

R A M O N A

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The famous American jazz musician, Louis Armstrong, alias Satchmo, first became famous as a trumpet player, and then as a singer, and was one of the most influential jazz musicians of the 20th century. He is one of the greatest figures in the history of music. He was loved by all the people in the world. Not only because of the quality music, his hoarse voice, but also because of his human warmth and generosity: he enjoyed life and lived for music. One of his most famous compositions is the song "Ramona", which he plays on his trumpet and sings with particular pleasure. This song is known and accepted all over the world, that's why I titled this story with that name.

The story does not talk about the musical abilities of the main character of the story, but he has all the other positive qualities that the world famous musician Louis Armstrong had.

Ramona was born into our humble working family. Fate wanted her to be born with an insufficiently formed nervous system of the limbs. Her parents took care of her health condition as much as they could and could not, but there were no opportunities to improve her health condition. That's why she can't walk and uses a wheelchair all the time. With the fingers of her hands, she can control the commands of the wheelchair, she can operate all the commands on the computer, make phone calls, talk, which is quite enough for her life.

With age, her desires grew as well as any normal person. She has the same desires as her peers. He likes to socialize, talk, tell and comment. Her beautiful face is always smiling. She loves all people equally. Her heart is the same as our hearts and our blood is the same.

God's providence is strange, and his ways are even more strange. What God took from her limbs, He replenished in her head.

When she turned seven, Ramona started school. Her mother would put her in the wheelchair and they would go to school together. While Ramona was in class, her mother would sit with staff or leave for some need, but she knew exactly when she had to return to pick up her daughter. The friends in the class were somewhat surprised at first. Some pitied her, others looked at her in amazement and could not believe that their friend could study and learn more than any of them. Ramona quickly learned the letters and learned to read before the end of the first semester. With her cheerful smile, she became a favorite among all the students in the class. When she needed to go somewhere, her friends would take her in the wheelchair and they all started going out together. Ramona became the most popular friend in the class. She used her wheelchair to go to school with her mother every day. In the classes when they had to take a test, Ramona would say the answer to the question, and the teacher or a friend would fill in the test with a pen. So 4 full years passed and she finished the fourth grade. Some advised her that she was literate enough to play computer games at home. Ramona wanted to study further and discover the secrets of science. She had that support in her family. So, in the same school, in the same class, she continued to study and graduated from elementary school with excellent results.

She bravely set out to continue her studies and enrolled in a high school. In the meantime, they bought a van, and her mother was the driver. They removed the seats from the front row of the van and then installed a portable ramp so that Ramona in the wheelchair could get into the van, and when she needed to get out, they would lower the ramp and Ramona and the wheelchair would get out of the van and continue on the way where there is need.

Brave mother and daughter, regardless of weather conditions, traveled daily. Often the wind whistled with the sound of a dry whip being twisted in the air. The fine snow knew how to throw sharp thorns into their eyes, but they went forward. The steam from their mouths caught on their scarves and made frost. Before them, they imagined the evil witch as a specter who wanted to stand in their way and turn them away from their intention, but they bravely stepped forward. They waved their hands, turned neither left nor right, looked neither up nor down and never stopped. While traveling, an inner voice constantly encouraged them to endure, not to give up and not to surrender. They gritted their teeth bravely and stepped forward even more bravely.

When they looked back to see where they were, the red dawn was already breaking in the east. The sky was all bathed in blush. Before the eyes of the tired travelers mother and daughter, an endless green field spread overgrown with the most beautiful fragrant flowers. It was a beautiful spring morning, the likes of which they had never seen or experienced before. So suddenly winter changed to spring. The sun was slowly rising above the horizon and continuing its way along its established path. It rose slowly, smiling, as if approaching the familiar tired travelers to greet them, at least recognizing in them old, favorite and tireless travelers.

Ramona and mother were lit by the spring sun. Both were trembling with unconcealed victorious excitement. The air was filled with numerous scents from spring meadow flowers. Numerous and colorful flowers were bowed before them and with their bow they greeted the brave travelers of life. Traveling thus, enraptured, in the divine beauty of spring, they did not notice that the sky had darkened. Dark clouds hung over their heads, and they had no umbrellas to shelter them. They hurried to their home. Just as they arrived home, a heavy downpour poured down. The streets turned into rivers and carried before them everything they met. Everyone took shelter somewhere and crouched with pleas to God to stop.

A tragedy happened in the family. Ramona's father died. The mother had to cover the expenses of the family with work and a lot of effort. The monetary compensation that Ramona received as a disabled person was not enough to cover the basic expenses of the family. Since her studies were going without problems, she started teaching students who had difficulty in mathematics and English. She formed working groups, determined an affordable price that students could pay, and started working on teaching students math and English. She was very satisfied with her work, and there was material compensation to supplement the family budget. In addition to the regular family expenses, funds had to be provided for the maintenance of the van, registration, fuel and a number of other, unforeseen expenses. The van was old and often broke down. On a winter day when the cold was showing its sharp teeth, the van froze to a halt. Ramona and her mother, with her wheelchair, were forced to return home. The streets were full of snow, and the wheelchair was difficult to move. They reached their home with unprecedented hardships. The next day, after the weather cleared, a repairman went to fix the van so they could get on with their lives. After many years, they left that van and bought another, second-hand, but much better and higher quality vehicle.

Ramona worked and studied. She completed high school with excellent results.

She enrolled in university and continued her education. She opened her own company with the activities she was doing before. Foreign language study groups were formed: English and German, math groups and a day care group for primary school children. As the number of visitors to the courses grew, Ramona also hired other teachers who, for a solid salary, worked in her company. In her work, she started preparing seminar and master's theses. She "caught" the line and bravely moved forward.

After graduating from college, she enrolled in postgraduate studies and in record time she passed the exams and earned the professional title of "master".

On the day of the promotion of the new masters, Ramona and her mother arrived with their wheelchair. The awarding of diplomas was personally carried out by the rector of the university. While the other candidates went to the rector to receive their diplomas, in the case of Ramona, the rector went to Ramona, gave her a big hug and gave her the diploma with the most complimentary words.

Ramona is constantly working, creating and never resting. She has published several professional papers on disability.

An Association of Children with Disabilities has been established in the city, and its president is Ramona. She coordinates all the activities of this category of our citizens. In the organization of this association, on April 2, 2019, a meeting was held at which, in addition to these children and their parents, prominent citizens of the city and beyond were present, including the ambassador of Australia in Macedonia. Several participants were involved in the implementation of the program, each according to their capabilities. The entire content and organization of the meeting was designed by the hardworking Ramona. She issued the commands to all the persons who were in charge of one or another task. It all had to work flawlessly. How much beauty these sincere hearts presented to us cannot be described. Applause came one after the other and remained so until the end of the performance.

After the performance, a small cocktail party was held. Everyone was delighted with the extraordinary organization, congratulated Ramona and gradually left each on their own. An unforgettable meeting remained in the hearts of all present.

Ramona's popularity among the citizens increased day by day. She moves through the streets alone with her wheelchair, everyone knows her and greets her. She loves to hug with everyone. It makes her very happy.

Her ability and desire for useful work were noticed by the city authorities and they employed her in the services. Ramona is very communicative with all officials and has an impeccable collaborative relationship with employees, superiors and parties. Ramona and her

mother's dedication to work, strong desire to never succumb to life's problems, made them happy and successful in every way.

When I look at the angelic eyes of these two brave women I wonder: What didn't they see? Why didn't they hear? The angels wanted them to be victorious. Our goal is to build a healthy, just world, with a pure blue sky roof. All that to shine stars and give us happiness. Eternity is in the good deeds. Words teach, but actions remain.

My obligation, as an author, strongly pressed me for a long time to write down this life story of two hardworking women who bravely faced all the problems in life. Their persistence in life is true happiness for every person. Courage is a characteristic of only strong people who are not afraid of problems.

I see that life is gradually shortening my wings and snowflakes begin to fly in my eyes. I know, I will never regret what I have done or written about my characters in the books. Such is the character of the beautiful girl Ramona who is a true example of beauty, unhidden warmth in her big and warm human heart, love for all people on the planet, such as the love of the famous jazz musician Louis Armstrong and his beautiful song "Ramona".

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The text was translated from Macedonian to English by Simona Joveska, MA.