

Belinda Butterfly - The Lady of the Flowers



by Andreas Kornevall, Earth Restoration Service
Illustrations: Chloe, 7 years old, Iford & Kingston



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Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, when all your great grandparents were young, there was a magical land and called: The Wild Flower Meadow. It was home to many mysterious creatures, big and small, some were never seen and others sparkled in all the colours of the rainbow. There were as many wildflowers as there are stars in the night sky. Or so they say.

In this land lived a beautiful queen, a butterfly queen, and her name was Belinda Butterfly, known as The Lady of the Flowers. Her gown was blue, her wings purple and white. She helped all the wildflowers in the meadows to grow well and strong. She treated them like they were her own children, the little wild Sorrel, funny Red Campion, the gentle Meadow Sweet and the singing Blue Bell.



Our story begins one day when Belinda was preparing her pollen and fluttering amongst the flowers. She realised that things were changing. The bright colours had started to fade away, the flowers were shy to open their petals, dragonflies, bumble bees and ladybirds were nowhere to be seen. She didn't understand why this was happening and felt afraid for her friends. What was going on?

To find out more, she decided to fly all the way up to the clouds to view the land from above. This way she was able to see really far. She had to fly for a long time before she reached the clouds. She fluttered gently on top of a white cloud and looked down.

She saw large groups of houses and busy roads, all built on her old Wild Flower Meadow land. There were cars everywhere bumper to bumper moving slowly like snails. She also noticed big patches of green grass without any flowers on them, why are the hills not flowering, where is the colour and where are the little wild creatures?



The more she looked, the more she began to understand that people had forgotten about the little wild creatures, there was no home for them anymore. It seemed that people no longer cared much for wildflowers and butterflies. It made her feel sad for her butterfly and wildflower family.

She knew she had to do something, speak to someone who cared, otherwise all her family will be forgotten. She needed help!

She decided to fly all the way back down and visit a dear friend, a little girl called Rosabella who often played in the meadows and loved flowers. She lived nearby with her Mummy and Daddy. Belinda fluttered towards her cottage and landed quietly near Rosabella's picnic basket in the garden. Rosabella recognised her friend and smiled.



"Rosabella, my flower friend. How lovely to see you playing in the garden." Belinda said. "I am worried, I need to speak to you."

"What is it, Belinda?" said Rosabella.

"I have flown in all directions all the way to the clouds and back, and when I look down I see only houses, roads and cities. Nobody has been thinking of the wildflowers, the bees and the butterflies, and I can't see them anywhere. I am really worried! Please help us!" exclaimed Belinda.

"Oh no!" said Rosabella with a saddened face, "but what can I do?"

“You can begin by creating a ‘home of flowers’ for the butterflies. Their homes are the wildflowers. If the land has many homes of flowers, you will then be creating a home for ALL wild creatures; beetles, bugs, bees, moths, grasshoppers, slow worms, mammals and birds, even the badger may come for a visit...” explained Belinda excitedly.

Belinda fluttered from the picnic basket onto Rosabella’s shoulder and whispered in her ear, “by planting wild flowers, shrubs and grasses around your school or garden, you would then be creating a new magical land, and the butterflies and flowers could flutter and play again!”

Rosabella jumped up with joy, “I will go and tell my parents about this now and they can help to start a flower home in my school, and I will ask all my friends to help too.”



With this, Belinda thanked her flower friend from the bottom of her butterfly heart, and fluttered away with hopeful wings.

The Flutter Flower Programme, of the Earth Restoration Service Charity, enables children to take part in creating wildflower meadows in their school grounds to restore native habitats and butterfly populations www.earthrestorationservice.org