The Bear and the Rabbit
Jane MEADOW

# The Bear and the Rabbit

Jane MEADOW

In the heart of the green woods, where tall trees whispered and soft moss grew, lived Bruno the bear. Bruno was very large, with warm brown fur and strong, thick paws. He wore a green work apron with a pocket full of wooden pegs and a small hammer. Bruno loved to build things, and he loved his friends even more.

One sunny morning, Bruno met his best friend Rosie the rabbit. Rosie was small and quick, with soft cream fur and long ears that stood up straight. She wore a red scarf and carried a yellow satchel full of pencils, paper plans, and measuring string. 'Let's build a playground!' said Rosie. 'A place where all the woodland animals can play together!' Bruno nodded happily. 'What a wonderful idea!' he said.

Bruno and Rosie walked through the woods, looking for the perfect spot. They found a wide, sunny clearing with soft grass and a big oak tree. 'This is perfect!' said Rosie. She pulled out her pencils and paper and began to sketch. Bruno looked at her plans and smiled. 'I can build the big things with my strong paws,' he said. 'And I can design the small things,' said Rosie.

Bruno got to work right away. He carried big logs and planks with his strong paws. He built a tall slide that curved down like a rainbow. He made a climbing frame with ropes and wooden bars. Rosie drew plans for a little tunnel and a tiny bridge. 'These will be for the smaller animals,' she said. 'So everyone can play.'

Soon the playground began to take shape. Bruno's big slide was tall and shiny. His climbing frame was strong and safe. Rosie's small tunnel was just right for little creatures. She made a tiny bridge over a little stream. 'This is going to be great!' said Bruno. 'All our friends will love it.' Rosie smiled and tied her red scarf tighter.

Word spread through the woods. The animals came to see the new playground. Squirrels chattered and birds sang. But one little animal stayed back. It was Pip, a tiny mouse with light grey fur and big round ears. Pip wore a blue acorn-cap hat and a tiny woven leaf vest. Pip looked at the big slide and the tall climbing frame. 'They are too big for me,' Pip said softly.

Pip wanted to play, but the big equipment seemed scary. The slide was as tall as a tree! The climbing frame was huge. Pip felt left out. 'I wish there was something for me,' Pip whispered. Bruno didn't notice at first. He was busy showing off the big slide. Rosie saw Pip standing alone. She hopped over. 'What's wrong, Pip?' she asked.

Pip looked up at Rosie with big, curious eyes. 'The big slide is too high for me,' said Pip. 'I can't climb the big frame. I feel too small.' Rosie's ears drooped. She didn't want anyone to feel left out. 'Don't worry, Pip,' she said gently. 'We'll fix that.' Rosie called Bruno over. 'Bruno, Pip feels left out,' she said.

Bruno came over and knelt down. His round friendly face looked kind. 'I'm sorry, Pip,' he said. 'I didn't mean to leave you out.' Pip's whiskers twitched. 'I want to play too,' said Pip. Bruno looked at Rosie. 'We need to make the playground for everyone,' he said. Rosie nodded. 'Let's work together,' she said. 'We can add small things for tiny animals.'

Bruno and Rosie got to work. Bruno used his strong paws to dig a tiny tunnel under the big slide. Rosie measured and drew a little path with small stepping stones. They made a tiny bridge just right for little feet. Pip watched with big eyes. 'Is that for me?' Pip asked. 'For you and all your friends,' said Bruno with a smile.

Pip's eyes sparkled. 'Can I help?' Pip asked. 'Of course!' said Rosie. She gave Pip a tiny pencil and a small piece of paper. Pip drew a little sign that said 'Everyone Welcome.' Bruno hung it on the oak tree. 'Now everyone will know,' said Bruno. Pip felt proud and happy. The little mouse skipped over to the tiny tunnel.

Soon other little animals came to play. Baby rabbits hopped through the tunnel. Little birds perched on the tiny bridge. Pip led them all, showing off the small spaces. 'This is perfect for us!' squeaked Pip. Bruno and Rosie watched with warm hearts. 'We did it,' said Rosie. 'We made a playground for everyone.' Bruno gave Rosie a gentle high-five with his big paw.

That afternoon, all the animals played together. Big bears and small mice, rabbits and squirrels, birds and beetles. Everyone had a place. Bruno pushed the little ones on a tiny swing. Rosie showed them how to use the small slide. Pip laughed and played with new friends. The playground was full of happy sounds.

When the sun began to set, the animals gathered around the oak tree. 'Thank you, Bruno and Rosie!' they cheered. 'You made a wonderful playground!' Bruno blushed under his fur. 'We couldn't have done it without Pip,' he said. 'Pip helped us see what was missing.' Pip smiled shyly. 'I'm just glad everyone can play,' said Pip.

Rosie looked at her friends and felt warm inside. 'Being kind means making sure everyone feels welcome,' she said. 'And sharing ideas makes everything better.' Bruno nodded. 'Friends can do great things together,' he said. 'When we listen and help each other, everyone wins.' The animals nodded and cheered. They knew they would always have a special place to play.

From that day on, the woodland playground was the happiest place in the woods. Bruno and Rosie remained best friends, always ready to help others. Pip the mouse became the official 'Welcome Helper,' making sure no one felt left out. And every animal knew that kindness and teamwork made the playground a place where everyone belonged. The end.