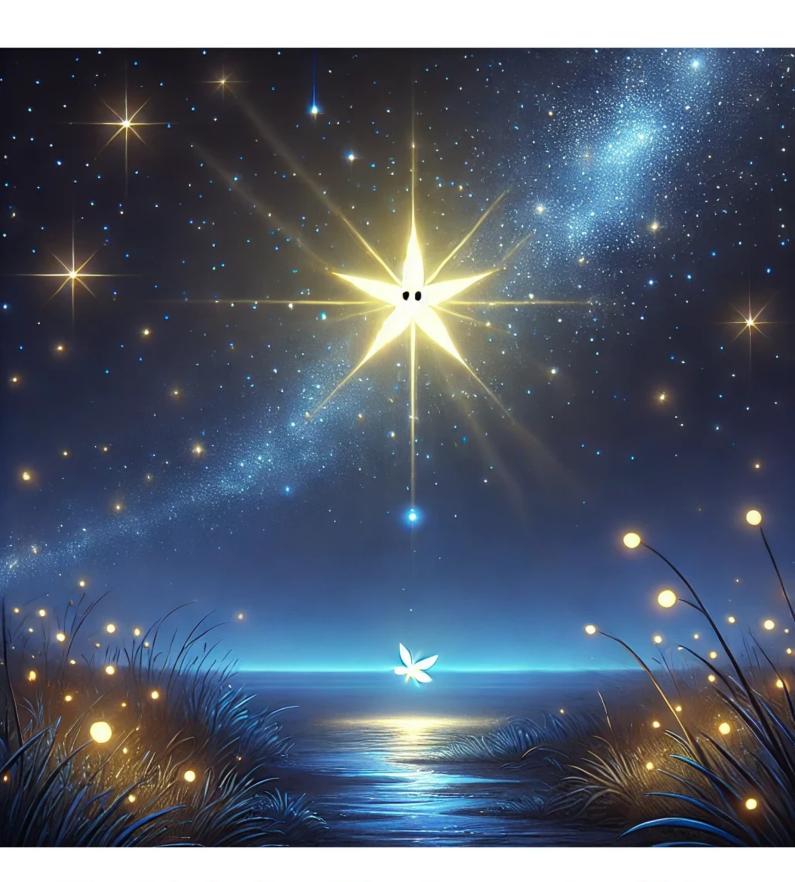
STORIESANDCOLORS



The Little Star That Learned to Shine

1. The Little Star That Learned to Shine

Once upon a time, in a vast and endless sky, there was a tiny star named Lumi who didn't believe she was bright enough to be seen. Every night, the other stars twinkled brightly, lighting up the heavens, but Lumi hid behind the clouds, feeling small and unimportant. She often gazed at the different stars, wishing she could shine as they did. One evening, as Lumi sat alone, she noticed a faint glow approaching her. It was a lost firefly, its light flickering weakly.

"Lumi," the firefly said, "can you shine your light? I can't find my way home."

Lumi hesitated. "But my light is too small to help anyone," she said softly.

"Even the tiniest light can make a big difference in the darkness," the firefly replied.

Gathering her courage, Lumi glimmered faintly. At first, the glow was slight, but with the firefly's encouragement, she shone brighter. To her surprise, the firefly's path became clear.

"Thank you, Lumi! You saved me!" the firefly said, flying off joyfully. For the first time, Lumi felt a sense of purpose. That night, Lumi realized that her light, no matter how small, had the power to help others. She began practising each night, shining a little brighter with each attempt. Soon, she wasn't just assisting fireflies but guiding lost travellers and lighting up the darkest corners of the night sky. The other stars admired her courage and told her how much they appreciated her efforts.

One night, an old and wise star named Nova approached Lumi. "You've come a long way, little one," Nova said. "Your light has touched so many lives. But remember, it's not just about shining brighter; it's about knowing when and where your light is needed the most."

Lumi pondered Nova's words. She began to observe the sky, looking for the darkest areas where her light could make the most significant difference. She guided lost sailors at sea, illuminated paths for nocturnal animals, and even helped a lonely owl find its way back to its nest. Each time she helped, her confidence grew, and so did her light. Over time, Lumi became a symbol of hope and bravery. Travelers would look to her light in the sky and feel reassured. Parents would tell their children stories of the little star that learned to shine, teaching them that even the smallest among us can have a profound impact.

Lumi discovered that true greatness wasn't about being the brightest or the biggest—it was about using what you had to make a difference. She understood that her light was a gift, and she vowed to use it wisely.

And so, Lumi shone every night, proud to be the little star that learned to shine. The sky seemed a little brighter with Lumi in it, reminding everyone below that even the most minor light could guide the way.