
The First Day of Spring

~ Larisa Kuznetsova

One morning Little Bear woke up and sneezed, “Achoo!”—for a beam of the sun tickled his nose.

“Mama,” said Little Bear, “let’s go play!”

Little Bear’s mother was too sleepy to play. She sent him outside to find a playmate. “Don’t go far away, Little Bear. Every time you hear my voice, tell me what you see.”

Little Bear gave his mother a kiss and crawled out of their den. All winter long little bear and his mother had slept in their warm, cozy den. Now, for the first time, Little Bear took a walk in the forest all by himself.

He walked and soon he saw someone’s red tail. Then Little Bear heard his mother’s voice. “Little Bear, Little Bear, what do you see?”

“I see a red fox looking at me,” replied Little Bear. The red fox swished her bushy tail and ran away looking for breakfast.

Little Bear kept walking in the forest. From the tall pine tree he heard, “Hoo, hoo.” He looked up then heard his mother’s voice. “Little Bear, Little Bear, what do you see?”

“I see an owl looking at me,” replied Little Bear.

The old owl said, “Boo!” and flew away.

Little Bear walked and walked. Soon he saw someone’s long ears and heard his mother’s voice, “Little Bear, Little Bear, what do you see?”

“I see a little bunny looking at me,” replied Little Bear.

The little bunny was also looking for someone to play with.

The two friends ran and chased each other, splashed in the nearby puddles, and chewed tree bark for lunch. They were so happy to play with one another.

Soon the cold wind blew and the sun hid behind the clouds. Two little friends said good bye to each other and agreed to meet another day. Little Bear ran to his den, crawled in, and snuggled near his mother. The day was done. The first day of spring was over. ♦

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