

Extraordinary Creatures

by [Cristina Nehring](#) (May 2024)



Girl on a Red Carpet –Felice Casorati, 1912

Every night I sing my girl
To sleep and watch her fling
Her pudgy arms
Around her unicorn.

Is it a coincidence

That my special child
Loves special animals?
All other mammals in her bed

She disregards: The bear,
The bunny and the horse
Go unattended. It is
The single-horned imaginary beast

Who is her feast. Without him
Her chances are dim
Of going to rest. It is as
Though she knows best

Who her kindred spirits are.
By far: The oddballs with the
Extra chromosome are home
For her. Two freaks of nature

In each other's embrace
Two magical beings
Joined at the hip
What a trip

To an enchanted world
Where difference isn't dire
Where alchemy imposes its art
And all things come from the heart.

Sleep on my supernatural love,
My mythical child.
How wild
And how lucky

That you are here
In your bed
To give us instead

Of dull sameness
A glimpse of the divine.

[Table of Contents](#)

Cristina Nehring published *The Child Who Never Spoke: 23 1/2 Lessons in Fragility* on October 24, 2023. She is also the author of *A Vindication of Love* which made the front page of the *New York Times Book Review* as well as two books in French. She writes for *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. She lives in Paris with her daughter.

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