

The Otter Siblings

The story begins in a luscious land from long ago, far before humans took their first steps on this untamed environment. Within this land lived two otter siblings, Lontra and Lutris. Lontra had an eye for order and seriousness, with her slick, streamlined pelt enabling her to swiftly swim in her land's waters with ease. On the other hand, Lutris was land-back and forever curious, his dense fur allowing him to freely float along the land's flowing streams. However, despite their differences, the two of them did everything together. They explored the land's forests, swam in its waters, and no matter where one of them was, the other would always be nearby.

One day, while Lontra was rummaging through some thick foliage, Lutris's curious nature got to the best of him, and the otter decided to stray away from his sister for once. He snuck out of his home, the familiar forests of the land, to venture toward the unknown. After all, to Lutris, the unknown was just a familiar place you haven't been too yet.

The otter wandered and wandered until he was greeted with an amazing sight: A vast, cream-colored land leading to an endless supply of water. The sun sent warm rays, the wind felt cool and comfortable, and Lutris felt more excited than he'd ever been. Who knew someplace so great existed right on the outskirts of the grassland? Peppy with glee, he dashed across this new environment. Miniscule grains of sand tickled his paws as he focused on the open ocean. Once he was close enough, Lutris leaped into the sea, splashing into its chilly waters. His thick pelt helped protect him from the cold as he was caressed by the waves. The calmness of it all - The sun, the breeze, the waves - was perfect for Lutris, and before he floated to sleep, the otter came

to a conclusion: The ocean life was much better than the land-dwelling life, and he wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

However, Lontra did not forget about her brother. Upon returning from her little exploration through the woodland, it appeared Lutris was nowhere to be found. She searched through the forests and plains of the land, hoping to catch just a glimpse of his recognizable brown, scruffy fur, but her attempts were in vain - Lutris was nowhere to be seen. Despite her loss, Lontra refused to give up. She knew her brother was somewhere in this wide, free world, and she was going to find him, no matter where he was.

As a last resort, Lontra decided to do the unthinkable: She ventured outside her forest home, the only comfort zone she'd ever known, in hopes of finding her otter brother within the unknown. Towering pine trees and soft earth soon gave way to a bright baby blue sky and coarse sand. Although this strange place was completely new to her, Lontra urged herself to continue onward. She padded across the beach, feeling tiny bits of sand stick to her paws as her eyes grazed the area in search of Lutris. To her dismay, the beach showed no signs of her brother's brown fur or energetic attitude. Despair hit Lontra as her search was fruitless yet again.

Before she began to tread back into the familiar forest, her attention drifted toward the open water before her. It was limitless, an ever-changing enigma to those who chose to venture out into its waves of mystery. Lontra could never be able to tolerate such an irregular, random life, but her train of thought veered off its tracks when she noticed an odd shape above the waves. A dark speck bobbed above the deep blue sea, and upon inching closer to gain a better look, Lontra realized it was her brother, Lutris, brown, scruffy fur and all.

"Lutris!" Lontra called out. "Lutris, where have you been!"

The sound of his sister's voice caused Lutris to wake from his rest. Although his mind was a tad groggy from sleep, there was no mistaking the sound of Lontra's voice. He turned his head toward the shore to notice her slick brown pelt popping out from beyond the waters. Lutris then waved at her, signifying his presence, then fluidly swam across the cerulean sea to reunite with his sibling.

Lontra was the first to speak, her concerns imminent. "Lutris, is this where you went off to? I searched for you everywhere in the land. I was afraid you went missing!"

"Lontra, I would never stray too far away from you," Lutris replied, his tone calm and soothing. "I have merely taken a liking to this place. Its vast waters contain an endless amount of adventure, and the comfort it gives me shows no bounds. I might as well consider the ocean my new home."

"W-What? You adore the sea more than you like the land? Lutris, I do not wish to lose you again, but I do not think I would like to live in such... unpredictable waters."

A small moment would pass until an idea popped into Lutris's head. "Lontra, the solution is simple. You may continue residing with the safety of the forests, while I will live among the ever-shifting tides of the ocean."

"But if we live in two different kinds of environments, we will not be able to be with each other..."

"Don't worry, dear sister," Lutris comforted with a reassuring grin, "the beach connects both the land and the sea, and we will always be able to stay within contact with each other."

Lontra felt reluctant at first, but she ultimately approved of Lutris's decision: The two otters would live their own lives in their own territories, but remain connected with one another.

With one last goodbye, Lontra returned to the forests of the land, evolving into the common river otter. Lutris swam back out into the ocean blue, eventually turning into the well-known sea otter. Were it not for this pleasant brother-and-sister duo, the world would know not of the river and sea otters it houses to this day.