peter's Basilica:** There are so many super cool components to St. Peter's, and everything is either historically interesting, huge, beautiful to look at, or a mixture of all three. The simple square, with its rows of columns which are often referred to as the arms of the Church, are just as beautiful as the interior of the actual basilica interior. The Necropolis, which contains the original birthplace of St. Peter's, is somewhat reminiscent of Atlantis, as it is literally, an underground city. One of the coolest experiences of St. Peter's however, is climbing to the top of the dome. From a balcony at the base of the dome, it is easy to fully appreciate the size of St. Peter's. The size of the people down below compared to the huge, yet simple mosaic lettering at the start of the dome is mind blowing, especially because it never seems so big from the ground floor. After climbing approximately another 300 stairs (some of them very steep), you emerge outside at the very top of the dome, where you can see Rome in all its glory. Another factor that added to our incredible experience was the fact that after leaving the Necropolis, we went straight up to the dome, so we were going from the very lowest part of St. Peter's to the highest in under half an hour!



1. **The Keyhole:** Finally, there is a not very well known church named Church of Our Lady of the Priory, which is tucked away in one corner of Rome near the Mouth of Truth. It doesn't seem like much from the outside, until you look through one of its doors' keyhole. The door hides a garden, and inside the garden, the monks who live there keep the hedges pruned so that you can look through the keyhole and see straight out to the Dome of St. Peter's. We went to see this on our last night in Rome, and it made the perfect crowning glory to a wonderful trip. These are by no means the only awesome things I loved about Rome, and on top of that, we also went to Florence and Pompeii, so I could rant on for days about my experiences. However, I hope that this has given you a little snapshot of what our trip was like, and might inspire you to go on the next Rome trip, coming 2018!



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Spring Cleaning Life Hacks: Organizing Your Closet

By: Margarete Salonga

Yep, it's that time of the year again: spring cleaning! Not everyone enjoys de-cluttering all the junk lying around and I don't blame them! Who looks forward to a week, or even a day, devoted to cleaning up? It is especially hard for us girls who have a bajillion accessories, shoes, and clothes here and there to take care of. Our closets are one of the things we girls can't live without and they are also the hardest things to keep neat. Well fret not, here are a few tips to help you clean up all your girly nits 'n bits and keep them nice and organized!

Tip #1: Everyone knows that it is virtually impossible to keep a drawer full of clothes neat and tidy. As a matter of fact it isn't. If you have a preferred way of folding clothes, that's great, move onto the next tip. But if not, well here's something to help you out. Instead of the traditional way of folding shirts into a half after the sleeves are folded in, fold it into thirds or after folding it into a half, fold the shirt into another half. Then lay it in neat rows on the edge. By folding it like this, you've given the edge a bigger surface area, which allows the article of clothing to "stand". You can proceed to put them into columns according to colour, type of clothing... etc.



Tip #2: Piles of clothes always manage to fall over, and thus we are forced to make many small piles of clothes instead. To prevent clothes from toppling over, flip the shelf over so that the supporting ridges become built in dividers. If your shelves don't have such ridges, then you can use book stands to help support piles of clothing. This method also helps to divide clothes into categories.



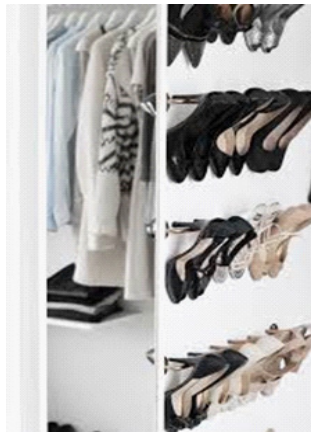
Tip #3: Do your scarves end up in a mumble jumble of knots? Luckily, there are several solutions for that! You can either tie up your scarves onto a hanger or invest in tension rods, curtain holders...etc. on which you can hang, clip (with clothespins) or tie your scarves. The great thing about making your own scarf line is that you can choose where you would like to place it, whether it be outside or inside your closet. You can make a scarf line yourself using a durable line, wire, or string, which you can attach onto two nails, screws or hooks that will hold the line up.



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Tip #4: Need a place to keep your heels? You can take any kind of rod, curtain rods, towel holders...etc. and install them into (or outside) your closet for an easy access place to hang your heels. (ARTSY TIP: If you happen to have an old wooden ladder, that can work too. They're great for a rustic looking kind of atmosphere. If you have kitten heels, window and door trimmings work as well.)



Tip #5: Running out of room in your closet? Multi-level hangers are incredibly useful, not to mention they save a ridiculous amount of space. If you don't have any, no worries, you can make your own! Use soda can openers to hook hangers together and there you go, DIY multi-level hanger! These DIY hangers are also efficient to use as they allow you to easily unhook and re-hook the desired piece of clothing. Since when was this so easy?



Tip #6: Having trouble keeping tank tops and dresses from staying on the hangers? The simple solution is rubber bands! Wrap the rubber bands close to the end of hanger to keep the straps of your clothes from slipping off. If perhaps you prefer a wider range of colours, you can use pipe cleaners instead. If you are really in an artsy moody, you can wrap the whole hanger with string or yarn to make it slip-free!



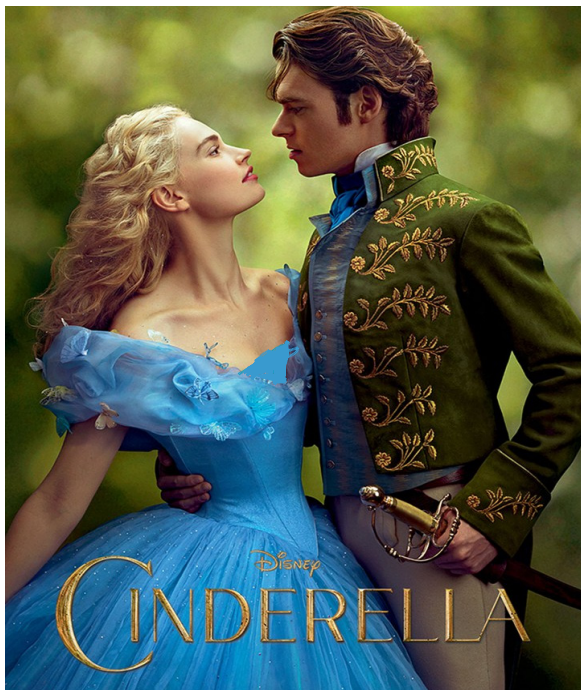
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Movies to Watch this Month

By *Domenica De Martin*

So I don't know about everyone else, but one of my favourite ways to wind down after a stressful week of school is by watching a good movie. Kicking back on the couch, with a bowl of popcorn and a blanket is really the way to live. Whether you like watching movies at home or at the theatre, a lot of great ones have come out recently. Here are my top four movies to watch this spring:

1) **Cinderella** – Directed by Kenneth Branagh, this movie is a bit of a twist on the original Cinderella story. Admittedly, it doesn't have the songs we have grown to know and love from the Disney version. However, you do get to know the prince a lot better... and they finally decide to give him a new name! Called Kit by his father, this is a great improvement from the highly superficial 'Charming'. The character development is really great, and with Helena Bonham Carter adding a bit of spice as the fairy godmother, this is definitely a movie I would watch again.



2) **Big Hero 6** - This fun, animated movie from Disney is definitely original. With humour aimed at all ages, along with great characters, this movie is perfect for the whole family. The premise is a young boy who invents something which could change the world, for either good or evil. When his invention is stolen, it is up to him and a new band of friends to figure out who did it, and stop them. My favourite character is Baymax, the vinyl 'personal healthcare assistant' robot. His innocence about the ways of the world, and his desire to help others, really help keep this movie going. Other characters include Hiro (the main character), Wasabi, Go Go, Fred and Honey Lemon.



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3) **Unbroken**- Directed by Angelina Jolie, and based on the true story of Louis Zamperini, a pilot in the U.S. army during WWII, and a prisoner-of-war survivor, this movie is truly inspiring. When Louis was young, he discovered an ability to run which eventually led him to the Berlin Olympics. Although he didn't win, he was set to compete in the next Olympics when he was asked to join the army. After escaping more near-death experiences than you would think possible, his plane finally crashed in the middle of the ocean. After floating on a raft for over a month, Louis and his comrade were picked up by the Japanese. From there, this becomes a story of resilience, determination, and a desire to live. While I have not watched the movie myself yet, it is definitely on my list. I have heard great reviews, and it tells a story which is sure to inspire.



4) **McFarland, USA**– This movie was more popular in the U.S. and hasn't seen much publicity here in Canada, but it is still a really good, inspiring film. Kevin Costner stars as Jim White, a football coach who gets fired from yet another school for losing his temper. Left with nowhere to go, he moves himself, his wife and their two daughters to a tiny town called McFarland. When he arrives, he finds that the students are much better suited to running than football, and puts together a winning team against all odds. This heart-warming film is definitely underrated, and with a couple of suspenseful scenes and some humour, it is something I would highly recommend.



I hope at least one of these movies interests you, and will soon be coming to a living room near you! Cinderella and McFarland, USA are still in theatres (although McFarland, USA might not be found at big, popular theatres), but Unbroken and Big Hero 6 are out on DVD.

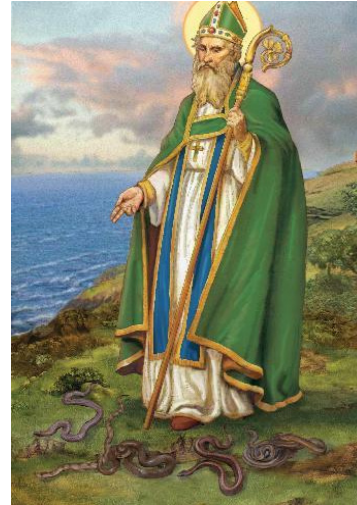
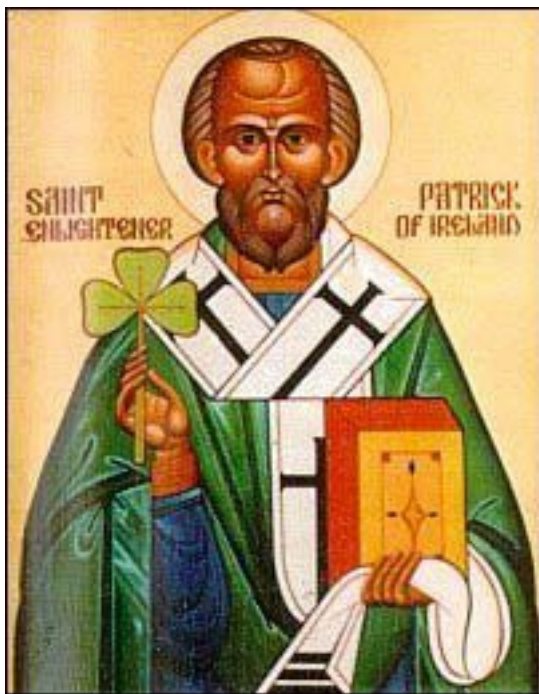
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Lá Fheile Pádraig

By: Emily Fu

Every month of March, there is one day that is greener than all the rest. People dress in green, there are often parties involving green drinks, and sometimes even parades. It's often a day of partying during the Lenten season. Does this day sound familiar to you? If it doesn't, here is another hint. It is always held on March 17th, every year. Still doesn't ring a bell? The holiday (in some parts of Canada, such as Newfoundland and Labrador it is actually a public holiday) is called St. Patrick's Day.

This festival has Irish origins. St. Patrick was a Catholic bishop, who lived in the fourth century after Christ. He was actually born in Britain, but was taken as a slave to Ireland as a teenager, before he returned to Ireland, becoming a priest and eventually a bishop. The traditional shamrock, or clover, originates from an old story in which St. Patrick demonstrated the Holy Trinity of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as Three Persons but One God using the shamrock. It also explains the green theme, and the costume of wearing that colour on St. Patrick's Day! Believe it or not, originally blue was associated with St. Patrick.



There are many legends about St. Patrick. For example, it is said that he banished snakes from Ireland by chasing them into the ocean, because the snakes attacked him while he was fasting. Snakes have never lived in Ireland until recently though.



© Dani Jones

Of course, no St. Patrick's Day is complete without leprechauns! The word 'leprechaun' comes from the Irish word *lobaircein*, which means 'small-bodied'. In Irish mythology, a leprechaun is a male faerie who lives in Ireland. They are cobblers and shoemakers by trade, enjoy being alone, and are very rich. Legend says that as long as you keep your eyes on the leprechaun, he cannot vanish. Usually people need to capture and interrogate a leprechaun about his riches if they want to find out where they are. Leprechauns can be very cunning and great speakers, however, and will try to trick you to look away so they can escape. As they are associated with Ireland, they have become associated with St. Patrick's Day too!

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The feast of St. Patrick was celebrated as early as the ninth century in Ireland, but the celebration of St. Patrick's Day as an official public holiday did not happen in that country until 1903. The holiday actually did not originate in Ireland, but the first official St. Patrick's Day holiday started in 1737 in America. Initially it was a feast and a religious service, celebrating the culture of the many Irish immigrants who came to America. In New York, the celebration continued and Irish soldiers started the parades in the British military. The feast and a religious service eventually evolved to the public holiday that we have today.

Today, we celebrate this holiday all over the world. Traditional Irish feasting food includes corned beef, corned cabbage, coffee, soda bread, potatoes, and shepherd's pie. For breakfast, many people have Irish sausage, black and white pudding, fried eggs, and fried tomatoes.



St Patrick's Day is celebrated differently in various cities and parts of the world. In New York, they celebrate with a parade, in Chicago, they dye the Chicago River green, and in New Orleans, they have a parade where they throw cabbages, carrots, onions and potatoes from homes. These are traditional Irish stew ingredients and people are welcome to take them home to cook them as part of the celebration. In Great Britain, Queen Elizabeth II's mother would fly shamrocks over to the Irish Guards on this day. It is a tradition that still remains. In Japan and South Korea, they have parades. It is even celebrated in the International Space Station! Chris Hadfield, a Canadian astronaut, took pictures of Ireland from space and a picture of himself wearing all green on St. Patrick's Day in 2013.

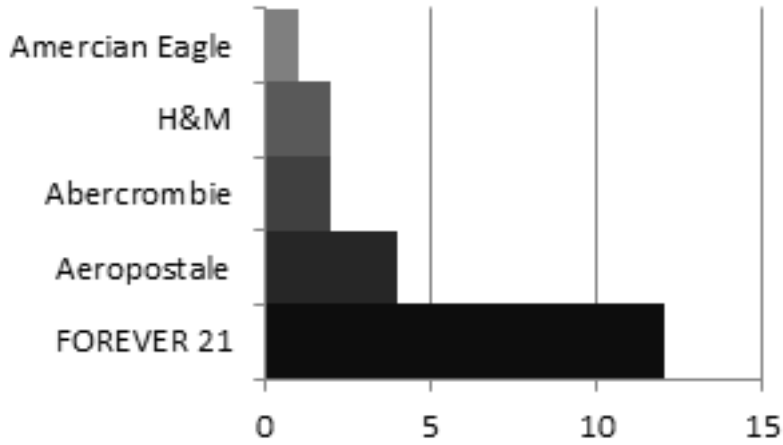
In Canada, we love to celebrate this holiday, especially in Montreal, which has the largest parade in Canada. The Montreal city flag even has a shamrock in the lower right corner! In Toronto, we also have a St. Patrick's Day parade, alongside other special events across our city. It is celebrated by many people, not just those of Irish descent. How do you celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

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This Seasons Fashion Update

By Juliana De Martin

Last month I did a poll on some students in the Upper School to find out which store is most popular. Out of about 20 students, 11 chose FOREVER 21. These are some of the top trends for Spring that you can find at FOREVER 21 right now. Enjoy!



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SCARVES!!!!!!

\$5-30+ Claire's,
Etsy, H&M, Forever
21, American
Eagle....etc.



TRADESY.COM \$59



\$16 ACCESORIZE.COM



LUCKYBRAND.COM \$40



HUNTERBOOTS.COM

\$148



Student's Picks for the Season!

ZAPPOS.COM \$44



\$8 from BOOHOO.COM



Zalado.co \$34



Giovanni's Adventure

By Malena Hlebanja

This is it. I finally arrived at Ebiticus. The town that is well known for its open markets and well-made bows. The town is bustling with people, filling the taverns. Merchants stocked the palace square with their market stalls, each selling things from weaponry to sorcery.

But as I walked through the street towards the market stalls, I saw a little girl. Her face was expressionless, and her eyes were staring into what seemed like infinite nothingness. She wore a pink plain dress with a white collar and poufy sleeves. She stood still, except for the rise and fall of her chest. Her hands were held out with a little doll that lay flat on her palms.

"Hey, you have a really nice doll," I said, trying to see if she would react. But to my surprise... there was no reply. No smile or sweet "Thank you!" Her face remained the same. I looked at the doll, beginning to wonder why the little girl hadn't clasped the doll in her arms yet, like any other little girl would. This one appeared fairly new too. Its soft fabric had no dirt, and its dress was still full of colour. It had a pair of black circular fabric sewn to her face for eyes... but no mouth. "Hmm," I said as I tried to figure out what was wrong. I knelt down on one knee so I would be her height, and cautiously reached out my hand to grab the doll.

As soon as the tip of my slender finger touched the doll, my eyes widened from the darkness that consumed my vision. In seconds I found myself in a lush, green forest that was full of old oak trees, and a sky that was haunted by clouds.

I remembered the little girl, and how still she was. "So this... must be all in my head..." I thought. "But how do I return to reality...?" A chill came over me.

I suddenly heard violent splashes of water, and the screams of a girl. "Help me! Help..." Her voice was cut off for a couple of seconds. "Me! Help!"

I ran to her as fast as I could, making sure I didn't trip on anything in my way. "She could be the little girl from the street," I thought. "I can't let her

drown. I mustn't." Memories flooded back to me... Memories of my dear brother, who died in the lake near our home. I left home the following month, because I couldn't bear to stay where all the memories of my brother lay. I had to move on.

My heart pounded with fear as I arrived to the girl's aid. It was just as I expected. It was the little girl from the street. I quickly rushed into the water, but when I came close to her, she grabbed my clothing with all her strength and tried to pull herself up. She kicked and flailed, and I realized that I wouldn't be able to carry her. She stayed on me, and I was unable to move, so we began to slowly sink into the deep river.

I began to grow unconscious; so I held the girl's hand. "I am sorry," I thought. As my eyes began to close, my vision was once again flooded in darkness.

I opened my eyes and I was back on the street once more. Only I seemed to have fallen over, and the doll was lying on the floor, out of the little girl's hands. She quickly opened her eyes and gasped for air, to find that she was once again back in reality. When she looked up at my face, she hugged me tightly, bursting into tears. I gently patted her head, and comforted her. "It is alright, everything is going to be alright," I said softly.

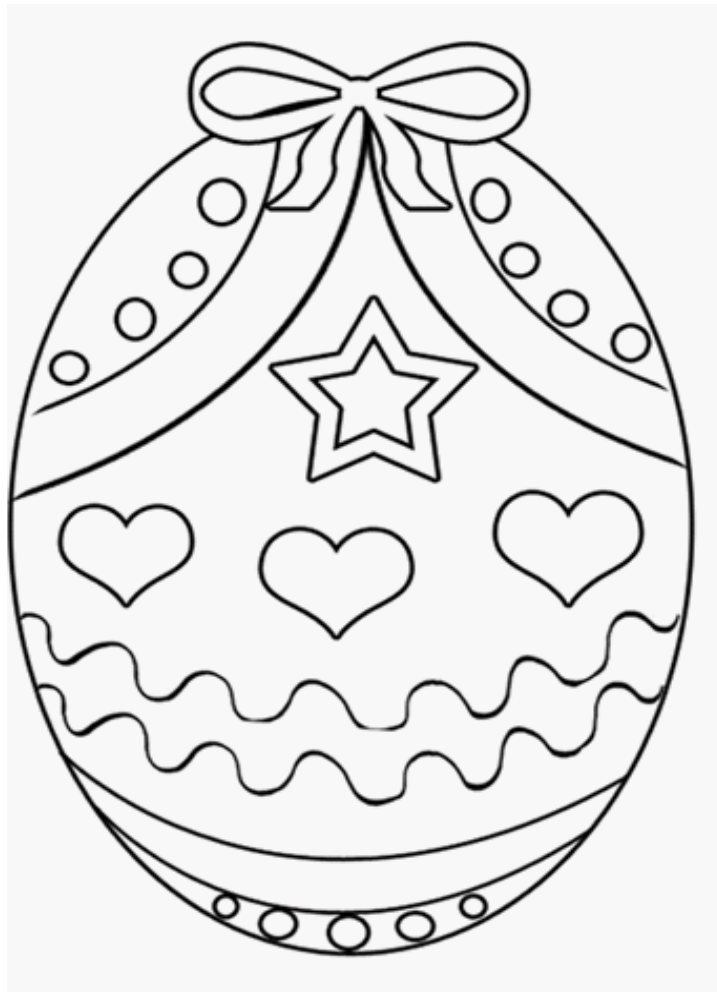
I looked over to the doll, that monstrous thing, and searched my dark green cloak. "Aha!" I said happily as I pulled out some flint and steel. I struck the flint across the steel, and the sparks created a flame upon the doll. When the little girl saw the fire, she widened her eyes. "Go look for your guardian," I told her. So she ran off, and that cursed doll burned to flames.

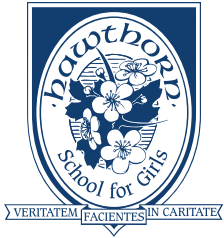
Scavenger Hunt!

By Nina Jauhari

Hey everyone! This last page we are doing an Easter scavenger hunt for any readers that are interested. The list has 10 things that you will have to bring to us/answer to win an Easter treat! Good Luck.

- ◇ A rabbit inside a book
- ◇ Purple paint
- ◇ An Easter basket
- ◇ A picture with a friend
- ◇ What is the favourite food of the Easter bunny?
- ◇ How many different types of rabbits are in the world?
- ◇ An Easter egg
- ◇ What is the most common colour for a rabbit?
- ◇ How long are bunny ears?
- ◇ Colour the picture below





THE VERITAS

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