

Verdina and the magic woodland

Lara Rosso



ILLUSTRATIONS
Amandine Deltos

MUSIC AND ARRANGEMENTS
Fabrizio Voghera

VOICES
Fabrizio Voghera
Ilaria Deangelis



VERDINA AND THE MAGIC WOODLAND SYNOPSIS

Verdina is a character from a fairy world that is set besides our own world, with its inhabitants and its stories, its joy, and its drama. Emotions and events take place exactly as we know, but they are enchanted by something that humans have lost nowadays: magic. This is the setting in which the adventures of the little gnome Verdina take place. She is found as a new-born, just outside the woods, by one of the four fairies that govern the seasons. Moved by Verdina's vulnerability and delicacy, the fairy decides to take care of her. She's sure at a deep level, but she's not aware of the fact that the little creature she just saved is a sign of fate, sent by who knows who to help all the magic creatures of the kingdom: an ancient enemy has been threatening that enchanted land, wandering around its borders bringing nothing but annihilation. Fogliolina, this is name of the autumn's fairy that found Verdina, knows that she will not have enough time to focus on the little gnome's education. She will have to take turns with her fairy sisters to give her the best possible upbringing, trying at the same time to nurture her secret gifts, which she noticed when she saved her. She finds her a companion and mentor, a tiny talking mouse which has a stutter: Didù, a magic being that is so wit and charismatic despite being so minute, which soon becomes Verdina's best friend. Months go by and Verdina grows, getting closer and closer to the seasons fairies that succeed one

another in being her nannies, while still being very busy carrying out their magical responsibilities, stressed by the monster's shadow. They don't manage to give her the constant and lasting love she needs. They teach her everything they know, and they let her comprehend every single nature's secret, but occasionally they are forced to leave her alone, in the eternal passing of time and seasons rotation. In the moments she passes on her own with her tiny friend, Verdina begins to realize that she is not a fairy... but that she's not a human child either, and she develops a strong will of finding her true self. She doesn't remember



where she's from, and the only clue she has are the horrible nightmares in which she sees a gigantic green monster looming over her and her world. Didù tries to indulge her to distract her from her distress, to the point that he lets her visit the non-magical world, which is inhabited by the kids that Verdina feels connected to; even without having ever met them, she knows she misses them. Meeting them and playing together is a true epiphany for Verdina, those children are so similar to her, similarity which is accentuated by some magic spells that make her a human while still letting her perform small magic tricks that allow her to amaze her friends. But, at the end of her games, she must always go back to the fairy world, and one day she falls asleep on the way home, leaving open the door to the magic land. When she wakes up, she finds out that her nightmare's monster has managed to enter the fairy world, and there's a high chance it will devour everything with its ravenous hanger. Once at home, she gets told off by the fairy, but at the same time she is finally given some explanations: she learns she's from the middle world of Dolsenbaus, a little town inhabited by gnomes, which is located halfway between the fairy and human worlds. This village was destroyed a long time ago by the monster. Verdina finally understands her purpose in life: she must defeat the terrible colour-eating monster in order to save the fairy world and return Dolsenbaus its long-lost joy and enthusiasm. By doing so, she will even save her mom, which she saw for a second in a dream and which she only remembers vaguely, hoping that she will one day be back in her arms.

METAPHORIC AND EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETATION

A classic tale in which prosody and musicality have the main role. We wanted to give a magical touch to the setting, and so, the seasons, which are mother nature's daughters, are represented by fairies. The dramas faced by our protagonist are nothing but the different neglects she had to go through during her childhood, which only time and wisdom can cure, permitting the full comprehension of our inner selves and others. Her little mouse Didù is the purest representation of her conscience, kind of a modern version of Jiminy Cricket with whom she develops a strong bond, that will help her downplay her failures, and that will assist her in winning over her deepest fears in the progressive realization of her true worth, ability and talent.

This tale is an authentic educational project, which explains the great success it had - both with teachers and with children - during school work-

shops. It can also be defined *Green*, because it helps the reader create a deep connection with the surrounding environment, so to develop emotional tools that aid the growth of everyone's personal creative dimension, to which is possible to go back occasionally and experiment the charm and wonders of common situations, even during our lucid moments. A sort of meditation, that opens the heart's door.

A strong connection to the environment, which is also due to the deep description of the tale's scenes, so that the images are naturally clear in the reader mind, thanks to the nursery rhymes and musical passages that complete the book.

A safe travel for every reader, that brings us to a fertile and flourishing garden inside of us: not only for kids, but for adults as well, since this book can be read at different depths.

It's a place in which rediscovering our own childness and pureness is possible, in the authentic seed that keeps on make life bloom.

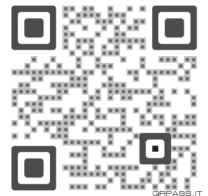
Author's comment:

Unfortunately, I personally believe that nowadays storytelling is really deteriorated, as many other arts, so I gave my best, trying to go back to a classic vocabulary, polished and tasteful, giving character to the text, which develops the drama in an engaging way, without losing its funniness and which is full of satire.

Here's why the content, for its meanings and paradigms, can be defined as educational.

Starting from this project, it will be possible to take inspiration for further scholastic activities.

<p><i>It is composed by 11 songs and 6 musical nursery rhymes. (For a total of 17 compositions.)</i></p>	<p><i>Illustrations, music, and interpretation were made by nation-wide famous artists (e.g., you can find 1 composition in the QR-code on this page).</i></p>
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The reader's experience will be similar to a Musical theatre spectator's one. This is possible thanks to the numerous dialogues and imagines that will spontaneously manifest inside the mind together with every scene's illustration.

Loredana Toson, also known as Lara Rosso

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS POSSIBLE USES AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

This tale develops deep themes connected to the environment in a **unique way**, celebrating nature and the deep and sacred connection to it that everybody should have.

It enhances and strengthens ethicalness and virtuousness, which need to be present in every single intrapersonal and contemplative relations, giving us a trail to follow in order to learn how to reflect over the most delicate arguments, for example the theme of abandonment.

This fiction can be described as a **"Fantasy illustrated book"** or as a **"tale or musical illustrated novel"**; this is due to its uniqueness, a sort of **"innovative product"** ... whose structure and interactive contents make it an authentic and emotional adventure; so that at the end of the book you can say to have experienced a **"Virtual Musical"**!

In fact, the songs' lyrics permeate the story giving it energy and deepness, making it a sort of integrated script, rich in metaphors. The book, despite been dedicated to children and kids, is really **thought for family entertainment**, so also and mainly for **adults...** It's useful for educators as well, they can take different inspirations for their didactical activities from the book workshops.

Thanks to its "reserved **streaming area**" this could also be defined a book in evolution, because it could easily benefit from the addition of new content, simply by adding some buttons in the already existing QR-codes.

For example, the complete vocal narration for blind persons or educational projects dedicated to the environment, or sheet music and musical passages for Karaoke, or even a script for the production of school plays and musicals.

The texts are accompanied by **illustrations** and **17 songs** inserted in their **QR-code** posi-



tioned in a strategic way through-out the book, (amounting to **more than an hour of unpublished music**, wisely tailored for the text, and dedicated to it) to permit an engaging experience for the reader, without distractions. The reserved **streaming area** is easily accessible with a **smartphone**, purely by opening the phone's camera and pointing it on the QR-codes that accompany the tale from beginning to end.

Illustrations, music, and musical arrangements: (**11 songs and 6 nursery rhymes**) made by nation and world-wide famous artists that gave birth to these characters lending them their voice.

The tale content, the themes it touches, the **climax** that it manages to reach, the atmospheres, make it suitable for children and for adults, which can revisit their childhood with their fantasy's eyes.

This booklet gives you the opportunity to **point your smartphone's camera at a QR-code** containing a sampling from one of the **17 compositions** offered.

Thank you in advance.

23x30 cm

128 illustrated pages

hardcover with heat-printed gold

ISBN 978-88-95239-47-7





LARA ROSSO

Writer, dancer, choreographer, director, author of the musical "La Tata Magica - Mary Poppins", in theatres in Turin (2015-2016). Present for the artistic dance part in the plays "Armonie d'Ensemble" at Teatro Crocetta Torino for around 5 years. Author of educational workshops dedicated to children, writer, event and plays organizer.



AMANDINE DELCLOS

Illustrator and Italo-French actress fond of theatre, she graduated acting school SITI. Since 2020 she has been working both with Compagnia Il Mutamento, presenting two new productions, and Teatro d'Aosta, with whom she re-enacted Rodari's play "The Adventures of Pinocchio". While still being an actress, she dedicated a lot of time to illustrations, using mainly watercolours, ink drawing, and digital drawing programs. From 2017 to 2019 she realized illustrations in collaboration with the University's Paper MSOI the Post, and since 2018 she has worked together with the Storie Distillate di Torino association, illustrating the LVDI children's book on Madagascar, which is now being published.



FABRIZIO VOGHERA

Already protagonist and author of many Musicals and popular plays. For eight years (from 2002 to 2009), he interpreted the double role of Quasimodo and Frollo in "Notre Dame de Paris", he also took part in Riccardo Cocciante's "Romeo and Juliet", directed by David Zard, "Murder Ballad", "Metropolis".

Author, actor, and producer of "Othello: the last kiss". Among his other experiences, we count television appearances in RAI's "Alle due su Rai Uno", hosted by Paolo Limiti, "Domenica In", "Mezzogiorno in famiglia", "Uno Mattina".



ILARIA DEANGELIS

Singer, actress and director. At first, she interpreted different famous musicals such as "Notre Dame de Paris", "Jekyll & Hyde", "Casanova", "Hamlet", "Ghost the Musical", "Dirty Dancing". In the last years she directed the musical "The Jungle's book", "The Little Mermaid: Ariel's comeback."

A classic tale that sees prosody and musicality are as the main focus of its core.

The narration develops deep themes connected to the environment in a unique way, thanks to its peculiar characters, celebrating nature and the deep and sacred connection to it that everybody should have.

A Fantasy for everybody, children and adults.

A sort of virtual musical, thanks to 17 QR-codes with music and songs, that together with the tale, help the imaginative strength of this experience, for a family entertainment rich in emotions.

A new kind of reading that truly makes the book a "innovative product" ...!

Una iniziativa **SARISC**
Associazione culturale Gavirate

