

Martino the Elf's Autumn"

L'autunno del folletto Martino di Elide Fumagalli

1. The Laughing Forest

In the heart of the forest, when the yellow, red, and brown leaves began to dance in the wind, Martino, the little elf, raised his arms to the sky and... jumped! His fun was trying to catch as many falling leaves as he could! His laughter echoed through the forest, all the way to the valley, where the animals listened, amazed to hear a forest laughing.

2. Tonia the Hare's Worry

One day, as Martino was walking in the forest, he met Tonia, the longeared hare. Worried, she approached him and said, "Did you know? Soon winter will come, and I won't be able to jump around in the forest and meadows anymore. What will I do?"

Martino, with a reassuring smile, replied, "For now, enjoy the autumn: live in the moment! When the snow falls and you can't hop like you do now, you will discover that moving slowly can be sweet. You'll find a new rhythm."

3. Amanda's Golden Leaf

That afternoon, the little elf saw Amanda the fox approaching. She had a very sad look on her face. Amanda sighed: "My dear friend, I'm worried because, as I am now, no one can see me..."

Her fur blended perfectly with the orange and brown leaves on the ground.

Martino smiled gently, then, with a puff, placed a golden leaf on Amanda's head, and she gave a shy smile. The elf whispered to her: "Now they'll see you! Autumn carries a hidden beauty, you just have to know how to find it. Just like all the wonderful things within you."

4. The Warmth of Friendship

Shortly after, Martino found himself talking to Rocco the badger, who was complaining: "Soon there won't be any warm rays of sunshine to heat up my days! I'll be facing a cold and lonely winter!"

Martino bent down to gather a pile of leaves, carefully arranged them in a corner between the roots of an oak tree, and calmly said: "Warmth doesn't only come from the sun. It comes from a safe den... and from friendship! So, my friend, when winter comes, open your den to friends, and you'll see that cold and loneliness will disappear!"

5. Leonardo the Owl and the Wind Dance

That evening, Martino saw Leonardo the owl perched on a branch, worriedly watching the forest. The elf asked him, "Hey! Why are you so worried?"

The owl sighed and replied, "The autumn wind is too strong for my wings: how will I fly?"

Martino thought for a moment and then said, "Imagine the wind as music. Let it guide you, follow its rhythm. It will be like dancing with the wind! You'll discover that the strongest currents take you farthest."

6. Gastone the Hedgehog's Light

That same night, the elf came across Gastone the hedgehog, who was curled up, trying to squeeze between the roots of an old tree. The little animal whimpered: "I'm scared of the dark! In autumn, the sun sets too early and rises too late, the nights will be longer and longer..."

The elf crouched beside him and whispered: "The dark is never truly dark. See? The moon lights up the sky. There will always be a light for you. You'll always be safe, wrapped in the warmth and embrace of the Earth."

7. Lucia the Sparrow's Comfort

The next morning, Lucia the sparrow fluttered next to the elf and, in a faint voice, complained: "Poor me! Now that autumn is here, the swallows, cuckoos, and redstarts will leave, and I'll be left alone in the forest, with no friend!"

Martino looked at her tenderly and reassured her: "You will never be truly alone! The trees will welcome you lovingly into their branches and tell you many stories. Watch them as they reach the sky for you! Waiting always brings new wonders, but you need patience to discover them!"

8. Bea the Squirrel and Time

Martino continued walking through the forest and noticed that Bea the squirrel was running around frantically, shouting: "I have to finish getting ready for winter, and I'm late! I still need to gather nuts, acorns, and pine cones! I need so many... so many... so many! I'll never make it! I just know it! I'll starve!"

Martino smiled and reassured her: "You know, nature gives everyone the time they need to do everything: the cold will come when you're ready to welcome it... and your den will be full of supplies!"

9 Rest and Harmony

The days passed, and the forest was slowly preparing for a long rest, wrapped in the gentle autumn breeze.

Martino reminded every creature that autumn is not just the end of summer, but the beginning of a season full of new emotions and discoveries.

Under a sky painted orange and red like the forest leaves, everyone had found their place and rhythm, in harmony with nature.

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