

The White Peahen

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1

Many years ago in a world where peacocks were valued, there lived a happy couple (the king, Henry, and the queen, Mildred). The happy couple were expecting a child soon and that meant she would have to choose her royal peacock. Let me explain- in this kingdom, Birdhaven, (Yes, this kingdom loved birds so much that Queen Mildred renamed it from Northcross to Birdhaven) when a new *royal* child is born and comes of age they will choose a peacock to become their companion pet (and that peacock was normally was a colorful male.

Of course there was an exception, though.) The peacock that became the companion pet would be a symbol of honor, respect, and loyalty to the kingdom of Birdhaven and its rulers. This was a tradition passed down from many many generations ago. Queen Mildred was excited to have her own child enjoy the excitement of picking their own peacock. She still vividly remembered when she chose her own peacock, Snowpearl, who shined like soft snowflakes (This is the exception I was talking about. Snowpearl was the first female *peahen* to ever be chosen as a companion pet. Plus, Snowpearl had a very odd color for her feathers).

Snowpearl as a female peahen was admired as a role model for the other female peahens and an insult to the male peacocks. In other words, Snowpearl was infamous. But, not very long ago, Snowpearl was an outcast, a disgrace, and the very reason why her parents gave up on her as a youngster. Now though, Snowpearl lived a happy life with her peacock, Jasper, and her own peafowl, Jade. So, how did Snowpearl end up so happy and loved by her world, when 7 years ago she was rejected and hated by her world?

2

Snowpearl's tale started on the morning of a cheery spring day. On this cheery spring day, a new mother, Glimmer, and a new father, Shimmer, had a peafowl. For many months they had dreamed of a colorful male peafowl to bring pride and joy to the family. Instead, they had a dull, drab, white peafowl who wasn't even a male! Glimmer and Shimmer were disappointed that the prettiest peahen and peacock (in their opinion) had given birth to a disgrace. Nevertheless, they gave her a name: Snowpearl. Almost immediately after naming this "disgraceful" peahen, Snowpearl, they sent her away to her own thicket to live in "solitary confinement" where she would be kept hidden from the rest of the kingdom ("She would tarnish our reputation," said Shimmer.) Many months passed and when spring came again, Glimmer and Shimmer had given birth to

another peafowl: Snowpearl's younger brother, Blue. Blue of course had no idea that his own parents (who he thought were loving parents) threw away their first child as if she was a dirty sock who could not be cleaned no matter how someone tried to wash it. And of course, Snowpearl never knew of her brother either. Of course many peahens and peacocks spread rumors that Glimmer and Shimmer gave birth to a white peahen, but these rumors were all dismissed. Slowly, but surely, Snowpearl was forgotten as the rumors dissolved.

Everyday it was the same schedule for Snowpearl. Slept in the daytime, hunted at night, and cleaned herself in Lake Briar Rose at dawn. Snowpearl never knew who her parents or little brother was. She knew that she was rejected as a disgrace. She knew what her name was. That was all she knew.

Now (for a short while), we must depart from Snowpearl. Something important in the Royal castle, Bliss Castle, is about to happen.

3

"Where is my child?!" screamed a woman.

"Right here, Queen Catherine," shouted a fat midwife. The fat midwife handed Queen Catherine her child.

"A healthy baby girl," said the fat midwife.

“Yes she is, isn't she? Mummy loves you so much, my little one,” said Queen Catherine. “Oh, thank you for delivering my bundle of joy, Ana,” said a happy Queen Catherine.

“You're welcome, your highness,” said Ana (quite proudly. A little too much I should say.) Just then, a man burst into the room.

“Ah, your majesty,” said Ana bowing.

“You may rise,” said the man.

“Thank you, King Philip,” said Ana politely.

“So, this is my daughter,” said King Philip cowering over the infant. The baby trembled and started to cry.

“WAAAAAAAAAH,” cried the infant.

“Shh, shhh. Mummy is here. Quiet down,” said Queen Catherine.

“Should you give her a name,” piped the Queen’s companion pet, Kongque. Or at least that is what Jasper said. In a human’s ear he would have sounded much different.

“Squaw-squaw-skee-skee-ke-squa,” Kongque actually said.

“We should give this infant a name. Hmm. Mildred. I like that. Do you Kongque?” said the queen

“Skee-Skee! (yes),” said Kongque.

(I also should clarify that the owner of a companion pet, in this case Queen Catherine, will be/is the only person who understood what their companion pet said.)

“I’m assuming that is a yes. Do you like Mildred, my dear?” said Queen Catherine to King Philip.

“Yes, I very much do,” said King Philip. Then King Philip bent over, picked the infant up, and announced, “My queen has birthed a healthy baby girl. May honor be given,” said King Philip.

“May honor be given,” repeated Ana and the other midwife in the room.

“Milly, would you be so kind as to put Mildred in her crib?” said a tired Queen Catherine.

“Yes, your majesty,” said Milly. Milly took the newborn child into the nursery and quietly rocked Mildred to sleep.

Milly sang Mildred a song while rocking. (This lovely poem was made by Queen Catherine’s great-grandma Queen Rose Mariana) It goes:

The beautiful one, O the beautiful one will choose her forever to be. Whether it is brown, blue or black, she will choose thee. To bring the honor of thy kingdom and bring great comfort to those who hold it close. The beautiful one, O the beautiful one will choose her forever to be.

At the same time as Milly sang the song, the window, open, carried this lovely song to the ears of a very curious peahen, Snowpearl. Snowpearl heard this song and wondered where it came from. Though it was only noon, she could not

resist coming out of her thicket to see who sang the song. She peeked in through the nursery window to see Milly singing. Snowpearl carefully, unnoticed, crept into the small nursery and closed her eyes to listen.

4

“Oh my, what an odd colored peahen,” said Queen Catherine. Snowpearl awoke with a jolt. She had fallen asleep to Milly’s singing. Oh no! This was bad. If another peacock, peafowl, or peahen saw Snowpearl here in the nursery chamber, they would think Snowpearl was being chosen early as Princess Mildred’s companion pet. Snowpearl tried to escape.

“Stop it!” shouted Queen Catherine. Milly, and King Philip, all chased after Snowpearl. It was not until after some very long time, and very tiring running, that King Philip proudly picked up Snowpearl, which she did not like, and placed it at Queen Catherine’s feet. Queen Catherine bent down to see Snowpearl. Snowpearl trembled under the Queen’s eye.

“Ka-ka-squee (Don’t hurt me, please),” said Snowpearl.

“Hahaha,” laughed Kongque. Snowpearl glared at him.

“Don’t hurts birdies,” said Mildred. Everybody froze in shock. Mildred had said her first words and yet she was only a few hours old.

“My little one, do you perhaps understand this bird,” questioned Queen Catherine. Mildred nodded (or at least she tried to).

“Oh my. This is very early for you to be understanding a peacock,” said Queen Catherine

“ Ke-Ka-Kqua (I am a peahen),” said Snowpearl.

“Birdie Peahen,” gurgled Mildred.

“Ah, that is unusual! A peahen! And a white one as well,” said King Philip, surprised. Snowpearl rolled her eyes. Queen Catherine was thinking deeply about why her daughter could possibly understand *peahen* talk this early on. She was also thinking of whether they should hold the Companion Pet choosing ceremony much earlier. So she went up to Mildred.

“Would you like Mummy and Daddy to hold the choosing ceremony on your second birthday?” Queen Catherine asked.

“NO!” screamed Princess Mildred.

“Then when, my dear?” asked Queen Catherine.

“NOW!” shouted Princess Mildred.

“Very well, then,” sighed Queen Catherine reluctantly.

“But darling, isn't this a little too early?” asked King Philip.

“No. The time when the princess wants the choosing ceremony is on her decision, not ours.” said Queen Catherine firmly.

So, within the next hour and a half, Queen Catherine, Princess Mildred, King Philip, Ana, Milly, Kongque, and

Snowpearl had the ceremony. And from that moment on, Princess Mildred and Snowpearl were inseparable.

Epilogue

To everybody reading or listening to this story, remember just because someone is different and you reject them, they can become greater than you through courage, hope, and inspiration. Never look down on one another. Never.

~The End~