

Adventures of the Fire Bird

Book 1

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Prologue

A soft whisper broke the silence of the dark night. “Flame?” Flame turned from where he stood at the entrance of a cave. He walked into the cave, relieved to find it warm and comfortable. He spotted Sunfire crouching at the edge of a blazing fire. An egg gleamed at the heart of the fire. Long cracks ran down its smooth sides.

Flame watched silently as the egg shuddered. Then it cracked, revealing a tiny red bird with wet feathers. Sunfire stared at the bird, then whispered, “It’s hatched. It will be called Sunrise.”

Book 1

Sunrise stared up at the bright blue sky. It was a perfect day for flying. He soared up high into the sky, scanning the snowy ground below. Then he spotted something that glittered and flashed in the sunlight... A river. He swooped down and grabbed a fish in his talons. Landing gracefully on the ground, Sunrise lowered his beak to his sharp talons. Devouring the fish, Sunrise gazed towards his cave in the distance. He longed to rest, but he was instructed to bring home as much food as he could carry.

Sunrise dived into the water, grabbing a fish with his talons and in his beak. Soaring high into the sky, he flapped his gigantic wings as fast as he could as he headed home.

At the speed of lightning, Sunrise dived into his small home and unloaded his cargo. His parents squawked proudly as Flame, Sunrise's dad, blew a flame onto the firewood. Bursting to life, the flame simmered and cooked the raw fish, searing it into a mass of cooked meat. Flame and Sunfire helped Sunrise move the meat into the food storage room. It consisted of many barrels where they stored their food for winter in. With the weather becoming colder and colder, the family had to collect as much food as they could.

After helping his parents store their food, Sunrise flew back into the sky and soared towards the nearby mountaintops. He loved to gaze at the setting sun from the top of the jagged rocks. He also liked to go far away from home to explore the world. The sun began to become visible on the horizon. The orange light appearing, Sunrise swirled up dust as

he curled up on the ground and gazed at the glistening water disappear out of view.

Stretching his wings, Sunrise soared into the dark sky. Trying to avoid being given a tongue lashing by his mother, he darted as fast as he could to his cave like an arrow piercing through air. Diving once again to his cave, he scoured it for intruders. He was alone in the cave as his parents had told him that they would be going to the nearby mountains for dinner. Sunrise entered the food storage room and took out some fish from a barrel to eat.

After munching on the fish, Sunrise snuggled up next to the fire and soon, he drifted off into a deep sleep.

The next day, Sunrise woke up to the sound of rustling outside his cave. He opened his eyes, still groggy from waking up. Stretching his wings, he roamed around the cave. Then, a thought came racing back to him. *"Where's Mom and Dad? I thought they would be home by now."* Sunrise shivered at the thought of his parents disappearing. His mind then drifted to the rustling sound. Carefully prowling out of the cave, Sunrise noticed a piece of paper caught in the treacherous branches of a bush. Grabbing the sheet, Sunrise scanned the torn page. Each word by itself sounded dreadful. Then, he realised the horrible truth.

Sunrise flew off into the skies, tears welling up in his eyes. He flew towards the cliffs, and curled up. Howling, he cried and cried until his eyes dried up. *"How... HOW!!!! Why, why did they have to go there? They were already tired and weak... No, no, NO! I'm all alone now. They apparently had been caught in the blizzard and fallen... if they had gone further just a bit, maybe, just maybe, they could have been saved... I'll never even get to say goodbye..."* thought Sunrise, whimpering.

He then got up and shouted to the sky, "I am not afraid! I will not give up! I will continue my journey and I will find a way to bring them back, no matter what happens!" And Sunrise flew off into the distance, determined to find his parents and bring them back.

He soared high into the air, his eyes scanning the snowy land below for a sign of red feathers that might have dropped out of his parents' wings. He gazed ahead, searching for a sign of the jagged peaks that meant that he was close to the Snowy Mountain. He wondered if he would see his parents buried in snow. He shivered. "*I will bring them back alive,*" he promised himself.

Sunrise slept in the snow that night. It was freezing, as he could not make a fire. He set off again early in the morning. Happiness swelled inside him as he spotted a stream glittering and flashing in the sunlight. He soared down and landed near the stream, folding his wings. He gazed, delighted, at the fish swimming in the stream. It had been a long time since he had last eaten. He hooked a fish out of the water. He blew a flame onto it to cook it. After eating it, he leaned forward to catch another one. He let out a screech of surprise as he slipped and fell, with a loud splash, into the water. He struggled up, gasping for air. The waves dragged him down again. Sunrise flapped his wings, desperately struggling towards the bank of the stream. He stretched out his talons and sunk them into the bank of the stream. Relieved, he struggled onto the snow and collapsed, panting. Soaked and shivering, he stretched his wings out to dry. Sunrise glanced around and suddenly, something amazing caught his eye that made him jump up.

A red feather gleamed out of a small pile of snow. "That must be dad's feather!" he exclaimed. Sunrise raced over to the beautiful red

feather. He held up it in his claw, delighted. Sunrise began to fly up the steep mountain and slowly managed to reach the top with no effort. He began scouring the mountain for a sign of his parents. Then, a distant flying figure caught Sunrise's eye. Intrigued by the creature, he began to creep toward it.

Sunrise flapped his wings to fly towards it. As he approached the animal, he soon realised that it was actually a fire bird like him! Sunrise asked the fire bird where it was from and who its parents were. The firebird said his name was Sunset and his parents' names were Flame and Sunfire. Sunset said that his parents were at his house and soon enough, the two fire birds came to an astonishing conclusion- they were brothers and their parents were keeping them apart for some reason. They decided to find out why.

Both fire birds flew over to Sunset's cave to see their parents resting on the ground. Seeing both children at the same time in the same place made their eyes grow wide open in shock. They stood up and were paralysed momentarily. Then Flame broke the silence. "How did you two meet up anyway? You were far far away from each other." Then the two brothers explained the whole story about how they met, how they looked very similar and their conclusion.

The adults were dumbstruck. Then they explained why they had kept Sunrise and Sunset apart. The two, as children, used to fight a lot. Both firebirds had scars from the fights. They decided to keep them apart forever so that they would never fight again. The adults stayed with Sunrise during the day and with Sunset during the night. That particular night, the blizzard stopped the parents from going back to the cave of

Sunrise. So their aunt and uncle stayed with Sunset during the day and with Sunrise during the night. It was very awkward.

In the end, the family came to a decision; they would finally be together after eleven years of separation. Their uncle and aunt will stay in Sunset's cave while the firebird family will stay in the other one. The brothers had much fun in the winter together and soon, in the summer and spring too. And it must have lasted forever.

****THE END****

Epilogue

I have no idea what happened next, because my video cameramen who were spying on their behaviour were on strike. Yep. Definitely not faking this out and writing fiction.

So, I guess, until next time. I hope you enjoyed this book and please read the next one.

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