

# Elli Can't Sleep

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Every evening Elli's mum tucked Elli in, read her a story, kissed her good night, and turned off the light.

Elli said 'Good night' to Lucy and Lucy purred until Elli fell asleep.

But tonight, Elli stayed wide awake.

Confused, Lucy purred and purred, but Elli stayed awake.

Lucy laid down on Elli's back to keep her warm. But it was no good. Elli stayed awake. Darkness knocked softly on the window and said, "I can help."

Lucy shook her head. "You can't help. Elli is afraid of you; she doesn't like the dark."

Lucy snuck down to the living room where Elli had left Mr. Brumm.

"Mr. Brumm, Elli needs you. She can't sleep. Will you come upstairs?" Lucy asked tentatively because Mr. Brumm was often in a grumpy mood. But he nodded generously.

Elli smiled. Hugged Mr. Brumm.

And stayed awake.

Lucy tiptoed to the attic, dove into an old box that smelled like Baby Elli, and found her old Cuddly Blanket.

"Why are you waking me, Lucy?"

"Elli can't sleep."

Cuddly Blanket yawned and nodded. "Bring me to her, she will fall asleep in a minute."

From the corner of the attic, Darkness whispered, "I can help."

Lucy shook her head. "Elli would be scared."

Elli smiled and clutched Cuddly Blanket. "Thank you, Lucy."

But, she still couldn't sleep even when she put the blanket over her eyes. Lucy thought of what she liked before going to sleep.

She shared some of her leftover milk for cats with Elli even though she really fancied it herself.

And, she sang Elli a Lullaby but she didn't seem to appreciate it.

“What now?” sighed Lucy. She slipped through the small window gap into the night.

Climbing up the roof she passed Darkness who looked up in hope. But Lucy waved it aside.

Sitting beside the chimney sorting out his sleeping sands she found the Sandman.

“You are just the one I was looking for. Elli needs your sleeping sand!”

“Of course!” The sandman said and hopped down from the roof.

A few moments later, Elli lay under a heap of sand. Still awake. The sandman was baffled.

“This never happened before...”

In that moment a twinkle caught Lucy's eye.

A curious star had descended to see what all the fuss was about.

“Elli can't sleep,” the Sandman explained.

The star danced into the room. “My sparkles will make her dreamy in a second!”

“But Elli doesn't need sparkles,” mumbled Darkness. “I know what she needs...” No one was listening.

They all enjoyed the sparkly dance of the star and very soon everyone had fallen asleep.

Mr Brumm, Cuddly Blanket, Lucy and even sandman. Exhausted from its dance the star followed shortly after.

Elli stayed awake

On a cloud of silence, Darkness poured into Elli's room.

It dimmed the remaining star dust, softened the light rays from the hallway, wrapped Elli into a warm blanket made of night linen and... very... gently... stroked Elli's head so her eyes became heavy.

Elli yawned. “Thank you,” she said, before falling asleep.

Darkness smiled.