

Beryl and the Wish Cat

Once there was a cat named Beryl. Her fur was a cream color and she had blue eyes. Beryl also had a sister named Pearl who looked exactly like Beryl, except she had brown eyes. One day, Pearl said, “Beryl! Let’s go exploring in the woods!” Beryl replied, “Are you sure? I heard there are foxes and wolves in the forest. Is it really safe?”

“Oh, don’t be a scaredy-mouse!” meowed Pearl. “Besides, exploring is fun! What do we have to lose?”

“Alright, we can go,” Beryl groaned. And they headed over to the forest.

By the time the two sisters had got there, it was nighttime. Beryl noticed that it was unnaturally darker than usual.

“IT’S SO DARK! WHAT IS HAPPENING?!” screamed Beryl.

“Oh, I forgot to mention,” said Pearl sheepishly. “Another cat told me that there was a lunar eclipse tonight. I guess I forgot to tell you. Sorry!”

“Pearl, it’s so dark! It’s getting so hard to see! What if I get lost?” Beryl said.

There was no response from Pearl.

“If you’re playing a trick on me, it’s not funny.” Beryl said sternly.

Still no response from Pearl.

“Pearl. . . PEARL?!” Beryl yelped. She was starting to get nervous. *Where is Pearl?* she thought. She turned around. Pearl wasn’t there!

My only sister, my best friend, my companion for life. . . MISSING! How will I get out of this dark and spooky forest without her? At that moment, Beryl noticed that she had spent so much time looking for her missing sister that she was lost! She tried to look for the entrance of the forest, but it was too dark to see.

Beryl meowed, “I’m lost!! SOMEBODY HELP!!”

Then she saw a shadow on a rock nearby. Was it a rescuer? No. . . it was just an abandoned wishing well. Climbing ivy vines intertwined around it, and the wishing well looked almost like it had grown into part of the forest. After a while, Beryl thought, *Wait. . . why am I focusing on this wishing well? I have to find Pearl and get out of here, or else I’ll be lost forever!!!*

Suddenly, a beam of light shot out of the moon and into the wishing well, and where the beam of light was, a kitten popped out! He had black fur and blood-red eyes. Beryl tried to scream, but she was paralyzed in fear. No sound came out of her mouth.

“Don’t worry,” said the kitten, “Don’t be scared of me! I am the Wish Cat, and I only appear when a lunar eclipse is in the exact same position as this magic wishing well. I

will grant you three wishes! There are rules for the wishes, though. You can't wish for more wishes, you can't wish for immortality, and you can't wish for magic powers."

"I want a piece of candied grapefruit!" said Beryl without thinking. The Wish Cat made a hesitant face, and then a piece of sweet-smelling grapefruit appeared in front of Beryl.

"You really are a wish cat!" said Beryl. She ate the piece of grapefruit in one gulp, and it disappeared as quickly as it came. *Hmm. . . what should I choose to wish for next?*

Maybe a rotisserie chicken, or a bucket of strawberries and apple blossom. . .

Beryl meowed in a hurry, "I want a bouquet of roses with the thorns plucked off!"

The Wish Cat made the same hesitant face, and then smiled. "Your wish is my command," he said. At that moment, a bunch of roses, without thorns, with a lovely azure ribbon tied around them appeared. Beryl deeply breathed in the flowery scent.

"What do you want to wish for now? Be careful, you have only one wish left." mewed the Wish Cat.

Be careful, you have only one wish left. Those words echoed in Beryl's mind. *I spent all my wishes on useless things like small portions of food and flowers. What do I really want?*

Beryl racked her mind to think of what she wanted most before she knew about the Wish Cat. *Let's see. . . honestly. . . all I really wanted was for it to be bright again so I could find my way back home and to be reunited with Pearl.*

"Please," Beryl cried. "I know I wasted my wishes on useless things the first two times I had an opportunity to get something I wanted. Please grant my last and final wish." Tears streamed down her face.

"Of course!" said the Wish Cat. "What is it? Tell me soon, the eclipse is starting to end."

Beryl whined, "All I really want is to have my sister Pearl back. She went missing, and I can't find my way out of the forest without her!"

"You have finally made the right decision by choosing sisterhood over physical objects. You have proven yourself worthy. . ." the Wish Cat said quietly, and he flew through the ray of light coming from the moon and into the sky. It was becoming brighter, and the worst of the lunar eclipse was finally over.

"But-but-where are you?! You didn't grant my wish!! Pearl isn't here!!" Beryl said in shock. She was right. The Wish Cat was gone, and Pearl was nowhere to be found.

Suddenly, Beryl heard a loud gust of wind, and then she heard something else- a voice.

"Beryl? Beryl, where are you?!" a cat meowed.

I'd recognize that voice anywhere! thought Beryl. Her heart beat quickly with delight.

She ran towards the sound of the voice. "Pearl!!!! I'm so glad I found you!!!! You were missing for so long and it was so dark and I was lost and so scared!!!!"

Pearl meowed, "Beryl! I'm so glad you're here, because-"

"-I couldn't have gotten out of this forest without you," the two sisters said in unison.

“I was worried that I’d be trapped in here forever without your hope and experience to guide me out of the forest,” said Beryl.

“And I was worried that I’d fall into a rabbit hole or something without you warning me to be careful. Also, this is all my fault. I shouldn’t have forced you to go into the forest even though I knew you were scared.” Pearl admitted.

“Oh, the forest? I’m not afraid of it anymore,” said Beryl, remembering the Wish Cat.

“Should we get out of here?” Pearl asked.

“Sure! Actually, go on without me. I’ll be there in a second.” Beryl said. Pearl hesitated and then walked away.

Beryl walked over to the wishing well. She whispered, “Thank you for everything, Wish Cat.”