

An Exciting Day in Star Forest with Elfi the Owl

It's late afternoon. "Whoop-whoop, whoop-whoop" we hear Elfi Owl calling. "Such a hot day", she says quietly to herself and turns her head all the way round. It's all quiet. Great. "I didn't really get a good night's sleep with all this heat but now at least I can go hunting in peace," she says to herself. She lives in Star Forest. It's called that because from here you can see the most beautiful starry sky there is. On a clear night you can discover the Milky Way, the Big and Little Dippers and ... suddenly ... What's happening!!?

There was a strange smell in the air and she could hear children's voices. But where's it all coming from? Elfi takes off from her treetop and flies toward the voices. They are coming from the big Moss Rock. As always, she can rely on her sense of hearing and within a few seconds she finds the children and can see what is happening: there's a small fire burning – Oh No! What a disaster! Fire in a forest is VERY dangerous!

In the meanwhile, Peter the squirrel, Susie the rabbit and Ludwig the deer have also come to Moss Rock. "What can we do?" asks Susie frantically. Elfi's thoughts are going round in circles: "Fire, forest, children, rock, water. Water!?" A thought flashes through her mind: „Of course! There's a spring running out of the rock" Gathering all her courage she flies to the children who are trying to find a network with their mobile phones. Oh dear, how can Elfi get their attention? But one of the children, little Lina has already noticed Elfi and is observing her curiously.

Elfi glides over to the buckets which the children have brought with them to collect pinecones in. She grabs the handle of one of the buckets in her claws, flies to the crack in the big rock where the water runs out and fills the bucket with water, or at least she tries to but very quickly the bucket gets too heavy for her. Help is at hand though and Lina grabs hold of the bucket and fills it to the brim. "Clever girl," whispers Elfi, though she knows Lina can't understand her language. Lina runs to the fire with the bucket and pours the water onto the flames. "We'll help you!" and the other children grab their buckets and fill them with water ...

After a few minutes all that remains of the little fire is some burned grass and a puddle. „Yaay! We've put it out!" the children shout with joy and run around hugging each other.

The forest animals are just as happy and congratulate Elfi. Lina plucks up her courage and goes to Elfi and the animals: "Thank you, owl, for saving us from the fire. As a thank you present I'd like to give you my favourite pink handbag" and she hangs it on Elfi's wing. "You'll find my address in the bag. Please, send me a postcard from Star Forest one day." The girl adds: "I come from Hamburg and would like to remember you and Tirol for ever."



Summary

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Elfi the Owl lives in Star Forest, and she loves the quiet and the beautiful starry sky. One late afternoon she suddenly smells something strange and hears children calling. She flies over and sees some frightened children near a small fire. A thought flashes through her mind – there's water here coming out of the rock. She bravely grabs a bucket from the children, flies to the spring and tries to fill it with water but it's not at all easy. However, a girl, Lina, watches Elfi and comes to help her. She pours water over the fire and soon the other children come and help her too. They soon put the fire out.

Lina plucks up her courage and thanks Elfi for saving them. She gives Elfi her favourite handbag as a reward. The bag has her address in it and Lina, who comes from Hamburg and is on holiday in Tirol with her family, asks Elfi to send her a postcard so that she will always remember her.