

PUSTE, THE DANDELION WHO DIDN'T WANT TO FLY



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The dandelion clock stood round and full in the sunny meadow. Suddenly the wind blew hard. Whooooosh! White fluffy seeds floated up and away. They danced and twirled in the bright sky. But one little seed named Puste stayed behind on the green stem. He watched his brothers and sisters disappear into the clouds. Puste felt very alone.



Puste wiggled and jiggled on his stem. He tried to jump into the wind. Hop! He tumbled down into the soft grass instead. Puste looked up at the empty sky with sad eyes. Everyone is gone, he thought. Maybe I am too heavy to fly. He sat quietly in the green grass feeling left behind.



A tiny red ladybug with black spots crawled through the grass. His name was Kalle. He saw Puste sitting all alone and climbed up close. Why are not you flying with the others? Kalle asked in his small voice. Puste shook his fluffy white head sadly. I cannot fly like they can, Puste whispered.



Kalle tapped his little legs on the ground, thinking hard. His antennae wiggled with excitement. I have an idea! he shouted. Kalle scurried around the meadow looking for special things. He found a big dry brown leaf and a small straight twig. Come see! he called to Puste. Let us build a boat! Puste's eyes grew wide with wonder.



Kalle and Puste worked together in the warm sun. They pushed the crunchy leaf across the grass. It made a scratchy sound. The little stream sparkled nearby. Puste carefully climbed into the leaf boat. Kalle placed the twig in the middle like a tall mast. Perfect! said Kalle, clapping his tiny feet. Now we are ready for an adventure!



Kalle gave the leaf boat a big push. Splash! It landed gently in the cool water. The boat began to glide downstream. Puste held onto the twig mast tightly. Look! he shouted with joy. Green frogs sat on lily pads. Silver fish swam below. Colorful dragonflies zipped past. The flying seeds never see these beautiful things! Puste smiled his biggest smile.



Dark clouds suddenly covered the sun. Plop! A big raindrop fell right into their boat. The leaf rocked back and forth. Splash, splash, splash came more drops. Hold on, Puste! yelled Kalle. Puste grabbed the mast with all his strength. He did not let go even when the boat wobbled. You are so brave! cheered Kalle proudly.



The rain clouds moved away quickly. Sunshine returned to the stream. The leaf boat sailed smoothly again through calm water. Puste felt proud of himself. I was scared but I did not give up, he said. Kalle nodded happily. That is what real courage is, the ladybug replied. They floated past tall reeds and smooth stones, enjoying their peaceful journey together.



The stream curved gently to the right. The leaf boat floated toward the soft riverbank. Bump! It landed in dark, rich soil. Puste stepped off carefully onto the ground. The earth felt cool and cozy under him. This feels like home, Puste said quietly. Kalle smiled at his friend. You found the perfect place to grow! he said happily.



Puste settled into the soft soil by the water. Kalle prepared to leave on a new adventure. Thank you for helping me, Puste said. You are the best friend ever! Kalle waved his little legs. You taught me that everyone has their own special path, he replied. They promised to visit each other soon. Kalle crawled away through the grass.



Days and weeks passed by the riverbank. Warm sun and cool water helped Puste every day. He felt his roots growing down deep into the earth. Green leaves began to sprout around him. Puste was changing and growing bigger. He felt happy and strong in his special spot. Other plants nearby became his new friends. He belonged here perfectly.



One bright morning, Puste woke up feeling different. He had grown into a beautiful yellow dandelion flower! His petals shone like the sun. Buzz! A familiar sound came closer. It was Kalle returning to visit! The ladybug climbed onto Puste's soft petals. What a cozy place to rest, Kalle said. Puste glowed with joy, happy to help his dear friend.



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