

# MARIÁ LUPÉZ

GUARDIAN OF THE GARDEN



## The Fairy of the Marigolds

Hirut Yehala



Under the bright Mexican sun, María Lupēz and her best friend Míguel Estonīa played in a garden filled with blooming bougainvillea. María's energetic dogs barked and wagged their tails, chasing shadows across the warm terracotta tiles of the patio.



Suddenly, María's scruffy dog, Benito, spotted something shimmering near the tall cactus at the edge of the yard. He let out a playful woof and lunged toward a tiny, glowing light that zipped through the air in a panicked zig-zag.



The friends rushed over to find Benito cornering a miniature lady with wings that shimmered like monarch butterflies. The tiny storytelling fairy was trembling behind a fallen flower petal, her magical glow fading as she tried to hide from the curious dog.



María quickly scooped up Benito, calming him with a gentle pat and a firm command, while Miguel knelt down to offer his hand. The little fairy looked up with wide, emerald eyes and realized these children were protectors rather than giants to be feared.



Safe in the center of Miguel's palm, the fairy stood up and smoothed her silken gown, her wings fluttering back to vibrant life. She introduced herself as Liora and thanked the two friends for their kindness with a voice that sounded like tiny tinkling bells.



To show her gratitude, Liora promised to share a secret legend from the heart of Fairyland before she had to return home. She raised her tiny wand, and golden dust began to swirl around the three of them, smelling of sweet jasmine and wild honey.



As Liora began her tale, the garden around them seemed to melt away into a world of floating mountains and silver rivers. María and Miguel watched in awe as magical images of dragons and starlight spirits danced in the shimmering mist created by the fairy's words.



The children sat perfectly still, mesmerized by the magic flowing through the air as the story reached its beautiful and heroic climax. Even the dogs sat quietly in the grass, sensing the ancient power of the words being spoken under the shade of the lemon tree.



When the story finally ended, Liora pointed toward a cluster of bright orange marigolds where a glowing portal had begun to open. She gave a graceful bow to her new friends, promising that she would never forget the brave children who saved her.



With a final wave and a burst of golden sparkles, the fairy vanished into the flowers, leaving the garden quiet and peaceful once more. María and Miguel looked at each other and smiled, knowing that magic was real and lived right in the heart of their own backyard.