

The White Hare and the Vain Owl

Long ago, in a lush and peaceful forest, lived a white hare who ran like the wind and helped everyone. She was called Neueta because her fur was as white as the snow on the mountaintops.

All the animals loved her because she was kind, cheerful, and always shared what she had.

But high atop a giant oak tree lived a very elegant owl with shimmering feathers and a proud gaze. Her name was Dr. Ullsgrans, and every morning she looked at her reflection in a pond that served as a mirror.

One day, she called to her mirror and asked:

“Little mirror of clear water, who is the most beautiful animal in the forest?”

And the mirror replied:

“You are very beautiful, dear owl, but the most beautiful is Neueta the hare, inside and out.”

The owl was furious. She couldn’t understand how a simple hare could outshine her! So she plotted to scare her and make her leave the forest.

Using a disguised voice, she climbed down from the oak tree and offered her a bright red apple.

“Taste it, sweet hare. It will make you even more beautiful!”

But Neueta was ready. She saw the owl’s eyes sparkle and replied with a smile:

“Thank you, Mrs. Owl, but I am happy just the way I am.”

The owl, ashamed, hid among the branches. All the animals, seeing the hare’s kindness, congratulated her.

In time, the owl understood that true beauty resides in the heart, and she stopped using the mirror every day. Instead, she began telling stories to the little birds in the forest.