

The Rabbit and the Robin



Jane MEADOW

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Spring had come to the meadow, and the world was soft and new. Tiny green buds opened on every branch, and the air smelled of wet earth and flowers. Ruby the rabbit hopped out of her burrow and wiggled her pink nose. She loved spring more than any other season. Her honey-brown fur felt warm in the sunshine, and her long ears stood up tall to listen to the birds.



Ruby hopped along a winding path lined with fresh grass. She wore a thin green grass bracelet around one front paw, a gift she had woven herself. Her cream-coloured chest and muzzle gleamed in the morning light. All around her, birds were singing and building their homes. Ruby smiled as she watched them dash from branch to branch. She felt happy and peaceful.



Near a tall oak tree, Ruby heard a small, worried chirp. She stopped and twitched her long ears with pink inner lining. On the ground lay a little nest made of twigs and soft moss. Beside it hopped a robin with a bright orange-red breast. The robin looked up at the tree, then down at the nest, and chirped again. Ruby's big round brown eyes grew wide with concern.



Ruby hopped closer and asked gently, "Little robin, what is wrong?" The robin turned its dark head and looked at her with shiny black eyes. "My nest fell from the branch," it said in a tiny voice. "I worked so hard to build it, and now it is on the ground." The robin's grey-brown wings drooped, and it looked very sad. Ruby felt sorry for her new friend.



Ruby looked at the fallen nest and then at the tall oak tree. The branch where the nest had been was too high for her to reach. She thought for a moment, then said, "Do not worry. I will stay with you and keep your nest safe." The robin tilted its head and asked, "You would do that for me?" Ruby nodded and gave a kind smile. "Of course," she said.



Ruby sat down beside the nest and promised to guard it. The robin thanked her and flew off to find soft grass to mend the nest. While Ruby waited, she kept a careful watch. A big beetle crawled near, and she gently shooed it away. A curious cat wandered by, and Ruby thumped her strong back leg until it ran off. She was brave and patient, just as she had promised.



The robin returned with a beak full of soft grass. Together they worked to make the nest warm and snug again. Ruby used her paws to tuck the grass into place, and the robin arranged the twigs just right. When they finished, the nest looked cosy and safe. The robin let out a happy chirp. "It is perfect!" it said. Ruby's fluffy white tail wiggled with joy.



As the sun climbed higher, the robin grew restless. It hopped around Ruby and chirped, "I want to thank you for your kindness. Follow me!" Ruby was curious. She stood up and dusted off her paws. The robin fluttered into the air and flew low over the grass. Ruby hopped after it, her long ears bouncing with each jump. She wondered where they were going.



The robin led Ruby through a gap in a hedge and into a wide, open field. Ruby gasped. The field was covered with bright spring flowers! There were yellow daffodils, purple crocuses, and bluebells nodding in the breeze. White blossoms dotted the grass like little stars. The robin landed on a flower and said, "This is my thank-you gift to you." Ruby's dark brown eyes sparkled with wonder.



Ruby hopped into the middle of the flowers and twirled around. She had never seen anything so beautiful. The robin flew beside her, its orange-red breast glowing in the sunlight. A tiny white blossom was tucked near one wing, and it bobbed as the robin flew. "I found this field last spring," the robin said. "Now it can be our special place." Ruby felt warm and happy inside.



Ruby and the robin spent the whole morning together. They played hide-and-seek among the flowers, and the robin sang a sweet song while Ruby danced. Ruby made a daisy chain and gently placed it around the robin's neck. The robin chirped with delight. They shared stories and laughed, and the field echoed with their joy. It was the best day of the spring so far.



As the afternoon went on, the robin grew quiet. It looked at Ruby with its shiny black eyes and said, "You are a true friend. You helped me when I needed it most." Ruby's pink nose twitched, and she felt a lump in her throat. "I am glad I could help," she said. "And I am glad you showed me this beautiful place." They sat together in the flowers, feeling close and thankful.



The sun began to sink low, painting the sky in soft pink and gold. The robin flew up to a branch and sang a goodnight song. Ruby listened with her long ears pointed up. Then the robin fluttered down and perched on Ruby's paw. "Will you come back tomorrow?" it asked. Ruby nodded. "I will," she said. "And every day after that, if you like."



From that day on, Ruby and the robin were the best of friends. They met in the flower field every morning. Ruby would bring fresh grass for the nest, and the robin would sing happy songs. Sometimes they visited the oak tree together and watched the clouds drift by. The other animals noticed their friendship and smiled. Small acts of kindness had brought them together, and their bond grew stronger each day.



One day, Ruby said to the robin, "I am so glad your nest fell near me." The robin chirped and said, "I am glad too. If it had not, we might never have met." They both laughed. Ruby touched her grass bracelet and remembered the day she had promised to guard the nest. It seemed like a long time ago, but the kindness they shared had turned into something wonderful.



And so, in the meadow and the flower field, Ruby and the robin remained the dearest of friends. They showed everyone that a small act of kindness can grow into a beautiful friendship. Whenever spring returns, you can see them together, hopping and flying among the bright blossoms. And if you listen closely, you might hear the robin singing a song of thanks for a rabbit named Ruby.