

Willa-Lee
and the
Em-Bear-essed
Bear



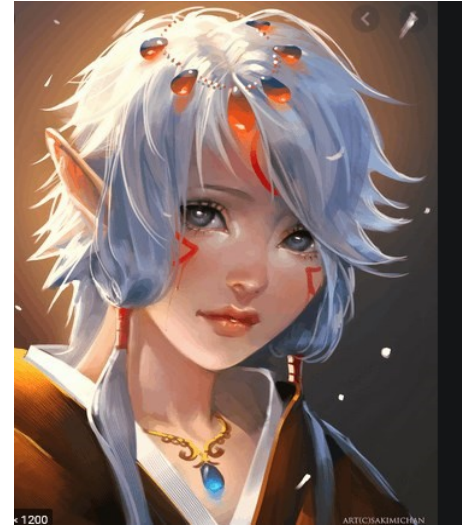
Once upon a time, there was a little elf-girl named Willa-Lee. She lived in a cozy elf-house with her Mom, A-liza,



and her

Dad, Dan-i-el. She had a little brother named

Ar-lolo. A-liza was a



Master Harper

and Dancer. Dan-i-el was Forest Keeper for the

forests, meadows, ponds, rivers, and

lakes where Willa-Lee lived.

Willa-Lee also was very lucky



because she lived near her Grandma-elf, Charis-lee, and her Grandpa-elf, Ali-an. They loved her and Ar-lo-lo very much. Grandma-Elf was fun to visit because she knew all about plants and animals and she made beautiful things to wear.

One of Willa-Lee's favorite things to do was explore the woods and meadows where she lived. There were always things to see and learn about. There were streams with frogs and fish and turtles. The fields had mice and rabbits and great hawks that hunted them. In the evening the deer would come out of the forest to graze in the meadows. Willa-Lee would take Arlo-lo to the meadows to see the deer and watch the



stars come out just before bedtime.

The trails in the forest were special places for Willa-Lee. They had been made long ago by deer, and then followed by elves and men until they were smooth and flat, but they still had all the twists and turns the deer had made while they looked for the sweetest grass and the most comfortable paths through the ancient trees. Today Willa-Lee was walking on one of these paths. It was very well marked, but the bushes grew close and it turned this way and that way. Willa-Lee



was passing a bush when she heard a growl! That was very strange. She knew all the animals in the forest and none of them would growl at her. She

stood up tall and said very loudly, "I am Elf-Daughter Willa-Lee. Who is growling at me?" She heard some rustling in the bushes and a small voice said, "I'm a very fierce creature. You are supposed to be very scared. I will bite you if you don't run away!"

Willa-Lee thought that was very silly. "Why are you trying to scare ME?" she asked. "Who are you? Come out where I can see you!"

There was more rustling, and scuffling, and huffling, and then a very small bear peeked out.



"Growl Rowl Grrr!" it said.

"You had better run! I will bite you!"

Willa-Lee looked at the little bear. "I don't think you will bite me", she said. "Open your mouth and let me see those fierce teeth." The little bear looked very embarrassed. "I don't want to", he whined.

Willa-Lee pulled her wand from her belt. Holding it up, she commanded "Show me your teeth!" The little bear had no choice and opened its mouth wide.

"Well," Willa-Lee said, "It doesn't look like you could




bite me even if you tried. You have lost all your front teeth!"

The little bear hung its head. "Now you know that I am not scary, you will probably bite *me*," he said. Willa-Lee laughed. "Elves don't bite bears" she said. "And even if I wanted to, I couldn't bite you

right now either. Then she opened her mouth and showed him her teeth! She was missing her front teeth too!

The little bear was amazed. "Why aren't you afraid something will bite you without your teeth?" he asked.

"But I have teeth!" Willa-Lee said. "I am an Elf-princess", she said. "My father is Forest-Keeper, and my mother sings the Forest to her will! I wield the Dragon Wand! Those are my "teeth". Who would dare try to hurt me?"



The little bear thought

about what Willa-Lee said. "Do I have special teeth

like you?" he asked.

"Of course," Willa-Lee said. "You have your Mom, and all the forest tricks she has taught you. You can run and climb trees. And you are still very strong for your age, even without teeth. But never pretend to be something you are not. You will not fool most people, and none of the elves."

The little bear felt much better. "Do you think my teeth will grow back?" he asked. "Of course," Willa-Lee said. "Mine will and yours will too." Then she smiled at him. "But when they do, do not try to scare me by pretending to bite me."

The little bear said he would always remember, and so Willa-Lee continued her walk on her beautiful trail, glad that she didn't need to be scared of anything.