THE GIRL WHO COLLECTED YESTERDAYS

BY CHILDBOOK.AI

Mira sat on her porch, watching the evening sky. Suddenly, a tiny golden speck drifted down, twinkling like a firefly. She reached out her hands. "What are you?" she whispered. The light landed softly in her palm, warm and glowing. Instead of heat, she felt a happy giggle bubble inside her, like someone else's laughter. Mira gasped. "Was that... a memory?" She looked up, hoping for more. Another spark drifted down, dancing just out of reach. Mira jumped up to catch it.

Every evening, Mira waited with an empty jar. Glowing pieces fell like snow, each one holding a tiny memory. One showed a puppy's first bark. Another held the smell of fresh bread. "These are yesterdays," Mira decided, "floating down to find new friends." She placed each spark gently into her jar. Soon it glowed like a lantern full of stars. "I'll keep you safe," she promised. But that night, one memory flickered weakly, dimmer than the rest. Mira leaned close. "What's wrong with you?"

The dim light shivered in her palm. Inside, Mira saw a little girl crying because she'd lost her favorite doll. "Oh no," Mira whispered, "this memory is sad and lonely." She held it close to her heart. "Maybe you just need someone to remember you." Mira hummed softly, the same lullaby her mother sang. Slowly, the light brightened, glowing warm and golden again. It swirled happily around her head. "There you go," Mira smiled. "Even sad yesterdays deserve kindness."

The next evening, Mira opened her jar wide. One by one, she released the glowing memories back into the sky. "Fly on," she said, "find someone who needs a smile today." The lights swirled upward, sparkling like tiny stars returning home. Mira kept just one, the little girl's memory, now bright and happy. She placed it gently on her windowsill. "Goodnight, yesterday," she whispered. As she drifted to sleep, more golden sparks quietly began to fall, waiting for tomorrow's collector.

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