Chapter 1

Bobby and Beverly Beaver were born in their lodge on our pond one night in March. By the time they were a day old, they knew how to swim! However, the two baby beavers (called kits) were quite different from one another. Beverly was fearless and adventurous. She would often swim away to the ends of the pond. Bobby, on the other hand, was more cautious and loved staying close to home, working every night with his dad, building up their dam and lodge with mud and willow branches. Sometimes they got so busy reinforcing the dam and the lodge that they lost track of Beverly as she swam far away from them.
Chapter 2

On a night in April, when Beverly was only a month old, a fierce wind began to blow, and it was so cold that the rain was turning into ice and snow. She went out by herself and did not tell her parents where she was going. Suddenly there was a loud CRASH! The wind was so strong that it blew down a willow tree, which fell into the pond and just missed her head! She instinctively slapped her tail on the water to warn her family of danger and dove under, swimming as deep and as fast as she could. When she came up for air, she was lost!! How could she be lost on her own pond?! The wind was very loud, and she could not hear her parents calling her across the pond. It was snowing so hard she could not see anything. Even underwater, nothing looked familiar. She crawled out of the water and realized she could not walk very well on the shore, because her back feet were webbed, and her flat tail dragged on the ground. She quickly found a trail and hoped it would lead her back home. But wait! The sky was starting to get light, even though it was still storming. She felt this was not right! Like many animals that are awake all night and sleep during the day, she was much happier in the dark. But now it was almost daylight and all she wanted to do was sleep. Plus, she was getting very hungry. She needed to find her family! She did not like the sun in the sky, so she ran as fast as she could (which was not very fast) toward a dark area, where she thought she might find safety.
Chapter 3

“Oh no!” Beverly cried.

This dark place was mysterious. It was the forest, but she did not know that. All she saw were trees that could fall on her head. But being brave, she followed the trail, desperate to find her way back home. After a few minutes she came to a pool of water and got excited. She thought she was back at her pond.

Then she heard a tiny voice saying, “Who are you, and what are you doing here in my vernal pool?”

Beverly had never heard of a vernal pool and said, “Oh I am so sorry. I thought this was my pond. I am Beverly Beaver, and I am lost.”

“It’s nice to meet you. My name is Sally Salamander. These pools of water in the forest last for only a few months, and this is where I grow up. Follow the path over there and look for Owen Owl. He knows about everything, and he will tell you how to find your pond.”
Chapter 4

Beverly moved on and soon came to a spot where the path split in two directions. “What should I do?” she thought to herself.

Then she heard someone calling repeatedly, “Whoooo goes there?” She looked up and saw a funny looking creature with big eyes who could almost turn his head completely around!

“Who are you?” asked Beverly.

“Whoooo am I? I am Owen Owl. I watch over everything in this forest at night. Like you, I sleep during the day and eat, work and play at nighttime.”

She told him she was lost and did not know which way to go. Owen showed her the path to take to the meadow; that would lead to the pond. Then he warned her to watch out for Cody Coyote.

“Cody loves to eat little beavers and he knows exactly where you are by following your scent.”

“My scent? What is that?” asked Beverly.

Owen told her that almost every creature has a special smell or ‘scent’. “Even me! And animals with really good noses like Cody Coyote, Fred Fox, and Donald Dog can find almost anyone by their scent.”

This made Beverly nervous, so she ran in the direction Owen had shown her. When she looked back, she saw him climb into a hole in an old dead tree. Night was turning into day, and it was his time to sleep as well.
Chapter 5

Following the path Owen Owl had shown her, Beverly came to a wide-open, grassy area that was not so dark and mysterious. She thought that this must be the meadow.

The sky was getting brighter, and she was VERY hungry and sleepy. She knew she could not stop and sleep, because Cody Coyote was out there sniffing and sniffing, looking for something to eat, and she did not want to be his breakfast! Plus, the grass in the meadow was taller than she was, and Cody could be hiding anywhere. As she nervously wandered through the meadow, she heard the most beautiful singing from red creatures flying high above her head. One of them swooped down saying, “Birdie, Birdie. I am Carl Cardinal.” Beverly enjoyed listening to him sing. Then she noticed the storm had passed and the sun was shining. My, how sleepy she felt.

“When will I ever find my way home?” said Beverly sadly. Carl reassured her and said, “Follow me I will show you the way.”
Chapter 6

Carl Cardinal led Beverly through the meadow, and she saw more flying creatures like Carl; she also saw some tiny things buzzing from flower to flower. She had never seen anything like these before. Carl told her all about bees, dragonflies, and other birds like him. Soon they came to a place that looked remarkably familiar. It was her pond! She was so excited! She started to run as fast as she could toward the pond! Suddenly, up in the sky she heard some chirping and chattering. It was a bird who seemed to never stop flying even to drink or nap!

“Hey there, Beverly Beaver! I am Sweetie Swift and I live in that tower over there that looks like a chimney. Better watch out! Somebody’s chasing you!”

Beverly looked behind her and there was Cody Coyote, who had smelled her trail and was getting closer and closer! She was running as fast as she could, but she was sleepy and hungry...and she was a beaver trying to run on land!

He was just about to take a bite out of Beverly’s flat tail when she slid into the pond, slapped her tail loudly on the water and dove down deep. She had escaped! She was safe at last. But where were her parents? She swam and swam searching underwater for as long as she could hold her breath---sometimes for nearly 15 minutes at a time. Her second eyelids made it easy for her to see clearly underwater, but there was still no sign of her family.
Chapter 7

Finally, Beverly found the underwater entrance to her lodge and crawled inside. There they were! They were so happy to see her! She told them about her adventure and about all the new friends who had helped her find her way home. She even told them about her close call with Cody Coyote! Her parents listened carefully to her story. When she finished, they said she was lucky to have escaped from Cody Coyote.

Her dad said sternly, “Next time before you wander off and have another adventure, be sure and tell us where you are going!”

Beverly promised she would tell them where she was going in the future. For now, she was so sleepy and hungry that all she wanted to do was to snuggle next to her mother and have some nice warm milk. As she drifted off to sleep, her mother whispered into her ear that she was proud of how adventuresome and brave she was. But she agreed with Beverly’s father that she should be more careful and always tell them where she was going. Then they all fell asleep, waiting for it to get dark so they could go out and work on their dam.
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