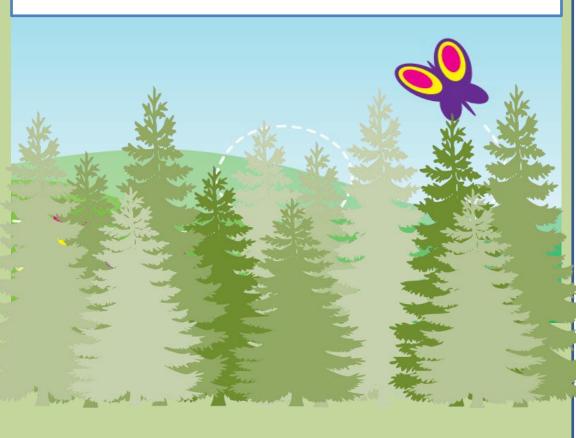
THE FOREST FAIRY

WRITTEN BY CARMEN SAPTONW



Lilly, a little girl, wanders from her parents and finds herself lost and alone in a dark forest. Instead of a friend a big, mean wolf finds her and captures her. Fortunately another dwells in the forest, a fairy with a good heart, but will she be in time to save Lilly from the clutches of the wolf.



About the Author

Carmen Saptouw resides in Cape Town, South Africa. She lives with her husband and daughter. The previous Human Resources Generalist is now at home raising her daughter. As a writing enthusiast, she has always enjoyed creating stories that relay human values. *www.talesbycarmensaptouw.wordpress.com*

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I would like to thank my mom for her guidance from above; my dad for the motivation to follow my passion; my loving husband for his encouragement to pursue my dreams and my baby girl who, by her presence alone, inspires me. And lastly to my family and friends, thank you for all the love and support. Lilly was a little girl who lived with her parents on a small farm. The farm land was surrounded by grassy fields and many trees that lead to a nearby forest.

One sunny afternoon her parents decided that they should have a picnic on one of the fields near the forest. When they finished their picnic lunch, her parents decided that they were going to take a nap. "Lilly, we are going to rest for a little while, please don't wander off," said her mother.

"Yes mother, I won't," answered Lilly.

Lilly saw a bunch of flowers growing nearby. She thought it would be a good idea to pick some flowers for her mother, to thank her for the lovely picnic they had. On one of the flowers she noticed a butterfly. It was beautiful with so many different colours.

She wanted to have a closer look at the butterfly and walked towards it, but as soon as she came close to the butterfly it started to fly away. Lilly then decided to follow the butterfly but every time she got close to it, it flew away.



She was so distracted by the butterfly that she didn't realize that she was wandering further and further away from her parents.

Suddenly, she noticed that it had become darker. She looked up and saw that she was surrounded by trees.

I am lost, she thought. She knew she was in the forest, but didn't know how to find her way out. Lilly started to cry.

"Please don't cry, little one. I don't want my supper to be sad," she heard. Behind one of the big trees she saw two big yellow eyes.

The eyes started to move forward and before her stood a gigantic wolf.



Lilly started to run but the wolf was faster and grabbed her by the arm and started to drag her on the ground.

"Please! Someone help me!" screamed Lilly.

"Keep quiet child, no one will hear you in the forest and your parents are still fast asleep on the field. One more sound out of you and I will bite your arm off," growled the wolf.

He continued walking through the forest, dragging her behind him.

"I have been waiting for you to enter the forest alone for quite some time. It was clearly worth the wait, because tonight I will feast on your juicy meat," said the wolf excitedly. "Please no, Mr Wolf; I am not juicy. I actually taste awful," said Lilly, trying to convince the wolf to leave her alone.

"What? That will not do," said the wolf, "I will have to have a little taste." "No! Wait, please wait!" pleaded Lilly, but he grabbed her arm.



He opened his mouth and she could see his teeth. They were big and sharp. She closed her eyes in fear waiting for the terrible bite, but then she felt him lick her arm. Lilly opened her eyes; her arm was still there even though it was full of slobber.

"You are right child. I will need to steal some vegetables from your daddy's farm to help with this taste," said the wolf. Lilly tried to push the wolf to break free, but he was too strong for her. He grabbed her once more by the arm and started to drag her.

Suddenly they stopped.

"Welcome to my home, child," said the wolf. Lilly knew that they had reached his lair. It was a cold, dark place hidden amongst the trees in the forest.

He tied her arms and legs with rope. "Don't even try to escape; the knots are too tight and the more you move the tighter they will become," threatened the wolf as he left his hiding place.

When the wolf was out of sight, she tried to free herself, but the ropes became tighter as she moved. She realized that all hope was lost. She would never see her parents again, she thought. Sadness overwhelmed her and she started to cry.

Outside the lair a fairy was on her way home when she suddenly felt very sad and stopped right outside the entrance to the wolf's hide-out. Is that someone crying, she wondered? The fairy flew into the cave and saw a little girl tied up.

She couldn't believe it was a real human girl that was sitting right in front of her; she had never seen one face-to-face.

"Hello little one, I am the forest fairy," she said gently. "Tell me who did this to you?" she asked.

Lilly looked up at the fairy and explained about the picnic, the butterfly and the wolf.



"When he returns it will be the end of me and there is nothing I can do," she said as the tears ran down her face.

"There is no need to give up hope yet little one. I will help you," said the fairy. She pulled out her magic wand and waived it in the air. Dust appeared and the falling glitter dust surrounded Lilly.

The ropes loosened and fell to the ground.

He makes me so angry; he is so mean and such a bully!

He must be taught a lesson, but first I have to get Lilly out of here, she thought.

"Lilly I am going to shrink you now. You will be smaller than I am but I will then be able to take you to a safe place," reassured the fairy.

She waived her magic wand and once again Lilly watched the shiny dust surround her. Immediately she became smaller than the fairy. Everything around her seemed enormous; she felt so small and became scared.

The fairy could see the fear in her eyes. "Lilly, I know it seems scary, but just remember that dynamite comes in small packages," said the fairy. She picked Lilly up, but just as she wanted to start flapping her wings the wolf entered the lair.

"Little girl, I was successful on my trip. I found the vegetables that will add some delicious flavour to you," said the wolf, but then he noticed he was alone in the lair. He saw the ropes on the ground, but there was no sign of the girl.

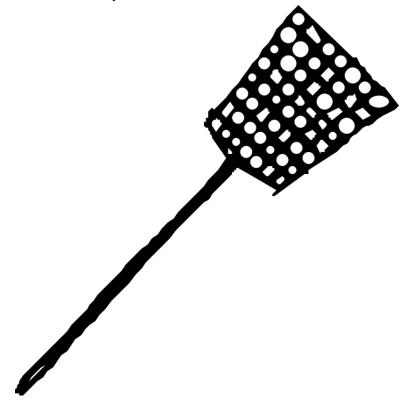
He looked everywhere in the lair, but couldn't find Lilly. The wolf became

extremely angry and said, "How dare you escape? This is not over I will search for you and if I don't find you, your parents will have to do!"

The fairy saw Lilly's mouth opening. She tried to put her hand in front of Lilly's mouth to stop her but it was too late. No! Lilly shouted. The words were out and the wolf heard.

Immediately he looked in the direction where the sound came from and saw something move in the dark corner. He started to walk towards them. The fairy flapped her wings and moved into the wolf's sight.

"We meet again grey one," said the fairy. When the wolf saw the fairy he grabbed what looked like a swatter. I should have known it was you forest fairy. You are as irritating as a fly and now you must die like a fly," said the wolf and he tried to hit the fairy with his swatter.



He missed her by inches. She flew into his right ear and zoomed inside. The wolf was hopping up and down, clearly irritated. The she flew out of his right ear and into his left one. The wolf got more irritated, but there was nothing he could do to get the fairy out of his ear. It looked like he was doing a funny dance, Lilly thought as she giggled.

The fairy whooshed out of the wolf's ear and went to stand on his head. He tried to grab her, but she was too fast for him.

He continued to try and catch her, but he missed every time. She took out her staff and said "From tall to small, till the day you learn to love all."

The shiny dust surrounded the wolf and then he disappeared or so Lilly thought, but when she looked closer she saw that he had shrunken. He was now smaller than the fairy.



It looked like he was shouting at the fairy, but she just looked at him, smiled and flapped her wings. She flew to where Lilly stood, frozen in the dark corner.

"What did you do to him?" asked Lilly.

"I shrunk him, but he will grow tall again the day he learns to treat others with love and respect."

"Now come on Lilly, it's time to leave this dark place," said the fairy. She picked Lilly up and flew out of the wolf's lair. Lilly noticed that they were flying deeper into the forest. "I think you are going the wrong way. I have to get home; my parents must be worried sick," said Lilly.

"Soon, but firstly we need to take care of your wounds" said the forest fairy.

They reached a beautiful purple flower. The fairy knocked on one of the petals and it opened like a door.



They entered the flower and Lilly saw it was filled with a yellow powder, it smelled like honey she realized. The fairy took some of the powder and placed it on Lilly's wounds. In seconds her wounds were healed. "Now that looks better," said the fairy. "It feels better too," said Lilly.

"Right, now you are ready to go home," said the fairy and she picked Lilly up one more time and flapped her wings.

When they reached the entrance to the forest the fairy landed. She took out her magic wand and waved it in the air. Lilly realized she was becoming taller. "How can I ever thank you for what you have done for me?" asked Lilly as the fairy landed on the palm of her hand. "Well there are two things you can do for me, Lilly."

"Anything," answered Lilly.

"Promise me that you won't ever tell anyone about me and secondly no matter what life throws at you never give up hope, always keep it close to your heart," said the forest fairy.

"I promise, but will I ever see you again," asked Lilly.

"Maybe someday," answered the fairy.

"Lilly, Lilly!" they heard voices calling out in the distance. "I have to go Lilly, your parents are on their way, take care of yourself," said the fairy and flapped her wings. Lilly watched her fly into the forest.

"Lilly!" she heard again.

"Mom, Dad I am here!" she shouted. She was so happy when she saw her parents she started to run and jumped into her father's arms. "Lilly where were you? We were so worried!" her mother said as she kissed her forehead.

"I got lost, but found my way home I will never wander off again, I promise."

THE END



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