

The cherries were ripe. Two cousin squirrels sat in the tree nibbling on the bright yellow fruit with their two young pups. Both pups muzzle's were stained yellow from the juicy fruit. They had special permission to sit in this, Carulin's tree. They had backpacks with them and once they had their fill, they were to harvest cherries for her.

"Now you are a little over one season old," their mother said between nibbles, "you old enough to learn how you came to be." She nuzzled her mate whose fur was a little out of place in spots all over his body. She had a couple of similar small spots on the sides of her abdomen.

"Dame, you and Sire already speak to us about how pups are made," their male pup replied. He had random white splotches in his gray fur.

"Yes, Speckle, we have," their sire replied. "But you have also asked why it is you two can Biggenspeak and we can no speak it without using a Biggen viewer. And why Elder Pinecone and Elder Voice Friend ask you call them granddame and grandsire. That is what we speak of today."

The two pups stopped nibbling on cherries and gave their parents their full attention. They loved the cherries they first tried that morning, but they really wondered why it was they could Biggenspeak and their parents could not.

The male pup spoke again, Grandsire Friend and Granddame Pinecone adopt you, sire."

Brave flicked his tail up and down once. "Yes, they adopt me. Now you learn why. Last winter Pinecone's and Friend's first-born pup, Blossom, was hunt killed by big predator bird. Biggen Energy give chase and tried to save her. He killed the bird, but he was too late. Blossom was dead." A few tears fell from his eyes. "She was my first potential mate. She had saved me last harvest time giving some of her blood to me so I would live. As her blood flow in me, is why Second Sire Friend and Second Dame Pinecone adopt me."

"Then you were mates if you share blood," their daughter chittered, "as you taught us."

"Moss, I was sleep injured." Brave sighchattered and pulled his flatpanel off his back and started typing. The flatpanel read his words in Common. "Need more words then chitterspeak has. I was in a coma from blood loss. I didn't know she give me blood until I awakened. Elder Teacher rule it does not count as becoming mates when done to save a life. And she was still a pup at the time. I had seen two winters at that time. She had not seen her first winter yet."

"Oh," both their pups replied in unison.

"After she die," Lily continued, "Biggen healers rush me to Biggen healing place..." she paused and pulled her flatpanel off her back and typed. "I need to use Biggenspeak like your father as it have more words. I work hard to learn it for you two. I try again. After Blossom killed and Sanieel recovered her body. I was rushed to a special hospital where they replaced my ovaries with hers. I was told that if my body did not reject them and it worked, I'd need to wait until spring to try and get pregnant."

“Why did your ovaries need to be replaced?” Moss asked in Biggenspeak since her mother was using Biggenspeak through the flatpanel.

Lily smiled at her as she typed. “Moss, mine didn’t work right. I couldn’t produce eggs. Without eggs, males could give me their seed all day long and no pups would take. The Biggen term for that is barren.”

“But now we’re here,” Speckle stated.

“Yes, Speckle, because the operation worked,” Lily type-replied. “I do not fully understand how it worked.” She drooped her tail. “They altered Blossom’s ovaries to fool my body into thinking they were mine. Otherwise, my body would have attacked and destroyed her ovaries like an illness and you wouldn’t be here.”

“And Uncles Nimble and Shadow and Aunt Buttercup?” Moss asked.

“They were her mates and littermate before healers did what they did,” Brave chittered. “While she heal, your dame discuss with them about this. They agree, she must approach me first as Blossom’s female parts were now in her.”

“And I won him over,” Lily chitterpurred as she nuzzled Brave.

“With permission of her former mates,” Brave added.

“And because Granddame Butternut taught me how to use a fur brush unlike other females who eye him.”

“That how your dame win me over though she already share two mates with her sister. She is really good with a fur brush.” Brave chitterpurred as he nuzzled Lily.

“And now thanks to Biggen doctors you’re here,” Lily typed as she concluded explaining how her pups came to be. “You are little miracles,” she added in chitterspeak.

“Moss, we were going to name you Blossom to honor her,” Brave added. “Most who knew her speak it too soon to use her name again. So, we name you for a very good Biggen friend of mine who was Blossom’s nest sharer at Biggen school.” He sighchittered and typed on his flatpanel. “Like your dame said, Biggenspeak has more words. What I mean is that Biggen shared a room with Blossom at senior school. Moss is her chosen chitterspeak name.”

Moss’ eyes shot wide. “Oh! You mean I’m named for Moselyn, Saniel’s potential mate?”

Brave flicked his tail up and down once.

“Neat! She was so kind to both of us when she visited a few weeks ago.”

Lily drooped her tail as she switched back to chitterspeak. “Now you know how you came to be, I understand if you no wish to call me your dame anymore. You come from Blossom’s eggs, which makes her your real dame. Elder Pinecone and Elder Voice Friend are your real granddame and grandsire.”

Moss and Speckle quickly embraced Lily. They spoke in near unison. “It doesn’t matter whose eggs we came from. We grew in you. You bore us. Your blood flows in us. You are our dame.”

Lily wept for joy.