

## The False Friendship

Once upon a time, there was a Wolf. He an old, slow Wolf, but he was also very mean. One day he was hunting and he came across a little bright clearing in the middle of the forest. As he entered the clearing he saw a Bird with an injured wing. She was digging for worms and not paying attention to her surroundings.

The Wolf thought to himself, *Well, won't this be the easiest catch.* He was just about to snatch the unsuspecting Bird when as of a sudden he saw a Fox. The Fox was making his way towards the Bird. Instead of grabbing the Bird, the hung back to watch the approaching Fox.

Watching the Fox close in towards the Bird, he realized that he wouldn't be able to reach the Bird faster than the quick, quiet Fox. So he hung back and watched from a distance, to see if the Bird survived for him to eat.

Meanwhile, the Fox went to talk with the Bird.

"Why, hello little Bird," said the Fox. "How do you do?"

Startled out of her uneventful worm-picking, the Bird was frightened. She replied timidly, "I'm okay... why are you talking to me? You should have eaten me already."

"Dearie, I would never, *ever*, want to harm you. I just want to be your friend. Anyways, don't you need help escaping that Wolf?"

Not realizing that there was a Wolf, she was frightened; and being the naive animal she was, she agreed right away.

The two new friends leapt right into creating a plan to escape the old Wolf, for they could not waste a second more. The Fox decided that the best place to trap the Bird would be an old hollowed out oak tree stump.

The Fox was satisfied in where his plan was going. He knew the Bird was too afraid to even think of the Fox as anything other than a friend. *Well*, thought the Fox, *the foolish little Bird is playing right into my trap! I will soon have a wonderful meal.*

The Fox pointed towards the setting sun and whispered to the Bird, "Go that way for about 100 meters, and you should see an old hollowed oak tree stump. Go past it a little bit, so that your scent will go farther than the tree and will throw the Wolf off, but then backtrack and hop into there until I say the Wolf is gone."

By now, the Wolf was agitated and tired of waiting for the Fox to go away. He figured that the interaction between them would not stop him. Deciding to take action he leaped out into the clearing straight at the Bird.

The Fox yelled, “Go *now!*” and the Bird hopped away. He threw himself at the Wolf to buy more time and then fled into the trees after the Bird. The Wolf, who had been knocked on his side, chased after the Bird.

When the Bird came upon the dead oak tree, she immediately flew inside and rested in the little hollow.

“Hey Birdie, come out, come out! You can’t hide from me much longer!” said the Wolf, but the Bird dare not say anything. She trusted the Fox in that this hiding spot was safe. And soon she heard the Wolf run by and felt a huge amount of relief and gratefulness to the Fox.

Soon, the Fox came up to the entrance to the tree, but instead of assuring the Bird that the Wolf was gone, he cackled.

“Haha! I got you now!” exclaimed the Fox. “You’re trapped and there is no way out!”

“What do you mean? Why would you do that?” asked the Bird, a little nervous. “But I thought you’re my friend now.”

“I only had to be nice to get you to trust me. And because you trust me, you came right into my trap so that I can eat you, all to myself, without the Wolf watching me.”

And the Fox leapt onto the gullible Bird and gobbled her up.

---

*“There is more danger from a pretended friend than from an open enemy.”*