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Kaguya-Hime

Once upon a time an old man was cutting bamboo.

“What’s this?” he said. “This bamboo is glowing!” Inside, he found a baby girl.

The old man and his wife were very happy to take care of the girl.

“Let’s name her Kaguya-Hime,” they said. They became lucky too. Every time the man cut bamboo, he would find gold.

“Wow! We are rich!” they said.

Kaguya-Hime grew into a very beautiful young woman. Many men wanted to marry her.

“If you bring me a special gift, I will marry you,” she said. But the gifts were impossible to get. So the men gave up.

Finally the Emperor tried to marry Kaguya-Hime.

“No,” she said. But he would not give up. She became very sad. Every night she looked at the moon and cried.

“I must go back to the moon. That is my home,” said Kaguya-Hime.

The Emperor was very angry. He sent many samurai to protect Kaguya-Hime. But at midnight, when the moon was full, they all fell asleep.

“Thank you for everything,” said Kaguya-Hime to the old man and woman. And back she flew to the moon.

The End.

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