

The Fire Flower

Long, long ago in a land unheard of a small girl was born shortly before her mother and father died. No-one knew her name so they just called her girl. Fifteen years later the Queen of the land fell fatally ill, giving all of the town a terrible disease. All except one. The small girl who had no name spent most of her day by the river in her cottage alone. In fact she only visited the town when she needed help or advice. One summer's day a young man came to the girl begging for her help. The man told the girl how the Queen was ill in the town, whilst across the bank a demon lurked watching as the girl nodded faithfully. It was then he hatched a cunning plan. The girl had to look for a fire flower as no-one in the town was well enough to do so. After telling the girl what to do the man left hurriedly. And so the girl packed up.

The girl was just picking up the last item to go inside her wicker bag when her small pearl encrusted mirror caught her eye. She picked it up. It was the only one she had to remind her that she was an orphan. She looked at herself in the mirror. Her sleeky jet black hair fell just below her ribs making her pale face look almost white. Her eyes were a vibrant orange in fact when other people looked at them they always said it was like her eyes were made of fire. She wore a long mauve cloak over her silky blue dress. A long silver chain hung around her neck with a note attached, it said.

This locket is magic and wild,
It will be found by a lonely child.
But do not have greed,
Only use it when in need.
For you will suffer a great pain
and be lonely again,
So beware my lonely child.

She set off with a slim amount of hope across the river where she met a dark blue duck with a stomach, flippers and a small patch above the yellow beak that were all light blue, around the eyes were giant patches of white, the duck was happy and joyful. So to cheer the girl up he accompanied her. Soon they came to a ruined cottage where a dying man crouched, he spoke to them. "Give me a herbal potion" he pleaded. So the girl with the help of Piplup (for that was what the duck was called) ran out and gathered up sacred herbs in the man's garden. As she mashed up the herbs into a puree a small boy crept through the broken doorway onto the threshold of the ruined house and silently tapped the girl on her shoulder. She jumped! The bowl where the half mashed herbs lay flew up into the air and landed in the man's mouth. He didn't seem aware of anything around him in fact all he did was swallow the potion. He thanked her gracefully and in return for giving him a year longer to live. He gave her a bow and 3 arrows. The bow and arrows of accuracy. So then the girl and the duck left the house.

The next day she woke up in a small cliff top cave (that Piplup had chosen.) That morning Piplup went down to the nearby river to catch some salmon, whilst the girl

found some rushes to make a fire with later in the evening. Some time later Piplup returned with a giant haul. As they sorted through the catch it became dark so they roasted fish by their newly lit fire until sundown and ate at twilight. That night they went to sleep peacefully.

The girl was stirring. She woke up looking blearily at the pitch black sky, She was just trying to see if she could see her hand when it was an inch from her nose when a bright white light dragged her away from drowsyness. She looked round startled at the figure that had appeared beside her. It spoke. "I am your mother." The woman whispered gently. "I come from your locket, I am here to help." Darkness surrounded the girl again.

The next morning the girl woke up dazzled by the sunlight. As she went to get up she noticed her shoes. They were bright gold and had wings attached to them. She walked over to them to try them on. Once they were on the girl felt a light sensation fly through her body. Piplup gasped! Then she looked down and saw that she was.....
AIRBORN!!!

Months after months went by and still no sign of the fire flower. Until one night.

Piplup was just preparing a bed for the night when a big tunnel with an orange end caught the winter sunlight. The girl widened her eyes in amazement. This was it, the tunnel to the centre of the earth had found them at last.

Silently, Piplup and the girl came through the tunnel, and out into a forest glade. The girl took 2 steps forward and stumbled on a small silver ring. She put it on. At that moment her body became the fiery glade, she glided colourlessly across the floor and took in all around her.

The trees were bright orange, the leaves looked like golden holly. The ground shook and turned to fire! The flowers burned to a crisp. The leaves and trees turned to silver ashes. The 2 journeyers were encased in fire. There was no way out! Then a demon rose out of the ground...

The girl quickly put on her ring of invisibility and grabbed the only flower left in the glade. Piplup used his secret water supply to put out the fire. Then the 2 journeyers fled.... Arriving at the castle the girl knocked at the door. No answer. So Piplup flew up to the window with the girl his back. Gracefully the girl curtsied to the King, he grabbed the fire flower from the girl and shoved the flower in a vase of water. Instantly the water turned to steam.

"I had to check." He exclaimed. Then with haste he put the fire flower into the Queen's limp hands. From the moment it touched her hands the Queen awoke and they all lived happily ever after.