

Excerpt 3 from *Stories By Foreign Authors: "Mumu"*

By Ivan Turgenev

It was getting towards evening. He walked slowly, watching the water. All of a sudden he fancied something was floundering in the mud close to the bank. He stooped over, and saw a little white-and-black puppy, who, in spite of all its efforts, could not get out of the water; it was struggling, slipping back, and trembling all over its thin wet little body. Gerasim looked at the unlucky little dog, picked it up with one hand, put it into the bosom of his coat, and hurried with long steps homewards.

②

He went into his garret,¹ put the rescued puppy on his bed, covered it with his thick overcoat, ran first to the stable for straw, and then to the kitchen for a cup of milk. Carefully folding back the overcoat, and spreading out the straw, he set the milk on the bedstead.² The poor little puppy was not more than three weeks old, its eyes were just open—one eye still seemed rather larger than the other; it did not know how to lap out of a cup, and did nothing but shiver and blink. Gerasim took hold of its head softly with two fingers, and dipped its little nose into the milk. The pup suddenly began lapping greedily, sniffing, shaking itself, and choking. Gerasim watched and watched it, and all at once he laughed outright. . . . All night long he was waiting on it, keeping it covered, and rubbing it dry. He fell asleep himself at last, and slept quietly and happily by its side.

③

No mother could have looked after her baby as Gerasim looked after his little nursling. At first she—for the pup turned out to be a female—was very weak, feeble, and ugly, but by degrees she grew stronger and improved in looks, and, thanks to the unflagging³ care of her preserver, in eight months' time she was transformed into a very pretty dog of the spaniel breed, with long ears, a bushy spiral tail, and large, expressive eyes. She was devotedly attached to Gerasim, and was never a yard from his side; she always followed him about wagging her tail. He had even given her a name. He called her Mumu.

④

All the servants in the house liked her, and called her Mumu, too. She was very intelligent, she was friendly with everyone, but was only fond of Gerasim. Gerasim, loved her and did not like it when other people stroked her; whether he was afraid for her, or jealous—no one knew! She used to wake him in the morning, pulling at his coat; she used to take the reins in her mouth, and bring him up the old horse that carried the water, with whom she was on very friendly terms. With a face of great importance, she used to go with him to the river; she used to watch his brooms and spades, and never allowed any one to go into his garret.

⑤

He cut a little hole in his door on purpose for her, and she seemed to feel that only in Gerasim's garret she was completely mistress and at home; and directly she went in, she used to jump with a satisfied air upon the bed. At night she did not sleep at all, but she never barked without sufficient cause, like some silly house dog, who, sitting on its hind-legs, blinking, with its nose in the air, barks simply from dullness, at the stars, usually three times in succession. No! Mumu's delicate little voice was never raised without good reason; either some stranger was passing close to the fence, or there was some suspicious sound or rustle somewhere. . . . In fact, she was an excellent watch-dog. It is true that there was another dog in the yard, a tawny old dog with brown spots, called Wolf, but he was so decrepit that he used to lie curled up in his kennel, and only rarely uttered a sleepy, almost noiseless bark, which broke off at once, as though he were himself aware of its uselessness. Mumu never went into the mistress's house; and when Gerasim carried wood into the room, she always stayed behind, impatiently waiting for

⑥

So passed another year. Gerasim went on performing his duties as house porter, and was very well content with his lot, when suddenly an unexpected incident occurred. One fine summer day the old lady was walking up and down the drawing-room with her dependents. She was in high spirits; she laughed and made jokes. Her servile³ companions laughed and joked too, but they did not feel particularly mirthful; the household did not much like it, when their mistress was in a lively mood, for, to begin with, she expected from every one prompt and complete participation in her merriment, and was furious if any one showed a face that did not beam with delight; and secondly, these outbursts never lasted long with her, and were usually followed by a sour and gloomy mood. That day she had got up in a lucky hour; at cards she took the four knaves, which means the fulfillment of one's wishes (she used to try her fortune on the cards every morning), and her tea struck her as particularly delicious, for which her maid was rewarded by words of praise, and by twopence in money. With a sweet smile on her wrinkled lips, the lady walked about the drawing-room and went up to the window. A flower-garden had been laid out before the window, and in the very middle bed, under a rosebush, lay Mumu busily gnawing a bone. The lady caught sight of her.

"Mercy on us!" she cried suddenly; "what dog is that?"

⑧

The companion, addressed by the old lady, hesitated, poor thing, in that wretched state of uneasiness which is common in any person in a dependent position who doesn't know very well what significance to give to the exclamation of a superior.

⑨

"I d . . . d . . . don't know," she faltered; "I fancy it's Gerasim's dog."

⑩

"Mercy!" the lady cut her short; "but it's a charming little dog! Order it to be brought in. Has he had it long? How is it I've never seen it before? Order it to be brought in."

The companion flew at once into the hall.

"Young boy!" she shouted; "Bring Mumu in at once! She's in the flower-garden."

⑬

"Her name's Mumu then," observed the lady; "a very nice name."

¹ **garret:** attic or loft

² **bedstead:** the frame supporting a bed

³ **unflinching:** continuous, devoted

⁴ **servile:** related to being a servant

1. Based on the text in paragraph 2, which describes Gerasim?
 - A. a hard-working person
 - B. a nurturing person
 - C. a loyal servant
 - D. a tidy servant

2. Which detail in paragraph 6 demonstrates the mistress's superstitious nature?
 - A. "She was in high spirits; she laughed and made jokes."
 - B. "She expected from every one prompt and complete participation in her merriment, and was furious if any one showed a face that did not beam with delight."
 - C. "These outbursts never lasted long with her, and were usually followed by a sour and gloomy mood."
 - D. "She had got up in a lucky hour; at cards she took the four knaves, which means the fulfillment of one's wishes (she used to try her fortune on the cards every morning)."

Read the passage - 'Excerpt 3 from Stories By Foreign Authors: 'Mumu?' - and answer the question below:

3. Which quote suggests that Gerasim is a person who is overprotective?
 - A. "Gerasim looked at the unlucky little dog, picked it up with one hand, put it into the bosom of his coat."
 - B. "She was devotedly attached to Gerasim, and was never a yard from his side."
 - C. "Gerasim, loved her and did not like it when other people stroked her."
 - D. "She seemed to feel that only in Gerasim's garret she was completely. . . at home."

Read the passage - 'Excerpt 3 from Stories By Foreign Authors: 'Mumu?' - and answer the question below:

4. In paragraph 10, what can be inferred from the old lady's reaction?
 - A. She is interested in the dog and wants to know more about it.
 - B. She is enraged about the dog playing in the garden.
 - C. She is annoyed by the mere presence of the dog.