

In the Sahara

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



From Riccardo Cocciante's 2002 musical, *Le Petit Prince*

Draw me a sheep,
Says the prince to the pilot,
Say I to you,
Write me a poem.

Make me an object of my own,
That I can carry

To my planet over there in the mist.
It is very small.

I have no room for a boa constrictor
With an elephant inside,
Nor an ox or a bull,
Nor anything, you understand, with horns.

Nor will I take a sheep from you
With death in his face,
Nor one who eats grass.
My planet has roses only.

I need eternal life
And a small appetite.
A thirst for red. A taste for thorns.
And I need you, my love, to draw it for me.

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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 of two books in French. She writes for the *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. She lives in Paris with her daughter.

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