

Fairy Tale – The Owls in the Land of Perfection

Once upon a time, in the land of Perfection, there lived a couple of owls who had just married. He was a handsome snowy owl, named Brawn, who had joined the great legion of hooters in the land of water in order to protect his land of Perfection. She was an equally as beautiful snowy owl, named Bliss, who traveled in the opposite direction to the land of snow and mountains to become a teacher so she could teach the ways of education to all those in the land of Perfection. The two had met while still living the land of Perfection many moons before, but decided to go their own ways outside of the walls of Perfection to pursue their dreams. After parting, they realized that they were meant to be together. So Bliss left her new found land of snow and flew across to the land of waters to be with Brawn and start a family. Bliss' parents were not happy with her that she had abandoned her pursuit of an education to go be with the handsome snowy owl and marry. But she did not care, she was in love and so she followed her heart.

Shortly after they married Bliss became pregnant. The two had not planned on having baby snow owls, but when they found out they were going to be parents they were elated. The soon to be papa owl had brown homesick and wanted to return to the land of Perfection. The soon to be mama owl did not want to return to the land of Perfection. She wanted to return to the land of snow and mountains or stay in the land of water. Papa owl decided they would return to the land of Perfection, have the baby owl and one day return to the land of snow or water. Where ever the mama owl wanted to go.

Soon the baby snow owl was born and she was the most beautiful baby girl snow owl they could ever have imagined. The Papa and Mama Snow owls were overcome with joy at what they had created to share with the world. They vowed that they would be the best parents they could be and would raise her up to be perfect. And they did a perfect job. She was a perfect little owl. She slept when she was supposed to sleep. She ate when she was supposed to eat and she was never picky about what they brought home to feed her. She smiled at all the other birds in the land of Perfection. She made friends easily. She didn't get mad. She giggled and laughed all the time. She never complained. She never had temper tantrums. She didn't yell. She asked lots of questions leading to the notion she was very smart, making her parents very proud. She was an easy little one. She was the delight of many. And to top it all off she was very pretty, and full of talent. Yes, she was the sort of offspring that makes you want to have more.

And so they did. Papa and Mama Snow owl gave birth to a son snow owl three years later. He wasn't as beautiful as the little snow owl girl was at the start, but they loved him every bit as much. And the little snow owl girl loved him too. Papa and Mama Snow owl gave names to their offspring and called them Babe and Bud. And the names were fitting. Their little girl was their baby and the little boy was their buddy. They were the perfect family, living in the perfect land of Perfection.

Now the land of Perfection was just as it sounds. It was perfect. It was protected from the evils of the outside world by a big fence that went from the ground to the sky, over the tops of the trees, through the clouds and connected to the ground again. There was no way to get out and there was no way for anyone to get in, unless it was allowed by opening the gates. Everyone in the land of Perfection had their own tree for their nest. And everyone in the land of Perfection looked the same. The land was big with plenty of space to fly around in. There were holes that were filled with water and lots of fish for feeding. There were lots of trees and flowers and other birds and bugs and frogs. The food was in abundance and it never disappeared. There was always plenty to go around. Everyone who lived in the land of Perfection knew one another and got along. There was never any fighting. There was never any crime. It was a lovely safe place. But at night when all was quiet and everyone was in bed, Babe could hear noises that were beyond the fence wall. She could hear sounds that she had no idea what they were. She was curious about the sounds, but she was also very cautious. The noises didn't

scare her, but they were a reminder that there was much more beyond the walls of the land of Perfection.

As Babe and Bud started to grow up, not much in Perfection changed. Life in Perfection was a constant. Everything stayed the same and stayed constant, safe and predictable. The thing that did change was Babe and Bud growing. Bud grew to be a very handsome snow owl that was very cunning. He was the best and fastest at whatever he attempted, the best hunter, wise beyond belief, funny, and charming, the best at bird games and all the girl snow owls desired his affections. He was such a bird of beauty that he even caught the eye of the elderly owls. Whatever he did, he was perfect at it. He also was rebellious with a temper that would show itself frequently. But that didn't ever matter much. Brawn and Bliss would battle his rebellion, but Bud didn't care. He had an air of confidence and freedom about him that no one could tame. Brawn and Bliss knew that too. But they loved him unconditionally and did their best to steer him in the proper direction so he would one day be stellar.

Babe on the other hand, was equally as talented and charming, intelligent, perfect and beautiful, but she was so mild tempered and easy going that she didn't require the maintenance of domestication that Bud required. Babe's love and beauty was not something that had to be conquered and earned. She gave it freely and generously. Bud's love and beauty on the other hand was coveted because he was so guarded with it, except with Babe. Bud gave Babe his love unconditionally. He loved her and admired her like no other. She was his favorite and she returned the feelings to him. They had a special sibling bond that you only read about in fairytales. They were siblings, but more importantly they were friends. They each knew that no matter what they would always have each other. And that gave each of them strength.

The snowy owl family spent lots of time together. And they enjoyed one another. There were times of discord, but not many. Babe and Bud always knew though, that no matter what the squabble they would always be part of a nest full of love. They were all birds of the same feather. Theirs was a life of singing, and happiness, and laughter. They went on adventures all together. They played in their tree all together. Brawn and Bliss nurtured Babe and Bud and supported them in all of their activities. But as Babe and Bud started to grow, and Bud was becoming harder to domesticate, Babe started to realize there were differences in Perfection. For as long as she could remember Babe wanted to fly. She would see other birds in Perfection flying high above her in what seemed to be the clouds. She had asked why she and Bud were not allowed to go fly and Bliss and Brawn would tell them they were not old enough to fly yet or it wasn't safe. Or Bliss's favorite excuse was that "nothing good was happening up there in the clouds!" Brawn's favorite statement was that Babe and Bud weren't those birds, and he cared for them more than anything in life, and would protect them at all costs. Babe took both of those answers for the gospel because she believed her papa and mama to be all knowing and wise. After all they both told her how wise, smart and perfect they were. They always said it in a joking manner, but Babe believed it to be true. Plus they were owls after all. The wise part was a given.

So Babe thought that the clips on her wings that kept her from flying were truly for her own good. Then one day Bud took off flying. Babe was in awe. He was the fastest most regal looking owl in all of Perfection. He flew way high up in the clouds and Babe so wanted to be up there too. She dreamed at night of flying. She questioned how Bud could fly and she couldn't and he told her to take off her clips. She could in no way remove her clips that Brawn and Bliss had put there for her own protection. That would be so disrespectful. And she believed it when Brawn and Bliss told her that Bud was a boy and able to take care of himself more than she could. He was a free spirit, strong and able to defend his honor. Babe on the other hand was a vulnerable girl and they thought that something possibly happening to her was not worth the risk of removing the clips that kept her safe and grounded. It was not a punishment but rather an act of love for her own good.

Babe was accepting of that. She knew she was loved and that her parents would never deny her for the mere sake of denial. She knew it wasn't safe outside of Perfection. She heard the sounds at night. She knew Bud was strong and courageous. She knew all of that. But she also knew she wanted to fly so badly and she was growing more and more curious of what was outside the walls of Perfection.

As Babe and Bud grew up they both started making plans to fly the nest. Babe knew that birds of a feather flock together and stuck by that rule. Bud didn't care. He wanted to soar with the Eagles. Babe asked to soar with the Eagles and was told that was not an option or a good idea and so she conceded. Bud on the other had never asked but instead let his rebellious nature surface and left the confines of Perfection. Babe watched him fly away with awe and fear and sadness. She hoped he would one day return to Perfection but didn't know if he ever would.

Babe did leave the nest to go learn how to tend to broken wings, but she stayed in Perfection. She wanted to follow Bud but again did not want to rebel against the words of Brawn and Bliss. While going to the school of broken wings she lived on the far side of Perfection and was able to spread her wings so to speak. She went to school and made some new feathered friends. She learned very quickly that not everyone from Perfection was perfect. Lots of her new feathered friends were very different from her. Some of them she felt very sorry for and some of them she admired greatly. Babe started to test her laws of perfection she had known all her life and tried to spread her wings and fly. She kept falling flat on the ground with each attempt at flight, but she kept trying. She did whatever she thought it would take to be able to fly and soar with the Eagles. She sold her heart and soul to some big studly birds that she thought she could maybe fly with. But she was only hurt and disillusioned. Other birds would make her promises of future flight, but not one of them would hold true to their promise. It was becoming more evident that the only word of truth Babe could trust was that of Brawn and Bliss. Brawn and Bliss were telling Babe she needed to learn to fly. But she was feeling so conflicted, because all of her life they had clipped her wings for her own good and safety. Now they wanted her to learn to fly but they did not want to release the clips from her wings. They wanted her to fly on a tether and Babe couldn't figure out how to do that. She kept on looking for someone to teach her, but the tether kept pulling her down to the ground. And if the tether wasn't holding her back one of the hooters in the legion would lie to her saying they would take her to the clouds only to leave her alone with nothing but broken promises, dreams, hopes and heartache.

Babe did not know what to do. Bud was gone far away from Perfection and would call and tell Babe how fabulous it was. Babe wanted to leave Perfection but didn't see that as a possibility until she was free to fly. Babe resigned herself to the fact she was destined to a life in Perfection. She went back to the nest with Brawn and Bliss and carried out the life they had planned for her. Safe and Sound.

Then one day while Babe was at work caring for the wounded birds, she saw the cutest boy barn owl she has ever seen. It was unusual to see boy owls at the wounded bird aviary. He was not what she expected, but there he was in all his glory. The boy barn owl, named Jet, liked Babe from the moment he laid eyes on her. He thought she was the most beautiful owl he had ever seen. Jet made his way to meet Babe and asked her if she would like to accompany him to the songbird fest. Babe said she would love to. Jet wasn't like anyone Babe had ever met before. He was older and wise in a very experienced, street savvy way. He threw all caution to the wind in the name of living life to the fullest. He didn't care or worry about what other birds thought. He was kind, but rough around the edges at the same time. He flew to the edge of safety just for the thrill of it. He lived outside the walls of Perfection and only came to Perfection to work. He also had been married and had three little girl owls. He was so totally opposite of what the laws of Perfection stated she should be with. But Jet brought out a part of Babe that she really liked. He encouraged her to spread her wings and try. And when she explained to him that although her wings were no longer clipped, she was still tethered to her parents nest. He said he understood that but asked if she would let him help her soar to the clouds and fly with the

Eagles. Babe was so enamored with Jet that she said an emphatic yes. She didn't care if he had baby owls, or weathered wings or the fact that he was a barn owl who had lived his entire life outside the confines of Perfection. She wanted to soar and she trusted and believed that Jet was the one to help her realize her dreams.

Jet and Babe were married later that year. And although Brawn and Bliss were in total support of the union, they did make it a point to mention that Jet was not a snowy owl, but rather a barn owl, and he was not from Perfection. They also said that life would not be easy with three baby owls. But both Brawn and Bliss said that if anyone could be a mama to three baby owls and marry outside of Perfection the Babe could do it. They had total faith in her and wished her their best and gave her their love and support.

Jet was the first one to ever take Babe outside the walls of Perfection and helped her soar high above the clouds. Babe was in heaven in the imperfect world. She loved the thrill of flight. She loved the wind beneath her wings. She loved everything about soaring in the skies. And she loved Jet. But there was trouble looming. Babe was not prepared for a life outside of Perfection. She struggled with imperfection and kept being brawn back to Brawn and Bliss. Jet was very understanding at first and then one day he told Babe that if she wanted Perfection she needed to move back home with Brawn and Bliss. Babe didn't want that. And she had committed to staying with Jet. But theirs was a struggle. Jet was not raised in a perfect world and had no idea what a perfect world even looked like. Babe knew only perfection and did not know how to give that up and be happy without perfection. Nor did she know how to be accepting and tolerant of imperfection. They struggled and struggled. They struggled within themselves and they struggled outside themselves. But they were so in love with each other that no matter the struggles they remained steadfast on their course.

Then one day there came a knock at the door and standing before Babe was the Stork. With him he had the cutest little snow white bard owl she had ever seen. The Stork explained that he had been given word from the higher authority that this baby owl was to be delivered to Jet and Babe. Babe cried tears of joy as did Jet. Babe knew they were not complete. This baby was there perfection in an imperfect world. This snowy white bard owl was the connection between the two of them that completed their circle and their family. They named the new baby Will, because he was after all God's will for them Babe believed. She had prayed and prayed for this baby and God had answered her prayer. She knew and believed that this was going to be the end of all of their struggles. And that was somewhat true. But where one struggle stops, another one begins. Jet's three other owls loved Will, but they were displaced by them. Or so they believed. They struggled with the fact that they could all be one family. You see they too had never lived in Perfection and did not understand it. But Will was the tie that binds for Babe and Jet. He had brought a new lever of cohesion and a new bond to the two of them. They were committed now more than ever to their love and life, despite their differences. They started to meld their beliefs from two different worlds together into one. Babe started to see and believe that sometimes being perfect is imperfection. Brawn and Bliss had begun to let go for the first time ever as a result of a new flock they belonged to that required much of their time. Babe felt the tether release and let herself be drawn to Jet in a way she had never allowed herself to before. Life with Jet still wasn't perfect. But she was letting go of the need for life to be perfect. Will helped her with letting go of imperfection as well. As much as she wanted to be the perfect mother to him, he had helped her to realize that was not only impossible, but unnecessary. Will loved his mama unconditionally no matter what. Babe felt that and knew she didn't have to be perfect, just loving and honest.

As time went on, Babe and Jet's three other owls left the nest just as they should and went on to start nests and families of their own. Jet, Babe and Will grew together. Jet and Babe taught Will how to fly as high as his heart desired. They let him live in an imperfect world and loved him unconditionally. They taught him how to experience life and Life was good. But there still was something missing.

Babe had prayed only for one baby and she received Will. But deep down she had hoped God would also give her a little girl. She wanted another baby and had hoped that the stork would come knocking on her doorstep once again. She wanted a little baby girl named Grace. She believed the life would be perfect as God would have given her both His Will and Grace. However life is not perfect. At least life here on earth. Babe had witnessed that over and over and over. And as much as she intellectually knew it, Perfection still plagued her. But sometimes God's grace comes in packages you never expect. Sometimes His grace comes to us through our journeys in life. Babe was about to embark on a new journey. But not just any journey. Babe was going on The Ultimate Journey of her whole life. God's grace was waiting in the wings. She was about to soar. But that is another story waiting to be unfolded and yet to be told.