

Martina and the forest friends

Once upon a time, there was a girl called Martina. She was seven and about to turn eight. Her birthday was coming, and she was very excited! One morning, while playing in her garden, she noticed a path she had never seen before. It was full of colourful flowers and seemed to smell of magic. Curious, Martina followed it.

Soon she found herself in a forest full of light and life. It looked like somewhere from a fairy tale: the trees sparkled, and birds sang sweet melodies. Suddenly, she heard a tiny voice.

“Hello, Martina!” said a brown squirrel, jumping down from a branch.

“Oh! Can you talk?” she asked in surprise.

“Of course! All the animals here can talk. Welcome to the magical forest!” the squirrel answered with a smile.

Martina was delighted. As she walked on, she met a new animal friend at every turn. First came a green frog, hopping happily among the leaves. Then a wise owl told her old stories about the forest.

“It gets more magical all the time,” she thought excitedly.

Halfway along the path, she met an elegant fox.

“Keep going, Martina. There’s a surprise waiting for you!”

With her heart full of excitement, she followed the fox’s directions to a clearing. Beneath a great oak stood every animal she had met, and many more: rabbits, deer and even a friendly little bear.

“What are you all doing here?” she asked with a smile.

The squirrel who had first greeted her jumped beside her and announced cheerfully:

“We’ve prepared a special party for you. We know you turn eight tomorrow, but we want to start celebrating today!”

Martina’s eyes lit up. The animals had arranged a magical party with forest-fruit cakes, flower garlands and music from the birds.

“Happy birthday, Martina!” they all called together.

She could not have been happier. She danced with the rabbits, sang with the birds and shared delicious fruit with the squirrels and deer.

As the sun began to set, Martina knew it was time to go home. Before she left, the squirrel gave her a little necklace with a golden leaf.

“This is so you’ll always remember your visit to the magical forest.”

Martina took it very carefully.

“Thank you! I’ll never forget you, my friends!”

She went home with a heart full of happiness, certain that her new friends had made her birthday even more special.

From that day on, whenever she looked at her necklace, she remembered the animals’ magical party and her incredible eighth birthday.