

Tui the Moon Bear

Tui was a black Moon Bear. He lived in the forest of South East Asia, with his mother and father, and his twin sister Kim. All Moon Bears have a little white shape under their chin. The shape looks like the crescent moon. That's why they are called Moon Bears.



Tui was 3 years old. Ever since he was a tiny cub, his mother and father had looked after him.



Tui and his family wandered through the forest each day finding food. They munched on the green leaves of the forest, but they also liked to eat insects and grubs.

When the sun was hot, they rested in the shade of the trees of the forest. In the cool of the evening Tui and Kim would play games together, like hide and seek, or they would chase butterflies.

Tui's mother had told the cubs not to wander away. But Tui was a big cub now and wanted explore for himself. "I wonder what it's like outside the forest," he thought to himself.

One day he wandered away. "This is such fun," he thought.

Soon he heard a sound that he had never heard before. It was the sound of human voices. Tui had never heard or seen a human before. He was curious. He walked towards the sound of the voices.



Then, with a loud bang, he found himself trapped in a cage. He called out to his mother, but she did not come. The hunters put Tui on the back of a truck and drove away. Tui pushed on the sides of the cage, but he could not get out. Tui had been sold to some evil men. These men kept bears in cages for life, and treated them very badly.



In his new home, Tui had two bear friends, but all three bears were very unhappy. They could no longer wander through the forest gathering food. They were locked in their cage all day and all night, and only given a little food.

Tui stayed in this new home for years. He grew to be a teenager. He was always sad. But one day some different people arrived. He heard new voices that belonged to two very kind people. They wanted to buy Tui. They paid Tui's owner a lot of money and now Tui belonged to them. Once again, Tui found himself in a cage on the back of a truck. But where was the truck going?



It was going to the forest, where Tui's family lived! Tui remembered the smell of the forest – the smell of the fresh green leaves, the cool of the shady trees.

The truck stopped, and very gently, very carefully, the kind people lowered the cage to the ground. They let Tui out of the cage.



At first Tui did not know what to do. But then he remembered his mother, his father and his sister Kim. Could he find them? Tui wandered for two days, eating his favourite foods once again.

And then he caught a familiar scent. He followed the trail, and sure enough it was the smell of his mother and father! How happy they were to see Tui!

Kim now had cubs of her own. She was happy to see Tui too. The cubs played around Tui's feet.

Once again Tui was a Moon Bear of the forest. He would look for a mate and would soon have cubs of his own to look after. And he would tell them, "Never wander away from your mother and father!"

