

The Magical World
of
LynnLee Forest

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This is in memory of my mother, Elizabeth Kercher.

My mother loved to write, but as happens with too many people, life just seemed to get in the way of her efforts. Later in life, she wanted to do something to show her love for her two granddaughters, Lynn Kercher and Lee Kercher. She decided to write a short story that honored them. In her story she combined that love with her other passions – nature and animals. She put her story into a magical forest which she envisioned, LynnLee Forest. And, she made the story about a little bunny, Newton.

She had wanted so much to write another story, that one about her grandsons. But sadly, she was never able to do it.

When I read these pages, I don't see a story written for children. Instead, as I read the story, I hear my mother talking to her grandkids and telling them about how she saw life.

I think she would be very happy to have other children hear about a place that was magical to her, LynnLee Forest, and about a very special bunny who lived there – Newton.

I hope you enjoy this little tale as much as I do.

As you read this story, maybe you will find your own LynnLee Forest. I hope you do.

The Magical World of LynnLee Forest

It was an ordinary day in an ordinary house in an ordinary neighborhood. There was nothing very special happening as Jenny, an eight year old girl was looking out her window, at her front yard. She was watching the clouds float by, when something in the grass grabbed her attention. Something moved.



Jenny Looks Out Her Window

Look, Mommy,” Jenny pointed out the window. “Out there in the yard, there’s a little bunny rabbit. Look at it, Mommy. It has a strange look in its eye. What is it?”

Do you see it?"

As Jenny pointed, there was a flash of light in the bunny rabbit's eye



The Bunny With A Flash Of Light In Its Eye

"Mommy," she exclaimed, "look at its eye. It's shining."

Mommy rushed to the window.

"Do you see it, Mommy?" Jenny asked.

"No, Honey. I can't see a rabbit."

"But, Mommy," Jenny exclaimed. "You have to see it. Look again."



The Yard, But No Bunny

Mommy went back to the window. She stretched as far as she could to look both ways, but saw nothing. There were trees and bushes, but no bunny rabbit.

“It’s not there, Honey. It must have run back into the woods.”

“Oh, it was so cute. It was pure gray.”

Mommy stopped and stared at Jenny. “Did you say it was a gray baby rabbit?”

Jenny nodded.

“And its eye gave off a light?” Mommy asked.

“Yes, it was very strange.”

“You know what, Honey?” Mommy knelt next to Jenny. “Maybe it was Newton. You may have actually seen Newton.”

“Newton,” Jenny asked? “Who is Newton?”

“You don’t know about Newton?”

“No,” Jenny shook her head. “Who is he?”



Jenny Asks Mommy About Newton

“Well, Honey,” Mommy said. “Newton is a very special bunny rabbit. He looks after young boys and girls, just like you. He helps keep them safe.”

Jenny’s eyes got as big and round as saucers. “How, Mommy? How?”

Mommy and Jenny sat on their big couch. Then Mommy began to tell Jenny about Newton and how he got the special powers he uses to keep children safe.



Mommy Tells Jenny About Newton

It all began the night Newton was born. He lived in small forest nestled at the base of a tall, snow-capped mountain. The forest was called LynnLee Forest.”

“Mommy, I’ve heard of LynnLee Forest. But, I thought it was just a story. Is it real?”

“Oh, it’s real alright.”

“Have you ever been there, Mommy?”

“Yes, Honey. I was there one night, as I was sleeping. I dreamed of it.”

“Dreamed? You dreamed of LynnLee Forest? I don’t understand, Mommy.”



Jenny Drifts To Sleep Listening To Mommy

Mommy pulled Jenny close to her and began whispering in her ear about LynnLee Forest, Newton and things that are magical.

Very soon, Jenny closed her eyes. Her mother's soft voice relaxed her and Jenny drifted to sleep. Soon, she was floating in a white cloud. The soft words whispered into her ear parted the cloud and Jenny found herself floating above LynnLee Forest. As she drifted above the bright green of the trees and bushes, she heard the story of Newton, the magical bunny rabbit.

* * *

Newton lived In LynnLee Forest with his three brothers, three sisters, and his

mom and dad. LynnLee Forest was a wonderous place where everything was better than in any of the other forests.

Everywhere you look, you can see the magic of living. In LynnLee Forest, the birds sung louder and more beautifully. The flowers were brighter and smelled sweeter. During the hottest days of summer, the tall trees gave a cooling shade to all of the inhabitants. All in all, there was no better place to live in the whole world – no place at all.



LynnLee Forest

But with all of the wondrous things that happen in LynnLee Forest, the most amazing thing happened one winter night. It was the night Newton and his brothers

and sisters were born. The time was midnight, the hour when amazing, very special things happen.

The night was cold, but their nest was warm.



Baby Bunnies, Warm In Their Nest

Directly overhead in the cold black sky, a full moon cast long shadows across the snowy ground.



LynnLee Forest By Moonlight

In nature, something amazing happens when an animal is born. Baby animals have an instinctive need to see their mother's face as soon as they are born. They have that instinct to link with their mother so they can *Imprint* on her. When they *Imprint*, the newborn forms a bond with its mother that lasts for all time.

After Newton was born and he was ready to begin his life, he opened his eyes. He wasn't quite sure what he was going to see, but instinct told him he was going to see the most important face that there would ever be. He gathered up all his strength and forced his eyes open. Everything around him was fuzzy as it took a moment for Newton's vision to come into focus.

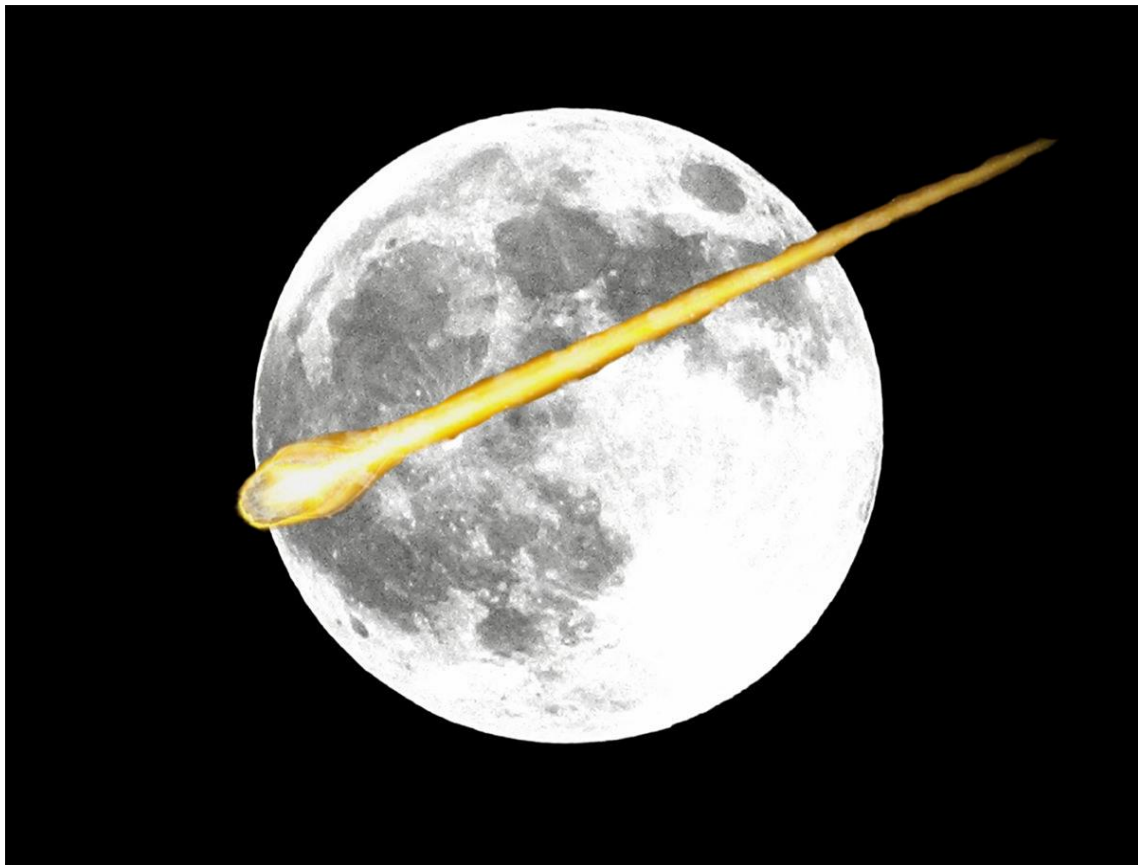
Now even though nature has a plan for how life should be, it doesn't always work out according to that plan. This was one of those times when Nature's plan didn't go exactly as planned. Just when Newton looked up, his mother was on the other side of the nest, licking Manny, Newton's just born, younger brother. As Newton's eyes focused, he didn't see his mother's face. Instead of his mother, he saw the full moon, straight over head in the night sky.



Full Moon Overhead

Newton squirmed in his nest, but kept his brown eyes fixed on the moon. His mother hopped over to see him, but Newton looked past her and kept his eyes on the moon. As Newton was staring at the face of the moon, a second bright light appeared in the night sky.

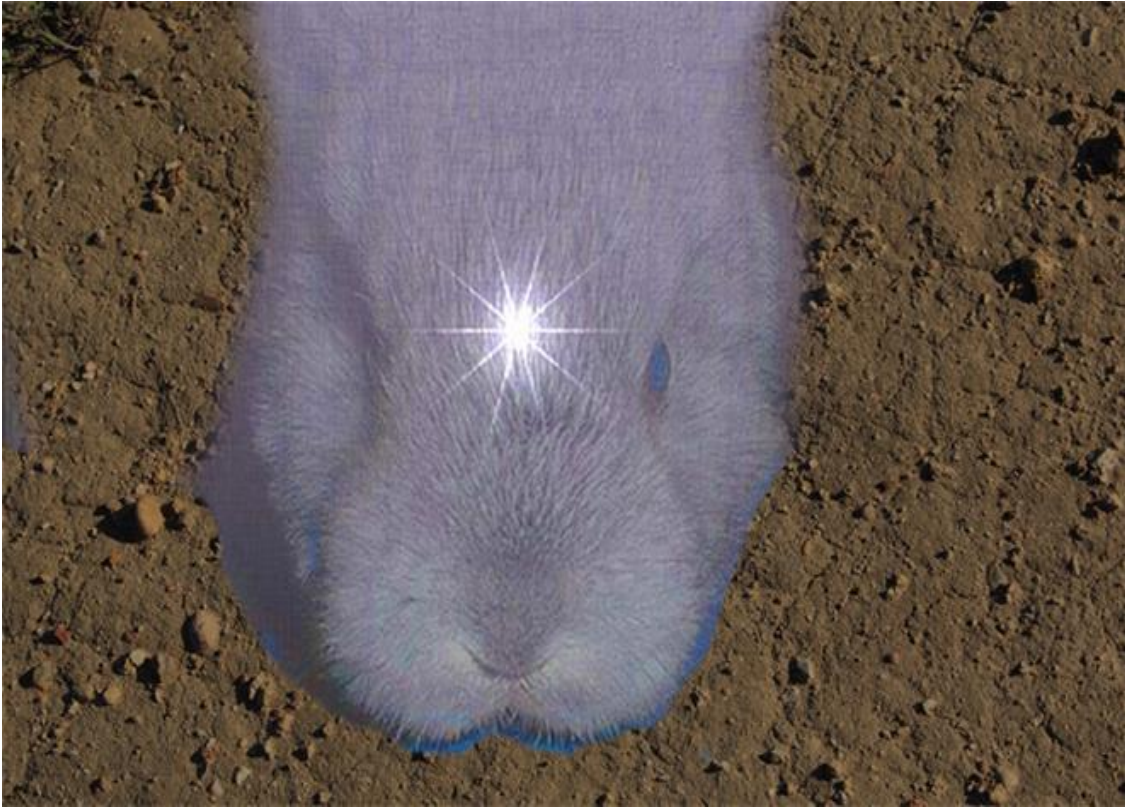
A meteor flashed to life and blazed across the face of the moon.



A Meteor Crosses The Face Of The Moon

Just as the meteor crossed the moon, the glow from the meteor joined with the bright moon light.

The two lights came together to form a single bright ball of light that settled onto Newton.



The Combined Lights Land On Newton Head

His little brown eyes opened even wider and a shiver worked its way down his little body. Newton had *Imprinted* on the moon and stars.

All of the mystical powers in the moon, the stars and the planets had been transferred to him. His mother looked at him and she knew her son had changed. She didn't know what was ahead for her son, but she knew he was now a special rabbit.

Newton was of the Heavens.

* * *

During his first month of life, nothing particularly special happened to Newton. He learned to walk and then run. He learned about the dangers that exist in the forest. Even in a place as peaceful as LynnLee Forest, there are things that can

hurt you. The first time he went off on his own he saw only too well how true that lesson was. And, he learned about his special gift.

Newton and his brothers and sisters left the forest to explore a pasture that was just over the first hill.



Bunnies Playing In A Field

They were nibbling on the tall grass and thick clover when a strange shadow passed over them.

He had never seen such a strange shadow, but while he didn't know what it was, he knew it meant danger. His brother and sisters were still playing but Newton was tense. He looked up just as a strange bird was coming straight for them, its wings pressed against its body, its claws out.



Danger From Above

The baby rabbits froze. They knew they had let down their guard and now they were in trouble. It was too late to run. Newton tensed himself. He didn't have time to decide what to do. From out of an instinct that came from the moon and the stars, a single powerful thought formed.

NO!

As soon as he did that, the bird brought its claws in, opened its wings and flew away.

As soon as the bird was gone, the seven bunnies ran across the pasture, up the hill and back into the safety of LynnLee Forest. Seconds later, they were cuddled together around their mother and father. The six other baby rabbits looked at Newton with questions in their eyes.

“How did you do that?” Manny asked.

“I don't know,” Newton said. “I just knew there was something wrong.”

That was the first time Newton used his special gift.

The second time was in LynnLee Forest, not far from their home. All of the baby rabbits were under a large oak tree, nibbling on the grass and leaves around them.

Newton stopped eating and looked up. He sniffed the air, twitched his ears to catch any new sound. Just then, a fox peeked out of the bushes.



A Fox Approaches

As soon as the fox saw Newton and his brothers and sisters, it ran for them. Before any of them could move the fox was on them.

They looked up, saw the fox and started to run, but it was too late. The fox's eyes were wide open as he aimed at Manny.

A powerful sense of danger overwhelmed Newton. He suddenly knew they were in a terrible situation. He sat straight up. Then he saw it. A fox!

As the fox opened it's mouth and was ready to jump, Newton sent out a thought. It was actually more than a thought, it was an order.

With all of the power he had been given by the moon and the stars, he sent out – ***NO! Stop right now!***



A Magic Force Comes From Newton

Then, the strangest thing happened. Just inches from Manny, as the fox was ready to pounce, it stopped. It sat and stared at Manny.



Manny

Manny stared back, scared but fascinated by what had just happened. As they looked at each other, it was if the rabbits and the fox suddenly knew it was time to end it. With that, the rabbits hopped back to their nest and the fox ran back into the bushes.

Once they were back with their parents, their mother scolded them.

“You have to be more aware of what is happening around you,” their mother told them.

“The forest is our home,” she continued. “It’s a wonderful place, but there are still dangers here. We can’t always be around to protect you. Do you understand? Newton was able to use his special gift this time, but it is up to you.”

The six other baby rabbits nodded. They had learned their lesson. They promised that from then on, they would be more alert, they would look for the dangers around them. Just because something looked like it was fun, there could be something there that could hurt them.

* * *

Jenny’s mommy stopped and gave Jenny a hug.. “And, that is the story of Newton the magical bunny,” Mommy said.

Jenny looked up at her mother’s face. “Is that really true? Is Newton real?”

“It’s real if you want it to be real. LynnLee Forest lives in your heart and in your imagination. It is all real when you hold it in your heart. Newton lives only when you want him to be with you.”

“If you know that you must always be alert,” Mommy added, “Newton will be alive. Newton can watch over you and help keep you safe, but you must also watch out for yourself. You must always be alert.”

“I will, Mommy. I like the story of Newton. And, you know what, Mommy? I

think he is real.

“I do too, Honey. I do too.”

Jenny closed her eyes and drifted off to sleep.



Jenny Falls Asleep Listening To Her Mother

As Jenny slept in her mother's lap, she entered the world of dreams and she was surrounded by a cool white mist.

Soon, the mist parted and she and found herself in a thick forest, birds were singing and a cool breeze brushed against her face. At her feet she was surrounded by small baby bunny rabbits.



The Mist Lifts Over LynnLee forest

In her dreams, Jenny had found LynnLee Forest.