

The Lady and the Lion

There are two very similar stories. The other one is called Lily and the Lion. The main difference is the item requested by the youngest daughter. In this one she wants a lark, in the other a rose. The name Lily has been 'borrowed' to use here. See links to both stories at the foot of this page.

Once there was a rich man. He had three girls. One day, he had to go away for a bit. He said to the girls, "I will bring you back a gift. What would you like?"

Two girls wanted jewellery. Lily—the youngest—asked for a lark. Lily loved birdsong.

The man left with a servant. They went to a very big town. The rich man got the jewellery.

You may read the two tales referred to here:

The Lady and the Lion <https://archive.org/stream/fairytalesofbrot00grim#page/n290/mode/1up>

Lily and the Lion <http://www.authorama.com/grimms-fairy-tales-46.html>

None of the shops had a lark.
“Lily will be upset,” he said.
“We have to find a lark.”

The road went into a wood.
There was a grand castle
in the middle of the wood.
Near the castle they saw
a lark at the top of a tree.



“Climb up and catch it!” ordered the man. The servant went to the tree. Just then a huge lion jumped out. “Don’t you dare take my lark!” the lion growled. “I’m going to eat you both up.”



“Please don’t,” said the man. “I am very sorry. I didn’t know it was your lark. I will pay you a lot of money. Please don’t eat us.”

“I **will** eat you,” said the lion.
“Or we can do a deal. This is the deal. I won’t eat you up. And you can have the lark. You promise to send me the first thing you meet at your home.”



“It might be Lily,” said the man to his servant. “I love little Lily.”

The servant was very scared of the big lion. “I don’t think it will be Lily,” he lied.

The man made the promise.
And the lion gave him the lark.
The rich man and his servant
left the wood.

Soon they got home. The door
opened. Oh no—it was Lily!
She was very pleased to see
her father. She thanked him
for the lark. “You are crying,”
she said. “Why?” Her father
told her about his promise.

“A promise must be kept,”
said Lily. “I will go to the lion.
He may be kind and let me
come home again.”

So Lily set off the next day.

At the castle Lily met the lion. In fact he was a prince under a spell. In the daytime he had to be a lion. But every night he was a kind man again!

Lily stayed with the Prince. And soon they got married. Every day he disappeared to be a lion. Lily stayed inside.



One day the Prince told Lily, “One of your sisters is getting married. I will let my lion men take you to the wedding.”

Lily’s father and her sisters were very happy to see her. They had been sure the lion had eaten her up. Lily enjoyed the visit and then went back to the Prince.

Some time later, the Prince told Lily, “Your other sister is getting married. My lion men will take you to the wedding.”

But Lily said, “This time I want you to come as well.”

“I dare not come,” he said. “I know there will be flares. It is the custom. Things will get worse if the light of those flares falls on me in the daytime. I will turn into a white dove and have to keep flying around for seven years. Don’t ask me to come.”

“I will find somewhere for you to stay away from the flares,” said Lily. And so they set off together.

The Prince was in a dark room. But, when Lily came back, all she saw was a white dove.

As the people carrying flares passed by, light had shone through a crack and fallen on the Prince.

“I will drop feathers. Please follow me,” said the dove. And it flew away. So Lily followed the dove’s trail.



Then, one day, no feathers!
Lily was sad. *I must get help,*
she thought. She thought of
things that saw all the world.

Lily asked the sun:

“Have you seen my dove?”
The sun had not. But the sun
gave Lily a gift. It was a chest.
“Open the chest if you are
in real need,” said the sun.

Lily asked the moon:

“Have you seen my dove?”
The moon had not. The moon
gave Lily a gift. It was an egg.
“Break the egg if you are
in real need,” said the moon.

Lily asked the four winds:

“Have you seen my dove?”

And—at last—she got help!

The night wind from the north

and the south wind told her,

“The dove is a lion again. But

he is fighting a dragon.

The dragon is really an

enchanted princess.”

Lily found out it was all true.

She saw the lion win the fight.

The Prince and Princess were

back in human form. Just then

the Princess took the Prince

away to her castle on a griffin!

Oh no! thought Lily. Once

again Lily began her hunt.

After a long time Lily found that castle. She was surely in real need. She used the gifts from the sun and the moon and—in the end—she rescued the Prince. And the griffin flew them back to their own home.



The spell was ended. Lily and the Prince lived a happy life. 😊