

## The Queen of the Butterflies

Long ago, there lived a very poor butterfly catcher, called Mia. Every week day, she went down to the meadows to catch beautiful butterflies. There, she would search high and low for the exotic-looking insects. Afterwards, she would put them in a cage and take them to the shops, to sell them to butterfly farmers for money.

One day, she caught a truly stunning butterfly. It had shimmery, pearl-like wings and blue and purple colours. Straight away, she knew she couldn't sell this butterfly, as it was too special, so she set it free. As soon as the butterfly flew in the air, it spoke to Mia, in a voice as posh as the Queen's! "Mia, you have saved the Queen of the Butterflies! I grant you one wish. When it's cold at night and the clouds are grey, come and tell me what you long for, and I will make your wish come true."

Later that day, when Mia got home, she tried to think what she wanted from one wish. She thought, "Well, my sister can't hear and it would be great if she could." Also, her whole family lived in a rickety shed and it would be good to have a big house to live in, instead. As well, Mia had always dreamed of owning a huge unicorn that made a twinkly noise. She wanted all of these things, but the butterfly could only grant one wish.

As quick as greased lightning, it came to her! She had the best idea ever. It was getting cold now, and grey clouds were forming a circle around the setting sun. Mia could see lanterns being lit in people's windows. She was ready to talk to the Queen of the Butterflies. She ran and ran and ran and found the Queen of the Butterflies perched on a twig in the meadow. Mia told her, "I wish for a unicorn that makes a twinkly noise that my sister can hear, in our big, family house."

The butterfly disappeared, and suddenly, Mia heard the noise of a unicorn twinkling. She realised it was coming from around the corner. She ran round and saw her sister listening in amazement to a glittery unicorn, in front of a big house, where her parents were standing with the key to the front door. Mia grinned, and ran to join her family. She was so happy.

**The End**

