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**Short Story**

## The Magical Mirror

“Zoom!” Mila and Eva glided through forests and fluttered down streams. They landed and sat with a bird, perched on a branch. It immediately flew away. “What startled that bir- “Mila started but, in a flash, they were both caught in a cage.

Mila and Eva played in the backyard every day. “Catch!” Shouted Eva, but Mila wasn’t looking, she was staring at a flock of birds flying in the sky. “Crash!” the ball hit Mila in the face. She frowned at Eva. “Sorry, didn’t notice you were looking away,”. She quickly ran over to Mila and helped her dust off. “I wish we could fly,” said Mila staring at the birds again.

Mila and Eva had been bugging their mum continuously for a new ball as their only other one was all worn out. One day, their mum had bought them a new ball. It was a rainbow, with a fairy wing imprint. In the sunlight the gold sparkles glistened. The girls loved the new ball, and it made Mila think about being able to fly. “Catch!” shouted Mila, throwing the new ball at Eva. But in the blink of an eye, they were gone.

Mila and Eva reappeared in an unrecognisable area. It was pitch black, but they could still see each other’s shadows. Then Mila caught a glimpse of something shiny in the distance. She walked over to it, her footsteps echoing. Eva scurried behind confused. Mila put her palm against a solid object. Suddenly, out of her palm, the object changed from a dim black to glistening pure gold. It was a shiny gold mirror! “How did you do that?”, said Eva, jaw dropped and eyes wide. She ran over and put her hands against the mirror but instead of leaning on it, she went through. “Eva!” shouted Mila and ran in too.

Mila and Eva fell out of a tree and onto the floor. They saw a bunch of toadstools with a door and windows. “Mila...” started Eva. “WE HAVE WINGS!” They squealed and tried to fly. A fairy called Lily came over to them and told them they would need one gem each to earn pixie dust and sprinkle it on their wings to fly. According to Julia the fairy, they get gems by helping the elves with big tasks and the elves do the same to the fairies. The girls didn’t even think about going home, they just wanted to fly.

So, Mila and Eva went to the elf kingdom to get some glamorous gems. They gazed at the giant castle where all the royal elves lived. Around the castle was a moat with shimmering water full of elf leaf boats and lily pads. Outside of the castle was a group of hollow rocks with big leaves as the roof. “That must be the elf village!” said Eva. Mila went over to an old elf and helped him make a big machine with water wheels, pipes and gears. Eva went to the Elf Concert Hall and helped to conduct the orchestra. Once they were both finished, they asked the old elf to give them a tour of the castle where the V.I.P elves lived and most importantly, the elf king and queen, and the elf agreed.

Mila, Eva and the old elf entered the castle. The guards made sure that an elf accompanied Mila and Eva. They walked behind the old elf to the throne room. The floor had a red rug for the King and Queen. “STOP!” shouted the Queen with high rage. “No fairies on the royal rug, now what do you WANT?!” She continued with a horrible temper. “Oh, just giving these fairies a tour of the castle.” said the elf kindly. “WELL THEN GO AWAY!” said the Queen about to call the guards in. “NOW!!!!!!!!!!” she exclaimed, shouting at the top of her lungs. Mila, Eva and the old elf scurried out of the castle just as the guards started rushing in. The girls felt instant relief to be out of there.

At the crack of dawn, the following morning the girls woke up with much eagerness, ready to earn their pixie dust. They sped across meadows, forests and jungles until they stopped at the at the giant toadstool. “Time to meet our king and queen.” said Mila with mixed feelings. “But, but, what if she’s strict like the elf Queen, we could get banned from the kingdom!” replied Eva with nothing but fear. Mila took a breath in and stepped through the gates. They went upstairs and were confronted by the King and Queen sitting calmly in their throne.

“Hello Mila and Eva, I heard you are new here.” said the Queen in a calm, gentle voice. “I see you have two gems for me”. She pulled out two pocket sized pixie dust bags and took the gems. “If you came here with a ball,” started the Queen “...know that it will always be your solution.” The girls politely bowed to the royal couple and made their way out of the kingdom.

Zooooooooom! Mila and Eva glided through forests and fluttered down streams. They perched on a nearby branch next to a bird, which immediately flew away. “What startled that bird?” Mila started, but in a flash, they were both caught in a cage.

“Where are we!” asked Eva. The girls were in a basement on a table trapped in a barred CAGE! “WE’RE TRAPPPED!” Mila started freaking out. As Mila started overreacting, Eva thought about how they had come here. “C’mon pocket, gimme something useful,” said Eva digging her hands into her pocket. She pulled her hand out holding the ball which magically inflated. The answer to all their problems. “Mila, catch!” shouted Eva. Mila looked up at the incoming ball with fear and then they teleported. “Smack,” onto Mila’s face went the ball. She looked at Eva sternly. “Sorryyyy,” laughed.