SAD SPOTS
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One morning, little Zede, the giraffe, woke up sad. His best friend had moved far away. He didn't want to get out of bed. If he couldn't play with toy boats on the river with Lulu, have a picnic with Lulu or draw pictures with her - then what was the point of getting up?
He dragged his feet as he went to the bathroom to wash his face. But he was in for a surprise. Just as he turned on the water, he heard a sound - PLOOP! -
One of his spots had fallen into the sink. One of the light brown spots from his right cheek had gone down the drain of the sink! Zede was shocked. He went to the kitchen, holding his cheek!
He sat down at the table for breakfast. Just as he was reaching out to take a plate, it happened again! One of the spots on his right arm fell onto the table.
"You don’t look so well sweetie. What’s wrong?" asked Zede’s mom.
"I’m not hungry. I’ll go lie down for a bit." replied Zede.

He went to his room. He layed on his bed in silence, staring at the ceiling. Everything had been so good when Lulu had been there. Why did she have to go?
Just then, Zede heard a knock at the door. He stood up. When he looked down at the bed, he noticed that a few more of his spots had fallen off.
They lay, like potato peel pieces on his blue flowered sheets.
The door opened. It was his mom.
- “I’m worried about you dear,” she said. She noticed that Zede was missing some of his spots – it was easy to see.
"Are you okay sweetie?", she asked. I think we should see the doctor.
In fact, Zede didn’t want to leave the house at all. But, when he saw that his mom was worried, he reluctantly agreed to go to the doctor. By the time they got to the doctor’s office, Zede had lost all of his spots!
His spots had fallen off everywhere – on the road, in the car, and even on the door mat of the doctor’s office! The doctor gave Zede a check-up. He said that there was nothing physically wrong with Zede. But then why were his spots falling off? The doctor told them that maybe something was making Zede feel sad and that perhaps that could have caused it.
When they got home Zede’s mom asked him, “You seem sad Zede. Would you like to talk about it?” Zede didn’t know what to say. He really didn’t feel well. But, he didn’t know how to explain how he felt.
“Would you like to draw a picture?” asked his mother. Zede liked this idea. Sometimes, when Lulu and he didn’t know what to do, they would draw pictures too. Just like they used to, he drew whatever came to his mind.

In his drawings, there were black and white striped zebras with cute yellow ribbons around their ears - just like Lulu...
"I think I miss her, mom. Sometimes I feel angry that she left."

"I understand, Zede. It must be hard for you for Lulu not to be here anymore."

"Why did she have to leave?"
“Sometimes we have to move, Zede. The place they went to has weather and food that is better for zebras. Perhaps Lulu and her family will have an even better life there.”

This was hard for Zede to understand. But, he was happy that it could be good for Lulu.
“Do you think Lulu will be happy there?” Zede asked. Even though he always wanted Lulu to be happy, it upset him a bit that she could be happy without him there.

“I don’t know, but I am sure she misses you. If you’d like, we could write her a letter.”

Together with his mom, Zede wrote a letter to Lulu. In the letter, he told Lulu everything he had been doing. He also drew a picture. He drew a picture of Lulu’s favorite tree and then he colored it very nicely.
“It felt good to do this,” he told his mom.

“I’m glad, Zede. Look at your arms! Your spots are already starting to come back.”

Zede felt much better.
“Lulu’s favorite flowers grow next to the lake. Can we dry one and put it inside the letter?,” he asked his mom. He wanted to send Lulu anything she may be missing.

- “Of course, why not,” answered his mom. They got ready and went down to the lake. While he was down by the flowers Zede met a small frog. It hopped left and right and showed off its dance moves.
“What are you doing?” Zede asked the frog.

“I am saying hello to the migrating birds,” replied the frog.

“They can’t see you,” said Zede. “They are too high up in the sky.”

“It’s okay. It is still fun to do it. If you’d like you can come again tomorrow and dance a greeting dance with me,” said the frog.
- “Alright. By the way, my name is Zede. What’s your name?”, he asked.

- “My name is Piril. Then I guess I will see you tomorrow.”, replied Piril the frog.
The next day, after Zede had finished his breakfast, he went to the lake's edge to meet with Piril.
They danced together. Then, they watched the orange fish that were swimming in the lake. Pırıl introduced Zede to Bilge the turtle.
The turtle told them happy stories. Zede and Piril were have a very nice time together. Almost all of Zede’s spots had returned.
That evening as they sat next to the lake, Piril had a question.
- “Where do the migrating birds go?”, she asked
- “I don’t know, but maybe they are going to find a better life.” Replied Zede.
It got late and it was time to go home. Piril and Zede agreed to meet the next day. That night Zede wrote another letter to Lulu. In the letter he told her all about Piril. He still missed Lulu.
But he was also happy that he had met Piril. “It would be amazing if you were here too.” Zede wrote in the letter. “But, I do hope that you are very happy where you are now.”
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