

Lyra

by Eleanor

Once in a forgotten village in a mystical forest, there lived a girl named Lyla. Lyla was very happy with her simple life. Everything was perfect and joyful in the little village, and she was happy in the way it was. One day however, Lyla's life changed forever. The night of Lyla's 17th birthday, Lyla's father announced that Lyla was to be married before the month was over. She was engaged against her will to a man she did not love and was heartbroken. She loved another man who worked for her father but now was not allowed to be with him anymore.

Soon Lyla became very depressed and refused to leave her room. Her father had always thought she was unable to take care of herself, and that is why he had chosen her husband for her. Lyla thought that if she could prove that she could make her own decisions, she would then be allowed to choose her husband.

That night she snuck out and went out into the magical forest. As she walked, she discovered a trail of pink mushrooms and decided to follow it. After hours of walking she reached a little cottage. Inside the cottage was a three-headed dog, but Lyla was not scared because the dog was crying.

"No one will look at me or be friends with me," he cried, "I always scare people away."

"Don't cry," said Lyla, "I will be your friend. I will show you that you are not scary but charming instead."

Lyla took the three headed dog and returned home to her village to show her father. But her father was terrified of the dog and ran into the

house and locked the door. Lyla went to the door and told her dad that he had to see beyond the exterior to see the real being behind the dog.

“This dog is very sweet and kind, all you have to do is look a little closer and try to understand.” said Lyra “You must look closer to really see the true being inside the creature you see before you. You must also look closer at me so that you can see that I am strong. I am able to make my own decisions, and I can protect myself.”

Her father looked closer and saw in fact that all the things that Lyla said were true. The dog was good, and his daughter was strong.

“Let me choose who I want to marry, and let this dog stay with us and feel the love of the village. He has promised to help the village people in any way he can.” demanded Lyla.

“You are very wise my young child, and I will do as you ask. You are free to marry whoever you want, and the dog may stay.” replied her father. “I respect your judgment and I will support your decisions.”

A few weeks later Lyla got married to the love of her life, and the dog had a happy home in the village. Everything went back to being perfect and simple, and everyone was happy.