

Happy New Deer!



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By Curious4ever

Based on an illustration by Chica

I guess you could say that the whole thing started the day that I decided to go exploring in the attic. I probably should tell you a little about myself before telling you about that fateful day.

My name is Jace and I'm ten years old. I don't have many friends because I am home schooled and I don't go outside very often. The reason for that is that I have severe allergies, especially to grass and trees and pollen. In addition to that I'm also allergic to dust and animals and that is why I don't have any pets. It is also the reason why I have stayed away from the attic for so long. My parents always reminded me about how dusty it was up there and to stay out of it. So I have spent a lot of my life either playing games on my phone or surfing the internet on my computer.

Then one day my parents had to suddenly go out of town for a couple of days for a family emergency. They didn't have time to get a sitter and so I was left home alone. I figured that would be a good time to do some exploring up in the attic. When I got to the top of the attic stairs it was pretty dark and after finding a switch I turned on the lights. As soon as the lights went on I saw that it was a very large room filled with cardboard boxes and various other junk. Most of it was stuff that my parents no longer wanted or needed but for some reason they didn't feel like throwing away. I opened one box and it was filled with some old clothes that I had worn when I was younger. I opened a few more boxes and found them filled with more old clothes and also old toys. There was even a box filled with old tools that my father no longer needed.

I was about to leave when I saw a large object on the other side of the room. It was a little taller than me and it was covered by a big dusty blanket. Wondering what it could be I removed the blanket and found it was a large wooden frame with a big piece of glass inside of it. The whole thing was covered with dust and I started to sneeze a few times. I could feel my nose beginning to get stuffy. But I was intrigued and so I grabbed an old shirt from one of the boxes and started to wipe off the dust with the shirt.

At first I thought it was a painting because on the other side of the glass was a very realistic looking forest. The forest looked so real but what looked even more real was the image of a very cute deer in the very center. What intrigued me most about the deer was that it was standing on two legs. In addition to that it had brown hair on the top of its head, just like me. Its body was covered by a light orange brown fur except for the chest and belly which had a lighter color fur. Its mouth was open and it looked like it was very frightened of something that it was looking at. It looked so cute as it held its front two hooves in front of his chest. But then I almost jumped out of my slippers when the deer suddenly began to move.

“What the heck!” I shouted. “That thing just moved!”

As it turned to the side I saw its short brown tail just above its furry bottom. As cute as this animal was I still couldn't get over the fact that it just moved. I looked behind the large frame and there was no forest behind it, just a dusty wooden wall. I stepped back and stared once again at the moving image.

“Maybe this isn't a painting after all. Maybe this is some kind of enchanted mirror. I must be looking at a creature from another world. It couldn't possibly be this world since I've never heard of a deer that could stand up on two legs like that. I think I saw a movie not too long ago with an enchanted mirror in it. I never thought I would find one in my very own attic.”

I looked up at the top of the frame and I could barely make out some letters faintly etched into the wood. I couldn't quite make it out but it looked like it might have said Happy New Year.

Then the deer's mouth kept opening and closing and it looked like it was saying something but I couldn't hear anything.

“I'm sorry, I can't hear you,” I said as I shook my head. “My name is Jace. Can you hear me?”

The deer just shook its head and said something else that I couldn't hear.

I must have looked just as strange to him as he looked to me. As I raised my hand and moved it towards the mirror I saw that he was doing the same thing with one of his hooves. My hand and his hoof moved closer and closer to the mirror and we both touched it at the same time.

Suddenly there was a very bright flash of light and I felt my entire body tingle. A few seconds later the bright light was gone. But after it disappeared I was surprised to see that I was no longer in my attic. Instead I was now standing outside in the middle of a forest. I looked in front of me and the mirror was still there. But now the forest image was gone and instead it showed my attic. And standing on the other side of the mirror in the attic was the deer. He looked to be just as surprised as I was. As we started to look around our surroundings I felt a strange tingling sensation on my ears. I raised my hands and touched them and they felt a somewhat different. Instead of feeling my normal ears, these ears protruded out from my head and they felt very furry.

And when I looked in the mirror I noticed that the deer looked a little different. Instead of having deer ears he now had a pair of human ears.

“Oh no, we not only switched locations but now we have each other's ears. This is so weird.”

I guess he must have figured it out too because he looked at me and then raised a hoof to his ears and he started to say something.

“Sorry, I still can’t hear you.”

We both reached towards the mirror again and there was another flash of light when we touched it. A moment later I was back in the attic and the deer was back in the forest. Not only that but he now had deer ears again. I felt my ears and they too were back to normal.

“Wow, that was so totally weird. We both got each other’s ears after we changed places. But they switched back as soon as we returned. I wonder if we stay a little longer on each other’s worlds if anything else would change. That could be fun. And since any change will go away once we return home than nothing will be permanent. How about we change again?”

I knew that he couldn’t hear me so I pointed back and forth between him and me and I think he got the idea because he started to nod his head. I was about to touch the mirror again when I suddenly had a great idea.

“We can’t communicate through the mirror but what if I record a message on my phone and have it play back when he gets here.”

I took my phone out of my pocket and pulled up the app that I was looking for and started to record.

“Hi there, my name is Jace and I think it would be fun to explore your world while you come here and explore mine. My parents are away for a few days and so you have full run of the house. So feel free to look around. My room is down the stairs and at the end of the hall. There’s also a bathroom on the first and second floor. But now that I think about it you’ve probably never used a bathroom before so maybe you should just use the backyard if you have to go. Let’s meet back at this mirror tomorrow morning so we can get back to our own world.”

I set the app to play back the message in a minute and after placing it on a nearby box I turned back to the mirror. The deer was still there and he had a puzzled look on his face. I raised my hand towards the mirror and his hoof headed for the same place.

The moment we both touched the mirror there was another bright flash and a moment later I was back in the forest. I looked in the mirror and the deer was in the attic. And he had human ears once again. And not only that but his nose looked a little different. Before it was a large black nose but now he had a small human looking nose. I reached up and touched my ears and they were deer ears. But then when I touched my nose it was bigger and felt wet to the touch. But what surprised me most was the fact that my nose was no longer stuffy. I was standing outside surrounded by all the things I was most allergic to and I didn’t feel the need to sneeze.

“Awesome! I don’t have any allergy problems with this new deer nose!”

I looked back at the deer and he was staring at my phone. From the confused look I could tell that he was listening to my message. I was sure that he had never seen a phone before and he probably didn’t understand why it was talking to him. I smiled as I thought about all of the things in the house that he had probably never seen before.

“Okay, well you should have some fun exploring my house while I start to explore your world. I will see you tomorrow morning.”

I knew that he couldn’t hear me but I said it anyhow.

I turned from the mirror and took a deep breath. It felt so good to be outside and not have a stuffy nose or start sneezing. Not only was my nose not stuffy but it seemed to be smelling so many different things. It was like my sense of smell had become over a thousand times more powerful than it had been before.

I walked away from the mirror and a short while later the large group of trees around me started to thin out and I soon was entering a very nice looking glen. There were patches of flowers all over the countryside and I could easily smell them all. There were also a lot of shrubs and bushes as far as I could see. Even though I couldn’t see any berries on the bushes I knew that they were there because I could smell them. Off in the distance I saw a very long mountain range.

A short while later I was walking past a long row of bushes. Each bush was covered with small berries. Each bush had a different color berry on it. I thought I heard something on the other side of one of the tall bushes and when I walked around it I saw a brown furred deer boy behind it. Just like the deer I traded places with, this deer was standing on two legs, had brown hair on his head and was shorter than me. He must have heard me coming because he stopped munching on the berries and looked up. When he saw me he was so surprised that he fell over backwards. I immediately walked over and grabbed his wrist in an attempt to help him up. I couldn’t help but feel his hoof as I helped him stand back up again. I’ve never been this close to an animal before and it felt very weird. Even weirder was how hard his hoof felt. I had only seen images of deer either in books or on TV and this was the first time that I actually got this close to one. In addition to feeling its hard small hooves I also got the chance to feel some of its soft fur.

“I’m sorry Mr. Deer, I didn’t mean to startle you while you were eating.”

At first he didn’t say anything and I was starting to wonder if he could talk. I just assumed that they could because the other deer had been moving his mouth but I never did hear what sounds he was making. Perhaps he was just making deer noises.

“What kind of animal are you?” he finally asked as he stared at me in awe. “I have never seen anything that looked like you before.”

He had a funny way of talking. Every so often he would let out a short snort or grunt as he spoke.

“Hi, uh my name is Jace and I’m a human, a boy. I came from another world through a mirror.”

“Who-mum? Wurld? Mirr-or? You speak many strange funny sounding words that I have never heard before.”

“Don’t you know what humans are?”

He slowly shook his head as he continued to look at me. I suddenly felt an itchy feeling just above my butt and I started to scratch it as we continued to talk.

“Oh, well that’s what I am,” I said. “I recently came here when I changed places with a deer from your worl... uh from here. You might now him. He’s about your size and he has brown hair and light fur.”

I thought about the deer for a few seconds and then I added, “Oh and he’s got some white furry spots on his leg right about here.”

I pointed to my leg to the area where I had seen his spots.

“Oh, that sounds like Tupper,” he said as he nodded his head. “I am Reed and I would like to welcome you to our herd.”

“Your herd? Oh you must mean your world.”

In addition to not knowing what humans were, he also seemed to be unaware of what planets were. I guess that was to be expected since he was a dumb forest animal. He kept looking at me and then he pointed to my pajamas with his right hoof.

“What is that thing that is covering your body?”

“What this? Oh these are my pajamas. I wear them because I don’t have fur like you do.”

The itchy feeling got worse and I had to scratch some more. I felt a strange bump back there that hadn’t been there before.

“No fur? How strange. And what are those things called?”

He placed a hoof on my free hand.

“Oh, that’s just my hand. Where I come from we don’t have hooves like you do. We have hands and feet.”

I lifted the bottom of my pajama leg and wiggled my foot. Somewhere between the mirror and here, I must have lost my slippers. Suddenly I felt something pop out from the itchy area and when I felt around back there I felt a small furry tail. It felt to be about the same size as the one that Tupper had. Reed walked behind me and looked at where I was scratching.

“Oh, I see that whu-mums have tails like we do. And you have ears like us too.”

“No,” I said as I shook my head. “Those things just recently came after I got here. I seem to be acquiring some of Tupper’s features the longer I am here. So that must mean that he is getting some of mine. I’ll bet he just lost his tail the same time I got one.”

“I’m sure that he is probably enjoying that,” Reed said. “Tupper is sort of an outcast in our herd. He is a loner. But it is by choice. We always encourage him to play games with us and to spend time with other members of the herd. But he would rather sit alone and ponder things that shouldn’t be pondered.”

“Like what?”

“Oh he is always asking how or what or why. Like what are the tiny little lights in the sky at night? And why are we here. He is constantly filled with so many questions. He is a very smart deer, perhaps too smart.”

“Well being a deer I can’t believe that he is very smart. But if he has a lot of questions then he will have a gazillion more of them in my world. There must be tons of things he is seeing there for the first time. Living out in the forest there probably isn’t a lot of stuff that you guys know. Not like me. I’m home schooled and I know a lot of things.”

The deer was very cute but I could tell that he didn’t know as much about stuff like I did because he was unfamiliar with so many words. But there was one thing that he mentioned that did intrigue me.

“So you talked about playing games? What kind of games do you play?”

“Oh we love to play games,” he said excitedly. When he became excited the number of snorts in his speech increased. “There is Rhyme Time and I Hear but my favorite game is Bonk Bonk.”

“Bonk Bonk? I’ve never heard of that.”

I suddenly felt an itchy feeling on my chest and I started to scratch it. I opened up my pajama top a little and saw that a small patch of light colored fur had started to appear on it. It was the same light color fur that Tupper had on his chest. The fur started to spread downward towards my stomach. As it spread it made me feel very itchy and I felt the need to take off my pajama top. When I did I saw that it had also spread onto my arms.

When it got to my arms it became a little darker and was sort of a yellow orange color. I wasn't used to being shirtless but at least the itchy feeling had gone away. But now the entire top half of my body from my neck down to my stomach was covered in deer fur.

"Ah I see that your fur coating is the same as Tupper's. Yes, I do see more similarities between the two of you."

I reached down and rubbed my hands over my furry chest and belly.

"Wow, this feels so soft. I've never had fur before. It's a good thing that this is only temporary and that I will change back once I get back home."

I couldn't stop rubbing my belly and feeling my fur. It was a very unusual feeling but also a very pleasant one. Then I stopped as I thought about the game he mentioned.

"Is it possible to play a game of Bonk Bonk? I would like to try it but you will have to show me how."

"I would love to show you how to play," he said with a big smile. Then he placed a hoof on my furry back. "Come and I will introduce you to the rest of our herd."

We started walking and it wasn't until a short time later that I remembered that I had left my pajama top on the ground where I had taken it off. Oh well, I actually felt more comfortable without it.

As we walked I tried telling Reed about my world but I used a lot of words that he didn't understand. He had no knowledge about computers or cell phones, or houses and cars or most of the stuff that we had back there. Instead he told me more about his herd and also about Tupper.

We soon came to another glen and there were about a dozen deer standing about on two legs. One of them finally noticed me because he tapped the one next to him on the shoulder and they both looked in my direction. Reed started to point out various ones to me.

"The one with reddish fur is Pitter, and the one next to him with the darker reddish fur is Patter," Red explained. "The one with brown fur and white spots is Tip Tap, and the three next to him is Flicker, Ginger and Speckles."

It was actually pretty easy telling them apart because each one had either different colored fur or small white or black spots of on various parts of their body. And with my heightened sense of smell I noticed that each one had a slightly different scent to them. I couldn't get over how many things I was able to smell. A deer's nose was so much superior to a human's nose. That is one thing that I would miss when I went back home.

As we got closer the one called Pitter started talking to Reed.

“Who is this strange looking stranger?” Pitter asked. He made the same soft grunts and snorts that Reed made when he spoke.

“He is a visitor from another herd,” Reed replied. “He is a friend of Tupper.”

“Tupper has a friend?” Patter asked in disbelief.

“He does look a little like Tupper,” said Speckles. “He has Tupper’s colorings and markings.”

Pitter stepped towards me and gave me a closer look.

“The more that I look at him the more that I think he is Tupper. He even has Tupper’s scent.”

The others stepped in closer and took a deep sniff and all nodded their heads.

“Yes, that is his scent,” said Patter. “And those are definitely his eyes.”

When I heard that I reached up and felt my face. My eyes did feel bigger than before. And when I touched the front of my face it felt different too. My nose and mouth was sticking out further from my face and felt like some kind of muzzle, like the other deer had. As I continued to feel around my face I found that it was covered with a soft fur. No matter where I touched on my face all I could feel was fur. In the short time that I had been speaking to them my face had completely transformed into an exact duplicate of Tupper.

Pitter smiled as he looked at my transformed face.

“Look at that!” he said as he pointed to me with his hoof. “He looks just like Tupper. He even has those little white markings under his eyes just like Tupper.”

With my head and face now resembling Tupper I could only imagine that Tupper looked a lot more like me. At least he had a mirror to see the changes to his face. I only had a vague recollection of what his face looked like.

“Come on Tupper,” Speckles said as he waved me over. “We are about to start a game of I Hear.”

I was about to correct him and tell him that my name was Jace but now that my face and scent was exactly the same as Tupper there was no way that I would be able to convince these deer that I wasn’t him. And instead of trying to explain something that they probably wouldn’t be able to understand I was more interested in playing a game. So I dashed over to him.

“Okay. Thank you. I can’t wait to play. But you might have to explain the rules to me.”

He looked up at me and smiled.

“You’re a lot taller than I remember Tupper. Does that mean that you found some of those special grow berries that you are always searching for?”

“No, nothing like that. I will explain later. Let’s play.”

“You don’t want to talk about stuff? You would rather play? Wow, that doesn’t sound like the Tupper that I know. Okay, let’s play.”

He raised a hoof to his ear and cocked his head.

“I hear with my big furry ear, something that goes chirp, chirp,” he said.

Pitter and Patter both raised a hoof in the air.

“I know, it’s a cricket,” Pitter said.

“A very large cricket,” Patter added.

Speckles shook his head.

“How about a baby cricket?” Pitter asked.

“Or two crickets?” Patter asked.

Speckles shook his head again.

“Is it a bird?” I asked.

Speckles nodded and smiled.

“Correct. It is so nice to finally have Tupper as an active part of our herd.”

A few of the other deer patted me on the back and when they did it felt like my muzzle stuck out of my face a little further.

“Thank you. I’m glad to be here,” I said and when I said it I noticed that I also had started to speak with a few soft grunts and snorts inbetween a few of the words. I was surprised to hear those sounds coming out of me.

We continued to play this game for awhile and even though I didn’t get anymore answers correctly, I still had a lot of fun playing it.

“Now before we play Bonk Bonk we should all play the warm up game first,” Reed said.

When he said that all the deer started to stand in a straight line a few feet away from each other. I felt a little confused as I tried to figure out what this warm up game was all about. Then each one bent forward and placed their front hooves on the ground.

“Uh, I don’t understand what you guys are doing,” I said as I watched Reed walk to the back of the line.

“We are getting ready for the warm up game,” Reed said. “If you want to join in you can go to the front of the line and just do what everyone else does.”

I still didn’t understand the game but I went to the front of the line and bent forward until my hands were on the ground. Less than a minute later I felt something jump over my back and land in front of me. When I looked up I saw that it was Reed and he was now crouched over in front of me. A few seconds later another body jumped over me and then it jumped over Reed. It was Patter and once he landed in front of Reed he assumed the same position in front of him.

“Oh, you guys are playing leap frog,” I said. “I’ve never played it but I saw some kids doing it on the sidewalk outside my house.”

“Sidewalk? House?” Patter said. “Those are funny sounding words. What are they?”

“Oh, uh, it’s just a new game I’m starting to create. It’s called uh, it’s called the uh, the funny word game.”

“It sounds like a very fun game,” he said. “I can’t wait to play it with you later.”

One by one the deer leaped over the other deer and continued until it was my turn to leap. The first one I leaped over was Reed. I felt a strange tingling sensation in my hands when I jumped over him and the feeling intensified with every leap. But I was having so much fun leaping over them that I tried not to pay much attention to it.

Finally I got to the last deer in line and when I got to the front of the line again I bent over and placed my hands on the ground. But something felt different when I did that. When I looked down I saw that my two hands looked very different and I was surprised to see that they had transformed into two small hooves. It must have happened while I was leapfrogging over them. I looked further down and saw that my feet were still unchanged.

“Uh oh, it’s happened again. Now I look just like a deer from the waist up. I wonder what part of me will change next.”

We played the leap frog game a little while longer until Reed shouted out and said that that warm up time was over and that we could begin Bonk Bonk. He headed over to a tall

skinny tree. At the base of the tree were large round pieces of fruit that had fallen off the tree. He stopped in front of one of them and kicked it towards Patter. I was surprised that it didn't break open from the kick but it must have a very hard shell. It rolled on the ground until it came to a stop about a foot in front of him. He started kicking it with his hoof and in very little time he had it airborne and he was bouncing it back and forth between his two legs.

"I've seen something like that before. It was in a game that I saw on telev... tell... tell a la la."

I was having a hard time remembering the device that I watched the game on but I did remember something about it.

"The game was called soccer. That I do remember."

At one point he got the 'ball' so high in the air that he hit it with his head and it quickly headed towards his brother. But before it got to his brother I saw Reed run over and jump into the air. When he leaped his head hit the "ball" and sent it flying in a different direction towards Tip Tap. He then bounced the ball off his head and it headed towards Speckles. Then I watched as Speckles bounced the "ball" off his head and it soared through a large round opening in a tree. I thought that was going to be the end of the "ball" but then I saw it roll out of a hole on the bottom of the tree.

All the deer on Reed's team starting to make very loud snorting and grunting sounds in celebration. After a few seconds of making those sounds the game started up again and the "ball" was back into play.

Reed motioned for me to come and join his team and I ran out onto the meadow and tried to play along. I spent a lot of the time watching the ball fly by me as it soared over my head multiple times. I had very little experience in physical games like this.

During the course of the game I felt a strange tingling feeling over my entire body. It wasn't until the last few minutes of the game when I noticed the effects that it was having on me. Reed had just bounced the ball off his head and it was heading towards me. I needed to jump up in order to bounce it off my head and get it into the goal. But as I jumped up into the air my body felt very weird and it felt like my body was beginning to shrink. This became very noticeable when I hit the 'ball' with my head. The moment my body was in the air my body started to shrink and my pajama bottoms slipped off me and fell to the ground. I managed to bump the ball into the hole but when I landed I noticed that I was now completely naked. I felt a little embarrassed but when I looked down I saw that fur was also covering the rest of my body. I was extremely happy to see that it was covering my boy parts. The only part of my body that wasn't covered by fur were my feet. They were now the only human parts left of me.



As Reed came over to congratulate me I noticed that we were both now the same size as each other. He also noticed it.

“You have shrunk. You are now the same size as us. Your resemblance to Tupper is very strong now. The only things left of you are your... what did you call them?”

“My feet,” I replied. “Yes, I know. And if I look this much like Tupper than he must look exactly like me except that he doesn’t have human feet. He’s still got hooves. But I wonder how long it will be before those change too.”

“I just can’t get over how much you look like him,” Reed said. “When you speak you even sound exactly like him.”

“Oh well there’s nothing I can do about that,” I said as I wrapped my arms around him and gave him a hug. “Did you see what I just did? I was able to bounce it off my head. Back home I could never play any outside games. This game is so terrific! I love it!”

I felt so happy that I started to grunt and snort very loudly.

“You may look, sound and smell exactly like Tupper but you do not act like him. He is never excited about playing games.”

“Well maybe he will act differently once he comes back from my world. I can’t imagine him having as much fun as I am. I never knew that deer could have so much fun.”

He placed his hoof on my back and patted it.

“Well if you should decide to stay then you would be most welcome. You would be a fine addition to our herd.”

“Really? Well that’s nice of you to say but I’m sure that Tupper is just as anxious to get back home as I am. But I really feel a bit tired after all that. Is there a place where I can rest?”

“Certainly, I shall take you to where Tupper lives. You may sleep in his spot.”

I followed him a short while until we came upon a large group of tall bushes filled with berries. Under some of the bushes I saw a few deer sleeping on the ground. We finally came to a stop in front of a large bush that was further away from all the others.

“This is where Tupper sleeps.”

“What? Under this bush?”

“Yes, is it different from the place where you sleep in your herd?”

“I’m not from another herd, I’m from another world. And yes, I sleep in a bed in my house.”

“Bed? House?” he said as he shook his head. “I still do not understand many of the funny words that you speak.”

“Nevermind, I guess I can sleep on the ground if that is all you have. But why is it so far away from all the others?”

“Tupper prefers his solitude. He does not like to sleep with the rest of the herd.”

“Oh, well uh would it be okay if I slept closer to some of the others? It feels kinda lonely out here.”

“Certainly, I shall take you closer to where the rest of the herd sleeps.”

He brought me to a large cluster of bushes that had several other deer sleeping underneath them. I noticed that one of them was Speckles and so I sat down a few feet away from him. As soon as I sat down I felt totally exhausted. It was still the middle of the day but I felt like it had been ages since I had gotten any sleep. I laid down on the ground and fell asleep the moment I closed my eyes.

I didn't know how long I slept for but when I awoke it was still daylight. I sat up and noticed that I was surrounded by several other deer. They were all cuddled up right next to each other. One of them had been lying with his back up against mine. I yawned and placed my hand to my mouth and that's when I remembered that it had transformed into a hoof.

I felt a funny tingling feeling in my feet and when I looked down at them I saw them starting to shrink. The toes seemed to merge together as they started to darken. They became smaller and blacker and in almost no time they had transformed into a pair of hooves that were identical to my front hooves.

"Well that's it. I have nothing human left. My body is 100% deer. I'm now Tupper's exact double and so that means that he is now 100% me. I hope he isn't freaking out about this."

I continued to stare in disbelief at my furry body.

"I can't believe that I've completely transformed into a deer. I'll bet mom would be awfully surprised if she could see me now. She wouldn't even recognize me. I bet she would ship me off to a zoo. It's a good thing that my parents won't be back until tomorrow. I should be home before they get back. I can't get over how long this day is."

I looked down at my front hooves and shook my head.

"Well now that Tupper has hands he must be very busy playing with my uh, my uh uhm..."

I stopped for a moment and tried to remember the name of the device that I always had with me.

"That's funny. I can't remember the name of that thing that I used to play with all the time. It's the thing that I used to leave a message for Tupper. I left it in the uh the uh, that big room I was in. What's it called again?"

I raised my right hoof and started to scratch my head with it. I was trying to remember the name of the large room that I had gone into where I found the mirror but the name wouldn't come to me. And I still couldn't remember what the device was called.

"Oh no, this is the second time that I've forgotten what something is called. First it was that thing that I watched that thing on and now this thing. I'm starting to forget what some things are called. Why is that happening?"

I got up from the ground and looked at the red berries that were growing on one of the bushes. As I looked at them I licked my lips.

“Yummy, brazzleberries.”

I leaned forward and opened my mouth. I was just about ready to munch on a few of the berries when I suddenly stopped.

“Wait, what am I doing? I was about to eat those brazzleberries right off the bush. But how did I know that they were called brazzleberries? We don’t have those things back home.”

As I looked at the berries growing on the other bushes I suddenly knew the names of each one of them.

“Those are snickleberries and those are dinkleberries and those are snuffleberries. I know the names of all the berries. Oh no, in addition to forgetting about some things from my world, I’m starting to remember things about this world. Does this mean that in addition to having Tupper’s body I am also getting get some of his memories?”

I thought about it and then shook my head.

“No, it isn’t his memories that I’m getting. I don’t remember any of the things that he did. It’s something different. It’s more like I am gaining some of his knowledge. Stuff that he knows about this world. So does that mean that he’s getting some of my knowledge too? That must be it. As I gain knowledge about this world I’m forgetting about stuff from my world. Not only am I physically changing into a deer but I’m also mentally turning into one as well. Oh I sure hope that I don’t forget about the mirror and going back home before tomorrow. Otherwise I might be stuck living the rest of my life as a deer!”

As I continued to look at the berries my knowledge about them continued to increase. Not only did I know what they were called but I knew which ones were the tastiest and which ones made you sick when you ate them.

“Wow, I seem to know an awful lot about berries. I probably know as much about berries as I know about comp... com... com... that’s funny, I can’t seem to remember the name of that thing that I use to go on the inter... the uh inter... ter.. in uh... Hmm, what is that thing called? I can picture it in my mind. I know that I use it every day, but not only don’t I remember what it is called, but I don’t seem to remember what it does or how to use it. Well I guess knowing about berries is more important for a deer than knowing about that funny looking thing. I really hope that when I return home that I start to remember all of the stuff I’m starting to forget.”

I lowered my head and began to nibble on a few of the berries and they were just as delicious as I thought they would be. When I had had enough of them I started to nibble on some of the leaves of the bush. Those were actually just as tasty as the berries had been. I went back and forth between eating the berries and eating the leaves. When I was done I found that I had eaten about half the berries and a third of the leaves.

“Gee, I didn’t know I was so hungry. I’ve never eaten leaves before but they were so tasty that I couldn’t stop. Berries and leaves are even tastier than cheesebur... uh chesee... cheche... Oh no, now I’ve forgotten what my favorite food is called. When I try to remember what it looks like all I can think about are berries. Tasty, yummy, delicious berries.”

I knew that I had a favorite food and I tried very hard to remember what it was.

“That’s so odd. When I try to think about food all I can think of are berries and leaves and grass. I’m not sure if those are things that I ate back home, but they are the only things that I can remember. Do humans eat the same food as deer do? I know that all three of those things are very tasty so maybe we do eat the same stuff. Oh well, if I am wrong I will find out when I get back home.”

I walked away from the bush and I had only walked a short distance when I came to a sudden stop. I slowly looked down at the two small hooves that I had recently acquired.

“I just realized that I’m walking on a pair of tiny hooves. That’s so strange. I should be having trouble standing up and walking around on them since they are so different from my feet. I guess walking on hooves is just some more of Tupper’s knowledge that I have acquired. And it just feels so natural to have them. I feel like I’ve been walking on hooves all my life. But I only just got them a few minutes ago.”

I looked up and saw Pitter and Patter walking in my direction.

“Happy day Tupper,” Pitter said. “We are so happy that we found you. We were hoping that you could play that new game with us.”

“New game?”

“Yes, the funny word game that you said you created. I was telling Patter about it and he wants to play too.”

“Oh, yeah, the funny word game. Sure we can play another round or two. Here is one for you. On really hot days you can always cool down by turning on the air conditioner.”

They both started to laugh.

“Air conditioner! That’s a real funny one,” Patter said. “I will have to remember that one. I really love this new game that you created.”

“Yes, I didn’t know that you liked to play games,” Pitter said. “You’ve always been such a loner. You are so much nicer to be around than you were before. I think I will invite you to be on my next Bonk Bonk team.”

“Hey! I was thinking of having him on my team.”

”Okay, then he can be on your team first and then he can play on mine. Whoever would have thought that Tupper would ever be this popular. How about one more Tupper? Please.”

“Okay, uh, uhm, there won’t be any school on Monday because it is Christmas.”

The both started to laugh again.

“Skool, Munday and Chrissmuss. Those are even funnier than the last ones. What do they mean?”

“Oh well uh they mean uh, uh.. they don’t really mean anything they are just words that I made up.”

The strange thing was that I remembered hearing someone say that to me in the past but now I didn’t know what any of those funny sounding words meant. It was so frustrating having words float around in my head that I didn’t have any knowledge about their meaning. But if anyone asked me about berries I could probably talk about them for a good part of the day.

“Thank you for playing that game with us Tupper,” Pitter said. “We can’t wait to play it again with you. Chrissmuss, Moofay and what was that last one?”

“It was skool,” Patter answered. “And I think he said Munday, not Moofay.”

The two deer continued to talk about the funny words as they walked away.

“Well it sure sounds like they like me. Oh, wait, what am I saying, I mean they like Tupper. I may look like him but I’m not him. But they think I’m him. And it really feels so nice having friends like this. They are just about the nicest deer that I know.”

A short time later I came across a few other deer and they were just getting ready to play a game called Rhyme Time. They explained the rules to me and they seemed pretty easy enough. One deer would start off by saying one sentence and then the next deer had to come up with the next sentence and make it rhyme. And it kept going on and on until someone was unable to make a rhyme.

I played that game for quite some time and by the time we were done I had gotten pretty good at it. Very shortly after that I played a few more games with several other deer. None of them were ones that I had ever heard of before but they were all lots of fun.

Eventually I grew tired again and I looked for a place to go to sleep. I found a spot where several deer were huddled together under some nice bushes. I found an empty spot close to the middle and I got down and huddled up close to them. Their bodies felt soft and warm and I felt safe and secure as I quickly fell asleep. When I awoke it was still daylight

and I decided to eat some more berries before tackling a few more games. It went on like that for quite some time, games, sleep, eating berries and then more games. That seemed to be all that this deer herd did in a day.

Finally it came to the time of day when the sun was beginning to set and it started to get dark out. As it got darker a strange thing started to occur. I noticed that all of the deer around me were getting down on all fours and they were now walking around like that. I spotted Reed who was also walking on all fours and I dashed over to talk to him.

“Reed, I don’t understand, the moment it started to get dark everyone started walking around on all fours. Is something wrong?”

He looked up at me and shook his head.

“No, this is something that all deer do when the darkness comes. It gets very tiring being on our hind legs all day and so when the light goes away we walk on all fours to relax. And also by walking on all fours it is much easier to eat the berries that are on the bottom of the bush. And it also makes it easier to graze on the grass. Don’t the who-mums from your herd walk on all fours?”

Since everyone else was doing it I decided to get down on all fours. And he was right. I felt a lot less pressure on my hind legs when I stood up on all four of my legs. Wait a second, did I just think about having four legs? Yes, I did. I was thinking about my front and hind legs. But why did that feel a little bit odd to me? Wasn’t it normal to have four legs? What would I have if I didn’t have four legs? For a moment I thought that my front legs might have been called something else but when I thought about them I could only think of them as legs. This must be one of those unsure moments that I seem to be having.

“Yes, you are right. This is much more relaxing. I like being on my hind legs but being on all four legs is also very nice too. And no, the who-mums from my herd do not walk on all fours. They remain on their hind legs all the time.”

“Then how do they get to the berries on the bottom of the bush? And how do they graze upon the grass?”

“I... I don’t know. I guess I never thought of that before.”

“Don’t who-mums eat berries and graze on the grass?”

“Oh I’m sure they must. After all, I love eating berries. They are my favorite things to eat. But I also like eating leaves too.”

I looked down at the grass and it looked pretty appetizing. I lowered my head and started to chew on a large clump. It was very tasty and after I swallowed it I started to chomp on another clump of grass. I looked over at Reed and he was grazing on the grass too. In fact

when I looked around all the deer were grazing. I went back to chewing on the grass and after awhile I was starting to feel a bit full. I looked up and saw that Reed was watching me.

“You must have been hungry,” he said. “I’ve never seen a deer graze for so long.”

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to take so long. It was just so tasty that I didn’t want to stop.”

“Do not apologize. There is more than enough grass for all to graze. I am happy that you enjoyed our grass.”

“It was delicious. After berries and leaves I think I like grass the best. In fact it is hard for me to decide which one is my favorite. I love them all. I can’t think of anything else that I would like to eat.”

I couldn’t wait to go back and tell the others from my herd about the tasty grass and delicious berries that were here. It was all so very tasty and I couldn’t decide which one I would eat first the next time I needed to eat.

“Come, now that we have fed it is time to go visit the others,” he said as he began walking. I quickly followed after him. It actually felt kinda natural to walk around on four hooves. I think I might have preferred it than being on just two. But it was a lot easier to play games on two hind legs so I could understand why we had to switch back and forth like this. The longer I was in Tupper's body the more things started to make sense to me.

As we walked I noticed that all the other deer were walking on all fours in the same direction. We eventually came to a stop at a wide river.

“It is now time for the crossing of the moving water,” Reed said as he stepped into the river.

I stepped into it a few seconds after Reed. The water felt so cool and refreshing on my hooves and legs. The water got deeper the further we walked into it. Pretty soon it was hitting my belly and my fur was getting very wet. At that moment Reed came to a stop and he lowered his muzzle into the water and he started to lap up the water with his tongue. I saw all the other deer doing the same thing and so I did it too. The water was very refreshing and a short time later we were walking through the water again. The water got even deeper and I found that it was necessary to swim to keep afloat. All the other deer were also swimming and it wasn’t until I had been doing it for a few minutes that I realized that this was my first time swimming. I had never swum in the water before but now here I was doing it like I had done it all my life. The knowledge had come to me without me even thinking about it. Did that mean that I would also be forgetting about some more stuff that I knew from my herd? Was herd even the right word? I thought I had used a different word to explain where I came from but now herd was the

best word that I knew to talk about that place. If deer lived in herds than who-mums must do the same thing since we are so much alike. At least as far as I remembered.

Finally the water became shallower and I was able to walk again on all fours. We came out on the other side of the wide stream and I was surprised to see another herd of deer there. But there was something different about this herd. They were all standing around on their hind legs but it was their scent that caught my attention. They all had a completely different scent to them than the ones that I knew. As we got closer I saw why their scent was so different. These were all girl deer.

I had never seen nor smelled a girl deer before and I was feeling very confused. I guess Reed picked up on my confusion because he started to explain some things to me.

“Ah, I forget that you are still new to us and so you are probably not aware of this herd of female deer. Every night we cross the river to visit them.”

He started to stand on his hind two legs and I did the same. I noticed that all the other males were doing the same thing.

“But why don’t both herds live together?”

“The two herds used to be one a very long time ago. But there were many disagreements about things and so it was decided to have one herd with just female deer and another with only males. But since we did not wish to lose contact with each other it was also decided that the two herds would be allowed to mingle with each other during every nightfall. There are times when this mingling leads to two deer becoming mates. At that time they must leave both herds and travel to a distant herd where mated deer live with one another.”

“Have you ever been to that herd?”

“No,” he said as he shook his head. “Only mated deer are allowed to go there. One day I may shall mate with Flora and then we shall go there.”

“Flora? Who’s Flora?”

Before he could answer a pair of very cute female deer came walking over to us. One of them stopped right in front of Reed and then they proceeded to rub noses.

“This is Flora,” he said once they finished rubbing noses. “And the doe just behind her is her sister Fauna.”

I looked over at Fauna and I couldn’t get over how cute and adorable she was. She had hair that was somewhat longer than mine and she also had very large eyes that were a very pretty shade of green. And she had such long slender legs that I had a hard time taking my eyes off of them. Not only did I find her physically attractive but I was also

very strongly attracted to her scent. I couldn't understand why I was having such strong feelings about her. She was a deer but there was something about her that was so mesmerizing. She walked a little closer to me and giggled.



“Fauna, I would like to introduce you to Tupper,” Reed said as he introduced us. “This is Tupper’s first visit to your herd. Up until very recently Tupper has always been a bit of a loner. But he is trying to break himself of that habit.”

I stepped even closer to her until I was looking directly into her green eyes.

“Fauna? Gee, that’s a real pretty name. And you’re just a pretty as your name.”

She giggled again and smiled.

“Thank you and I think your name is nice too. And I also think you are very handsome. Would you like to lie on the grass and talk some more?”

“Sure.”

I followed her a short distance until we came to a small hill. She stopped and started to lie down on a large section of grass. I sat down a couple of feet away from her and laid down. A few seconds later she wiggled her body a lot closer to mine.

I've never laid down on the grass before but it felt very nice. And it felt even nicer having Fauna lying right next to me. There was something about her scent that made it so pleasurable to be around her. As much as I enjoyed being with her I also was enjoying staring up into the night sky. I guess she was enjoying it too because she commented on it.

"I just love looking up and seeing all the tiny little pieces of light," she said.

"Tiny little pieces of light? Oh, you mean the stars. Yes, I like looking at the stars too."

She turned her head towards me with a puzzled look on her face.

"Stars? What a funny sounding word. I have never heard it before."

"Oh, well I come up with a lot of funny sounding words. It's something that I'm kinda known for. I hope you don't think that's odd."

"Odd? No, not at all, in fact I think it is wonderful. Tell me some more of your funny sounding words."

This was the first time I ever had a girl who was interested in what I had to say and I couldn't wait to show off for her.

"Oh, well there is bicycle, leprechaun, yo-yo, pinky, lollipop and ketchup."

She started to giggle and she had such a sweet sounding giggle. A few seconds later I started to giggle along with her. The reason for my giggling was that I thought they were funny sounding words too. The odd thing was that I remembered the words, but I couldn't remember what any of them meant. I wondered if they were the names of some of the others from my herd.

"Those all sound wonderful," she finally said after she finished giggling. "Not only are you the cutest deer that I've ever met but you are also the sweetest and the smartest."

"Wow, you really think I'm all those things?"

"I wouldn't say it if I didn't believe it."

As she continued to look at me she tapped my nose with her hoof.

"And you have the prettiest blue eyes I have ever seen."

“Oh well, uh thank you. And you have the nicest green eyes I’ve ever seen.”

Then she surprised me when she suddenly stuck out her tongue and licked me on the muzzle. Then as if by instinct I stuck out my tongue and licked her face too. Then she snuggled in closer and started to rub her nose against mine. I’ve never done anything like this before but it all felt very nice and also very natural.

I don’t know how long we spent rubbing noses but when we stopped we snuggled real close together for the remainder of the evening. Her furry body was so nice and soft and it felt so nice snuggled alongside me. At one point during the night she started to sing a song and she had the nicest sounding singing voice I’ve ever heard.

I was a little sorry to see morning come. But somehow I could sense that it was almost time for us to head back across the river.

“Well I had a really great time with you,” I said after we both stood up. “I’ve never had this much fun with a doe before.”

She leaned closer to me and rubbed her nose against mine.

“And you are the first boy that I have ever snoodled with. Please come back another night and we will watch the stars again. That is such a wonderful word, stars. I’m going to tell all of my friends that you came up with that word. And I can’t wait for you to tell me more of the funny words that you’ve made up.”

She rubbed noses with me one final time.

“I will be thinking of you until the next time we meet,” she said as she daintily turned around and started to walk away. As she walked I couldn’t help but take a look at her nice furry butt and her cute bushy tail. I smiled as I watched her cute tail as it would twitch a little every now and then.

We walked back a different route and I suddenly came to a stop in front of a large bush with pink berries on it. She stopped and looked back at me.

“Is something wrong?” she asked.

“I don’t know. As I was walking past this bush I noticed that I was not familiar with the scent of these berries. I thought I knew about every berry that grew around here but these are unknown to me.”

She came closer and smiled.

“That is because they only grow on this side of the moving water. We call them Fa La La berries and we only eat them when we are with someone that is very dear to us.”

“Oh, so a dear deer? What do they taste like?”

“I do not know. I have never come here with someone that I really liked until now. Would you like to eat some with me?”

“Sure, I love berries. I can’t wait to find out how they taste.”

I stepped a little closer to the bush and started to nibble on one of the berries on the top part of the bush. Fauna stood very close to me and started to nibble on them too. The berries were unlike any that I had ever eaten before. They were both sweet and tart at the same time. As we ate Fauna’s head got very close to mine and several times our heads brushed up against each other.

I’m not sure how many berries I finally ate but I know that it was a lot. I saw that Fauna had some tiny berry pieces on her muzzle so I stuck out my tongue and proceeded to lick them off. When I was done she started to do the same to me.

“Those are the best berries that I have ever eaten and I’m so glad that we got to eat them together,” I said joyfully. “I really like doing things with you. I never used to like being with girls but you aren’t like all the others. You’re better than all of them.”

“Thank you and I’m glad that you wanted to eat them with me. I loved them just as much as you did. And now I know how you truly feel about me and it pleases me so much.”

She started to lick me on the nose again. When she was done we started walking again.

We finally made it back to her herd and I looked around and eventually spotted Reed. I actually smelled him long before I saw him. I couldn’t wait to tell him about the fun night I had.

I waited until we had crossed the wide river before telling him about the fantastic evening that I had with Fauna. I ended it by telling him about the special new berry bush that we ate from. Reed just smiled and nodded his head the whole time I spoke.

“I am very happy that you had such a pleasant evening with Fauna. And I am glad that the two of you became friends.”

I smiled as I nodded my head. Now that it was getting brighter I was starting to dry off a little from all the swimming we had just done. Swimming was another fun activity and I wondered if I could figure out some sort of game that we could play doing it. Not only did I enjoy playing games I also had a fun time creating them as well.

“Yeah, she’s very nice. I never spent so much time alone with a girl before. Not only was she fun to talk with but she also had an extremely nice scent.”

“Truly,” he replied as he nodded his head in agreement. “A nice scent is important for a loving relationship. Especially after you have eaten together from the mating bush.”

“Loving relationship? Nah, we are just friends. I’m not in love with her. And we didn’t eat from any mating bush. I told you, we just ate some Fa La La berries, that’s all.”

“The females call what you ate the Fa La La berries but the males all know them as mating berries. You are supposed to eat them with the one you wish to mate with and if you both find them to be delicious then you are committed to one day mate with other. The fact that you both enjoyed those berries so much tells me that you and Fauna belong with each other. I felt the same way after I ate some with Flora on our first meeting. And now I look forward to our nightly meetings and eventual mating. You may try to deny that you are not in love but she has captivated you with her scent and the berries prove it.”

“But I’m just a kid, I can’t be in love. And I’m way too young to start mating.”

“For a deer you are the perfect age to be in love. Your body is telling you what your mind refuses to believe. Just give the relationship time to grow and eventually there will come a time when you two are inseparable. The berries do not lie. The two of you are perfectly made for each other. And there is nothing wrong with that. I have heard that the mating game is the best one yet.”

“But I can’t mate with her even if I wanted to. It’s morning and I’m supposed to go back to my herd. And when I do that I will never get to see Fauna again.”

“I will hate to see you leave our herd. You have been a wonderful friend, not just to me but to all the members of our herd. I know that they shall all miss you.”

“And I shall miss all of you too. But once I am gone you can get the real Tupper back.”

“You are a far better Tupper than he ever was. He isn’t half the deer that you are. I wish that you could stay with us but I understand that you need to return to your own herd.”

“Yes, even though I’ve only been here a day it feels like I’ve been away from my herd for a really long time. The nights here seem so short while the days seem to go on forever.”

“Well it was Tupper who figured out that one of our day light times is many, many times longer than our night times. He said that it was more than four plus four plus four times more than the night.”

“Uh oh. Then that means that one of your “days” is a lot longer than it is back home. I must have been gone at least a week or more.”

Reed just shook his head. “I do not claim to be an expert regarding the length of our light time and our dark time. That is something that has always interested Tupper.”

For some reason that bit of Tupper’s knowledge was just now starting to enter my mind. I remembered all of the long and carefully thought out calculations that were made and I know knew that the daytime here was almost a week in length.

“Now I am beginning to understand. An entire day has gone by here but that day is equal to a week in my time. No wonder the daylight seemed to go on forever. Well if I’ve been gone as long as I think then it is really important that I return to the mirror.”

The moment we got back to the glen the other deer were trying to decide what game to play next. I knew that I didn’t have any time to play and so I turned to Reed and placed a hoof on this shoulder.

“Well goodbye Reed. I’m afraid that I don’t have time to say goodbye to everyone else but could you please say goodbye to all them for me. Well maybe that will be a bit confusing because the real Tupper will be back soon and they won’t understand why I said goodbye since they all think that I am him.”

I felt like I was about to cry and I didn’t want him to see me do that and so I turned around and quickly scurried off. I probably could have run faster if I had gotten down on all fours but I just didn’t feel like running that way right now. I really hoped that Tupper hadn’t given up or forgotten about meeting me back at the mirror so we could change places. I didn’t know how I would be able to return if he wasn’t there.

When I finally arrived at the mirror I was shocked when I looked at the other side. I was staring at a tall creature with strange green coverings on its body. And instead of being covered in fur its body was covered by a smooth pink covering. Its face looked very flat since it didn’t have a muzzle. Its ears were also strange in that they didn’t have any fur and they didn’t stick out, instead they were very close to the head. And the creepiest thing of all was that instead of having four hooves like everyone else has, this creature had small thin wormlike things in their place.

“What an ugly and horrifying creature that is,” I said as my mouth opened wide in shock and my body began to tremble a little in fear. I held my two front hooves in front of my chest in an attempt to defend myself as I continued to stare up at the strange creature.



It held a strange looking object and it seemed to be motioning to it. As strange looking as it was I thought it seemed a little familiar. In fact this whole encounter also felt somewhat familiar. I felt like I had lived through it once before but the first time, I was the one looking at the frightened deer. As I continued to stare in awe at the ugly creature I slowly started to remember where I had seen it before.

“Wait a minute, I know who that is, that... that’s Tupper and he is in my body. I have become so accustomed to being around other deer that I had almost forgotten what whomums looked like. Golly, I can’t get over how ugly and strange looking he is.”

Even though I could see the who-mum on the other side I was unable to pick up any scent from it. I thought that odd since every creature had a scent of some kind. I was very good at recognizing scents. Just like I was very good at recognizing all the various berries and also knowing how to swim and play games. Those were pretty much all of the very important things that I knew how to do. And I felt very proud that I knew how to do these things as well as I did.

“Oh, I can’t believe that I temporarily forgot what I look like. Those strange coverings are just my pajamas. I’ve gotten so used to being covered in fur that it’s going to feel strange wearing clothes again. And those creepy thin wormlike things are just fingers. Wow, I never noticed before just how gross looking fingers really are. They are nowhere near as nice looking as hooves. Oh, and that strange object he is holding is just my... my... cell phone, yes, that’s it. It’s a cell phone. Now that I see it I do kinda remember what it is and what it is called.”

I shook my head and started to giggle.

“Gee, now I know how Tupper must have felt when he saw me for the first time. Even though I’ve only been here a short while, I’ve really gotten used to seeing everyone looking like a deer. I never realized how weird and strange looking who-mums can be. Well at least now I can go back to my body and Tupper can come back to his. I doubt that he had as much fun as I did.”

I reached behind and scratched my furry butt and then my cute bushy tail. I wondered if Fauna liked my tail as much as I liked hers. I shook my head as I continued to stare at the creature on the other side of the mirror. Even though I knew it was my body I couldn’t stop thinking of it as some ugly and deformed looking creature.

“I can’t believe that this what my who-mum body looks like. It doesn’t even have a cute bushy tail. Oh, I feel like such a silly little deer for forgetting what who-mums look like. And also for getting so scared when I saw one. It’s going to feel so weird going back to a body that isn’t covered in fur. I hope I can get used to looking like that again. Just look at Tupper. He seems to be pretty excited about something. He keeps talking but I can’t hear what he is saying.”

I was surprised when he suddenly threw the cell phone through the mirror and it landed on the ground a short distance away. I noticed a few other strange things lying on the ground. There were a few small round balls that after staring at them for a few seconds I finally remembered that they were called marbles. Now how did those get there? They must have been thrown through the mirror by Tupper, but why? Was he trying to figure out how to send something safely through the mirror. Before I could ponder that any further the cell phone began to playback his message.

“Hello Jace, or should I say Tupper,” it said in my old voice. I was so used to hearing my deer voice that I had completely forgotten that I once sounded like that. When he spoke there was no grunting or snorting of any kind and it sounded very strange.

“So nice to finally see you again. It’s been a lot longer than you originally planned. As you probably have figured out, a day lasts much longer on that world than it does on this one. An entire day there lasts about a full week. And another interesting thing that I’ve also discovered is that time seems to flow differently between our two dimensions. That’s such a great word, dimensions. Being a dumb little deer you probably don’t even remember what that word means.”

I didn’t like being called dumb but he was correct, I vaguely remembered hearing the word dimensions but I couldn’t seem to remember what it meant. I slowly shook my head as I tried in vain to remember the meaning of the word.

“So even though a week has passed by for you, it’s been an entire month since I traveled through the mirror. I see that you’ve fully transformed into my old body just like I’ve transformed into yours. And I can’t believe that I used to look like that. Based on that frightened look on your face you’ve turned into a timid little deer, just like the rest of them. This world that you live in is so amazing. It is filled with so many interesting devices and people, and I can’t get over how much there is to learn about it. Oh, and I really love having hands and feet. I can’t get over all of the amazing things that I can do with them. They are much more practical than those stupid deer hooves.”

I looked down at my hooves and shook my head. “What’s he talking about? I don’t see anything wrong with these hooves. I think they’re kinda cute.” I pounded them together and they made a nice clacking sound. “And they sound nice too. They are a whole lot nicer than those wormy finger things he’s got. Those things are so gross looking.”

“I hope that you are enjoying that world as much as I’m enjoying yours, because I’ve decided to stay here permanently and take over your life. So that means that you will have to remain there and spend the rest of your life as me. I’ll bet that after all this time that you’ve probably grown very comfortable being in that body, just like I am in this one. And just like me you have probably forgotten some things about the world that you are from. I’ve gained so much knowledge about this world since I arrived. Knowledge that used to be yours. I’m much smarter than I ever imagined that I could be. And I’ve been gaining so much of your knowledge over this past month that I doubt you have hardly any of it left. By now you’re probably just as dumb as all those other stupid deer.”

“Dumb? I’m not a dumb deer!” I snorted as I started to stomp angrily at the ground with my right hoof. “Okay, I may have forgotten many of the things that I once knew but I still know other things. I know the names of all the berries and which ones are the tastiest and which ones make me sick. And I also know how to play lots of games. I know the same things that all the other deer knows and why does any deer need to know more than that? Those are all very important things to know.”

I was feeling pretty angry and I tended to snort a little louder when I felt that way. I needed to calm down because I wanted to hear the rest of his message.

“As for the knowledge of mine that you’ve acquired, you can keep it. You probably feel that all that stuff you know about berries is so important. Well for a dumb deer it is, but not for me, not anymore. After living here for all this time there is no way that I intend to go back and being a dumb little forest animal again. I will leave that life to you. By the time you get to this part of the message it will be too late for you to return.”

I wasn’t sure what he meant until I looked up and saw that he had a large hammer in his hand. He had a malicious grin on his face as he aimed the hammer at the mirror. I held up my right hoof.

“No! Don’t do it! Don’t break the mirror! If you break it I will be trapped here!”

He continued smiling and waved goodbye as he swung the hammer at the mirror. I saw a large crack form on the glass and a few seconds later it shattered and fell into a million pieces on the ground.

The phone continued to play its message.

“Well goodbye Tupper. I hope you enjoy your new life as a dumb deer because I’m definitely going to enjoy my life as a human. And thank you once again for giving me the chance to trade places with you, even if you didn’t intend on making it permanent.”

The cell phone went dead and I could see that it was out of battery power. Well there was no way to charge it here. The image of the who-mum on the other side was gone and it was now just an empty wooden frame. I looked at the words engraved on the top of the frame and saw that they were actually a lot easier to read on this side. I thought that they said Happy New Year but now I could see that they actually said Happy New Deer.

I looked down in disbelief at my body.

“I can’t believe that he did that. He purposely broke the mirror and stranded me here. What a mean thing to do. I can’t believe that I’m going to spend the rest of my life as a cute furry deer. How could he do that to me, how could he...he...”

I stopped for a moment and then thought about what it actually meant.

“Wait, why am I so upset? I’ve had more fun here in this short amount of time than I’ve ever had before. Back home I was stuck inside and I couldn’t go outside and play with the other kids. But here I can stay outside as long as I like and I can play lots of games with the others. Actually I think I came out the winner in this encounter. He may think that I’m dumb but he’s the dumb one. I’m definitely much better off being a deer. Let him keep my old life as an ugly who-mum. This deer body is so much better looking than that the horrifying body he’s got. And everyone here likes me better than they did him. I’m a much better Tupper than he would ever be.”

An image of Fauna appeared in my mind and I smiled.

“And now I’ve got the chance to spend a lot more time with Fauna. I still can’t get over how pretty she is and her amazing scent. I can’t wait to smell her again and rub noses. And I really love the way her tail sometimes twitches when she walks. And who knows, maybe Reed is right and Fauna and me will become mates one day. I don’t know what that will be like but I’m sure it will be great especially if it means that I get to be with Fauna. She’s the most beautiful doe I know.”

I turned away from the broken mirror and started to run back as fast as my tiny hooves could take me. I was giving them quite a workout today but I knew that they were up for the challenge.

“I’m so excited to see what game my friends are playing now. I sure hope it’s Bonk Bonk. That’s my all time favorite game. And then after that we can play the funny word game. I may have forgotten a lot of words that I once knew but I still remember a good amount of funny sounding words even if I don’t know what any of them mean anymore. But who cares what they mean as long as we get to play the game. Silly who-mum thinks he knows what is important but us deer know what is really important.”

As I ran away from the mirror I quickly forgot all about it and the ugly looking who-mum on the other side. I began to think about more pleasant things like being with all my deer friends and also Fauna. The more I thought about them the less I thought about the ugly who-mums. I still remembered that I used to be one of them but now that was no longer important. I was a deer and as far as I was concerned that was the best thing to be and I couldn’t be happier. I had to admit that the words on the mirror were very accurate, I was definitely a happy new deer.

The End