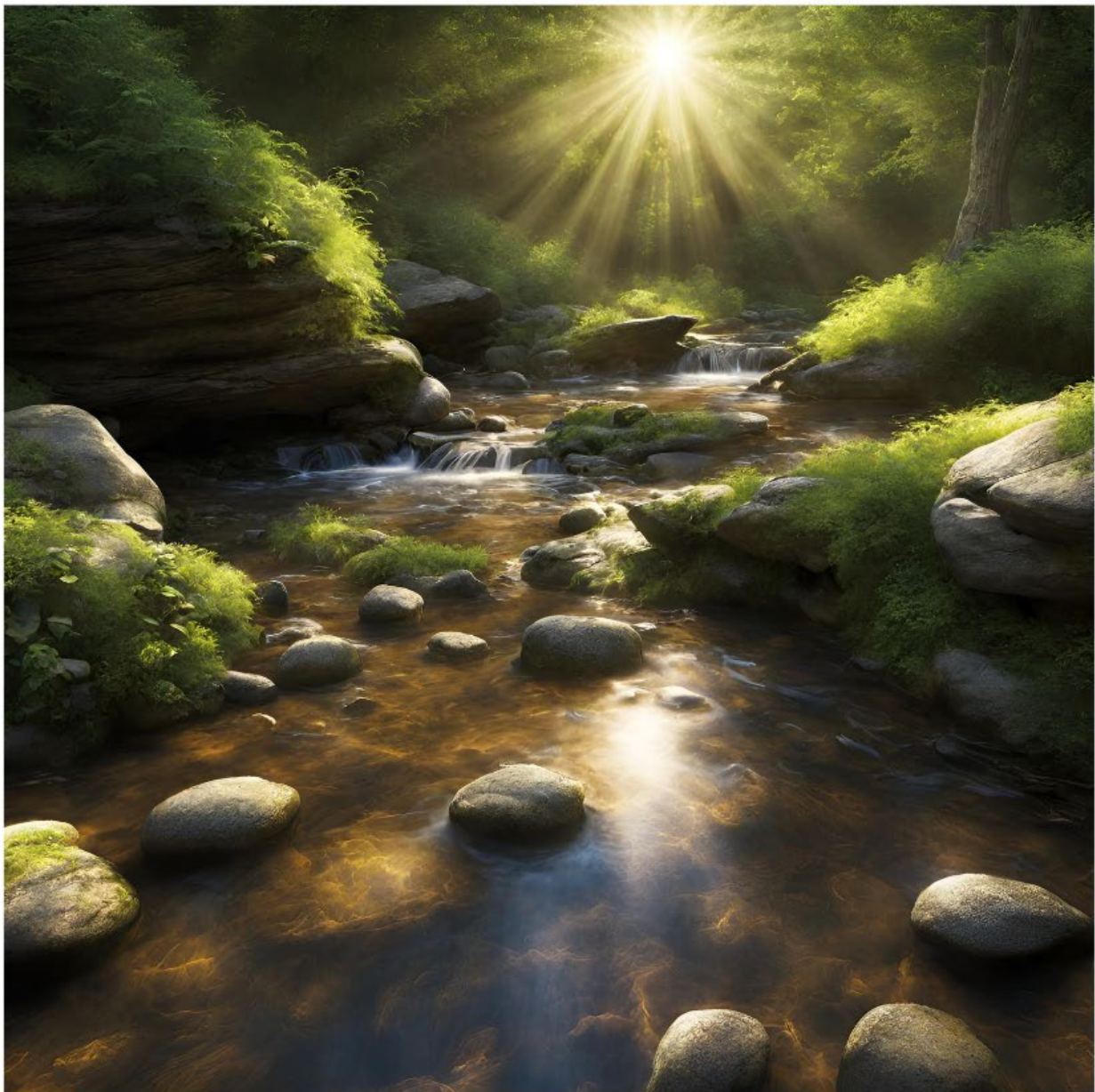


A STORY OF KINDNESS

THE MAGICAL FAIRY WATERS

FROM THE IMAGINATION OF HEATHER L. MCMILLAN



The Magical Fairy Waters: Short Story (approx. 1294 words)

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, organizations, places, events, and incidents are products of the author's imagination or used fictitiously.

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Hapus, a native of Anturia, grew concerned when she noticed the humans arriving on the planet were largely unhappy. One day, Hapus came across a female human named Lisa in the forest of Dresden. The human was sitting on a bent tree limb near the bank of the creek, and she was crying.

"Hello. I am Hapus," she greeted the human as she approached the human.

The young woman wiped tears from her eyes, "Hello. I am Lisa."

"Lisa, why are you so sad? I am sorry to see you so sad here in our beautiful forest."

Lisa sighed softly, "Hapus, I am sad because I miss my family and friends. I came to this spot because your forest is so beautiful and enchanting that I thought it might cheer me up."

"But it hasn't," Hapus nodded, concluding.

"No, it hasn't," Lisa agreed.

They remained silent for a little while, watching the sunlight ripple over the rocks in the creek.

Finally, Hapus said, "I cannot send you home to Earth or bring your family and friends here. But if you could wish for one attainable thing here on Anturia that I could give you, what would it be?"

Lisa paused momentarily as her gaze shifted from the short Hapus to the sparkling waters and rocks. After several moments passed, Lisa said, "Well, on Earth, I liked to do things that helped others in my family and my community. Helping others when I was sad always made me feel better."

Hapus smiled because she realized maybe humans weren't so different from Anturians after all.

Lisa continued, "Helping others made me feel like I had a purpose and a reason to exist. It made me feel like I belonged and made a difference. I don't know where or how I fit in here on Anturia, and I don't even know where to begin to try to find a way. I feel so lost."

Hapus nodded, "I can understand those feelings, as I have felt them before. If I give you the ability to help others here on Anturia, would you feel like you might be able to find happiness here? You will probably always feel sadness from separating your family and friends on Earth, but you could make new relationships by meeting and helping others in need?"

Lisa agreed, "Yes, but what can I do here to help others? I'm just as confused as they are, and Anturia cannot deal with all of us humans here on the planet. We don't yet have a voice in your commerce politics or fully understand your social structures. You all are more powerful than we are, too."

Hapus chuckled slightly at that comment, "Well, I would not say we are more powerful than humans. We have different strengths and weaknesses than humans. We have some different abilities you don't have, and you have some different ones Anturians don't have. I think," she paused, looking at the water again and then winking at Lisa, "I have an idea you may enjoy. Would you like to hear it?"

Lisa stood up and faced Hapus, "Yes, please."

Hapus pointed to the sparkling waters. "What humans call 'magic' naturally occurs when you stare into the waters. We call it Dwr Hud, literally magic water. Each

Anturian has the power to manipulate or create particular energy sources on our planet. I can



create life from magical sources like this particular spot of the creek, this particular dwr hud because it is where I was born."

Lisa tilted her head sideways a little bit, "Create life? Like a god?"

Hapus chuckled a little, "No, like a mother, but giving birth to these things is quite different from how you or I give birth to other Anturians or Humans. From the magic here, I can create what you may call pixies or fairies."

"Aren't pixies and fairies known for being dangerous or tricky?"

Hapus shrugged her shoulders slightly, "Yes, adult fairies and adult pixies can become quite dangerous, but no more than humans or Anturians. Lisa, we all are born innocent, and the choices we and others make determine whether we act for good or evil or somewhere in between."

"True," Lisa acknowledged. "So how can these fairies or pixies you create help me to help other humans?"

"Well," Hapus said, turning away from Lisa and pointing back to the water where the light hit the rocks when it danced through the tree leaves, "look at those sparkling waters, and the moment the sunlight twinkles on it, I want you to make your wish that you have just voiced to me."

Lisa did as Hapus instructed, and when the water got caught up in the light on the top of the rocks, she made her wish to have a purpose and a way to help others here on Anturia. Suddenly, Lisa let out an audible gasp. When she made her wish out of that sparking water, a small, winged, beautiful creature emerged from that very spot in the creek and flew right in front of Lisa's face. There was a giggle and a flash of light. When Lisa blinked, the fairy was gone.

Lisa sat unmoving as if listening to something with all her concentration, even though Hapus was not speaking and the fairy appeared to be gone.

After several moments, Lisa turned back to Hapus with a giant smile, and her eyes lit up with joy. "I have a way to help others now!"

Hapus smiled back, enjoying how pretty Lisa was when she was happy, "Yes, you do!"

Lisa asked, "But are we certain that all the fairies from this water will be good?"

Hapus confirmed, "Remember, they are just now being born. They have not been in the world to have a negative influence yet. If people make wishes from the moment the fairy is born, then the fairy will always be good and true. Just keep in mind what they told you. The wish people make when a fairy is born must be truly attainable. They cannot wish for material or impossible things, as the wish will never come true."



Lisa nodded her understanding. "Now it is my job to go and find my fellow humans on Earth, introduce myself, and tell them about this magical place so they can find happiness here on Anturia, too."

Hapus agreed, "Yes, this place brings hope. Hope brings happiness. Bring them here, Lisa, to the magical fairy waters."

"May I hug you, Hapus?" Lisa asked.

Hapus leaned in for her answer, and the Earthling and the Anturian hugged each other tightly before Lisa searched for others to bring to this magical place.

Over the years, Lisa and Hapus remained close friends. Sometimes, Hapus even traveled with Lisa throughout Anturia, seeking happiness for those in need and hoping to bring them to the magical fairy waters.

Lisa never forgot her family and friends on Earth, but she made a new family and tons of friends on Anturia with both humans and native Anturians. She lived to be very old and brought someone new to the magical fairy waters on the day she finally died at age 101. When that day ended, she and Hapus sat down by the magical fairy waters, and Hapus made her wish to a newborn fairy for Lisa's soul to remain here with her and the magical fairy waters for eternity. Wish granted.

Decades in the future, all the inhabitants of Anturia had heard stories or whispers of the magical fairy waters of Dresden, and every year, hundreds of weary souls manage to find their way here to make a wish that will change their lives. So go ahead, what are you waiting for? Make a wish!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Heather L. McMillan resides in Coweta County, Georgia, in the United States, where she lives with her family on a 26-acre parcel of mostly wooded land. She began creating the characters and the magical world of Anturia when she was nine years old. To incorporate her love of nature, Heather uses things she finds in nature as sources of inspiration in her stories. Heather considers herself more of a storyteller than a writer; the writing is a by-product of reaching more people. When she is not hanging out with her imaginary friends or sharing them with her fans in a storytelling session, she is out in her ever-expanding, whimsical, romantic rose garden. She loves Italian wines, animals, birds, and music in various genres.