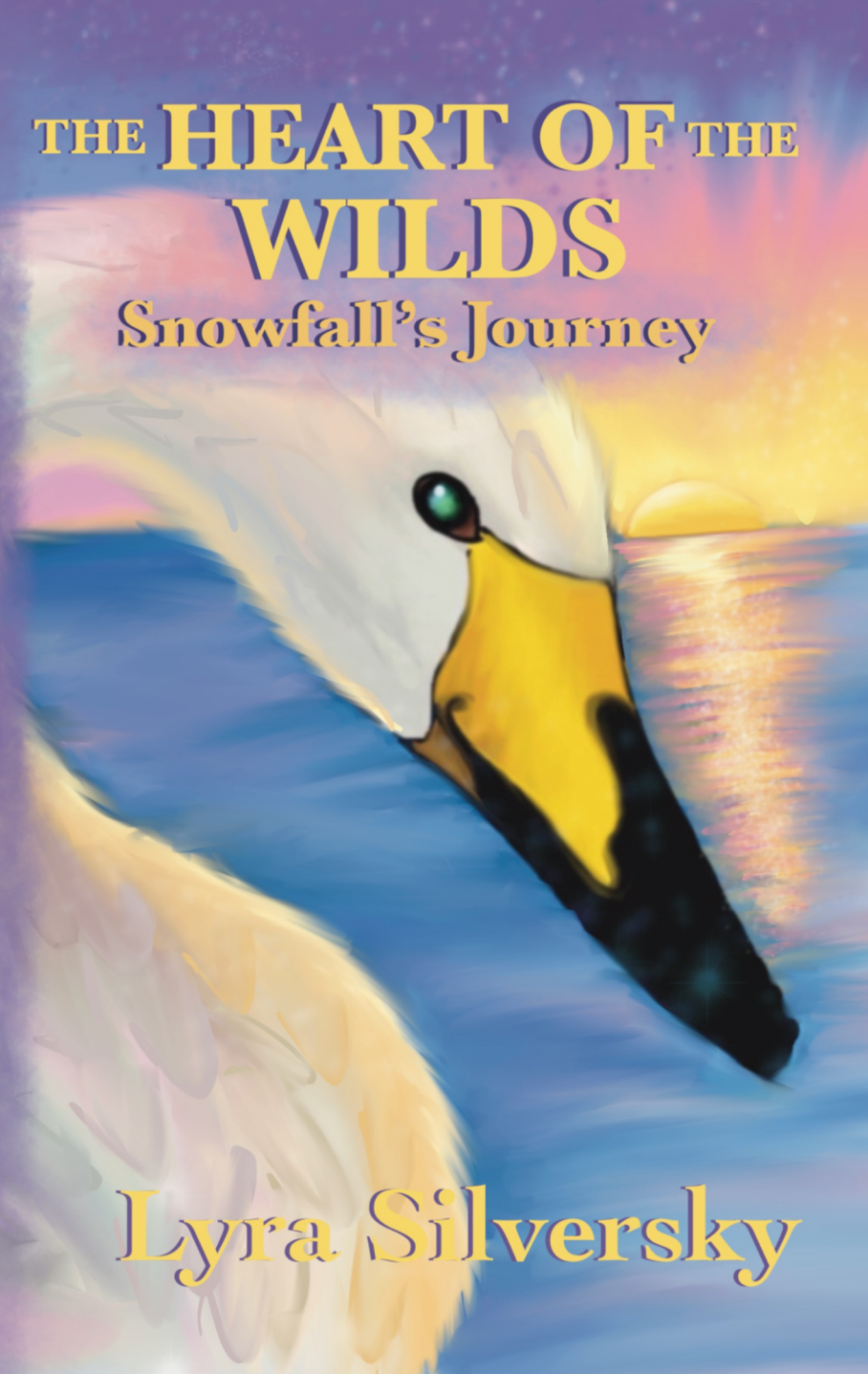
# THE HEART OF THE WILDS

## Snowfall's Journey



Lyra Silversky

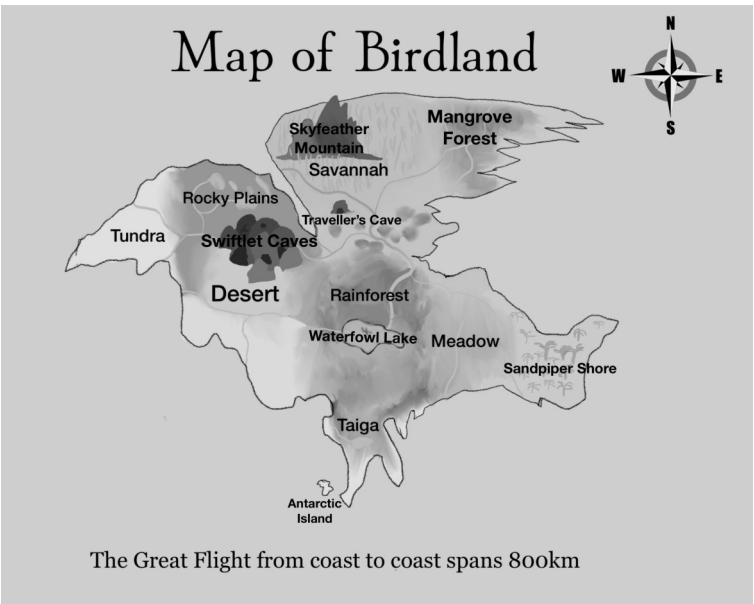
# THE HEART OF THE WILDS

## 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 Silversky

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.




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 the swan 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. Don't forget to keep in mind that the birds in the story don't actually speak human language in

their world—it is only written so so that it can be understood.

Thank you so much for choosing 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. Luminous lightning streaks cut across the expanse above them, creating an ominous tension yet to arise. They had been searching for days, yet the pair refused to let the storm suppress their inner light of hope.

Snow took a sharp turn to the left, her wings guiding her mate across the sky. When they soared across the buoyant blue basin of the Takajärvi lake, the stubborn storm clouds began

to clear and drift 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 sharp transition welcomed new soft white clouds, which slowly took form and embedded the lightening sky, 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, briefly shattering any sense of impending dangers that were yet to come, those which the future parents could not yet know.

This was the perfect place for their cygnets. Snow flapped her wings in delight, because 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

# “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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