

## **Read Along to...Nature 🌟**

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### **Look into your imagination and find...**

#### **Nature**

Once upon a time there was a magical little girl.

She was made of sweetness and kindness and happiness and love.

As she was born of magic so she was magic in life.

Found in a cave in the northern hills, furthest away from any person living she grew silently away from humankind.

She spoke only the language of the forest, from the birds that sang to the trees that swayed. She had great abilities to give life and to help prevent death.

She became the guardian to all the lands that surrounded her and lived a young life of wonder as she spoke to all that was Nature and that is what they called her.

For many years she lived in peace and harmony. She grew to accept the fragility of life and the mercy of death. She grew wise and no animal, creature or living things asked anymore of her than to be herself.

What she chose to do was of her making from the blossoming of the trees to the rising of the sea. She vouched to live by a code as to never take a life or give life for she knew in her heart it was not hers to make that choice, however hard it seemed.

Nature was wondrous and beautiful and loved.

Nature grew into a young lady. Her hair was long and kissed by the sun. It danced in the wind while her smile was set to melt the most frostbitten heart and her beauty brought love from any who saw her.

But human curiosity, its will to seek on new adventures, was to change Nature and humanity in one fell swoop.

The Kingdom which lay far far away, over many years, had been covered and corrupt by Darkness. So black was its shadowy fingers that it had crept all the way out to Northern Hills.

Nature felt its presence and immediately acted. She felt in her heart that to her glowing light that beamed through her soul, this Darkness was her opposite.

She immediately expelled the Darkness which had brought death to the trees and creatures that lived on the edges.

But that day, Darkness had felt a power it had never encountered before and knew that if such a power could be corrupted, they could rule the Earth until the end of days.

Darkness sent out an Army of its greatest warriors to bring back the power. They came at night with their swords and began to cut through and hack at the forest, but Nature had foreseen the events and had her first contact with Humans. She could not believe these people looked like her and as she faced them down she was shocked at their capabilities and will to be corrupted and ruled.

There was no magic in them, just fear and sadness in their eyes and their hearts.

So Nature showed them strength and joy through misty pictures of a changing future of a united world standing together. The warriors saw and broke. But their fear was too much.

One by one they fell on their swords to the horror of Nature. Tears dropped from her eyes and a sadness diminished her strength.

Darkness sensed this and this time, it did use its dark magic to send an army of terrible creatures.

Unlike people, these creatures, from Trolls to Monsters, did not feel and were seduced by power. They came in waves and were mighty but despite Nature's wavering power, her immense magical abilities froze all creatures to a standstill as time left them statues until she felt she could make them safe.

In the third wave of attacks, Darkness battled from afar. It worked its magic into the heart of the forest where it turned all that was good against their guardian. A pain hit Nature like no other. Her friends and family of the forest and hills had turned black like poison. To turn each soul back to light was immense, like drawing venom from an angry viper.

Nature was left a shell of her immense power and that is when Darkness entered.

Darkness simply strolled up to the cave where Nature lay to rest weak and fallen.

Darkness broke the spell to find Nature from her hidden force field.

Nature lay weak and looked up to see Darkness tall and immense. It stood before her, its face hidden by the shadows. Another step and its face came into the light.

A man, a handsome man with a wicked smile.

Darkness spoke to Nature with soft seductive words, of hope for mankind, of the weakness he felt for her and that his test had only sought for her to be weak enough so he may approach.

He made promises of an eternal joy for all and how they would rule the world and life would grow and thrive and be wondrous.

But Nature was more than just sweetened talk and lies. She had felt the great darkness and seen first-hand its corruption and power.

Nature was weak and vulnerable and Darkness sensed it.

As Nature told Darkness that he had twisted the world, she played her hand. Darkness enraged, unloaded all his anger and malice and hate into her heart, but Nature simply took it all growing weaker with every breath.

Into her heart poured all the evil that Darkness could throw at her.

But Nature was kind, Nature was just and Nature was true.

She took all Darkness had to throw at her and more. She took in all of Darkness who filled her head with terror, but deep within her was something greater, something she held onto until her final moments. Hope.

Nature became one with Darkness and in her last breath used all her power to disappear and break into everything.

And in everything resides a battle of Nature and Darkness....

But Nature knew that her feelings of happiness, warmth and love felt greater than any feelings of Darkness and that is where her battle was won.

Mostly.