

## ***Three wishes***

At the beginning of this story Emma was a broke 19 years old student, working in a local shop. She was living alone in a small apartment somewhere in Italy.

Her parents disowned her when she was 16. She was living with her foster family for two years but now she was on her own. She didn't have much money. Her salary was low and she had to pay for her rent and school. She was failing this semester and it seemed like only a miracle could help her. One day Emma returned home late. She opened the door of her flat and walked in. She dropped her purse and took her shoes off. She was starving so she walked into the kitchen to make a dinner. She was thinking of pasta when she screamed. There was a young man sitting at her dining table. She didn't have time to think so she grabbed a knife that was left on her kitchen counter from the last evening. She pointed it in the man's direction. Emma was surprised, because the man just sat there with a calm expression on his face. He almost seemed bored. Suddenly he stood up and said: "There's no need for violence. I have come here to help you". She was still terrified, but she spoke: "How could you possibly help me?" Her voice was shaking. The man said: "I know you have financial problems. I can change that." He stopped and gave her a moment to process the information. He continued: "You can wish for three things and they will come true." She laughed still with a knife in her hand and said: "There's not a chance that I'll believe this nonsense. Get out of my flat before I call the police." He smiled and clapped his hands together. Emma couldn't believe her eyes when she saw her kitchen shift into a big hall. But it didn't last long. Before she could take a better look the place disappeared. She was back in her tiny kitchen. She stood there with her mouth open. The man stopped the silence. He spoke: "As I said earlier, you can wish for anything you want and it will come true. So what is your answer?" Emma thought: "Maybe I am just going crazy." But she responded: "Yes, I want to do that." The man looked at her and said: "Alright but you must know that there's a cost you must pay. And I can't tell you what it is until you tell me all of your wishes." She said to herself: "Of course it isn't that simple but how much worse can my life get. "Okay," she said. He smiled and said: "You have been warned now what are your wishes?" Emma remembered the bills she had to pay and said: "I want to be the richest person in the world." The man nodded, but nothing happened." She was ready to shout at him for tricking her, but he told her to check her bank account. She did and the amount of money that she owned was too big to be read out loud. She couldn't believe this was happening, but she needed to stay focused. She remembered the classes that she was failing and said: "I want to have the best job in this world." She looked on her phone again and found out that she was the owner of a big computer company. And then she had only one wish left. She really thought hard about it, but nothing came to her mind. But then she remembered. "I want to be immortal," she said. In that moment she was happier than she ever was, but then she remembered: the cost! The man said: I believe that you want to know what the cost is now that your wishes are fulfilled." She nodded. A tiny tear slipped down his cheek as he said: "You will live alone forever. You won't ever have friends or family." With that words the man left. He simply disappeared. In that moment Emma wasn't worried about her course. After that evening her life changed, she bought a big house, traveled the world, bought everything she ever wanted. But after some time she began to feel lonely. She didn't have anyone to talk or to laugh with.

She cursed the man who offered her the bargain. And she cried, prayed and screamed. But nothing helped her. She stayed alone forever.