

Little Wolf and Big Moose

Little Wolf sat in the middle of the forest. The snow covered the trees making their branches heavy with the burden of carrying their soft white, decoration. The world looked perfect and pristine. Not a mark in the snow except for little paw prints leading to the middle of a clearing. Sitting in the centre a small quiet creature.

Wolf sat alone and looked sad and lonely. Wolf felt sad and alone.

From out of the woods walked a moose. It's antlers appeared first, then slowly and cautiously one step, then another. Moose watched the little wolf and was about to retreat, retrace the steps back into the safety of the wood. Wolves are scary to a moose and moose didn't fancy turning into wolf lunch! Something made the moose stop, pause and watch. Little Wolf did not turn. Whatever Wolf was watching was not in the snow or visible to anyone else. It was inside Wolf's heart. And it was making Wolf sad. Moose decided to be brave.

'Hello' whispered the Moose. Nothing. 'Ummmmm hello'..... little Wolf did not turn around at first. The Moose found a louder voice from deep inside and spoke again. 'Hello.....are you ok? Only you look very sad and lonely and I just thought I'd ask because.....' Wolf turned around suddenly, jumped away startled. As wolf jumped, so did moose, 'please don't eat me! I just wanted to check you were ok...'

Wolf spoke for the first time in a long time. 'Why would I want to eat you?'

'Isn't that wolves do to Moose?'

'Not me, at least not today anyway'

'You're not hungry?'

'No'

'Not at all?'

'No'

'Not even a little nibble?'

'Not even a morsel'

Moose crept a little closer.

'Is that why you look so sad? Because you are hungry but don't want to eat? I hate feeling hungry. I spend all day eating and I still want more.....'

'Do you always talk so much?' Said the Wolf

'Only when I'm talking to myself. And you look like you might stay silent so I thought I'd talk for both so us.'

The wolf and the moose sat silent for a moment. One tiny delicate snowflake fell from the sky and landed on the wolf's nose. Moose thought it would be fun to blow it away to make the wolf smile.

'Phoooo' went the moose.

Wolf flinched and jumped away from the moose. Crouched down low and started to shake.

Moose was shocked and surprised.

'I'm so very sorry I didn't mean to upset you. I thought it might make you smile to chase the snowflake away'

Wolf didn't reply.

Moose sat silent. For a long time.....and thought.

Eventually Wolf unfurled from a tight little ball and looked at Moose for the first time.

'Who are you?'

'I'm Big Moose. Who are you?'

Silence

'You don't have to tell me if you don't want to. We can just sit and look at the forest.

There's plenty to look at.'

Silence

'You look sad Little Wolf. Is something making you feel sad?'

Little Wolf looked away. Moose had an idea. Moose waited a moment then tried again.

'Is someone making you sad?'

Little Wolf looked again at the story in the snow. They sat for a long time, silent and soft.

Big Moose sat a little closer to shield Little Wolf from the snow that was starting to fall.

Big Moose was patient and didn't mind waiting. Well Big Moose's tummy was rumbling a little but Big Moose thought a little wait won't matter this once.

Then just as Big Moose thought the rumbling of a moose tummy couldn't be disguised any longer a quiet voice came out of Little Wolf.

'Wolf, I'm little Wolf'

'Pleased to meet you Little Wolf. If you want to tell me what is making your eyes look so sad I have very big ears to listen. If you don't we can just sit here.'

'You won't believe me. '

'I believed you when you said you wouldn't eat me. So I have no reason not to believe you. In fact, I think I like you Little Wolf and I think I can trust you not to turn me into your next meal. So if you want to talk I don't mind sitting here with you'

Silence ...

Then....'is someone hurting you Little Wolf?'

Silence

Then.....

Little Wolf looked at Big Moose and something inside Little Wolf's heart began to melt and thaw. The hurt inside that Little Wolf had been carrying around for a long, long time began to spill out. The story behind the sad eyes found a voice and the voice found kind ears. The kind ears did not move, just listened and listened.

And so they sat until the light in the forest began to fade. The stars in the night sky came on duty, the man in the moon took up his place. They all watched as Little Wolf found a friend in Big Moose. The man in the moon leaned down close just in time to hear Little Wolf whisper

'What shall I do now? '

Big Moose replied, 'we should probably find somewhere safe and someone who can help you with your snow story. You do not have to sit alone anymore. I am not the only one with kind ears.'

And so Little Wolf and Big Moose stood up. 'Phoo!!' Little Wolf blew the snow off Big Moose's nose ' phooo' Big Moose blew the snow off Little wolf's nose. This time little Wolf did not flinch. There were 2 sets of prints in the snow now. Side by side the 2 friends walked away from the clearing and the forest.

Little Wolf looked at Big Moose with big ears and soft brown eyes.

'Big Moose?' said Little Wolf

'Yes?' replied Big Moose.

'I'm glad I didn't eat you.'

And Big Moose with the kind ears smiled, 'I'm glad too'.

Big Moose said to little Wolf ' you know what Little Wolf I thought I was the one being brave when I came out of the forest to talk to you but I've changed my mind'

'I don't understand ' said Little Wolf

'You were the one being brave when you spoke to me' said Big Moose. 'You were the one'