

Plush world

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August 10, 2017

Chapter 1

Once upon a time, there was one little giraffe. The giraffe was called Joachim, and it was completely plush. Joachim lived in The Forest.

Even though he lived there since his birth, he knew, that he was just a guest there. Joachim knew, that as he is living in The Forest, The Forest lives around him. Moreover, we can not own something that is alive. Therefore he was glad, that he could live in The Forest. However, he was alone. The other plush residents of The Forest thought that The Forest is not a special place at all, just because they have spent there their whole lives.

He often talked to The Forest. Forests talk in a different way than humans. Luckily plush giraffes talk different as well, so they understood each other pretty well.

Even though Joachim liked The Forest the entire life, he wanted to travel. He knew that The Forest is not the only place and he wanted to see the other places as well.

He suspected that in other places there might be other plush toys and he might meet them. He has imagined various places. He loved to imagine mountains with lakes and valleys.

Joachim knew mountains, he knew lakes, but valley with water instead of the valley awakened weird feelings within him.

He liked to imagine how the valley under water looks like. Maybe it is similar to the regular valley, but there is water everywhere, in-

stead of air. After that, he has realized, that trees, leaves, and grass could not live under water, so he sensed, there would be something else. There was something he wanted to explore.

Once The Forest told him:

"Why would you like to see the lake and valley?"

Joachim thought about it and then answered.

"Because I want to know more. I want to experience the real beauty."

"Am I not beautiful enough?" asked him The Forest.

"How can I know, whether you are beautiful, when I have not seen other forests or mountains." objected Joachim.

"You are right. Go then. Maybe you will understand, that I am beautiful when you don't have me." said The Forest.

Joachim wanted so much that his forest would be beautiful. He packed his backpack and decided to obey his advice.

Chapter 2

One day our little plush giraffe met a human in The Forest. Once the human saw Joachim, he started to measure his temperature, closed and opened his eyes and tweaked his skin. Joachim came to him and asked him, whether he feels ok. The human answered:

”I can’t feel ok when I see a giraffe in the forest.”

”Why couldn’t a giraffe life in The Forest?” asked Joachim uncomprehendingly. ”No giraffes live in a regular forest. The wise books say that and all of my friends do as well. Also, I have not ever seen any giraffe in a forest.”

”This is not an ordinary forest! There is no ordinary forest.” quickly objected Joachim.

The human swallowed a pink pill and stopped talking to Joachim. He came back to the world he knew. He has seen what he wanted to see and heard what he wanted to hear. In his world, there was no place for a plush giraffe. Joachim was sad for a moment because the human stopped seeing him. He did not know what to do with that, so he went away.

He knew there is no purpose in talking to him. So as the human could not see plush giraffes, even Joachim could not see people. But Joachim saw them. He wanted to see them. Maybe one day, some of the humans will get wiser and quit the belief that plush giraffe can not live in The Forests.

Chapter 3

The Forest was full of colorful threads. For us children, it may seem strange. However, we already know that no forest is an ordinary one so, in this forest, there was a lot of colorful threads.

The plush toys, called plushies, are actually all created from such colorful threads. It is common, that if two plushies spend a lot of time together, each one of them pulls out a thread from its body. The threads are tied with a magical knot together. The threads change color and merge into one. Every time one plushie needs another, it can pull the thread and find the other one.

There is a lot of threads leading to every plushie whether it wants or not. The red threads connect friends. Green ones are between siblings and yellow ones between parents and children. Between plushies who like to hold hands, there is a blue thread. The most precious thread is the violet one, which we can hardly ever see. Everyone wish to have a violet thread one day, some even see the purpose of a plush life in it.

Joachim remembered a story that the owl once told him.

Many years ago, Badger Vojta lived in this Forest. The Forest was almost without threads that time. Each plushie lived where he wanted, usually alone. Most of the plushie did not understand, why should they unpick themselves. Vojta was different. He did not want to be alone, he wanted to connect to as many plushies as

possible. He was happy when he could pull the other plushies from their troubles using the threads that connected them. Vojta was unpicking himself and connected many other plushies to himself.

One day Bear Tom came with a strange idea. He said:

”Look at him, how much he connects his threads with others. That must be because he is scared himself, that there is somebody to pull him out of trouble when he falls from a tree.

The other plushies must have admitted, that what Tom the Bear says is definitely clever. However, when they wanted to tell it to Vojta the Badger, they could not find him.

Vojta was unpicking himself and taking so many threads out of his body, that there was no thread left in him. After three days of searching, they have found a little piece of cotton wool and thin violet thread with both ends free. The bear has drawn aside the blackberries that held the violet thread. The breeze has taken it, and it flew away and disappeared into the clouds.

And so, that is how the plushies got into our forest. The threads that Vojta merged have connected them still. Plushies had no reason to rip such a nice threads, so they decided to remain together in The Forest.

Since then, The Forest is full of the colorful threads, that the plushies tie between themselves.

Chapter 4

Joachim was happy for each thread leading to him or from him. However, his friends had different opinions.

They were competing who will have more blue threads. Joachim had five of them, and all of them were torn. One day he was talking to his best friend plush dog Bernard about it.

Bernard and Joachim were bound with thick red thread, both of them valued it very much. Bernard was pulling his threads because he was sad. So Joachim came to him. "What bothers you?" he asked solicitously.

"I may have a lot of thread, but I do not have a single blue one." answered Bernard sadly.

Joachim did not know, why does he want the blue thread so much, when he has so many different colors. So he tried to talk to him.

"Look at me. I have five blue threads, all of them torn. Isn't it better to have all your threads and be complete, than unpick yourself, so that there is only the wool left out of you?"

"But, I unpick my threads out all the time. There are free blue threads hanging out of me, but no one wants them... I am going to become the wool as well." said Bernard.

Joachim tried to cheer him up.

"Don't worry, one day you will tie your threads together into

one, that is going to be much stronger than those I had. Don't you see that my threads are torn?"

It did not work much.

Joachim and Bernard remained silent for a while. They did not know what to do. Then they stopped talking about blue threads and went to play to the carousel. They were both happy, and their red thread was a little bit stronger.

Chapter 5

In the north of The Forest, there was a big chasm. The chasm was dark and deep. Everyone was so scared that it was impolite to even talk about it. In the same way, the human did not see the plushies, the plushies were looking away of the chasm. They have not seen it, so they did not have to think about it.

Joachim was standing above the chasm from time to time and thought what can be on the other side. But all the threads held him so that he could not fall in there.

Joachim was a little plush giraffe. He was not satisfied with himself. He was ok with the fact that he is plush. However he was small as well. Giraffes are usually tall. Every proper giraffe should have a neck so tall, that it would see out of the chasm, right? Joachim was a little giraffe. Joachim had a feeling, that is a bad giraffe.

Chapter 6

Often, when Joachim played on the playfield, he ate the leaves from high trees. Some plushies were charmed by that so that they even offered him their blue threads. Joachim sometimes did that unconsciously, another time he wanted to look cool and ate the leaves on the very top of the trees. He did not do that just because of the threads. He did that also because the other plushies wanted to be with him and he was not alone and did not have to think about his short giraffe neck.

One day Joachim met up with his good friend Misa the Hedgehog. Misa also wanted to eat the leaves from high trees, but he could not. He was a hedgehog. He said:

”Will you teach me ho to eat the leaves from the highest trees? I would like other plushies to offer me their blue threads as well. I would like that the other plushies would want to be with me.”

At that moment, Joachim regretted that he was showing off. Misa was said just because of him.

And so Joachim thought it might have been better if Misa did not know him at all. He would not know that he might want to eat the leaves from high trees then. He would just stick things on his pricks.

Just between us..., Joachim found sticking things on pricks much cooler than his long neck, which was not really tall at all.

But that is how it goes. Joachim wanted to stick things on pricks and Misa wanted a long neck. Misa wanted the others to pay attention to him, while Joachim would like to sit in a shadow so that no one is sad because of his long neck.

Chapter 7

Joachim started to think. Bernard is sad that he has to look at my torn blue threads. Misa is said, that he has to look at my long neck. He needed to hide to make them happy. But in The Forest, his long neck could be seen from everywhere.

His neck is so long that it makes troubles to the others. His neck is so long that he can not hide ... however still so short. Shot for a real giraffe. He can no even see out of the chasm.

After all, there was one place where even his short neck could disappear.

The Forest himself told him that he may go away.

And so Joachim felt into the chasm.

Chapter 8

There was a shadow in the chasm. Joachim could identify everything that was around him. He was in a forest. However, it was not his Forest. He could see Bernard and Misa. Still, they were not his Bernard and Misa. He could see all the other plushies as well. They have all seemed like there is no trouble. Still, everything was wrong. There were no saturated colors. The colors went away and left the space for various shades of gray.

But that was not the worst. All of Joachim's threads did not connect him with the plushies he met there. They led up, he was in the chasm. Even though he was in the forest at well-known places with well-known plushies. He felt like nobody knew him. He was not connected with them. He slowly forgot how was the life out of the chasm.

Joachim did not know what to do. Everything was different. He tried to explain to the plushies what is going on. Bernard told him that he should just move on, that he was looking into the sun for too long. Misa did not know what to tell him. Something was incomprehensible for him.

The wise owl gave Joachim a lollipop and said that is's gonna be alright.

It felt like nobody can really see Joachim. They did not want to see him. They did not want to think about the chasm, and so they

did not see what was connected to the chasm... which was Joachim as well.

Joachim did not know how to move on. Nobody knew what happened to him. Even The Forest did not hear him. So he went back to the only thing that understood him. He went back to the chasm.

Chapter 9

There was nothing in the chasm. Everything was so wrong in there that even the darkness ran away from there. There was just Joachim and nothing else. There was no way to go, nowhere to come back. The little plush giraffe was alone with its short neck, and its torn blue threads.

Chapter 10

At that moment he heard a larksome voice. It was the fox.

”Whats up?”

”I am in the chasm, and I don’t know what to do about it.” sadly answered Joachim.

The Fox could go away whenever she wanted, but she sat on the edge of the chasm instead, and through two chasms she whispered with Joachim at night.

I am sorry kids, I do not remember exactly what she whispered to Joachim through all the nights. Maybe each fox sais different things, maybe each giraffe needs to hear different things. However, one is for sure. Each giraffe needs a fox that sits at the edge of a chasm and whispers.

The Fox has whispered often, but she listened to Joachim as well. Joachim could talk to her. He could talk to her about the chasm he was at.

Joachim almost started to like the chasm, because he knew, that the fox will never forget and every evening comes to the edge of the chasm to talk about everything and nothing.

The Fox was glad when Joachim told her stories. She liked the most when Joachim told her made up stories about dragons and seals.

The Fox was happy to listen to Joachim and Joachim was glad

that she was listening to him. In the same way, Joachim listened to the Fox, and she was happy that he listened to her.

One evening Joachim wished that he could take Foxe's hand, but he was still in the chasm of the chasm. He ripped one blue thread from his lacerated body. He threw it up to the fox.

Chapter 11

The Fox has ripped one blue thread from her tail with joy, and she has tied both ends together with a magic knot. Then she started to pull Joachim up. But it was not enough. The thread that connected them was too thin, and it would break.

Chapter 12

Joachim has realized that he has totally forgotten about all the other threads that were connected to him. He pulled twice the red threads. That was the call for help. The call for help that they had made up with Bernard and Misa when they were little.

In a minute, both of his friends were on the edge of the chasm by the Fox and pulled the threads to get Joachim out. However, it was still not enough.

Chapter 13

Joachim got an idea. He unpicked part of his neck and withdrew really long thread. Took it and threw it over the clouds high above him. He used it as a pulley and pulled himself up. All his friends on the edge of the chasm have started to pull as well.

He was back up in a moment. He could see the saturated colors again. He saw Misa and Bernard. He saw The Forest and a beautiful red fur of the fox.

Joachim cried. The Forest was so beautiful.

And then, all of them went to play to the carousel.