

# Beacan & Treasa



Once upon a time there was a small bear cub called Beacan. He lived in a tree trunk in the woods with his Mama Bear. The woods had lots of seeds and berries and there was a river not too far away with lots of salmon.

Mama Bear had almost gone into hibernation and, not wanting to look for food since Papa Bear had left, she seemed very sad and reluctant to explore or even play with Beacan.

Beacan wakes up one day and is hungry, he wants to go and explore the woods and its river with Mama Bear but she is very sleepy. She tells Beacan that there are some seeds left for him to eat. He eats the seeds, leaving some for Mama Bear but he was still hungry and wanted to explore. Beacan watches out of the window in the trunk of their tree. He is only a small bear cub, too small to be out in the woods all by himself. He is scared of what might be out there but his belly rumbles and his feet itch...*'I've got to do it,'* he says to himself, looking over at Mama Bear who is fast asleep. Knowing that salmon is Mama Bear's favourite food, Beacan decides that he will go to the river alone. That will wake her up, he thinks, imagining bringing back lots of salmon for them to enjoy together.

Beacan leaves the tree trunk and begins to walk through the woods, stepping on twigs as he goes, jumping in the air as they break. *'I don't like it here,'* he says to himself as he walks further into the woods. It feels like a very long way away. He steps on a branch and it makes a loud SNAP. Beacan gets such a fright that he tries to climb up a tree to hide but, unlike the other bears, Beacan can't climb. He hides behind its trunk, covering himself in leaves until he feels a bit safer. He looks at the tree trunk and thinks about Mama Bear. Remembering that he is hungry he shakes off the leaves, looks around and makes his way towards the river.

He can hear water running before he sees it and knows that he is close, *'I can see it...I can see it,'* he excitedly squeaks. As Beacan runs towards the river he slips on the rocks and falls into the water...he panics, he doesn't know how to swim, he disappears under the water, splashing his arms and legs around, trying to get back to the surface...when...all of a sudden... *'whoosh'*. Beacan feels himself being pulled out of the water but he's still wrapped in the dark and he isn't sure where he is. He sits very still like a good cub bear and listens to the water moving further away. He doesn't move. *'Where am I? Where am I going?'* he squeaks. He tries to muster a roar, but nothing comes out. *'I want Mama Bear,'* he cries.

A moment later a sliver of light shines in, Beacan looks around. He is surrounded by salmon...all of a sudden, he is sliding out and into the light with the haul of salmon. He lands with a bit of a thud in the leaves and the grass. He looks up and sees a huge pelican looking down at him, she looks very surprised indeed. He runs to hide and stumbles, but the pelican does not move. Watching him calmly, she passes him a piece

of salmon. Beacan takes it cautiously, looking at it. *'It's ok. You can eat it,'* the pelican tells him.

The pelican tells Beacan that she had been fishing for salmon and had managed to swoosh Beacan up with the fish in her huge beak. *'You're very small to be out fishing on your own,'* the pelican says. Beacan looks at her with sad eyes. *'My name is Treasa,'* the pelican says. *'Beacan,'* the little bear cub mumbles. They sit together in silence eating the salmon. Treasa sees Beacan looking around her clearing. She shows him the different things that she has there. There are berries, seeds and feathers, twigs and branches and other things. Beacan jumps a little bit when he sees the branches, remembering the fright he got in the woods on his way to the river. Treasa sees him jump, *'you don't like the branches?'* Beacan shakes his head and tells her he that he got a fright and tried to climb the tree but that he couldn't do it, and how he won't be able to escape from the wolves in the woods. *'Bears are meant to be excellent climbers,'* he says sadly. Beacan tells Treasa that he wanted to get lots of salmon for Mama Bear to make her happy. Treasa gives him some salmon to take home and tells him that she will be at the river the next day if he wants to meet her there again. They walk back to the river together where Treasa makes sure that the little bear cub in on the right path home. She watches until she can no longer see him.

Beacan takes the salmon home to Mama Bear for them both to eat but Mama Bear starts to eat it all, realising just how hungry she was. Beacan gives his share of the salmon to Mama Bear and eats the seeds and berries instead. As they eat, Beacan tells her all about his journey and being scared and not being able to climb the tree. Mama Bear frowns and shakes her head at him, *'bears are excellent climbers. I don't know why you can't climb?'* Beacan feels very sad as he goes to sleep that night.

The next day, Treasa meets Beacan by the river. Treasa asks Beacan if he wants to catch some salmon but he grunts, saying he doesn't want to catch fish, he just wants to play. Beacan has sadness in his little bear cub eyes. Treasa tells him they will go back to her clearing where there are things to play with and seeds and berries to eat. She scoops up some salmon in her beak to take with them and they walk through the woods to her clearing. Beacan stands on the twigs and branches but doesn't feel as frightened with someone walking alongside him.

They get to the clearing and Beacan sniffs around, he eats some berries and sees a tub of honey, scooping it out and eating a big, sticky claw full. He starts to explore the twigs and soft feathers, making shapes and sounds with them. Treasa notices the sadness disappearing from his eyes, just a little bit. Beacan sees the tree at the back of Treasa's clearing and starts to step towards it. Standing on a branch as he walks over, he gets a fright and then moves away. He goes back to the middle of the clearing and scoops out another bit of honey. Treasa sits next to him. They stay there for a

moment before Beacan moves towards the tree, this time standing up on his legs, curiously exploring the branches, the trunk and its leaves.

Treasa tells Beacan that it is time to go back to the river. The little bear cub leaps on her back, *'we can fly back to the river together.'* But Treasa tells Beacan that she can't carry him, his claws are sharp, and they might hurt her. She tells him that they can walk together, and they set off for the river

Treasa and Beacan meet every day by the river, going to her clearing with Beacan playing with the twigs and feathers and eating the food. He starts to climb the tree. At first with Treasa perched on the branch beside him, then underneath him, until one day he climbs the tree without even checking where Treasa is. As the days go by, Treasa sees the sadness disappearing from his eyes more and more.

One day, as Beacan is climbing the tree, he gets stuck. Treasa doesn't know how to get him down and goes to seek the advice of the Wise Owl. When she returns, she sees that Beacan has managed to get himself down, but he seems more cautious than ever about trying to climb it again. That day he returns to his tree trunk, bringing salmon for Mama Bear and him to eat. As they eat, he tries to tell Mama Bear about getting stuck in the tree, he sees Mama Bear's face frown and gives a frustrated roar, bigger than any roar he has ever let out before.

The next day, he meets the Treasa at the river and they walk together to her clearing. Treasa has brought honey for Beacan and he wanders alongside her eating it, blundering into the branches and the trees. Treasa hesitates, thinking that she can hear something ahead on their path. As they arrive at the clearing, Beacan goes to play with a sword he has made from feathers and twigs. Just as he does, Treasa looks up to see a big bear, up on her legs, looking down at them. *'Mama Bear,'* Beacan squeals. Mama Bear sees Treasa and roars. She has followed them to see where Beacan has been learning to roar so loud. She doesn't like him coming to Treasa's clearing.

Treasa can see that Mama Bear's roars have quietened and that she is still curious. She invites her to look around the clearing and to eat some of her berries and seeds. Mama Bear sits down with Beacan and Treasa as he shows her the different things he has made and played with, and some of his favourite seeds and berries. Mama Bear looks around her, *'it feels like a very long time since I have been out of that tree trunk,'* she says. She looks over to the tree and can see that there are bits carved out of it. Treasa tells Mama Bear that each day when Beacan climbs to a different part of the tree she makes a mark with her beak so that they can keep track of where he has got to. Mama Bear says that, *'Bears don't need any help climbing trees, we are excellent climbers.'* Treasa asks Mama Bear to come and look closer at the tree, to see just how much of the tree he has been able to climb in the days that he has been here. Treasa says that he is only a very small bear cub and has been learning how to climb on his own, Treasa thinks that Beacan is doing well but has just got a bit stuck.

Beacan rushes over to the tree and begins to climb it. He climbs up some of the branches and then sits there. He stays there for a while, unsure if he wants to go up or down, then he looks up above him. *'You want to go further up?'* Treasa says. Beacan nods. *'You can help him with your beak,'* Mama Bear says to Treasa. Treasa tells her that it is not her beak that can help him but maybe she could help Beacan with her paw. Mama Bear isn't sure at first but then stands right up tall at the tree, lifting her paw. Beacan sees her paw beside him and puts out his paws, clawing into the wood and climbing up further than he has ever climbed before. Mama Bear looks at him up in the tree and looks at the markings on the tree and what he has achieved. She tells him, *'well done my little cub,'* and Treasa sees the sadness disappear from the little bear cub's eyes, and some tears appearing. She feels tears in her own eyes too, she is proud of the little bear cub. Treasa leaves Mama Bear and Beacan in the clearing and flies off to scoop up some more salmon for them all to enjoy.

Over the next few days, Beacan keeps coming back to the clearing, playfully climbing the trees and jumping on the branches. He tells Treasa that he and Mama Bear share the salmon sometimes now, and that he always keeps himself a little bit outside, just in case. He says that Mama Bear has even talked about going fishing with him one day. Treasa and Beacan look around the clearing at all the things he has done – the new seeds and berries he has tried, the things he has made and the markings on the tree showing how far he has climbed. Beacan looks proud, *'bears are excellent climbers,'* he says with a smile. Treasa admits that she will be getting ready to migrate soon. The little bear cub feels sad but is ready to explore more of the woods and to climb different trees.

The next day Beacan is up bright and early. He runs to the river, stepping on branches along the way, *'SNAP,'* he squeaks out, smiling. He is a little less clumsy on the rocks and a little quicker at catching the salmon. He catches extra and takes them to Treasa at her clearing. Treasa is almost ready to leave but won't be going too far away. A little bit of sadness comes back into Beacan's eyes and in Treasa's too. But they remember all the adventures that they have had in the clearing. They go over to the tree and see where Treasa has pecked into the bark of the tree, looking at just how far Beacan can climb and Treasa tells him how the tree will always be there to remind him on the days where he sometimes forgets just how much he has achieved. Treasa and Beacan get ready to say goodbye. He tries to climb inside her beak but realises that he is too big now and thinks about how much he has grown during their time together. Treasa tells him that she will always look for him when she is flying past.

The little bear cub isn't so little anymore, and he has discovered that he is indeed an excellent climber after all. Some days the sadness comes back to his eyes but whenever this happens, he goes back to his tree in Treasa's clearing to look at the carvings and remember where he started from and just how far he has come and can climb now.

The sadness starts to disappear again and Beacan looks up past the tree and is sure that he sees Treasa flying over tipping her wing. He runs back into the woods smiling.