

How a Hero Meets Its Sidekick

Two beating hearts, intertwined. One small and sweet, the other big and motherly

As the wind was blowing through the forest, Sustainable Suki was lying in the grass. She had just done a big speech about how we need to reduce our plastic consumption, and she was feeling overwhelmed, as she sometimes does, by the huge amount of people that was at the talk. The woods had always been a soothing place for Suki, and she always promised that she would protect it and the whole earth with all her might.

Today, Suki had a lot of things to do, plant trees, water plants, go to three schools to give speeches, do a beach cleanup, get an award, and make a speech for that award. When the sun rose, she was very eager to finish her tasks but as the day went past, things took a turn for the worst. At the beach cleanup, the team saw a turtle covered in plastic, struggling to breathe. They tried to untangle it from the plastic, but it was too late. There was a short and somber funeral, and the incident put a dampen on everyone's mood. When she got home, Suki thought she would cool off by watering the plants in her garden, but her mind kept on thinking that she could have done more for the poor, innocent turtle and altogether it was not a great start to the day.

Then it was time for the school speeches and Suki felt very drained from the morning's activities and had always been nervous for big speeches, especially when they were at a school, so three of them did not excite Suki. But she stayed optimistic and was just thankful when they were over. It was only noon, but Suki felt like she could go to sleep for four days. She still had three things to do, and bedtime was far away so she went to plant some trees in the forest, hoping that the blissfulness of the woods would make the strained and irritable feeling crawling inside of her go away.

She expected the the forest bed was jubilant, filled with birds singing and animals playing, but now it was silent and a gray, lonely mist had covered the forest like a big somber blanket, while there was a slow rumble far away in the background. Suki instantly recognised the sound, and it made her very agitated, the feeling that she so desperately wanted to get rid of was swelling up inside her, ready to burst out. She tried thinking of reasonable solutions but blinded by anger, she took off, sprinting over roots and dodging vines and bushes, every step making her more and more mad about how innocent trees and the homes of many animals are being brutally murdered by big greedy corporations.

After a while Suki still had not reached where the rumbling was and the exhilaration that kept her going was slowly running out, replacing anger with despair and a bitter taste of failure had filled her mouth as she was not able to help the honest trees. The poor girl just sat down in the soft grass and started sobbing, she did not notice when the rumbling stopped and was very overwhelmed by everything that had happened that day. A sweet and alleviating tune was flowing through the forest, and it cleared the forest of the dark mist and replacing it with an elated and joyous atmosphere. The music blocked out the troubles in Suki's mind and made her look up. She was greeted by a little, blue bird, who was a beautiful persian blue, and had a calming aura surrounding herself, radiating warmth and comfort. The little blue bird said, "My dear are you alright." Suki face was full of tears, and she did not know what to say so she just shook her head mournfully. The blue bird could see that Suki was overwhelmed and knew exactly what to do. She hummed a soothing melody and went to lay down on Suki's shoulder, sharing her warmth and letting Suki fall into a dream.

It had only been around fifteen minutes before the blue bird woke Suki up and Suki was at first happy but then she realised that she had to go to the award ceremony, *and make her speech for the ceremony*, she jumped up and started running to her house but the blue bird stopped her and asked her why she was in a rush. Suki told her about the ceremony and how she needed to write a speech for it. The bird said that it was only 2 o'clock and she had plenty of time until the awards. She also said that she could help Suki come up with her speech. The little blue bird calmed her and on the way back to her house, Suki and the little blue bird called Balanced Blu, came up with Suki's speech and became jolly good friends. After that day whenever Suki became overworked or overwhelmed little Balanced Blu would always make her feel better, and soon Blu officially became Sustainable Suki's sidekick!

The end