

## Lily and Ermine

*Lily is a nice little girl. She lives with her parents in a small house in the mountains. She likes the mountains a lot; she also likes the woods with their trees, birds and all the animals.*

One day last winter, Lily was outside in the snow. She was making a snowman, because she likes them a lot. The snowman still needed a hat, but she didn't have one. So she took two small branches, and put them on his head. She really liked her new friend; she even gave him a name, Snowy.

Suddenly, she heard some birds making crazy noises. Something or somebody had scared them away. She went there to see what happened. As she came closer, she saw something on the ground - it was one of the birds. Lily poked it with her stick, but the bird didn't move - it was dead. It had a throat wound, and blood was everywhere on the snow. 'Somebody has killed the little bird,' thought Lily. Then she saw something in the snow. She looked more closely and discovered some tiny tracks of an animal. She stood up and followed them.

She walked into the woods, but there were no animals. As she looked up to the trees, snow suddenly fell down on her head. She got really scared. It wasn't the wind, but a sweet little ermine that had blood everywhere on its muzzle. 'This is the killer!' thought Lily.

The ermine was so sweet and playful that Lily forgot about the dead bird. Now she began to like the little animal. She climbed up the tree and saw the ermine licking its lips and paws. Lily tried to catch her, but the ermine was too fast - it just jumped on another tree. Lily wanted to follow her. She reached for the other tree, but her arms were too short. 'I still need a few centimetres,' she thought, but in that moment she slipped and fell down in the snow. She didn't move anymore, and, with her eyes closed, she looked just like the dead bird.

The ermine climbed down the tree to see what happened with Lily. It walked so close that it could feel Lily's breath. All of a sudden, Lily stretched out her hands and caught the animal. 'You little ermine!' said Lily. 'Are you hungry? I'll take you with me and give you something to eat. So you don't have to kill birds again.' Ermine seemed to understand Lily's words. They looked to each other for a few seconds, and then the ermine jumped on the ground and ran away. Lily was really sad, because she wanted to take the ermine with her.

It was late now, and it started to snow. Lily looked for ermine for a few more minutes, and then she went home disappointed. The whole time Ermine was watching her. Will they ever meet again?