

Elara and the Pond Star

By Sylvia H Northwood

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In a cozy cottage, snug at the edge of the Whispering Woods, lived a little girl named Elara. More than anything, Elara loved the stars. Every night, she'd watch them sprinkle the dark sky with diamond dust.



One clear, quiet night, Elara tiptoed into the woods. The moonbeams guided her to a hidden pond. It was so still and dark, it looked like a piece of the night sky had fallen to the ground.



And there, floating on the water, was a single, perfect star. It shimmered and glowed, more beautiful than any she had ever seen. "A fallen star!" Elara whispered, her heart thumping with excitement. "It must be for me!"



Gently, she reached her hands into the cool water to scoop it up. But the moment she touched it, the star shattered into a thousand tiny sparkles that danced away from her fingers.



"Oh!" she gasped. As the water grew still again, the star put itself back together, winking at her from the center of the pond. "You're a tricky one," Elara giggled. "I'll need a better plan."



She found a large, strong leaf, shaped like a little boat, and tried to use it as a net. She swooped and scooped, but the watery star was too clever. It slipped and slid right off the edge, every single time.



Frustrated, Elara splashed into the pond. "I will catch you!" she cried. But her splashing just turned the clear water into brown, murky mud. The beautiful pond star vanished completely.



"Hoo-hoo! It seems you've lost something." A kind voice floated down from a branch above. Elara looked up and saw a plump owl wearing a pair of little round glasses. "I lost my star!" she sniffled.



The owl hooted softly. "Some of the most wonderful things aren't meant to be held in our hands," he said, and pointed a wing up towards the sky. "Look." Elara looked up, and her eyes went wide.



There, in the deep velvet sky, was her star, twinkling brightly. She looked back at the pond, which was calm again, and saw its perfect reflection shining back. Elara smiled. She could love the star in the sky and its twin in the water, without ever needing to catch them at all.

## About the Authour

Even as a little girl, she loved words and connecting with the world. She grew up exploring computers, factories, and even hospitals!

Sylvia learned amazing things with smart companies all over the world. But her favorite thing is helping kids like you learn and grow. She believes in sharing knowledge and helping you become super skilled.

This book isn't just about reading; it's about getting ready to explore! It's a warm, wonderful present from Sylvia. She shares her wisdom and kind spirit with you. Get ready to learn and see the world in a wonderful new way! Find Sylvia on Instagram:



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