

## Sara's Fairy Story

*"A heart-warming tale of sunshine and rainbows"*

Once upon a time, in a far off land - but not as far as you think - there was a loving Mummy who cared for her family and had never wished for anything more. Until now...

Her daughter had rich auburn hair that flowed in the wind and shone in the night – and her name was Sara.

Sara was full of love, joy and all the yummy things in the world which people dream of having all at once..... and yet if you looked deep into Sara's eyes you could see sadness.

All the little fairies and elves used to dance in the garden where Sara lived, and pleaded with her to join in.

"Oh please, please, Sara, please come and play with us", and off they would go, dressed in brightly coloured jackets of berries and flower petals, and jump and jive around tiny toadstools and pansies. They had such a good time! But Sara didn't.

"Don't you like us anymore?" asked one of the little jasmine fairies, "You used to love to play with us".

"Of course I do, you are my dearest, dearest friends", replied Sara with the deepest sincerity her heart could give, "but I'm very sad". And a single tear fell from Sara's eye and cascaded onto the green moss fairy that was kneeling beneath her.

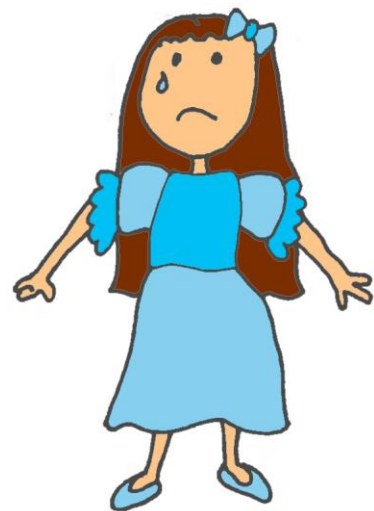
The green moss fairy ran off, soaked to her very skin. She did not like this one little bit.

"Maybe Sara doesn't play with us because she doesn't like us anymore", moaned the green moss fairy as she severely impacted on being soaked unexpectedly. The others nodded, agreeing that they couldn't be Sara's friends as one simple ground rule around friends is that they play together.

And so the fairies and elves left Sara and their Emerald Garden, and never asked why she was sad.

Sara was left all alone and this made her even sadder. Her rich auburn hair was getting duller and paler, it didn't seem to shine in the dark as it used to. She started to pretend she had furry bunny rabbits and chirpy, red-breasted robins from the south to talk to but she soon got bored with that game because she knew it was not true.

"Oh dear", groaned Sara one day, "I am so sad, if only I could make mummy happy. How I wish for someone to ....."



Then, all of a sudden, out popped a little, yet sprightly, golden chipmunk – right in front of Sara’s face. “Hi upside down face!” shrieked the visitor.

Sara jumped back and stared, half in amazement, half annoyed. “How dare you! I am Sara whose rich auburn hair flows in the wind and shines in-”

“Awh, fairy poo-poops!! You don’t look that rich to me,” interrupted the chipmunk.

Sara shrugged her shoulders in dismay at this cheeky young scoundrel, and decided she might as well find out who this visitor was.

“Who are you? You who enters this Emerald Garden, you who dances without a care?”

“I’m Cascade the Chipmunk, a superb creature of the North, whose tail flows in the wind and shines in the dark”.

“Very funny,” replied Sara. “Why are you here? Haven’t you heard I don’t play anymore?”

The chipmunk didn’t answer, instead she sat down in front of Sara, chuckling. She decided she should look really serious at this point so that Sara wouldn’t think she was *that* stupid and silly, so she went to cross her paws and legs...and fell over!

“Ooops!”

Sara shook her head in despair and lay down.

“Well,” started Cascade, “I heard there was this sad little girl in the Emerald Garden so I decided to come down and find out why.”

Sara sat up in astonishment – “You know?”

“Yep... Why are you sad?” asked the puzzled Cascade.

Sara sighed and laid back down. “If only I could help mummy, then I’m sure we would be happy again. Maybe I would play with you too.”

“Help how?” shrieked Cascade.

Sara then proceeded to tell the chipmunk that her mummy was ill and her dream of going on holiday with her and her brother would never ever ever EVER come true. She had heard tales of other families going away together to the sea and discovering special holiday sunshine that seemed to last forever. And then, if rain showers tried to spoil it, rainbows of the most wondrous colours and hues you could ever imagine would appear. She had been told that these rainbows were made of colours trapped in silver sachets and dew drops in tiny crystal jars. She certainly hadn’t seen any of this down her street!

Cascade sat with her mouth wide open, wider than a chipmunk could normally handle.



“Well?” she asked Sara eventually. Cascade scratched her head, closed her mouth and suddenly had an idea.

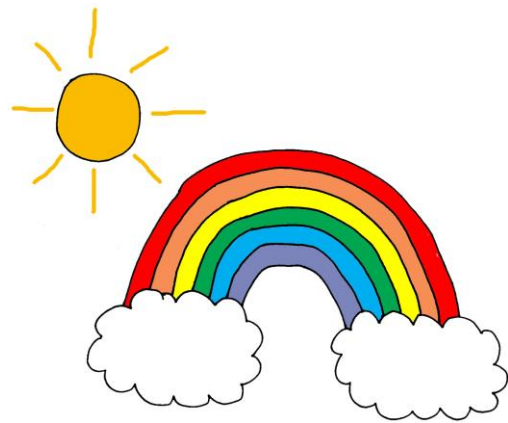
“Fay – we’ll go and see Fay the Family Godmother who lives in the Glade of the Mighty River. She’ll know what to do, she knows everything!”

Sara jumped up, amazed by the wisdom of her little friend and immediately went into agreement. Only thing was Sara was sure she had misheard Cascade, surely she meant the *Fairy* Godmother? Surely she must have misheard...

Sara said “We could go now!” So off they went out of the Emerald Garden and travelled across terrain unknown until they came to the Glade by the Mighty River. Cascade, who had ridden on Sara’s shoulder all day, spotted Fay first.

“Hey Fhaaaaaayyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy!” she shouted in glee. Sara quickly told Cascade to show more respect and tiptoed forward to the great Family Godmother.

“Erm, um, er, hello”, muttered Sara, far too nervous to ask where Fay had got her magnificent amethyst robe from, let alone how she could help her Mummy. Fay looked at her two visitors, and smiled.



“So, you come to me for sunshine and rainbows, do you Sara?”

Sara gulped and nodded her head in silence. “Told you she knows everything”, whispered Cascade and giggled. Cascade hadn’t a clue how the Family Godmother knew everything, but luckily stayed quiet on this point.

“I understand what you seek to find. On dawn’s shimmering light I will send you a silver and pea green carriage to whisk you and your family away to the edge of the land. There you can bathe in the sunshine and marvel at rainbows”.

The Family Godmother continued, “This is a gift from all of the wise creatures by this Mighty River, it will be of great value to you and your family for a lifetime and more. Remember it with a smile, with a light heart and a tiny bit of wonder”.

“I’ll never forget you!” cried Sara.

“You’re grrrrreeeat!” shouted Cascade, and off they skipped and hopped and jumped all the way back to Sara’s mummy and little brother. Sara couldn’t wait to tell them the news.

The end of the story, I’m afraid to say, is very near.

You see Sara had got what she wanted...when her Mummy looked out of the window as the shimmering light of dawn appeared, she saw the most beautiful carriage floating towards her in a cloud of fairy mist. Sara’s Mummy smiled the biggest smile ever and just couldn’t stop. And she knew she never would...

Sara and her little brother ran off to climb in – and who should be sat in a very neat line already but all her Emerald Garden little fairies and elf friends!

“Sara we missed you” said the crowd of creatures. “The Family Godmother helped us climb in, we can’t wait to go with you”. Sara was delighted - they were all back together at long last. Then they all travelled off to the edge of the land as Fay had promised and bathed in the sunshine and marveled at rainbows. The bestest bestest thing was that they did it together - and that mattered more than anything. .

The golden chipmunk, of course, stayed with Sara and her family. How could she leave? Everyone was having such a wonderful time ..... and anyway, she knew she would live happily ever after.

And they did.



*THE END*