

Sarah Mars

Lola Starryblossom

Never give up!



Silbermund®


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„Hey, little one..., hello? Open your eyes! Have you hurt yourself? Wow, you came sailing straight into this garden! That was a flight nobody would envy. I have to say though that it may have been a blessing in disguise. What if you had landed in the pond and not in the branches of this cosy yew tree? Well, I wouldn't even want to think about that. You see, Lady Luck was especially kind to you because I am the guardian of this garden and nothing at all escapes my attention. So it's not that bad. Tell me, are you in pain? Do you have a name?“ a gentle figure asked the small bird.

Twisted with pain because its right wing hurt, the little bird asked, “I am Seven. Where am I? And who are you?“

“Seven? That's an odd name. I am Lola Starryblossom¹ and as I said, I am the guardian of this garden, or to be more accurate, a garden fairy,” said the gentle figure who was about twelve centimetres tall with blue, flowing hair, honey eyes, a button nose and freckles. She was dressed in dark green and she wore a cropped top and jaunty trousers. Around her neck she wore an ancient looking amulet.

Lola could see that the bird was in pain. “It is a chilly morning, we'll have to get you some help,” she said in a now slightly frantic tone of voice as she disappeared as quick as lightning.

¹ Sternenblüte is the German word for Starryblossom.



Tears rolled down the little bird's cheeks. It felt weak, alone and it missed its family. "Why are you crying?" Lola asked. "But, but... you were just gone there," the little bird wondered and then explained in a slightly shaky voice, "My wing is so sore, I'm hungry, cold and thirsty; what is to become of me? I don't know where my family is. I am all alone and I feel miserable."



Lola took a closer look at the little bird. Fairies know almost everything related to nature, and it seems as if they have built-in antennas with which they can feel everything. Lola sensed that the bird was in need of help and tried to ease it with cheerful words.

"You aren't alone, silly! I am here and I'll help you," she said in an optimistic voice and with a small wave of her hand she produced a few leaves to cover the bird.

"We'll take care of your family when you feel better and can fly. No matter what happens, you have to remember one thing always: Never give up! It is much like reading a book, you shouldn't flip it shut after the first page, you have to read it to its end. My teacher always told me that. There is so much to discover in this world. Don't hang your little head. I promise you this isn't the end, it is just the beginning! You can only take one step at a time. Now I have to take care of the next step quickly... I'll be back right away," Lola said encouragingly and flew off.

A few heartbeats later, Lola was back and peeked reassuringly through the branches of the yew. "Help is underway," she said. "She has never failed to see my clues. I leave her small glitter beads which shine in the grass. She is a smart girl and we have a connection without her knowing it. Her name is Emma. She is seven years old, incredibly smart and very perceptive. Emma will get her parents for you, and they will help you," Lola explained. Meanwhile, the little bird was captured by her words and listened closely.

"This family is truly great, they have helped many animals before. The three of them live in the red house that belongs to this garden. The garden is just marvellous. I was absolutely thrilled when it was given to me. Emma's Mum, her name is Julia, is responsible for this wonderful array of trees, plants and bushes. She has a flair for all things living," Lola explained with excitement. The little bird quivered more and more and in order to distract it, Lola kept babbling and danced in the air around the baby bird. "As soon as you're fit and ready to fly, I'll show you everything... the nibble garden – delicious, the herb corner – fabulous, the fire island – energetic, and of course Julia's writing island, with the pond and the stream – blissful... Watch out, she's coming! I will turn invisible, but I am always close by, don't worry. No matter what happens, believe me, they only mean well, so don't resist and let them help you. It's for your own good," she added quickly and all of a sudden, she disappeared.



A little dark-haired girl with brownish green alert eyes and a gentle expression on her face was heading the bird's way. Emma thrust aside a few branches and said in a low voice and with cheerful astonishment in her face, "Hey birdie, what are you doing here? You look like you're still just a baby. There's no need to be scared, I'll call my Mum and she'll come and save you straight away – keep calm."

Suddenly and at the top of her voice, the little girl called for her mother who came running down to her like lightning soon after. "What happened, Emma? Have you hurt yourself?" she asked nervously. Emma was quick to ease her worry and pointed at the little bird which lay shivering underneath lots of leaves.



“Where did you come from, dear? I am convinced we don’t have a nest in the garden, I would have noticed one. I have no idea how this little bird could have landed here, the woods are on the other side of the road across the field. Be that as it may, we’ll have to hurry and bring it into the warmth,” Emma’s Mum said.

Carefully she lifted the baby bird, soothing it the while with a gentle voice as she brought it into the house. The little bird remembered Lola’s earlier words and gratefully accepted the help.



For the rest of the day, Emma and her Mum took turns feeding Viola, and the little bluetit enjoyed this attention to the fullest. As well as food she got love and care too. Little by little Viola grew stronger and felt safer in her new nest. All of a sudden, a peculiar smell came into her nose that was accompanied by a loud heavy breath.



“What was that?” she thought and turned her little head slightly to the side. “Ahhh!” Something big and black and very hairy with long, sharp teeth was fiddling around with her cage!

Viola cheeped loudly, she was scared to death and tried to escape, but she tripped and her beak hit the ground. It’s all over now, she thought.

In the same moment, she heard Julia’s enchanting voice say, “Don’t worry, little one, this is Makita, our dog. She is certainly not going to do you any harm, she is only curious. I’ll make sure she’ll keep some distance to you in the next few days, until you feel safe with us. You’ll see, you’ll become close friends soon.” Julia carefully lifted Viola back into her nest.

Emma reached her little fingers into the cage, gently stroked her small head and said, “It’s alright, you’re safe. You belong to our family now and nobody is going to hurt you.” Emma had the touch of her Mum’s voice in her tone. After that, the little bird calmed down and fell asleep blissfully.

“Cast a spell over me? How? What? What do you mean by that?” Viola asked slightly scared.

“Don’t worry sweetie, you’ll like it! You will be literally entranced.” Lola replied, and without awaiting Viola’s consent, she began right away to turn circles in the air, wrinkling her nose, snapping her fingers - and all of a sudden, Viola was surrounded by a huge amount of little violet and purple glittering stars. She had to sneeze. “That’s it,” Lola cried in excitement. When the cloud had disappeared, Viola heard a shy “Oops!” from Lola.

“What happened?” Viola asked confused. “What do you mean by ‘Oops!’?” she wanted to know.

“The good news is that our two-legged friends can understand you from now on, but only if you want them to,” Lola explained.

The secret is that you will have to think of that person with all your heart and be filled with love before you speak. Then the person you thought of will be able to hear you, forever. It is as simple as that!”

“Wow, really?!” Viola marvelled, „can I try right away?“

Lola looked deep into her eyes and said: “Choose wisely! You really have to consider carefully who you want to talk to, because not all our two-legged friends mean well. You don’t have to worry about our three friends here, but still, I would treat this matter very carefully.

I’m sure there are some bipeds who won’t take too kindly to a bird who begins talking to them. I think you should start with Emma, the little girl is fabulous and besides, children don’t scare as easily as grown-ups.”



Emma's mouth stood wide open. She couldn't grasp it, but was very pleased about this. "How great is this! No, cool! Super-duper! Can you talk to everyone or only to me? Can I tell or is it better not to? And who is Lola? And don't you look fabulous?" she asked, filled with excitement.

Viola explained everything. After that, they concluded it would be best to keep the situation secret for now.

Emma was very happy. She had no brothers or sisters, but now she had a very special sister, and only few people can say that about themselves. With regard to Viola's appearance, Emma would be able to find a good explanation but she wouldn't worry about this for now.



She also soon became friends with Makita, the black Giant Schnauzer dog. Makita was a very polite dog and Viola felt extremely safe with her. She'd often sit on the dog's head or back and take a ride through the whole house.

Sometimes, when Makita was enjoying her dog's life, lying idly on the mat, Viola would twitch the dog's fur into shape and have a nap in it. Julia found this so sweet that one day she took a picture of it for the family album.



Viola now felt small, very small and completely alone. She had achieved so much, she thought, and now this had happened. She tried hard to remember the way she had come. But Viola had seen so much that she could hardly make sense of it.

“Pity Lola isn’t here now. She’d know what to do,” she thought and quickly remembered Lola’s words: ‘Never give up!’” This thought encouraged her. Viola closed her eyes and concentrated.

She could remember flying over fields, beside them was a huge forest. Then there was water wriggling its way through the area. She had especially liked the sounds it made and that it had glistened in the sun. She flew over that water, she remembered that. Yes, most of the time there was water underneath her.

“That’s it”, she thought relieved. All she had to do was follow the water – in the opposite direction – and that should bring her closer to the garden. Before she took off, Viola said to herself in a confident voice, “I believe I can make it!”





Lola Starryblossom

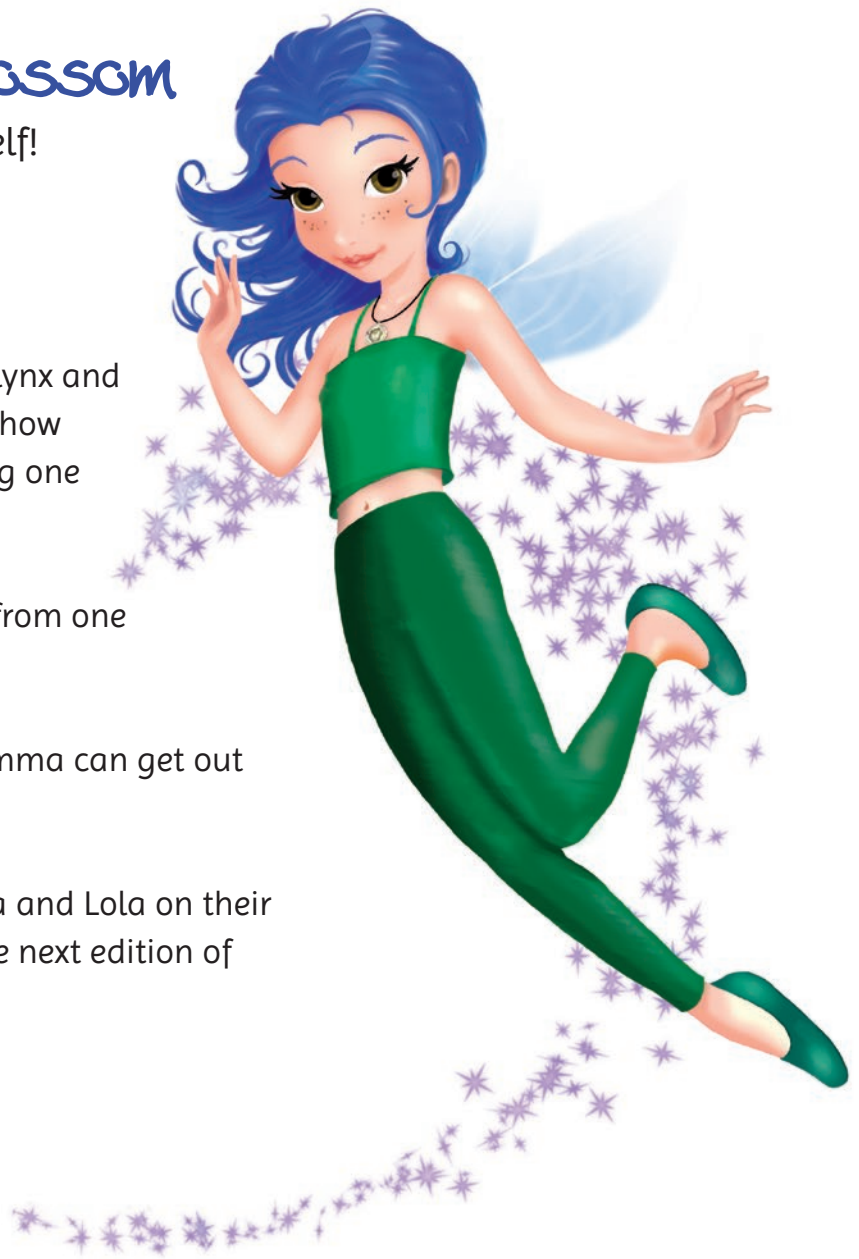
Believe in Yourself!

Do you still remember what lynx and fairies have in common and how would you feel about meeting one of them?

And how do fairies even get from one place to the other?

Do you want to know how Emma can get out of a great predicament?

Then come along with Emma and Lola on their fantastic journey through the next edition of Lola Starryblossom.



There's more information at

www.silbermund.com

or just go and see Lola directly on Facebook.



Silbermund®

Reading is golden.



It's a chilly morning when the
enchancing garden fairy
Lola Starryblossom
finds a tiny little bird, hurt and alone.
Lola has to think quickly.

She cunningly arranges for seven-year old Emma to
find the bird and, together with her family the girl
comes to the rescue. But even with all this help, the
little bird feels cheerless and alone.

Lola realizes that just getting it out of
the garden won't be enough for the little bird
to be healthy once again.

Will Lola succeed in helping the little bird
not to give up?

A book about friendships, compassion
and courage.