

“MEET BEAR”

By Chris Jay Fonseca

Illustrated book copy and sound production are available elsewhere.

This story is by www.film-shorts.tv . It is an e-book children’s fable in the English language. Distribution and sales partnership is maintained between Chris Jay Fonseca & Amazon Inc. It is author copyrighted material. It is original work completed by author, ©2010-2012. It is a newly published adaptation of this author’s first draft first written in ©2001 (the story’s year of inception).

This author maintains global copyright on all forms & language of this fable, extended or abridged.

Protected by the United States Copyright Office, Washington DC - submitted July 2014.

Meet Bear.

Bear likes his dark, warm cave.

He shares his warmth with the Bugs that live in his thick Fur. Eating many Fish has kept his blood circulating, and him alive.

In the winter season, when the Sun was farther away, the Trees, rocks, and Earth were no longer as warmed by the Sun’s rays. So, Earthworm Sophia and her friends found Bear’s den to be a nice place to live through the entire winter season.

Bear didn't mind, because he was tired; even if itchy on occasion.

And so time passed and the Bugs thought Bear might never get up! But, it was not Bear's time just yet. There would also be many seasons to pass before Bear would never get up again.

Bear liked Earthworm Sophia, because she was a natural born leader! When the Sun came out, she would lead the others out of the cave and onward, to eat through the spring season, even if she was a just a little critter.

The other Bugs liked her too; yes, she was a good leader, but also she often found the very best Greens to feast on. Equally important, she knew how to hide from the hungry Birds!

She shared her secrets with her friends because they stuck together through all the dangers. She believed that they would remain loyal and trusting.

Bear had seen many winters and had truly come to know where the Birds liked to roost.

Sometimes the Birds had pecked him! He had not forgotten that his Fur, though thick, could only do so much to protect him and Earthworm Sophia. But, Bear did not worry too much about Birds during winter. And, he knew it was hard for them to survive during cold seasons, so he had empathy.

Bear is grateful for has his friends, a warm den, and Fish in the Stream. Bear also has a loud roar that he could use to scare away most Birds, and he would, if they took too many of his Fish share from the Stream.

Bear did have to remember though, that his roars scared Man. And when Man gets scared, he comes looking for Bear to blame, armed with a rifle! Every creature of the Forest knows that he is no match for Man and his weaponry.

Bear runs fast and far when he hears Man approach.

Bear knows not to attack Man alone.

Many Bears have tried, and many have died.

Sometimes, Man can be heard shooting the Birds. It is rare that he will shoot the Fish, but he has before; and, will also even manage to catch Fish with a stick! Bear still wonders how Man does this. Bear though, believes there is nothing as quick and natural as a good claw!

So you see, Bear and Worm have a partnership. You could say, the biggest and the smallest of the animals in the forest. With a good relationship, they keep each other company through the cold seasons, even though Bear is fast asleep and dreaming.

They are happy and safe.

Raccoon likes Fish too.

Bear is clearly much bigger, stronger, and more powerful than Raccoon, but, Bear puts up with Raccoon's mask and scurrying ways. Why? Well this is because they respect one another, and, neither is a real looming threat to the other one. Also, they would be greedy if they kept the River entirely to self! Either of them!

Bear was known to be lazy, but this was sometimes just a false belief. He could squash Raccoon; but, Raccoon is nimble, and, avoids Bear's step. Besides he craves smaller fish. Sometimes Raccoon is a bandit.

He takes more Fish when Bear is away for too long. Raccoon also stays away from Bear's cave. Bear can get very angry, very quickly, when there are uninvited guests who come to his home, the den.

Not only does Bear not like unexpected visitors, but, he has to protect Earthworm Sophia and her friends from outsiders. That's just the way it is!

Bear and Raccoon have little in common in other terms. You see, Raccoons have been known to care more about collecting shiny things and thinking only of themselves. They rarely know to preserve their daily survival within a delicate ecosystem.

Now, all Animals will eat Worms from time to time, but Bear knew the secret! He knew precisely why Worms played such an important role... such a small animal, yet, critical to the balance!

Earthworm Sophia, in her great understanding, knows that everyone is happy so long as the Stream has Fish. And, if Fish are all gone, then everyone is in trouble!

One day in spring, a Bird came frightfully close to Worm. Bear made his presence known and Bird backed away.

In another section of Forest, Bird stopped Raccoon in his tracks and said “The sky is red!” Raccoon replied in his innocence “It is?” To challenge Bird he then asked, “Says who?” “Says Man”, answered Bird. “Oh yes of course it is,” said Raccoon, and he scurried away to the River to catch Fish. He knew that the sky was in fact NOT red, but he was scared to deny Bird’s second declaration, from sky on high.

Bird continued onward to Bear. He flapped his wings over Bear and said “The sky is red”. Bear asked in reply, “Says who?” Bird said, “Says me. Look up. Can’t you see it?” Bear then said, “No, the sky is blue.” Bear got quickly impatient with this chicanery.

Bird said regardless, “I can fly, I can see! I am closer to the sky than you are. What can *you* see from your dark cave?”

Bear was insulted, and he had no time to waste.

“What makes you so sure that the sky is in fact red?” asked Bear. Bird continued, “Man says, I say, and Raccoon says, that the sky is red... so there you have it... it’s red red red!” Bear scratched his head and looked up into the sky. “Ahhhhh. I see it now. You are right! The sky *is* red.” Bear was coy, and he had a plan for goodness.

Bird then was on his way to tell others. He flapped his wings in jubilation over seemingly having convinced Bear.

Bear strolled back to the cave to tell Earthworm Sophia about his encounter with Bird. After she heard this account she was upset that Bear had seemingly given in to Bird, just like Raccoon did. Bear tells her, “No, you don’t understand me darling! If bird wishes to

play coy and to deceive, let it be, for a short time. This will allow me to teach a bigger lesson! This will save us. And, we will still have Fish in the River! Someone is hatching a plan against us.

Earthworm Sophia replies, “Well I don’t like when you are in such danger.” Bear replies, “But *some* deception and patience is required, if we are to protect ourselves. And, all the easier it is to do, once we have time and information with which to fight Bird *or* Man!”

Worm agrees. Without Bear, she would have to rely on Raccoon, who was no help to her.

A few days later, Bird returned. This time he went straight to Bear with an even bolder sinister plot. Bird said to Bear, “Did you hear? Man and Raccoon said that from now on, the stream is to be controlled by Man! Yes, our biggest fear has come true! No more Fish for any of us!”

Bird wanted Bear to fight Man for him, so that he could fly freely without fear of being hunted. Bird truly was fearful. But he forgot that he must contribute! And, he was asking Bear to compensate for everyone who had been coasting!

Bear was more frequently at odds with Man than Bird, and Bird was betraying Bear by pulling him into a fight with Man; one that may not have been necessary.

Then, after Bear was dead, Bird could feast on insects and Fish alike, all to himself!

Bird thought he could have all the Fish he wanted. He could also peck out Raccoon’s unsuspecting eyes if he needed to.

But Bear was smart, and bigger, and he does not forget his place in the animal society. He said with false intent, "I will go and fight that Man, so that he knows that the River is ours alone!" Bird said with great excitement, "Yeah, yeah!" "Make the river red with his blood!" Bear looked at Bird, surprised by this display! Bird said very cleverly and with flattery, "I would help you in your battle with Man, but, my beak is not as sharp nor strong as your claw."

Bear said, "Help me. Together we can defeat Man, and then have the River to ourselves!" He was still only misleading Bird. Bear would not do such battle with Man on this premise because as he saw it, Bird was looking to sacrifice Bear!

Man was also not always a threat, and by shooting some Birds, helped keep Earthworm Sophia safe. Even though this maybe was not Man's aim, Bear and Worm were grateful for this fact.

Bear did not want to tip the scale too far against Man.

Bear, mindful of all these things, then said, "Ok bird, I will do it." Bird knew that Raccoon was no match for Man, so he kept Raccoon mostly less important. Bird flapped away to the comforts of his nest, high up in a tree. He could not wait to watch Bear and Man fight to the death!

Bear left, and waited by the River. He had a bit of time now, to confront Raccoon. He scolded him by exclaiming, "You said the skies were red. You know they are not!" Raccoon answered with a lie, "Yes they are. Don't you see, the skies are red and we both have Fish! Just like before." Bear chased Raccoon away. While in theory, and for the short duration, Raccoon was correct, Bear knew that Raccoon's plan was only half hatched, and motivated by

cowardice. And, he had not consulted with Bear on these issues.

Raccoon found a place to hide in the bushes.

Bear went to the edge of the River and waited for Bird, out of view from the treetops. Bird came from the sky spotting many Fish for himself, thinking Man was not yet at the River. He also did not yet see Bear through the clearing of branches.

When Bird got to the River, there was Bear, waiting there for him. And yes, Man was not yet any threat; though he could be at any time! Bird was furious that he had been tricked! He swooped down to peck out Bear's eyes; but, with one blow, Bear knocked Bird out of the air and into the River! Bear squeezed Bird's ribs with intense anger in his heart.

With just a bit more force he would crush Bird's little rib cage like twigs of the nest!

Bird let out a shriek in absolute terror, "Please don't crush me, we are short on berries! The trees are in short number! Man has cut so many of them down. And, the winters are fierce!

" Bear answered with rage in his belly, "You must pay! Your blood will make the River as red as you said the skies are!"

At that, the Bird shrieked, "But the skies are not red. Let me be!"

It occurred to Bear, that Bird was maybe not entirely to blame! They were trying to share the natural resources. And, each of the animals had a disadvantage! Bear found mercy in his heart. And Bird had admitted the truth, and, had explained his own peril to Bear, which was more than

Raccoon had done.

At first, Bear didn't know what to do. And, Raccoon cried from the bushes, "Kill him, kill him!"

At which time, many more Raccoons appeared from the Bush and out to the River's edge to witness the scene. They sat in a row chanting, all of them, masked, and thirsty for vengeance and for shiny things. They sang a chant of murder! All of them!

Bear was slowly killing Bird, when all of a sudden he knew that Bird must be spared. He would not die at Bear's claw.

The skies were in fact not red. But, the River soon would be. And, then the sky perhaps would turn to crimson as well.

Bear lifted his paw and said, "You're free Bird. Now, fly away." And Bird did fly away, very quickly, after a gasp of relief.

"Thank you Bear! I will not forget." Bird flew away to another River.

At that moment a gun shot rang out! It was a Man! Sure enough, as Bird feared, He too had come to the River.

His bullet had missed Bear by mere inches! Raccoons fled in a scatter! Bear ran as fast as he could, to temporary safety.

Man had won.

He had come with his fishing stick and blade.

He would surely come again, over and over again, to hook Worms, to catch Fish, and to bulldoze the Forest down.

Bear and all the animals watched. They were divided, ambushed, and tired from their quarrels. Man was taking everything!

The time had come. He wanted the River to himself, and cared nothing of the Trees anymore, or anything else. What could the animals do? They could die. Or, they could live. Somewhere else? They left together. Many of them- Bears, Raccoons, Insects, and Birds. They would look for a new home, and then move again, and again, until there was no place to go. To survive.

Man would die without all of them, but he did not think of this yet.

So some animals left in great numbers. Others stayed in fear, or were too old and frail.

The Sun was shining, and there would be some place to go. Though flee some of them did, they knew that the sky was still blue, for them, and not red. There was hope, there was sun, and there was reality. And for the rest, the skies were beginning to turn red.

THE END.

Inception 2001 ©2010-2012. Final US copyright registration 2014.