

Crazy Daisy and the Dandelion

Once upon a time, close to a garden somewhere in northern California, a dandelion emerged from his bed to watch the sunrise. It was early morning, very early. But this morning was a special morning. It was early spring and the night before there was a bunny rabbit putting eggs in some very interesting places. The dandelion had been observing the rabbit but kept hidden because the bunny looked a little hungry.

Still waking up to the chirping of the birds he noticed a short distance away that there were some flowers that looked a lot like him. Now there is a secret about the dandelions. The secret is that they can move from one place to another. So he decided to go and visit the other flowers. Gently removing his roots from the ground, he tip-toed over close to the other flowers where he re-rooted himself and waited for them to wake up.

It took quite a while, they must have been very sleepy. Finally one of the flowers opened its petals and let out a very loud yawn. To this the dandelion said, "Good morning, you've been sleeping quite some time and I came over to say hello."

Quite startled the other flower replied, "Who are you to interrupt our slumber like this, what are you doing here?"

The dandelion replied. "Well, I'm just a neighbor, a fellow dandelion, but I noticed that you look a little different than the rest of us, so I came over to ask where you are from."

"A dandelion!" the other flower laughingly replied, "We are not dandelions, we are daisies you dummy, don't you know anything?"

"Well I've never met a daisy before", he replied, "And until this morning, I've been too busy watching the rabbit to notice you I guess."

"Rabbit! What rabbit?" the daisy asked with alarm.

"Well", the dandelion said, "He was here very late last night and was putting colored eggs around in places where you can't really see them. I was worried that he might eat me so I hid until almost sunrise".

"Oh, that rabbit", the daisy said, "Don't worry about him. He's a good rabbit. He won't eat any of us. He's a very special rabbit."

"You're crazy", replied the dandelion, "Rabbits eat everything!"

"My sisters call me crazy too", she said, "But that rabbit is a little different than other rabbits. We have seen him before. The people who take care of us call him The Easter Bunny. Have you ever seen a rabbit with eggs before?"

"Well no, I can't say that I have", he replied.

"You see", she said, "There is something special about this day. It only comes in the springtime after the cold winter when we all start to wake up earlier because the weather is drier and warmer."

"Well", he said, "I guess that there is no danger then, would you like to join me out in the sun?"

"I can't", she replied, "My sisters and I cannot move around like you dandelions do. We daisies have to stay put and wait for water from the people that take care of us. You are lucky to be able to move about the way that you can."

"Well do you mind if I stay for a while", he asked, "I can hide in between your stalks and blend right in. I think, then maybe, no one will pull me out. Besides that, it is getting too late for me to move. We can't move well when the sun is high in the sky."

"OK", she said, "I do enjoy the company. My sisters only like to sing and it's good to have a conversation for a change."

Well as morning started turning to noon, a family, mom and dad, a little girl and a brand new baby boy appeared on the back porch. The flowers were listening to the family's conversation and heard them saying something about it being a beautiful Sunday and looking for the hidden eggs. As the older child, the little girl was searching for the eggs she approached the daisy patch and saw the dandelion in the middle. Knowing how her mother despised dandelions, she pulled him out and threw him into the compost pile. However the dandelion had drank well with the daisies and was in no worse shape than before. When the sun finally set, he was able to once more go and talk to the daisies.

"Wow, that was a close one," he said, "But it's not the first time."

"I'm glad that you made it back", she replied, "You're not such an ugly flower after all. Maybe we can find a new garden one of these times."

The daisy and the dandelion continued their conversation well into the night and remained with each other throughout the summer. The dandelion learning his lesson was able to hide himself better and was never again found when hiding among the daisies.

Eventually fall came and they produced their seeds. Feeling the coolness of winter approaching they grew closer to each other to share the remaining warmth. Knowing that they would soon sleep for the winter, they gently bid each other good-bye. In saying good-bye to each other for the last time, they knew that they would meet again. As parting goes, this was a celebration that they had waited for.

A few weeks later as winter approached, the Easter Bunny once more appeared in the garden next to the daisy patch. Gathering up a few seeds from both the daisy and the dandelion, he put them into his now empty basket. At last he took a few of the dandelion's feathered seeds and with a quiet whispering breath, blew them into the air where they were carried away in all directions by the wind. As he watched them float away he said, "Rest well my friends, and rest assured that we shall meet again in the spring, for I too now must sleep".



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