

## THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

Long ago and far away in a time when the world was first created, there was a rainbow bridge to Earth.

The world was beautiful.

Trees, streams, mountains and valleys, deserts and plains wound their way over the planet.

Birds made nests, fish swam in crystal clear waters, frogs hopped, squirrels scampered and roosters crowed to greet the Sun every morning.

The angels were pleased.

One angel in particular, whose name was **Ariel**, looked down at the Earth in **AMAZEMENT!** So **Ariel** did a

little hop, skip and a jump, landed on the rainbow bridge and WHOOSH!.... Slid down all those colours straight to Earth.

" Ah... I am so amazed " she said to a cohort of other angels who watched her from above. " There is **BEAUTY** all around!"

A bee step just then and said "buzz buzz... Ariel the angel, there are bears near my nest." "Oh", said Ariel, "I will help them to eat the apples from the apple tree instead."

So without them even knowing it, Ariel led the bears to the apple tree.

Now the time that Ariel came was as I said, long ago, so long ago that people paddled canoes up-and-down the Lake where they lived. They were the people of the Ktunaxa ('k-too-nah-ha') the people of the Lake.

They lived on the land, fished the waters and gave thanks every day for the bounty of life all around them. They also had potlatches, a celebration where they gave what they had a way to one another, the more they gave the richer they were. They did this because they knew about the dragon that lived in a secret place inside of us, the dragon of greed. The dragon, legend has it, hordes silver and gold, and clothes, food and toys and tools and thinks they are all

**HIS!** He wants things **NOW**, and must have them for himself.

The Ktunaxa ('k-too-nah-ha') people knew that the dragon was always there, so in defiance of greed, gave things away and shared what they had with others around them. They also shared with family and friends. They even shared what they had with strangers.

Much much later, when more families began moving to the Lake, and Ariel had been on the Earth for a long long while, the people of the Ktunaxa ('k-too-nah-ha') saw that those who came did not know about the dragon and began to keep things for themselves and become more and more impatient.

We need help, they prayed, not for us but for those who came after us.

Ariel the angel of amazement, heard their plea and knew exactly who to turn to.

**Electro**, the angel of strength flew down the rainbow bridge and upon arriving said in a loud strong voice "Enough! I bring strength!" With **Electros** help, people began to lend a hand, wait for others and not ask for so much. They began to **feel** better too.

Now there was a fish in the waters of the Kootenay Lake, named after the people who lived there, and who still lived there. **Francesca** the fish was older than most and had learned to wait patiently for all things.

She knew that everything had its time and its place and all you needed to do was learn to ride the waves of the water, even in stormy weather. She learned to swim with the currents, not against them, and by doing so enjoyed her life immensely.

She had a special friend, Emma, who lived far to the north by the ocean. She was as long as Emma's arm.

One day she watched as a flock of geese landed near her little eddy by the banks of the shore.

Most of the geese, she noted to herself, stayed together and were content to roost in the sandy beach or by the reeds near the rocks. One gander named Gus was curious to explore past the boundaries of the

Sandy beach. So curious in fact that he constantly got into trouble for pushing past fences, gates and even garden doors! This happened almost every day! He didn't mean to be pushy, he was just being curious.

Francesca knew that he had forgotten the Golden Rule of all geese, namely, to honk first before moving through the barriers put in front of him.. That way others would know he was coming and would either move out of the way or warn him of the dangers behind the fence. Gus was simply too young to know better.

Francesca watched as time and time again Gus got into trouble then she noticed that he slowly learned to honk first, which alerted the other geese in the flock to

help protect and guide him. Soon, Gus was playing happily while still being curious, and all the other geese around him loved his curious nature. He no longer got into trouble.

Now near Gus the gander, lived a very special family who lived in a house of light. They had chosen to move to live near the Kootenay Lake and raised their family there, near the water they could canoe on like the people who lived on the shores long ago.

They loved to live where bees, bears, fish, swans, birds, bees and apple trees grew.

Their names were Mama and Mom, Franny and Theo. They had a dog named Darwin who loved to run away



even though he loved and protected them. Sometimes he just couldn't help himself. In their house lived an angel even they didn't know about, but guessed was there at times; especially when everyone felt so warm and safe and loving with one another. Iggy, was his name, and he was an angel of light.

He loved his special family and often sat on Mama's shoulder when she was making films that so many people enjoyed. Iggy so loved her films that he sent ideas in the form of inspirations. Mama was the kind of person who could catch those ideas and turn them into golden images.

Iggy brought his light to everyone, Franny and Theo got sprinkled with light crystals every day but especially when sleeping. They would sit by their side and dip into his Jar of light and sprinkle their dreams with all good things, like kings and queens and princesses but now we are getting ahead of the story.

Their house of light got even brighter when Iggy read Mom's poetry. Mom knew how to dig deep into the nature of words which even the angels listened to. Each word, carefully crafted, was like adding even more light to Iggy's soul and he knew that he would never ever leave. Light, as he well knew, was truth inside us. He

vowed to live by this truth and help his very special family do the same.

Now one night while everyone was sleeping the King of the dream world came to visit. Iggy had told him that the children needed a little help being patient and respectful of not only with one another but with themselves. So the king arrived with his golden sword and cut away impatience , pushiness, dominance and despair from the hearts of all those sleeping there.

The next day, on a ledge near another lake called the Slocan Lake over a mountain and through another Valley, lived the swans. They arrived in late fall from the far North to Winter on the shores of the Lake,

where they felt safe and warm. Lily and Leo were trumpeter swans. They waited patiently without pecking each other while their mothers, Lane and Lanie, flew off in search of dinner. Lily and Leo lived on the Mountain ledge for quite some time, until they grew some white wings of their own and could fly high in the sky over the Mountain, trees and streams, where the bears, squirrels and bees made their home.

One day while they were flying together they saw a water Nymph whose name they learned was Noel. Noel was a happy nymph, so happy in fact that it was eternal Spring around her. Butterflies flew in-and-out of her hair, while rushes at the shore swayed to the sound of

her tinkling laughter. Noel was happy because she thought she lived in the most beautiful place in the world. She could also see Ariel, the angel of amazement, and Electro, the angel of strength, and Iggy the angel of light. They were friends. It was Noel well who introduced them to Olivia the angel of love.

"Oh!" Olivia said when she met them all, I love you Ariel, Electro and Iggy! And as our very special family, Mom , Mama, Franny and Theo already knew: love is what **makes** family.

Sometimes Iggy invited Olivia to sit by the bedsides of his family and while he sprinkled light crystals from his jar of light, Olivia would warm their hearts and ease

all tensions a day can bring, until everyone slept deeply.

That was when the dream Prince and Princess would arrive. In the warm dreamy minds of the children, but also in Mama and Mom's ear, they would whisper reminders of help and support for the next day. "Count to 10 or more when you want something..." They said one night, or "watch and look first before jumping into the dance, there will be a time to act. Come on watch and listen for it. The right time always comes.

The Queen of dreamworld was pleased when the Prince and Princess whispered these reminders to this very special family, because she remembered that it was not that long ago that they needed those reminders

themselves. The Queen then took out her golden quartz sword and circled it high over the forms of the children and their mothers saying, "Quietly travel upon your quests, patching your quilt as you go, for rips and tears will happen along the way."

The Queen with the help of her sparkling quartz sword gave them the resolve to patch their quilts.

They had another friend, Rhian the rabbit who lived up the hill, in a backyard den. She really liked where she lived because she could see the Kootenay Lake winding its way westward on its way to the ocean. She also knew Iggy and Olivia quite well. In fact she sometimes hopped down the hill to visit with Darwin their dog. She

loved them all so much that she would sit and make up stories to tell them. They were like her family too.

Rhian hopped up the mountain one day and followed this steep and sharply skittish stream back down the path. The stream was on its way to water the animals, plants and people who lived all along Kootenay Lake. It knew what it had to do and sometimes, in the Spring, got so excited it flooded its banks in impatience to get where it was going, shouting loudly all the while but later learned to calm down and take its time. It always got where it was going, and learned that instead of shouting it could sing instead. It liked to bring water to everything, and knew that sometimes it had to crawl



inside a garden hose to water the plants. It really liked to water an apple tree in Darwin's backyard.

The Tree was older now, and had seen more than a few children swing under its branches. Franny and Theo liked to climb it but when they were little they would sit on his swing under one of its strong limbs. One day Franny fell off and hurt herself. The tree of course, was devastated but could do nothing so he besieged the heavens by shaking his green and shiny leaves. As Frannie cried and Theo ran to get Mom, Ualani Uplifting angel of the heavens arrived to help. She always knew when anyone in the family was hurt and though they could not see her, or even feel her

presence, she was there nevertheless. She too lived in the undergrowth of dreams. When understanding dawned after a disagreement or difficulty, you can bet that Ualani was there.

Iggy's family lived in the little town of Nelson which lies in the Valley which holds the Sun in its embrace every morning and every evening. The Valley loved its job, and looked forward to those precious few moments when the Sun arrived to hold it within its embrace. It knew the value of the Sun which warmed all things and gave them life. It also held the waters of the glacier within its various fingers and let them stream down to bring the joy of growth into all things living. The Valley

knew how very vast the Sun and the water really were and was so proud to behold them.

Then the wild wind whipped the waters of the Lake into a wary wall of foam and froth. Francesca the fish swam to the very bottom as she always did at times like this, for even she did not like the wildness of the wind. Noel asked the wind to calm down. Olivia warmed up the wind with her loving heart until the wind on the water became warm and still once more, like a child asleep upon the bed.

And because the children, like the wind, sleep, Xavier, another angel made his appearance. Xavier brought his xylophone with him and gently played it in their dreams.

Yvette, the last angel to arrive, (as she only comes at night when the stars in the moon are out) quietly chants to all who sleep under this house of light....

**Yes you are beautiful.**

**Yes you are strong.**

**Yes you are light filled.**

Zoey the zebra felt it. . He just couldn't help it. He had to jump into the story somehow and that is another story waiting to be lived before it is told.

*From my heart to yours,*

***Good night.***

