

THE HEART OF THE
WILDS
SNOWFALL'S JOURNEY

Lyra Silversky

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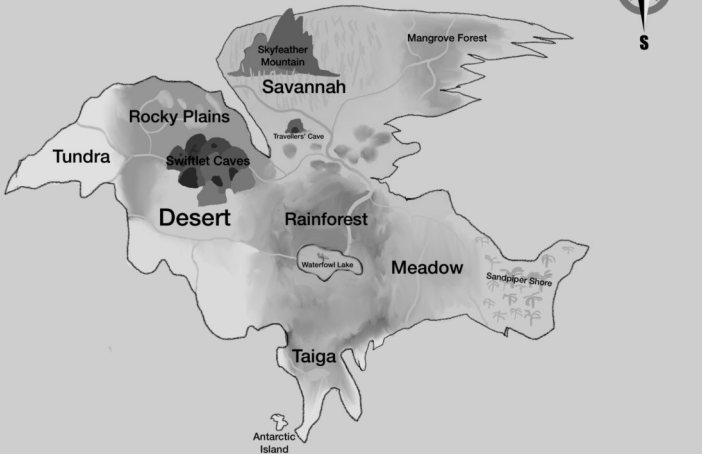
Snowfall's Journey

Inspired by the Finnish Whooper swans coming every year to nest at the Takajarvi lake, raising new cygnets each summer to bring new life and energy.

Lyra Silversong

Birdland is a captivating magical island spanning 800km, inhabited by every bird species found on Earth. This island is seen only through the eyes of our feathered friends, meaning that humans cannot reach it. From the navy-blue abyss of the Waterfowl Lake to the freezing snowstorms of the Tundra, Birdland is full of adventures and magic.

Map of Birdland



The Great Flight from coast to coast spans 800km

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Author's Note

Dear reader, welcome to the trilogy of “The Heart of The Wilds”. In this book, you will explore and immerse yourself deeply into the captivating world of birds as you fly with Snowfall on a high-stakes, yet deeply rewarding journey.

As you read, feel the bird awaken inside you, and try to learn more about the fascinating creatures who inhabit our planet, from just outside your window to the harshest conditions of the Arctic. What secrets can you find within a feathered being's soul?

Although many parts of the book are fictional, most of the bird species mentioned are real-life birds found in different areas of the world, from the tiniest hummingbirds to the most magnificent vultures.

Thank you so much for reading this book. Take flight and experience the wonders of nature!

Prologue

Thick, heavy mist engulfed two whooper swans, Feather and Snow, as their beating wings carried them across the foggy grey sky. They had been searching for days, yet still refused to give up hope.

Suddenly, as they soared across the bright blue basin of the Takajärvi lake, the stubborn mist cleared and drifted off the lands of Finland. The sun burst through, making Feather's dazzling white plumage flicker like fireworks and Snow's eyes widen like silver full moons, full of excitement. The sky was now embedded with soft white clouds,

and the pair felt exuberance and adventure to come.

Snow chirred in astonishment. Her bird vision always let her see bursting varieties of colours clearly, but this was an image she had never seen before. The dazzling lake was surrounded by blooming trees like birches and oaks. The leaves glistened in the soft warm rays of the sun, which felt like a heavy, golden blanket draped over their wings, and among the fragrant flowers of jasmine, a fuzzy bumblebee stumbled sleepily from a petal, heavy with pollen.

The peaceful lake welcomed them with the gentle lap of water and rhythmic ripples against the breathtaking shore, and the soft

murmuring of the wind rushing through the leaves, feeling like a fresh breath of air after the gloom of the hanging mist. This was the perfect place for their cygnets.

Snow flapped her wings in delight. For days, which felt like an eternity, she was thinking and dreaming about the future of her family, and now she could truly witness it. The overwhelming glory of the lake filled her heart with euphoria, making her eyes shine in resplendence like fireflies which waited to be found and set free.

Feather glided and landed with his wings outstretched onto the glimmering lake, still covered in sharp shards of ice below, which left vivid

memories of last winter. The rays of the sun falling onto the lake made it look magical, as if it came from a different world.

He turned to Snow, who landed beside him, and hooted, “It looks beautiful, but I think we should wait until the ice thaws before we start building the nest. We want to make sure that our cygnets will hatch when the lake is warm and hospitable. This lake is lovely, but we must make sure we choose the right time to settle down.”

Snow nodded as they examined the lake, searching the silent, shadowed shore, seeking a space that felt safe.

Every day, Feather and Snow returned to the lake, both of them eagerly watching as the ice melted away more with every day, giving way to the rippling shore. They needed to search for food to prepare for their cygnets, so excitement filled the air.

That very day, Snow found a dazzling feather which came from a species unknown to the lands of Finland, a stroke of iridescent geometry. *What does it mean for us? Is it hope? Danger?* Snow shook the unpleasant thoughts away. *Yes. This feather will be the heart of our nest, being part of something bigger to keep our chicks safe.*

“Stars always stay bright, even in a dark sky.”

Snowfall, a young Whooper swan, flies with her family to warmer lands after spending her young life in the heart of Finland, leading them straight into a legend. High above, the clouds reveal a secret island paradise hidden from the rest of the world.

But this paradise holds a dark secret. A massive, swirling storm feeding on negative emotions has stolen the island's ancient glory. The birds of the island are losing their spark, and the darkness is spreading further. Snowfall refuses to let the shadows win, and hunts for endless possibilities of success.

Joining forces with Pearl, an intuitive and compassionate heron, she launches into a quest across the dangerous terrain of Birdland. Together, they must think of a way to break the storm's power and unite the island's divided flocks.

Can a swan and a heron rally the birds, ignite the ultimate power of teamwork, and restore glory to Birdland?



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