

The Little Muntjac



Aysel Banu YAVUZAL

The Little Muntjac

Aysel Banu YAVUZAL



In a sunny forest clearing, a little muntjac nibbled soft green leaves. His coat was warm reddish-brown, and his belly was cream. He had tiny antler nubs and big dark eyes that sparkled with curiosity. He loved to explore, but he always stayed close to home. Today, something new was waiting just beyond the ferns.



A rustle in the bushes made the little muntjac freeze. Out stepped a magical pheasant with shimmering emerald and gold feathers. Her head was iridescent teal, and her long tail swept the ground like a shiny ribbon. Soft sparkles trailed from her wings. 'Hello,' she said warmly. 'I'm looking for a friend to share an adventure.' The muntjac's eyes grew wide.



The pheasant's name was Pearl, and she had a gentle, playful way about her. The little muntjac introduced himself as Pip. 'I'm a little timid,' Pip admitted, 'but I'd like to be your friend.' Pearl's amber eyes twinkled. 'Friends help each other be brave,' she said. And just like that, they set off together to see what they could find.



They wandered past tall ferns and mossy logs. Pearl's feathers glowed softly, lighting the way. Pip's small hooves pattered on the soft earth. 'Do you know where we're going?' Pip asked. Pearl shook her head. 'Not yet, but that's the fun of it!' They followed a trail of tiny blue flowers that seemed to whisper in the breeze.



Soon they came to a wall of thick bamboo. It was so tall and green that it blocked the path. Pip's ears twitched. 'I've never been past here,' he whispered. Pearl stepped closer and saw a narrow gap between the stalks. 'Look,' she said. 'A hidden path!' Pip felt a flutter in his tummy. It looked dark and unknown.



Pip took a deep breath. 'I'm a little unsure,' he said. Pearl nodded. 'Me too,' she admitted. 'But we can be brave together.' She spread her wings, and a soft golden glow lit the gap. 'Stay close to me.' Pip nodded and stepped forward. The bamboo stalks rustled as they passed through, like friendly whispers.



Inside, they found a hidden bamboo garden. Green paths wound between tall stalks, and the air smelled fresh and sweet. Sunbeams danced on the leaves. Pip's eyes grew big. 'It's beautiful!' he gasped. Pearl smiled. 'And we found it together.' They stood side by side, taking in the wonderful new world around them.



But the garden was also a little scary. Shadows shifted between the bamboo, and strange sounds creaked. Pip's legs trembled. 'What was that?' he whispered. Pearl gently touched his shoulder with her wing. 'Just the wind,' she said softly. Her feathers glowed brighter, sending warm sparkles into the shadows. Pip felt a little safer.



They walked along the winding green paths. Pip led the way, his tiny antler nubs held high. 'Look, sweet shoots!' he cried. They found tender bamboo shoots to eat, crisp and sweet. Pearl pecked at a few seeds. They shared a happy snack, and Pip's fear melted away. 'This is fun!' he said, his dark eyes shining.



As they explored deeper, a thick mist rolled in. It curled around the bamboo, making everything look strange and fuzzy. Pip couldn't see Pearl's bright feathers. 'Pearl? Where are you?' he called. His voice wobbled. The mist felt cold and unfriendly. Pearl's voice came back, calm and steady. 'I'm right here. Follow my glow.'



Pearl's magic sparkled through the mist like tiny stars. Pip followed the soft golden light, step by step. Soon he could see her shimmering emerald and gold feathers again. 'You found me!' Pearl cheered. Pip smiled, feeling brave. 'Your magic helped,' he said. 'And your courage helped me,' Pearl replied. They nuzzled gently.



The mist began to lift, and the bamboo garden glowed in the afternoon sun. 'We did it!' Pip said. 'We were scared, but we kept going.' Pearl nodded. 'That's what friends do. They stay side by side.' They walked on, their hearts light. The garden no longer felt scary. It felt like a secret treasure they had unlocked together.



They found a cozy spot near a tiny stream and rested. Pip's reddish-brown coat was warm in the sun. Pearl's tail shimmered like a rainbow. 'I'm glad we met,' Pip said. 'Me too,' said Pearl. 'You make uncertainty feel like an adventure.' They watched the bamboo leaves sway and listened to the water gurgle happily.



As the sun began to set, they knew it was time to go home. They promised to meet again the next day. 'We'll explore more hidden paths,' said Pearl. 'And we'll be brave together,' said Pip. They walked back through the gap in the bamboo, their friendship stronger than ever. The garden would always be their special place.



Back in the sunny clearing, Pip's family asked about his day. 'I made a new friend,' he said. 'And we found a hidden bamboo garden.' His eyes sparkled. 'I was a little scared at first, but Pearl's magic and our friendship made me brave.' His family smiled. 'You're growing up,' they said. Pip felt proud and happy.



From that day on, the little muntjac and the magical pheasant explored together often. They learned that friends can overcome anything when they stay side by side. Uncertainty might come, but courage and kindness turn it into a happy adventure. And somewhere in the forest, a hidden bamboo garden waits for their next visit.