

Silver and Prince

Story by Beverley Randell
Illustrations by Julian Bruère



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It was springtime in the far north, and the winter snow was melting. Inside her den, a mother wolf gave birth to a litter of cubs. Two of them survived. Silver was strong, but his brother Prince was larger. Prince, with his darker coat, would be a handsome wolf one day.

Every day, other wolves came to visit the den. The cubs' father brought food for his mate. Three other young wolves sometimes slipped inside and nuzzled their new brothers.



By the time Silver and Prince were four weeks old, they would come outside the den to play. When any of the full-grown wolves came back from hunting, the little cubs would jump up and lick their faces, begging for food. Then the wolves gave them pieces of meat.





The cubs enjoyed romping together, but soon their play fights became real. After a while, Silver learned that Prince was stronger and would always bite harder. So he rolled over onto his back. This meant that Prince had won. Prince didn't bite, but he put his tail high in the air to show that he was Silver's master.

After that, Silver always put his tail down between his legs whenever Prince came near him.



The two cubs never fought again. All the wolves knew their places in the pack. The leader was the cubs' father, who was the strongest wolf of all. The other wolves all dropped their tails when he came by.

When the cubs were eight weeks old, their mother led them to a new home. It was a grassy meadow beside a creek. From now on they would sleep outside, with only the trees and bushes to shelter them from the sun and the rain. Silver and Prince enjoyed playing with the other wolves in the open meadow. They were never left unguarded.



All through the brief summer and autumn, they ran about in their home meadow. Their legs grew stronger every day. They both learned how to pounce on mice in the grass, but Silver could not jump as far as Prince, nor pounce as fast. Prince was going to be a great hunter. One day, he might become the leader of the pack.

