



Emma and the glowing stone

Long ago, when birds had teeth and you could touch the stars with your fingertips, there lived a brave girl called Emma. Her hair was golden as ripe wheat, and her smile could brighten even the darkest forest. She was happy in her village, but her heart longed for adventures and mysteries in the world's most enchanted places.

One morning, while exploring the nearby woods, Emma came to a clearing where flowers shone with bright colours and magic filled the air. In the middle stood a little fairy whose wings seemed woven from threads of light. Her name was Lila, and she wore a dress made of rose petals and dewdrops.

Lila greeted Emma in a voice like little bells ringing in the breeze.

"Welcome to the clearing of wonders, Emma. Our world is in danger. The magical gnomes in the mountain have lost their most precious treasure: a glowing stone that nourishes their happiness and optimism."

Emma offered to help without hesitation.

"How can I help recover the treasure?"



With a grateful smile, Lila led her along a hidden path between the trees, deep into the woods, where shadows played at being ghosts.

After hours of walking, they reached the gnomes' mountain. The little beings, with pointed hats and eyes as bright as stars, welcomed Emma cautiously. But when they saw her sincere wish to help, they accepted her with open arms.

"An old dragon living in the northern cave stole the stone," their leader explained. He was an elderly gnome with a hat taller than himself. "He shares neither his happiness nor his treasure with anyone."

Armed with courage, Emma set off for the dragon's cave with Lila and a small company of brave gnomes. Inside, it was dark and the air was as cold as ice. But with her heart full of kindness and hope, Emma did not let fear stop her.

At last they found the dragon guarding the glowing stone, a dark light shining in his eyes.

"Mr Dragon," Emma began, firmly but kindly, "I've come to ask you to return the stone to the gnomes. Without it, their happiness fades and the world becomes a darker place."

The dragon, used to fear rather than kindness, was astonished. A faint light began to glow in his heart, a feeling he had not known for centuries. With a gentle rumble, he released the stone and handed it to Emma.

"May your kindness be the light that guides my path from now on," he murmured.



Emma and her new friends returned to the mountain and restored the stone to its place of honour. The gnomes danced and sang. Their happiness filled the air, making even the stars seem to shine a little brighter that night.

Emma went home knowing that her kindness and optimism had made the world a better place. Her adventure had shown everyone that kindness could overcome darkness, and that a hopeful heart could change even the gloomiest future.

And that is the end of our tale.