

Lila
and the
Crow

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toronto + berkeley + vancouver

Lila has just moved to a new city.
Every day she goes outside, sits on the sidewalk,
and scratches at the dirt with her stick.
A crow calls from across the road.



She traps bugs in a jar, then lets them go.
She plays hopscotch on the empty road.

Lila wishes she
had a friend.





But this morning she gets up early, dresses, and leaves the house.
With the wind in her hair and a smile on her face, she seems
to be flying on her way to school.

Her heart as light as a feather,
she imagines herself surrounded
by new friends.



The teacher, Mr. Nicholas, introduces Lila. She sees her classmates looking at her and can't wait to get to know them. Squirming at her desk, Lila taps her foot impatiently. Finally it's recess, and the children head out to play. Now is Lila's chance to make a friend!

But suddenly a voice rises above the others. Nathan, the leader of the pack, shouts: ***"A crow!"***

A crow!

***The new girl's hair
is dark like a crow!!"***

The others stare at Lila. Some whisper to their friends, then turn away.



Lila stands alone, holding her ball.



On the way home, Lila's heart is as heavy as a stone.
A crow perches on the branch of an old oak tree,
its feathers as black as Lila's hair.

It caws and croaks as if it wants to tell
her something, but Lila just walks by.



The next day, Lila wears a knitted cap to hide her hair.
But as soon as Nathan sees her he cries out:

“A crow!

A crow!

The new girl’s skin

is dark like a crow!!”

The others giggle and
point. Lila’s heart grows
as heavy as two stones.
She drops her head and
slowly walks away.