

Unhappy Happy



By Sharon

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Once upon a time, in a green green forest, there lived a little brown hedgehog, Happy. She was the most beautiful one in the Harmony Hole; she has watery eyes, short legs and prickly chubby body. She thought her life was almost perfect before she walked out the Harmony Hole to take an adventure.

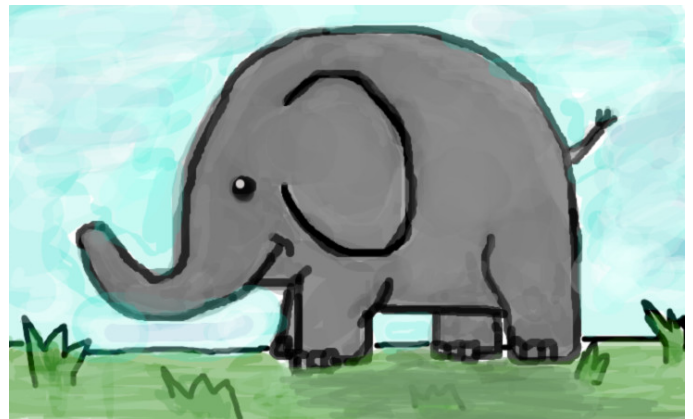
It was a hot sunny day. “What a big world! There must be much more hedgehogs out there,” thought Happy. She walked slowly by her tiny legs. Gradually, she felt the ground shaking. “It must be my illusion,” thought Happy. However, the shaking became bigger and bigger. Then, four thick gray feet came in front of Happy.

“Hello, who are you up there? Are you also a hedgehog?”

“Of course not, I am an ~~elephant~~ elephant.”

“I cannot see your face.”

The elephant tenderly used his trunk to hold Happy up to his head.



“Wow, you are so big. You certainly can carry much food. I want to be as big as you.”

“Remember who you are. You are a hedgehog.”

The elephant put Happy down and walked away. Happy felt surprised when she saw the elephant; however, she also realized how small she is.

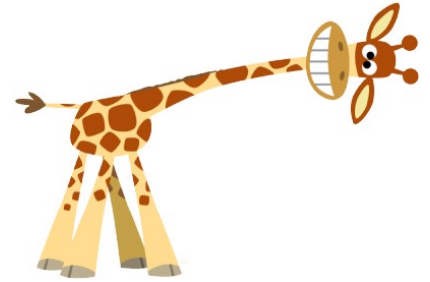
There were so many questions in Happy’s mind now. “Why is there another kind of animal? Why is the elephant so big? Why am I so small? Why? Why? Why? I used

to be excellent in the Harmony Hole, but it seems totally different out here,” thought Happy. While she was confused, she ran into a hoof. Happy tried her best to raise her head to see what it is. There were four thin long brown legs with spots.

“Hello, are you the thinner elephant?”

“What are you talking about? I am much thinner than the elephant.

I am a **giraffe**.”



“Wow, you are so tall. You definitely can see things far away in this forest. I want to be as tall as you.”

“Remember who you are. You are a hedgehog.”

The giraffe elegantly walked away. Happy became unhappy. She knew that she is neither big nor tall. “What can I do? I am so useless,” said Happy. The real world was so different that Happy felt hopeless and disappointed.

Happy felt unhappy. “The only thing I have is these annoying pricks,” said Happy to herself. Suddenly, an idea came to her mind. “At least I am beautiful,” thought Happy. Happy felt much better. In the same time, Happy heard someone talking to her.

“Hello, little kid. You must be the hedgehog, right?”

“Yes, and you are? I know you are neither the elephant nor the giraffe.”

“I am the **bird-of-paradise**.”

“Wow, you have colorful and fabulous feather. You are so beautiful!”

“Of course I am beautiful, because I came from the paradise.”

“What is paradise?”

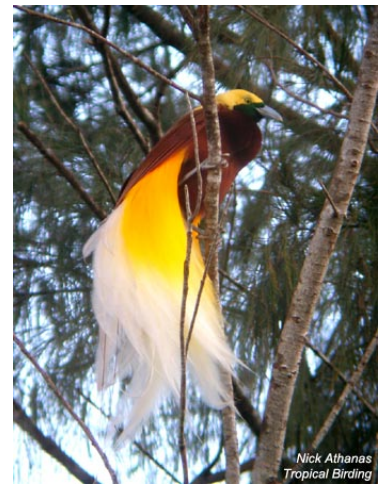
“Actually, it is too good to describe.”

“Alright, forget about it. I want to be as beautiful as you. Maybe you can give me several feathers and then I can be beautiful, too.”

“Remember who you are. You are a hedgehog.”

Happy was desperate. She used to be the most beautiful one in the Harmony Hole. After meeting the elephant and the giraffe, Happy felt unhappy because she is not big and tall. However, she still considered herself to be very beautiful. Then, she saw the bird-of paradise; Happy was totally shocked by its stunning beauty.

Happy burst out crying. “Hedgehogs in the Harmony Hole are all liars. I am not beautiful at all,” thought Happy. All of a sudden, Happy heard a hissing sound; moreover, the sound was getting closer and closer. She rushed into a small hole without hesitation. Happy took a look from the hole; to her surprise, she saw a tube-like creature with a forked tongue crawling on the ground. Besides, that scaring creature was crawling to a hedgehog without pricks. “Oh, no! He is going to eat that hedgehog! Although I am not big, tall and beautiful, at least I have a chance to save that poor hedgehog,” thought Happy. Happy went out of the small hole and rushed in



front of the hedgehog without pricks to protect it.

The tube-like creature opened his mouth and swallowed Happy. However, Happy's prickly body made her extremely difficult to swallow. The tube-like creature threw up and slowly crawled away to search his next prey.

"Yuck! Disgusting! Are you okay?"

"You saved me. Thank you so much. You are so BRAVE!"

"Why don't you have pricks like me? You must be a hedgehog. Don't lie to me!"

"No, I am not a hedgehog. I am a **ground hog**."

"No wonder you don't have pricks and that's why you cannot protect yourself. Maybe I can give you some pricks."

"I don't need them because I am not a hedgehog. Oh, I heard my mom calling me. Hope I can meet you again. Goodbye!"

"Goodbye!"

Happy successfully saved the ground hog. An indescribable feeling grew in Happy's mind. Happy was not unhappy anymore.

It was dark night now. Happy was sitting on a stone and recalling what happened today. "I never know I can save others by these annoying pricks. Maybe I am not that useless," murmured Happy. In the same time, Happy thought of what the elephant, giraffe and bird-of paradise told her—Remember who you are. Happy realized what



they actually meant. “They were trying to tell me that everyone is unique. Everyone has his advantages and advantages. I don’t have to be the biggest, the tallest nor the most beautiful one. I am who I am. I am a hedgehog. No need to envy others!” said Happy. Happy was happy again!

-----The End