

The Little Sparrow

By Avamaria Marra

There was once a young little sparrow who, like all young ones, loved to see the good in everything and rarely ever thought ill of anyone. The Little Sparrow lived a happy life and had many friends whom she enjoyed. Time went by, and autumn came upon them. The Little Sparrow had never seen autumn before and was very excited by it. She loved how all the trees went ablaze with fiery colors and all the fruit went plump and ripe. However, she also noticed none of her other friends seemed to enjoy this beautiful weather as much as she, but rather, they flew and scurried around in quite a hurry and rarely ever had time to play with her. The Little Sparrow could not understand this, so she stopped her friend, the Squirrel, one day and asked him as to why everyone seemed so busy all of a sudden.

“Why, don't you know?” said the Squirrel, “We must prepare, for winter is approaching.” And with that, he hurried away leaving the Little Sparrow quite confused for she did not know what winter was.

The Little Sparrow then went to the Owl, for he was the wisest animal she knew. The Owl said to her, “Winter is when the trees turn bare, the sun disappears and the great waters go still and solid. Some of us stay and hide while others, like yourself, flee. Take heed to my advice, for everything you see now is in preparation for winter.” The Little Sparrow could not believe what she had just heard. Leave? But this was paradise. How could so much beauty and plentitude come to such an end, as the Owl warned.

At that moment, a clever fox was nearby and noticed the Little Sparrow in distress. “What is the matter dear sparrow?” inquired the Fox.

“The Owl says I must leave, because everything will be destroyed,” said the Little Sparrow.

“Oh, phew! The Owl does not truly know what he is talking about,” said the Fox, “He only assumes so because he hides every year, but I

have seen the wonders of winter where crystals replace the leaves and the most beautiful rain you have ever seen sprinkles across the land.”

The Fox soon won over the Little Sparrow, for this interpretation was just what she *wanted* to hear. Time passed and all the Little Sparrow's friends left her just as the Owl had said. So the Little Sparrow was left all alone to wait for winter, but as winter approached, she soon realized it was not the wonderland she anticipated, but frozen and barren just as the Owl predicted. The Little Sparrow was unprepared with nowhere to take shelter from storm or predator. Realizing what a fool she had been, she tried to fly away to join her friends, but it was too cold and the wind too strong. The Little Sparrow had no choice but to go to the Owl. “Please help me!” cried the Little Sparrow.

Surprised to see the Little Sparrow, the Owl proclaimed, “Oh, you of little faith! Why did you doubt me? Seasons always change, but wisdom is constant.”