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Story 1

The Farmer

by

Eric Bolton and other story-tellers

Once upon a time, there was a very rich farmer. He made a lot of money off his crops, and was very happy, ... but one thing in his life was missing: he had never travelled more than five kilometres from his farm. So one day he ... decided to make a very long trip around the world spending more than one year to visit a lot of countries. The first place that he visited was the island of Capri. The farmer had never seen the sea before. He was shocked when he saw such a large mass of water. It took some courage for him to board the ship to Capri. Luckily, the sea was calm and the sun was shining. When the boat arrived, he stepped of the ship, and the first thing he saw was... a blur. He realized that he had lost his glasses in the sea during the boat trip. He couldn't see anything at all, so then he bumped into a young lady who helped him to the shore. She explained to him that she lived on the island and that she could get him a spare set of glasses from her cousin who owned a sunglasses store in Anacapri. When he reached the store and put on a cool set of shades he realized that he had just met the most beautiful girl had ever seen in his life ...

He was at a loss for words, looking for something witty to say for her to get a good opinion of him. After a few seconds of deep thought, he formulated, "You are like the sea - I lost my glasses in it, and from you, I've lost my sight altogether, because of your blinding beauty" ... Unfortunately she misunderstood him and thought he said "I need the sight of a beautiful vista". So she immediately decided to take him on a walk up to ... Villa Jovis to show him the beautiful view from the emperor Tiberius's villa.

The day was hot, though, and the girl suggested that she would really like to walk down towards the beach and take a swim in the sea. "Great idea!" the farmer said. "Let's go!" But he was terrified by the idea of swimming in the deep sea off Capri, since he had never taken a plunge except in the shallow pond near his farm. But he was lucky once more. While they were walking down to the sea along a rugged countryside path, the beautiful girl stumbled, and she was just about to fall off the steep cliff on the side. The farmer was quick to grab her by the waist before she fell and ... dragged by her weight he lost his balance and they both fell off the cliff and into the sea. He must have lost his consciousness at some point for he opened his eyes to find himself deep underwater with someone holding him tightly and dragging him deeper and deeper ... and then everything went dark.

When he woke up he was on a boat and a deep voice said to him "We managed to save you and your wife, but she seems to have lost her memory". Apparently, she couldn't remember who she was, or where she came from. The farmer convinced her that she was his wife. He took her to his farm and they lived happily ever after.