

**Anthony Hope**

## **The Prisoner of Zenda**

One of my friends recommended this book to me and when I started reading it really “sucked” me in. On one hand it is thrilling and full of action but on the other hand it is a tender and romantic love story. These are three characteristics that make every book although its age attractive and interesting for me.

The story takes place in a county known as Ruritania. It is ruled by a brave and judicious king. But then the king dies and this is the time when because of the internal problems the kingdom gets in trouble. There is the legal successor to the throne, the oldest son, who has but lived most of his life abroad and is therefore poorly known among the people of Ruritania, and there is his opponent, his younger brother, the Duke of Strelsau, who wants to push away his brother and ascend the throne by himself.

However, preparations for the coronation start, important foreign guests are invited, the date of the coronation is set. To the coronation is invited also the main character of the book Rudolf Rassendyll, a young Englishman, who is full of enthusiasm and wish to help the new king. But when he comes to Ruritania he finds out that the Ruritania’s court is corrupted and full of intrigues. Not only that almost none of the courtiers wants to help the new king, they even help the Duke of Strelsau to set a trap for his brother. So the legal successor to the throne is kidnapped and held in one of the Duke’s castles on the countryside. In the meantime, the main character starts a romantic relationship with the charming and attractive Princess Flavia, the betrothed of the new king. But their romance is interrupted with the message that the new king has been kidnapped. Rupert is immediately off to help the rightful king; he finds also some to the new king loyal servants and rides off. During the ride he is a few times attacked from the ambush, twice it comes to a hard struggle but than he finally arrives to the castle in which the rightful king was held. With trick he and his companions enter the castle and save the king. But this is not end of their trouble; they have to come to the coronation on time otherwise the new king will be selected; and this would be surely the Duke of Strelsau.

They finally do it and the rightful king ascends the throne. The kingdom is saved and the evil and greedy brother is exiled from Ruritania. The main character returns to England. But although his return his eyes and thoughts stay in Ruritania where he has met many friends and his unhappy love.

### **Main characters:**

- **Rudolf Rassendyll;** He is the main character of the book. All the events, actually all the book is concentrated around him, around his attitude towards the rightful king and around his affection to Princess Flavia. He is a brave and also very stubborn person; his decisions are always as hard as a stone, nothing can’t stop him. But on the other hand he can be also emotional and romantic lover. His picture I think is actually a picture of a charming English gentleman from the end of the nineteenth century; he is a brave, fearless soldier on one hand, but on the other hand friendly, loving and reliable.
- **Princess Flavia;** In the book she is represented as a symbol of women’s beauty. Her figure is lovely and attractive, every move of her is like the rocking of the flower in the wind. Her feelings of responsibility towards her family and her

social status are strong enough so that she at the end of the book buries her emotions, her feelings towards Rudolph and marries with the King.

- **the Duke of Strelsau;** He is a greedy and ruthless person. He would do anything only to become the king. In his life he sees only power and money. And to gain this he is even ready to kill his brother. Everybody are for him “expendable”. But he is also a very skillful organizer, full of little dirty tricks; but this tricks can be devastating for others and he is not even aware of this. I think that his nickname, which describes him exactly, is Duke the Merciless!
- **the King;** He is with one word the real king. He behaves and acts as a king. Everybody should obey him and if they do not he does not know how to punish them, how to make them do, what he wants. But I think that every leader has similar problems and that is why and when he needs his courtiers. Although his inexperience he has a great chance of becoming a really good king. He is a “tender” soul.

## **Words:**

adroitly	to do sth. very skillfully	spretno
ancestry	a line of ancestors coming down to one's parents	izvor
anticipate	to expect	pričakovati
assumption	something assumed	predpostavka, domneva
		zaročenec
betrothed	the person to whom one is betrothed	bronast
brazen	made of brass	širiti se
broaden	to make or become wider, greater in size from side to side	čenčati
chatter	to talk quickly and foolishly	sporazum
covenant	an agreement between two people or two parties	kupola
dome	a round roof with a circular base	izsušiti
drain	to clear of water by the use of ditches and pipes	dvižni most
drawbridge	a bridge which can be pulled up or let down	prikazati se
emerge	to come out	visok, vzvišen
exalted	high in rank, position	vzklik
exclamation	a short sound which expresses surprise	plameneč
fiery	like fire	obrobje
fringe	the outer area	podeliti
grant	to agree, to give	hripav
gruff	deep and rough	hrepeneti
hanker	to want something	oklevati
hesitate	to pause briefly eg because of uncertainty	indiskretnost
indiscretion	to give too much information away	žvenket
jingle	a slight metallic ringing sound	podnajemniška
lodging	a room or rooms hired in someone else's house	sobe
		v laseh
loggerheads	quarreling	zadušiti
muffle	to deaden the sound of	pregled
muster	inspection	plemenit
noble	showing very fine personal qualities	ovira
obstacle	something that prevents progress	bled
pale	having less colour than normal	znojiti se
perspire	to sweat	oder
platform	a raised part of a floor in a hall for speakers	predsodek
prejudiced	opinion or feeling for or against something, formed unfairly without proper knowledge	
		britev
razor	an instrument for shaving	področje
realm	an area of activity	pritrditi
rope	to make something fixed	razmršiti
ruffle	to make wrinkled or uneven esp. hair	svetoskrunstvo
sacrilege	to act of using a holy thing or place in a wicked way	izstopajoč
salient	main, chief	ogorčiti
scandalize	to shock or horrify	natančno
scrutinise	to examine carefully	pregledovati
		vreščati
shriek	to give out or say with a high scream	razcepljen
split	separated or divided in more groups	teptati
stamp	to bring down with force	stališče
stand	to have or to keep an upright position	roj
swarm	a great number moving together	tanek
tenuous	so weak and slight that it hardly exist	povezati,
to bind	to tie up	zavezati
		vrtočlavica
vertigo	dizziness, esp. as brought on by fear or heights	stava
wager	a bet	duhovitost
wit	humor	