

Astra's Great Wish – A child's tale

Astra was a radiant sparkling star who twinkled even on the darkest of nights. She lived among millions of others—some silver, some blue, all different shapes and sizes, each sharing their individual light and beauty with each other and the world.

One day, a knowledgeable old star told her a secret: "If a human makes a wish upon a shooting star, and they are very lucky, that wish may come true."

Astra loved the idea of helping dreams come true, so being a shooting star became her greatest ambition, it sounded so magical and special.

She went to the chief star, Stephenson, and asked how to achieve her dream. Stephenson gave her four rules:

Bring a smile to others.

Be kind, always.

Listen to the needs of others.

Stay alert to see where you can help.

Astra got to work. She helped baby stars show themselves by blowing away stubborn clouds. She practiced her swoops high in the air.

Seeing her progress, Stephenson gave her a test, "Practice flying near Earth during the day so you stay hidden." Astra polished herself until she sparkled. She swooped down over fields and rooftops.

Below, she saw a girl named Willow in a cottage garden.

"Please Mummy, I'd love a cat," Willow pleaded. Her mother shook her head. "We have enough animals to care for Willow."

Astra returned home, and Stephenson was pleased. "Rest for a day or two then take your first proper trip at night."

When the special night arrived, Astra polished herself, put a huge smile on her face and jumped. The world below was dark and beautiful. As she travelled further down, she looked up and was astounded at the beauty of all her friends shining and sparkling in the dark sky.

She returned to the cottage and saw Willow peering out her window.

"What a beautiful star," Willow whispered. "The only thing which would be more beautiful would be my own special cat. I so wish I had one." Astra continued her flight and spotted a lost, hungry kitten shivering by a busy road.

Remembering Stephenson's lessons, Astra had an idea. She gently landed, picked up the kitten, and carried it through the night sky. She placed the tiny creature on Willow's doorstep, then shot back into the heavens before the sun rose.

In the morning, Willow heard a tiny squeak outside. Her mother gasped as she opened the door to find a tortoiseshell kitten shaking on the step.

"Mummy, it's hungry!" Willow cried. As the mother watched Willow wrap the kitten in a warm blanket, her heart melted. "We will find some fish in the fridge," she smiled. The kitten, finally warm, began to purr.

"Let's call her Danica," said Mother. "It means 'Morning Star,' because that is when she found us."

Back up in the heavens, Astra was proud of herself. She had listened, she had been kind, and she had made a child's very first wish upon a star come true.