

The Switchling

~ Emily Lalande

In the forest lived many magical creatures. Fairies and gnomes, unicorns, mermaids, and dragons. Each magical creature had their own special powers. The fairies helped the plants grow and opened the blossoms of the flowers. The unicorns healed the sick and wounded with their tears. The gnomes moved through the earth with ease finding underground caverns and shining the crystals and gold. The mermaids sang the songs of the water and the dragons flew high in the sky, their scales shimmering in the sunlight.

But there was one being whose power was unique. This being could become anything they liked. This little being was the Switchling. The Switchling's power was to become whatever and whoever they wanted to be.

Each day as the sun would rise, the Switchling would wake and feel in their heart who they were meant to be that day.

Some days their hair would grow long and they would braid it. Other days they had no hair at all. Some days they would dress themselves in the delicate gowns of the fairies, stitched with dew drop pearls and petals of pink and periwinkle and they would dance with the flowers in the meadow.

Some days they would wake and find their big boots already on their feet and a beard growing from their chin which needed to be combed. Then they would put on their cap and grab their shovel and dig into the tunnels with the gnomes looking for stones to polish and crystals to shine.

There were days they grew fins and a tail and swam in the water singing the songs of the sea. Days they grew hooves and horns and ran galloping through the glistening forest. And there were nights they sprouted wings and went flying through the skies, their scales shining in the moonlight.

No matter where they went, the other creatures loved them and welcomed them. Sometimes the others were curious and asked the Switchling questions.

"But what are you really?" they would say.

"I am flowers and water, fire and stones.

I am dresses and boots and scales and sparkles.

I am songs and whispers, stillness and flight.

I am a Switchling. I am as I like." ♦

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Emily Lalande received her Waldorf Teacher training from Rudolf Steiner College in 2013 and has been an Early Childhood teacher at the Davis Waldorf School for 7 years. She has a passion for connecting young children and their families to the magic of the earth and the magic within themselves. As a singer, songwriter, story teller, and nature enthusiast, she has found Waldorf education to be a nourishing and healing environment for herself and the children. She is dedicated to bringing kindness, compassion, and reverence into education. She was born and raised in the canyons of Los Angeles and currently resides in Sacramento.