

Lille Skatt

Andreas stood just beyond the low wooden fence, his boots sinking slightly into the soft earth as evening settled gently over the valley. Behind him, the cabin glowed with a golden warmth, its windows flickering with candlelight and laughter. Inside, his family gathered close, their voices rising in cheerful bursts as they celebrated Norway Day with food, stories, and tradition.

He lingered outside.

The air was cool and carried the faint scent of pine and smoke. Andreas preferred it here, where the world felt wider, quieter—less full of expectations. He turned slowly, taking in the familiar beauty: the tall trees standing like watchful guardians, the distant mountains fading into soft blue shadows, and the quiet hum of life in the undergrowth.

“God kveld,” he murmured softly to the empty woods, as though greeting an old friend.

A small movement caught his eye.

At first, he thought it was nothing more than a trick of the light—a flicker among the moss and stones. But then it moved again. Andreas crouched low, his curiosity sharpening.

There, nestled beside a fallen branch, was the smallest creature he had ever seen.

It was no larger than his hand, with delicate limbs and eyes that shimmered like dew in the twilight. Its fur—or perhaps it was something finer—glowed faintly, as though it held a piece of the evening sky within it.

Andreas held his breath.

The creature did not run.

Instead, it tilted its head, watching him with a calm, unafraid stillness that felt almost... knowing.

“You’re not supposed to be here,” Andreas whispered, though he could not say why.

He hesitated, then smiled.

“I’ll call you Lille Skatt,” he said quietly. “Little treasure.”

The name seemed to settle between them, as if it belonged there.

For a moment, neither moved. Then, from inside the cabin, a burst of laughter rang out—louder this time, followed by the clatter of dishes and the unmistakable scent of roasted meat and sweet pastries drifting into the night.

Andreas glanced back.

He imagined the long wooden table, crowded with food prepared carefully for the celebration. Plates passed from hand to hand, voices overlapping, everyone together.

He turned back to Lille Skatt.

“Wait here,” he said, his voice gentle but certain. “I’ll bring you something.”

The creature blinked slowly, as though understanding.

Andreas slipped quietly toward the cabin, his steps light against the ground. He paused at the door, listening. No one called his name. No one noticed his absence.

Inside, warmth wrapped around him at once. He moved quickly, selecting small pieces from the edges of plates—bread, a slice of cheese, a sugared berry tart—careful not to disturb the careful order of the meal.

For a moment, he hesitated.

A strange feeling tugged at him—not guilt exactly, but something close to it. This food had been prepared with care, meant to be shared properly, within the circle of light and laughter.

But outside, something else waited.

Something small. Something alone.

Andreas slipped back into the night.

The forest seemed darker now, deeper somehow, but he found the place again easily. Lille Skatt remained where he had left it, as though it had never considered leaving.

“I came back,” Andreas said softly, kneeling.

He placed the food gently on the ground.

The creature approached with delicate caution, then began to eat—not greedily, but with a quiet, deliberate grace that made Andreas feel, strangely, as though he were the guest.

They sat together in silence.

Behind him, the cabin continued to glow, full of warmth and belonging. Ahead of him, the forest stretched wide and unknown.

Andreas did not feel torn between them.

For the first time, it seemed to him that both worlds could exist at once—that something small and unseen could matter just as much as all the bright celebrations inside.

Lille Skatt looked up at him.

Andreas smiled.

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the initial contrast established in the opening paragraph?

- A) Noise versus silence
- B) Warmth versus coldness
- C) Light versus darkness
- D) Celebration versus solitude

2. Why does Andreas choose to remain outside the cabin?

- A) He has been told to stay outside
- B) He prefers the freedom and quiet of the outdoors
- C) He dislikes the food being served
- D) He is waiting for someone to arrive

3. What is suggested by the phrase “less full of expectations”?

- A) Andreas feels bored outside
- B) Andreas feels judged inside the cabin
- C) Andreas does not understand the celebration
- D) Andreas prefers being alone entirely

4. How is Lille Skatt first presented to the reader?

- A) As something mysterious and delicate
- B) As an ordinary forest animal
- C) As a threatening presence
- D) As a creature in distress

5. What effect does Lille Skatt’s stillness have on Andreas?

- A) It makes him fearful
- B) It reassures him and builds trust
- C) It confuses him
- D) It causes him to leave

6. Why does Andreas hesitate before taking food from inside?

- A) He is worried about being caught
- B) He doubts whether Lille Skatt is real
- C) He feels a moral uncertainty about taking what is meant for others
- D) He cannot decide what food to choose

7. What does Andreas's action of sharing food symbolise?

- A) Disobedience
- B) Generosity beyond social boundaries
- C) Carelessness
- D) Curiosity about new experiences

8. What is implied by the final paragraph?

- A) Andreas must choose between the cabin and the forest
- B) Andreas feels excluded from his family
- C) Both the familiar and the unknown hold equal value
- D) The creature will follow Andreas inside

Answers

1. D) Celebration versus solitude
2. B) He prefers the freedom and quiet of the outdoors
3. B) Andreas feels judged inside the cabin
4. A) As something mysterious and delicate
5. B) It reassures him and builds trust
6. C) He feels a moral uncertainty about taking what is meant for others
7. B) Generosity beyond social boundaries
8. C) Both the familiar and the unknown hold equal value