



Forest Legends

Water Nymphs

By Tea Orsi



Water Nymphs

Every self-respecting forest has its own air, tree and water nymphs. And today, we want to tell you about the latter. They're delicate, mysterious creatures. They move around by lightly jumping from one lily pad to the next (and they never sink into the water, isn't that cool?).



These nymphs resemble fairies, but they're a bit larger, and they're great at hiding underwater or amid bamboo canes. They're shy and elegant, and if you stand quietly by a lake, sometimes you can hear their soft laughter echoing through the trees. Grandma knew some of them and was always enchanted by their beauty.



Nymphs are immortal, so they never age. Even when they reach a thousand years old, they still look young, radiant and graceful.



They have long, skinny hair that's never tangled. No one knows how they do it, since no nymphs has ever been spotted with a hairbrush. And they love to decorate their hair with beautifully woven crowns of flowers, leaves and shrubs.



By some strange magic, these nymphs can breathe even when underwater. That's why they're good at hiding. They're kind of like crocodiles, but with a very different look.



The clothes these nymphs wear are like those of ancient Greek goddesses. They are made of an ethereal fabric, which moves with every breeze and is characterized by light colours and delicate shades: blue, white, green, yellow and pastel pink.



The Legend of Lake Carezza

What flowers is a story of love that could never be. Water nymphs often have many suitors, but they prefer to be alone and live surrounded by the beauty of nature, just like the protagonist you're about to meet.



Many years ago, on Lake Carezza, there lived a nymph who, besides being beautiful, had such a lovely voice that her songs enchanted every traveller who hiked the Costalunga Pass (in the mountains of northern Italy).



One day, the sorcerer of the town of Masare passed by and heard the nymph's sweet voice. He fell in love with her at first sight (or rather, at first listen!). From that day on, he did everything he could to win her heart: he brought her expensive gifts, he serenaded her, he sent her a love letter and so on. Yes, she never changed her mind.



So, the sorcerer decided to ask for help from the witch of Lagwerda, who gave him some rather unusual advice.
changed her mind.



She told him to dress up as a jewellery merchant, create a very long rainbow and then go to the lake. He was to speak to the nymph, and promising to give her all his gemstones, he was to carry her away with him.



The sorcerer followed the witch's instructions to a T, but he was so nervous that he forgot to wear a disguise! As soon as she saw the rainbow, the nymph was very impressed: it was colourful and studded with precious gems (the sorcerer had decided to really pull out all the stops!). Shortly after that, the man approached her to declare his love for her again, but she recognised him and immediately jumped into the lake. (What a temper! She wouldn't even let him talk).



From that day on, no one ever saw her again. The sorcerer was stricken with grief and ripped the rainbow from the sky, shredding it into a thousand pieces that he threw into the lake, one by one! And now you know why the water of Lake Carezza shimmers with all the colours of the rainbow: from blue to indigo, from red to green, from yellow to gold.





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