

Larry and Ursula's Big Decisions



The blustery wind blew across the waving grasses
Into the swaying tree tops
On a spring day
At the edges of the forests in Africa
Four million years ago.

Larry, the energetic young monkey
With the strong long tail,
Was jumping from one tree to another
Having fun with all of his friends
Until

A big gust of wind blew the next treetop
Just out of Larry's reach.
He fell all the way to the dry ground
And felt a pain in his front arm
Much worse than he had ever felt before.

Not far away, Ursula, a kind and friendly young female monkey,
Felt her joy from yesterday turn into a big sorrow.
Her mother had gone up in the tree with Ursula's new baby brother
But the strong spring wind blew too hard
And the young little monkey fell to an untimely death.

Ursula's friends told her about Larry's accident
So she went to see if she could help him.
As she made her way through the tall grass toward Larry's clan
She made a big promise to herself –
She would never again go up a tree, ever.

For months, the two young monkeys took care of each other.
Ursula got food and water for Larry and tried to lighten his pain.
Larry understood her sorrow and the depth of her resolve to stay out of trees.
Larry's arm got stronger, but it healed crooked.
They both knew he could never climb a tree again.

Larry and Ursula were together day and night and they came to love each other deeply.
Eventually, the time came for them to start a family of their own.
When their children arrived,
They were taught to STAY OUT OF THE TREES.
They found plenty to do among the grasses and rocks.

Even when their friends made fun of them, Larry and Ursula's kids stayed on the ground,
And this tradition was passed on from generation to generation.
Year after year, the two-legged ground dwellers acquired new skills.
They wandered to the furthest corners of Planet Earth
Until today, they came to look like you and me.

And this is how Larry Longstride and Ursula Upright's big decisions
On a windy day that didn't go according to their original plans and desires
Opened up the doors of possibility for people like you and me
To walk, run and dance into the 21st Century;
And we only climb trees to retrieve kites and pick fruit.

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