

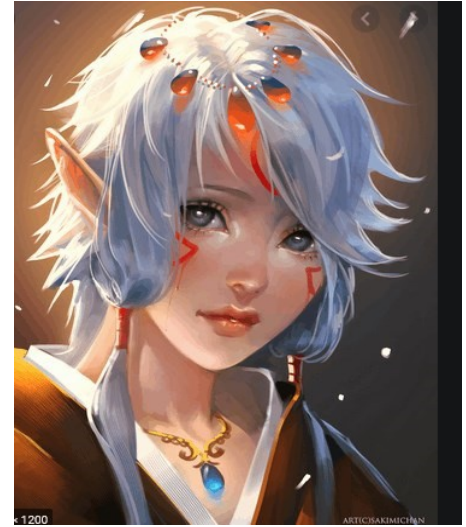
Willa-Lee and the Daddy LongLegs



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. She was a big help to her Dad because



she could talk to many of the animals living in the forest.

Willa-Lee loved learning about things. She wanted to know the names of all the birds and animals. She even liked spiders! Do you like spiders? There is a lot to learn.

Willa-Lee's favorite spider was the Writing Spider. It made big webs and sometimes they looked like



there were letters in them. Her Mom liked



them too. Her Dad liked spiders because they catch flies but he told her to watch out for the Black Widow spider. They can bite you.

Another bad spider is the Brown Recluse. They have a bad bite too.



Willa-Lee said she would be careful to stay away from them.

One day Willa-Lee's Dad asked her if she wanted to visit a People-park with him. He wanted to see if the people were doing a good job in the park. He told her they would have to be careful and hide if people came. Willa-Lee said, "Yes! I love hiking with you!"

Willa-Lee and her Dad walked a long way to the park. It was called Blackburn Forest



Park. Willa-Lee went on one trail while her Dad

went on a different one. She was walking along when she heard children shouting! Then she saw them. They were all yelling and hitting a pile of logs with sticks! Willa-Lee knew she should keep hidden, but she was sure something was wrong! She put her hood over her head and ears and ran up to the children. "What are you doing?", she said. "Stop it!"

The children stopped.

Then they told her, "We are killing spiders!" Sure enough, Willa-Lee saw



that the children had smashed some Daddy-Longlegs on the logs! She asked the children, "Why are you killing these Daddy-Longlegs?" One of the boys said, "They are spiders. They bite you and

make you sick!" Willa-Lee was very sad. "That is not true," she said. "These are Daddy-LongLegs. They eat old leaves and stuff like that. They don't bite." The boy said, "So what? I like killing them."



That made Willa-Lee angry.

"Don't you know that the Elves protect everything God has made, even spiders, and You!"

The boy laughed. "Elves aren't real!" he said. Willa-Lee took off her hood, stood up very tall, and said, "Then what am I?"

The children were very scared. I know you are thinking, why would the children be scared of a little elf-girl? But that is not



what they saw. They saw an Elf-Princess, Lady of the woods, strange and wonderful! They turned and ran screaming down the trail back to their parents.

Willa-Lee put the Daddy-Longlegs that were hurt back under the logs where they would be safe.

Then she went to find her Dad. He told her that some children had come running back to the trail head saying that they were being chased by a big scary Fairy woman. "Do you know anything about that?" her Dad asked. Willa-Lee said, in a very small voice, "I don't think I'm very big or very scary." Then her dad said, "The Truth is very scary to people who don't want to hear it. I am very proud of you. Now, let's go home and eat dinner."

And they did. Then Willa-Lee went to bed, a happy elf-girl.