

GRZEGORZ GLINKA



33 STORIES

UNLIKE US?

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Introduction

The Light That Scatters the Shadows

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers,

Every one of us wishes for childhood to be a land of eternal light, filled only with laughter, carefree days, and colorful dreams. We long to shield our children from every darkness, every sorrow, and every injustice. Yet life, in its unpredictability, often presents young ones with challenges to which even we—as adults—do not always have the answers.

The book you hold in your hands was born from a deep conviction: we must not remain silent about difficult subjects. Silence does not make problems disappear; it only ensures that a child is left to face them completely alone.

Unlike Us? is no ordinary collection of stories. It is a safe haven where we can sit together and talk about the things that stir up fear, shame, or confusion. Within these pages, I address topics often considered taboo: the fragility of life, the boundaries of one's own body, the "difference" that is sometimes mocked, and the mistakes that can happen to anyone.

My goal is not to frighten. I want to give you and your children the language of empathy. I want to show that being "different" is simply another way of seeing the world, and that courage is not the absence of fear, but the ability to ask for help and to say "no" when something feels wrong.

I believe these 33 stories will help you build a bridge of trust—one that your children will cross safely into adulthood. Remember that the greatest superpower you can pass on to them is not wealth or success, but the ability to see with the heart—to truly see themselves and others.

Invite these tales into your home. Read them slowly, with careful attention to every question that comes from the lips of your young listener. For it is within those very questions that the true lessons of life begin.

Grzegorz Glinka

How to Use This Book

This book is different from typical collections of bedtime stories. It addresses themes that are important, sometimes difficult, and occasionally stir up fear. To fully harness its therapeutic potential and support your child's emotional well-being, I suggest following these guidelines:

- **Reading Together is the Foundation**

These stories require your full presence. They are not intended for a child to read alone. Sit comfortably, hug your child, or hold their hand—your physical closeness is the most vital foundation of safety for a young listener.

- **Pacing the Emotions**

I recommend reading only one story per day. Each of the 33 topics needs time to quietly “settle” in the mind and heart. After reading, do not rush into other activities. Allow your

child a moment of silence or a free-flowing, unhurried conversation.

- **The “Stop” Rule**

If you notice your child becoming restless, fidgety, or suddenly changing the subject—stop. This is not a lack of discipline, but a signal that they have processed enough emotion for one day. You can return to the story in a few days when the child is ready.

- **A Moment to Talk**

After every story, you will find a Moral and a section called “A Moment to Talk.” Questions directed to the child (marked with 🗨️) will help them name their feelings, while tips for you (marked with 🌱) will suggest how to wisely deepen the conversation. Listen more carefully than you read—true wisdom is often hidden within a child’s questions.

- **Observe Reactions After Reading**

Some topics may touch upon your child’s personal experiences. If, after a story about “bad secrets,” they begin to tell you something about themselves—put the book away. Focus entirely on listening and be the safest haven for them. Remember, this book is a tool. You are your child’s guide through the world of values and difficult choices. Your openness is the greatest lesson you can give them.

The Fading Glow

On depression and the sadness that changes the world's colors

In a land known as Rainbow Valley, every day resembled a painting brought to life with the most vibrant hues. Dragons had scales the color of emeralds, and the rivers sang in shades of crystal blue. A little gnome named Theodore lived there, and he was famous for his ability to find joy in even the tiniest grain of sand. However, one morning, Theodore woke up and felt that something was not right.

When he looked out his window, the grass no longer seemed as green as it once was. It was gray, almost translucent. The sun, though high in the sky, did not warm his cheeks, and the skylark's favorite song sounded like a faint, weary buzzing. Theodore felt a heavy stone in his chest, making every single step feel like a tremendous effort.

“Maybe I’m just tired?” he thought, pulling his blanket over his ears.



But days passed, and the colors in Theodore’s world vanished one by one. Red apples turned a dull, dusty brown, and orange butterflies looked as if they had been cut out of an old newspaper. Worst of all, the gnome no longer wanted to see his friends. When someone knocked on his door, Theodore pretended he wasn’t home. He felt a sense of shame that his joy had escaped somewhere, and he was afraid that others

would not understand.

It was then that Mira—a wise owl who saw more than most—appeared at his doorstep. She did not leave when Theodore remained silent. She sat beside him on the porch and asked softly:

“I see your colors have gone to sleep, Theodore. Does this weight inside you have a name?”

Theodore lowered his gaze, fiddling with the hem of his gray coat.

“I don’t know, Mira. Everything has just... faded. Even breathing hurts.”

The owl nodded slowly, wrapping him in her soft wing.

“What you are feeling is a very deep sadness that sometimes turns into a mist. This mist hides the sun, even though the sun is still there. You do not have to pretend to smile when it is night-time in your heart. That stone is very heavy, but you do not have to carry it alone.”


For the first time in many days, Theodore wept. He told Mira about the grayness that had flooded his world and about his lack of strength even to get out of bed. The owl listened patiently, without judgment and without offering empty advice. She simply told him that sadness which becomes an illness needs time, patience, and the help of loved ones to turn back into color.


With each passing day, thanks to Mira’s presence and small, slow steps, the mist began to thin. Theodore understood that what he felt was not his fault—and that asking for help was the greatest act of bravery he could ever find.

Moral:

Sadness that steals the world’s colors and drains your strength is not a reason for shame. True courage is not about pretending to be happy, but about admitting that we need a helping hand. If your world turns gray, do not wait in the darkness—tell someone you trust. Together, it is much easier to find the colors you’ve lost.

A Moment to Talk

 **For You:** Have you ever felt a sadness that couldn't be “cheered up” by your favorite toy? What do you think can be done for someone who feels like their world has lost its color?

 **For the Parent:** Depression in loved ones can be difficult for a child to understand. Explain that it is an illness like any other—it is not the child’s fault, nor is it caused by a lack of love. The cure is time, patience, and professional support.

The Key to the Forbidden Door

On protecting one's privacy and body boundaries

In Silvery City, every inhabitant possessed their very own unique castle. It wasn't a castle made of stone and moats, but an invisible shield that surrounded each person like a delicate, luminous bubble. Inside this bubble lived secrets, feelings, and—most importantly—the right to decide for oneself.

A young boy named Leo loved his shield very much. It made him feel safe. However, one day, a Wandering Juggler arrived in the city. He was smiling, loud, and promised the most wonderful tricks, but Leo felt that something was not right. Instead of keeping his distance, the Juggler came far too close. He tried to grab Leo by the shoulders, hug him by force, and peer into his shield, even though the boy clearly pulled away.

“Come on now, little Leo, it's only a hug!” the Juggler said, his voice sounding like the whistle of a cold wind. “Don't be such

a loner.”

Leo felt his shield begin to tremble and grow dark. He felt a strange prickling in his stomach—it was his inner guardian shouting that something wrong was happening. But the adults all around just laughed and said: “Oh, come on, Leo, the man is just being nice.”

Then, Leo remembered the words of his grandfather, the old watchmaker:

“Remember, Leo, your body is your kingdom. You hold the key to its gates. No one—absolutely no one—has the right to enter without your invitation. If you feel that someone is trying to force their way into your castle, you have the right to say ‘NO.’”

When the Juggler reached out his hands again, Leo took a deep breath. He felt his shield harden and become as bright as a diamond.

“Please, do not touch me. I do not like it,” he said, loudly and clearly.

The Juggler froze for a moment, and the smile vanished from his face. The other adults looked on with surprise, but Leo stood his ground firmly. He was no longer afraid. He knew that his “no” was the most important key he owned. When he told his grandfather everything later that day, the old man didn’t just listen—he gave him a proud high-five.

“I am proud of you,” said his grandfather. “True courage isn’t just about fighting dragons. It is the ability to take care of your own home—which is your body.”





Moral:

Your body belongs only to you. You have every right to decide who can touch you, hug you, or kiss you. If you ever feel uncomfortable when someone gets too close or touches you in a way you do not like—you always have the right to say “stop.” Your boundaries are sacred, and your voice has

immense power. Never be afraid to seek help from adults who respect your kingdom.

A Moment to Talk

 **For You:** Did you know that your body belongs only to you and you have the right to say “stop” when someone touches you in a way you don’t like? Who is your “safe adult” that you can tell everything to?

 **For the Parent:** Let’s teach children assertiveness from the earliest age. A “no” said even to an adult in the context of touch is sacred. Build a conviction in your child that their intuition (that “funny feeling in the stomach”) is a very important alarm.

The Sleeping Knight at the Bus Stop

On how to react when someone needs medical help

It was a biting cold day, and the wind chased dry leaves across the sidewalks, making them rustle like old newspapers. Little Stan was walking home from school with his mother. He was in a great hurry because a new set of building blocks was waiting for him at home. When they reached the bus stop, Stan noticed someone sitting on the bench in a strange position.

It was an elderly gentleman in a worn-out brown coat. His head hung low, and one arm rested lifelessly on his knee. People walked past, looking away. Some shook their heads, whispering: "Probably just another drunkard."

"Mom, look!" Stan stopped and tugged on his mother's sleeve. "That man looks like a sleeping knight who lost his strength in battle. Maybe something happened to him?"



Stan's mother hesitated for a second, hearing the comments of the other passersby, but she looked into her son's observant eyes and realized she couldn't just walk away.

"You're right, Stan. We must check."

They stepped closer. Mom gently touched the man's shoulder and asked loudly:

"Excuse me, sir, can you hear me? Is everything alright?"

The man did not answer. There was no smell of alcohol on him, and his face was unnaturally pale. Mom immediately took out her phone.

“Stan, be very brave now,” she said calmly. “I’m dialing 911. You keep a lookout to make sure no one bumps into us.”

Stan stood tall, like a true royal guard. He heard his mother speaking into the phone: “Hello, there is an unconscious man sitting at the bus stop on Oak Street. He is not responding to my voice. Please send an ambulance.”

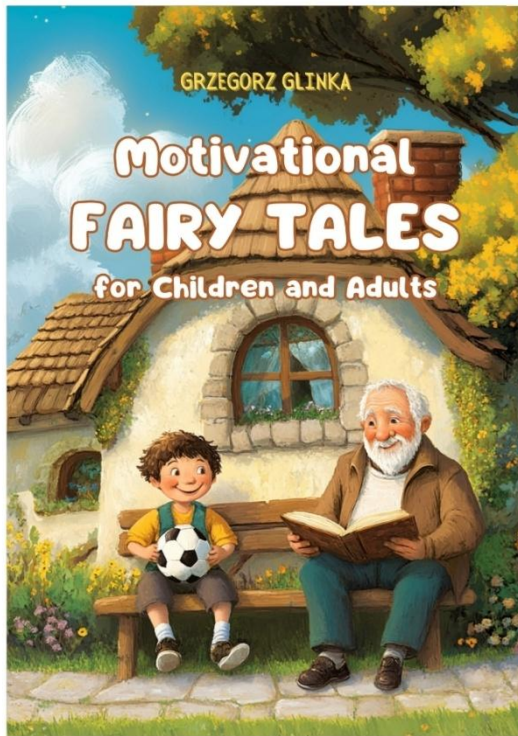
Soon, a white vehicle with flashing blue lights arrived, sirens wailing. The paramedics quickly attended to the “sleeping knight.” It turned out the man had a dangerously high blood sugar level, and if it hadn’t been for Stan and his mother’s help, he might never have woken up. One of the rescuers, zipping up his medical bag, smiled at the boy.

“Great job, young man. You saved a life today. That’s the most heroic thing a person can do before lunchtime.”

Stan felt a warmth spreading through his chest, stronger than the frost outside. He realized that a true hero isn’t the one wearing a cape, but the one who has the courage to stop when everyone else keeps walking.

Moral:

Never assume the worst about someone lying down or sitting strangely in a public place. Even if others pass by with indifference, have the courage to stop. Sometimes what looks



Motivational FAIRY TALES for Children and Adults

A collection of 33 fairy tales designed to brighten your day and transform the way you see the world! While school teaches us many subjects, it rarely shows us how to build meaningful relationships or make our biggest dreams a reality. Each story is a humorous journey that proves the key to true happiness lies within ourselves. Don't wait—give yourself the chance to change your life today!



Cuentos para cada ocasión (Spanish Edition)

This exceptional collection of 33 stories invites children into a world where friendship, responsibility, and courage are the ultimate guiding stars. Meet Krystek the Mole, Rufus the Dog, and many other heroes who teach—in an accessible and engaging way—about environmental care, healthy eating, and the power of independence. Each tale is not just a captivating adventure, but above all, a wise lesson that stays with a child for a very long time. It is the perfect gift to spark imagination and fill every shared reading session with heart-warming magic.



InspiTales

Grzegorz Glinka returns with a new collection of 33 motivational stories that serve as the perfect continuation of the journey toward discovering life's greatest treasures. Embark on extraordinary adventures alongside Ania as she searches for the secret to joy, join Orion on his metaphysical journey, and let your heart be touched by stories of true equality. The book promotes courage, self-discipline, and inner strength, presenting these values in a light, accessible, and magical way. It is the perfect choice for anyone seeking a moment of relaxation and wanting to believe that the only limit to achieving our dreams is our own imagination.

Do you dare to enter a world that adults sometimes find hard to talk about?

Childhood is about more than just bright colors; it is also about the questions for which we often lack the words. How do you explain depression to a child? How do you teach them to set boundaries for their own body? How do you tame the fear of being "different" and teach empathy in a world that can be cruel?

Unlike Us? is a unique guide through 33 topics often considered taboo. Grzegorz Glinka—author of the motivational series for children and adults—creates a safe space for conversations about life's most difficult and important matters. This book is more than just a collection of stories; it is a tool for building a bridge of trust between you and your child.

Through these stories, your child will:

- Understand that difficult emotions are like clouds—they may hide the sun, but they never extinguish it.
- Learn to distinguish good secrets from those that "burn the hands."
- Discover that asking for help is the greatest act of bravery.

Invite these stories into your home and give your child a superpower that money cannot buy: the ability to see with the heart.

