

The Penguin's Little Dream



Ebru Mina TOMURCUK

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Percy was a small penguin with a big dream. He lived where the snow was white and the sky was wide. Every night, he wished he could see a rainforest. 'What would it be like?' he wondered, his sky blue eyes sparkling. His little sky blue scarf fluttered in the cold wind as he imagined tall green trees and warm rain.



One morning, Percy waddled to the edge of the ice and saw something strange. A large turtle with a glowing golden shell was waiting for him. 'Hello, little one,' said the turtle kindly. 'I am Shellby. I heard your dream.' Percy's beak opened wide in surprise. 'You did?' he asked. 'How?' Shellby smiled a slow, warm smile.



'I can take you to a rainforest,' Shellby said, 'if you are brave and curious.' Percy's heart went thump-thump-thump. 'I am both!' he cried. Shellby nodded and raised one flipper. A shimmering portal appeared, glowing like a rainbow. 'Come,' said Shellby, 'and remember: ask questions, and the world will answer.' Percy took a deep breath and followed.



Whoosh! Percy tumbled through the portal and landed on soft, warm ground. Green leaves taller than trees surrounded him. The air smelled sweet and wet. 'Where am I?' he whispered. Just then, a bird with a rainbow beak flew down. 'Welcome to the rainforest!' said the toucan. 'I'm Mira. You must be Percy!' Percy nodded, too amazed to speak.



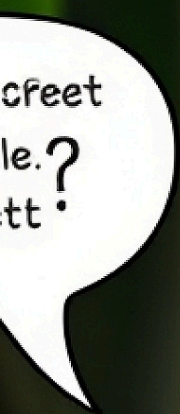
Mira led Percy through the green world. 'These are the tall trees,' she said. 'They reach up to the sky.' Percy looked up and up and up. 'Why are they so tall?' he asked. 'So everyone can find a home,' Mira answered. Colorful birds sang in the branches, and Percy's little feet danced to the music. His scarf fluttered in the warm breeze.



Suddenly, a tiny frog hopped onto a leaf. 'Hi! I'm Tilly!' she giggled. 'Want to see something cool?' Percy nodded eagerly. Tilly pointed to a dripping leaf. 'Look!' she said. 'The raindrops are like tiny mirrors.' Percy looked closely and saw his own round face reflected. 'Wow!' he said. 'I never noticed that before.'



Tilly and Percy played hide-and-seek among the giant leaves. Tilly was so good at hiding that Percy couldn't find her. 'Where are you?' he called. 'Behind the red flower!' she giggled. Percy waddled over and found her. 'You're so green, you blend in!' he said. They both laughed. Mira flew above, keeping an eye on them.



Percy had so many questions. 'Why is the air so warm?' he asked. Mira explained, 'The trees make it cozy.' 'Why do the birds sing?' he asked. 'To say hello!' chirped a bird. Percy learned that every sound and sight had a story. He felt like a tiny explorer in a giant, wonderful world.



As the sun began to set, the rainforest glowed with golden light. Percy saw fireflies twinkling like tiny stars. 'It's magical,' he whispered. Tilly nodded. 'The rainforest is full of magic,' she said. 'You just have to look.' Percy realized that his dream was even better than he imagined. He hugged his new friends, feeling warm inside.



But Percy knew he had to go home soon. 'Will I ever see you again?' he asked. Mira smiled. 'The portal will always be open for a curious penguin,' she said. Tilly gave him a tiny flower. 'For remembering,' she said. Percy tucked it into his scarf. 'Thank you,' he said. 'I'll never forget this place.'



Shellby the turtle appeared at the edge of the clearing. 'It is time, little one,' she said gently. Percy hugged Mira and Tilly goodbye. 'Come back soon!' they called. Percy promised he would. He followed Shellby back to the glowing portal. 'Did you find what you were looking for?' Shellby asked. Percy nodded. 'And so much more!'



As Percy stepped through the portal, he felt a warm breeze on his feathers. Then, whoosh! He was back on the ice, with snow all around. But something felt different. Percy felt bigger inside. He looked at the tiny flower in his scarf and smiled. He had a wonderful story to share.



Percy waddled as fast as he could to find his friends. 'You'll never believe where I've been!' he called. The other penguins gathered around. Percy told them about the green trees and the singing birds. He told them about Mira and Tilly and the magical turtle. His friends listened with wide eyes. 'A rainforest!' they gasped.



'Can we go too?' asked a little penguin. Percy nodded. 'Shellby said the portal is always open for the curious,' he said. 'But for now, I can tell you more.' And Percy shared every detail, from the dripping leaves to the fireflies. His little dream had become a big adventure for everyone.



That night, Percy looked up at the stars and thought about his journey. He realized that curiosity had taken him to a whole new world. Asking questions and exploring had helped him understand so much. He snuggled into his cozy nest, wearing his sky blue scarf and the tiny red flower. 'Tomorrow,' he whispered, 'I'll ask even more questions.'



And from that day on, Percy was always curious. He explored new places, asked new questions, and shared new stories. His friends learned that even the smallest dream can lead to the biggest discoveries. Percy the penguin had proved that with a brave heart and a curious mind, anything is possible. The end.