



One day Andzia saw a kitten
walking by and she was smitten!
As she bent to stroke its fur
Her aunt began to screech at her,
“Leave that little cat alone,
Or it’ll scratch you to the bone!”
But this warning she ignored
Because she was a naughty ward.
The cat swiped at her with its claw
And then the girl began to bawl.
The air filled with her frantic screams
For blood was pouring down in streams.
Then her auntie’s face grew graver
While Andzia cursed the cat’s behaviour.

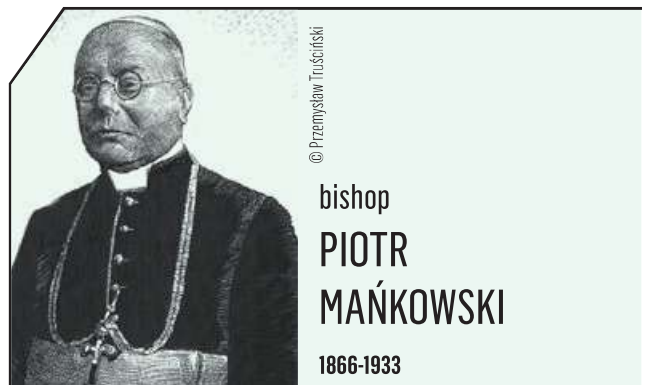
Andzia’s aunt began to scold:
‘You didn’t heed what you were told!
You’re to blame for your distress
And for the blood now on your dress.
The blame does not lie with the cat
For it’s a scratcher – you knew that!
And furthermore, it’s quite a sin
To curse like that! So don’t begin!
But for your wound, here’s what we’ll do:
I’ve got a cure that’s tried and true.
A good, high-quality band-aid.’
Which Andzia heard as ‘marmalade’,
Because her hearing starts to fail
Whenever Auntie’s scolds prevail.

Through her tears a smile appeared
And then she said, greatly cheered,
‘That’s a cure I never doubt!’
And stuck her little tongue right out.
But her auntie in a flash
Put the band-aid on the gash.
When Andzia saw her auntie’s plan,
Once again, the tears began.
‘Now,’ she thought, ‘I’ll never stop
Until I get a lollipop.’
But her auntie’s remedies
Only came from pharmacies.

‘The only cure,’ her auntie quipped,
‘For naughty kids is to be whipped.’
A bundle of birch twigs appeared:
A remedy most greatly feared.

Dear reader! Would you like to know
The ending of this tale of woe?
It won’t take long to summarize:
Andzia was quick to apologize,
And on her neck the wound soon healed.
Did her auntie start to yield?
Yes! Perceiving the remorse,
She had a change of heart, of course.
She gave her honey, to be nice.
And the kitty caught four mice.

Translated by Scotia Gilroy



Andzia

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Foreign language translations

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Przemysław „Trust” Truściński is one of the most important Polish comic artists and illustrators, as well as the originator and the co-organiser of the first comic conventions and festivals in Poland. He created the Geralt character for the cult game „The Witcher”.