

Rue and the Rainbow Stone

Wonder does not always need to come home.



Rue found the rainbow stone beside the lake. It shone pink, green and gold beneath a thin sheet of water. He had never seen anything quite so beautiful.



He reached down and lifted it carefully. At once, the colours faded. In his dry paw, the stone looked plain grey, with only one little white stripe.



Rue dipped it back into the water. Pink, green, gold! He lifted it again. Grey. He blinked at the stone. 'Where does your rainbow go?' he whispered.



Grandad Rabbit crouched beside him. 'Let's look,' he said. They turned the stone slowly in the sunlight. Tiny colours flashed along its wet, smooth surface.



Rue wanted to carry the rainbow home. He filled a small clear cup with lake water and placed the stone inside. The colours glimmered against the glass.



But as they walked towards the picnic blanket, the water sloshed over his paws. Rue stopped. Carrying a little piece of the lake was harder than he expected.



At the blanket, he set the cup in the shade. The stone seemed dull again. He moved it into a sunbeam, and a green shimmer winked back.



'It needs the water and the light,' Rue said. Grandad nodded. Rue thought about the smooth place where he had found it, with sunlight dancing over the ripples.



He took the stone back to the shore. This time, he placed it gently in its shallow pool. The rainbow returned, brighter than it had looked in the cup.



Rue fetched his drawing book. He painted a grey oval, then swept pink, green and gold across it. His picture did not sparkle, but it helped him remember.



Before leaving, Rue showed a passing duck where to look. 'Stand here,' he said. 'Wait for the sun.' Together, they watched a golden line appear under the water.



Rue went home with his picture and sandy paws. The rainbow stone stayed beside the lake, where light and water could make their quiet magic again tomorrow.

The End

A little story. A moment to share.

What did you notice?

Which moment would you like to talk about?



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