

An Orange Pumpkin: Branx

A woman, a mother of two is walking on a remote country road. She is very disappointed because she didn't succeed to swap her jewellery for some food. Her best jewellery which she took such pleasure in wearing before the war is all gone. Nobody wants what is left. She was very sad. Suddenly beside her was a field filled with orange pumpkins. Very near her was a tiny little pumpkin; she looked around and couldn't see anybody. So, she thought, 'I will take this little one, nobody will notice.'

As she bent down a very deep man's voice said, 'Are you stealing my pumpkin?' Humiliation swept all over her body, but she managed to say, 'I have children to feed.' 'There is a big one behind you, take that one and GET OUT OF MY SIGHT.' She grabbed the pumpkin and started walking. He was not angry at her, but at the Nazis who will take the pumpkins away and leave his people starved.

She walked over the hill and when she reached the bottom she collapsed and sat down. She was crying. She sat there for some time clutching onto the pumpkin. Then she heard an old cart and horse coming down the hill. A peasant man said 'I am going to Kruševac. Would you like to come?' 'Yes please', she said. When she got home, she used flour she had, and she made some beautiful pumpkin bread. She took it out of the oven and put it on the garden table to cool down. As a flash of lightning a Doberman rushed in and grabbed the pumpkin bread and ran away. She ran after it. She found the bread on the grass and the Doberman chewing the piece that he had bitten off. She came back and cut all the soiled bits off the bread and gave them to the Doberman who had followed her home. Only half was left. She cut two big pieces and gave them to her children. She went inside and put the bread into the bread tin for later.

She was crying, she realised she would have stolen the pumpkin but the rude, but kind man had given her the bigger one. Nevertheless, the humiliation will be there for a long time.

There is a light in all of this. Her children have something to eat.