TAMING SUKI: LISA, CHAPTER THREE

It was twilight. Moonlight filtered softly through the trees along the shore. Overhead, sleepy chirps of the birds could be heard as they settled into their nests. A flock of swans appeared from somewhere, and alighted on the smooth, glassy surface of the lake. Off to one side, light from a single candle could be seen. And in the gloom, the outline of a tent and four children.

"Look Suki," one child could be heard to exclaim, "swans! They're so...they're so...beautiful!"

"Yes Kio," was the murmured response.

"I once had a fox for a friend," came a third voice. "I tamed him..."

But the other children did not hear the words of the little prince. They were so enchanted with the majestic beauty of the swans. Suddenly, a figure on four legs darted from the trees. It ran to the water's edge, whimpered, and then began to bark furiously. The swans took flight immediately.

Lisa ran forward and caught the dog by its collar. "Sandy," she yelled, "where's Jill? Why did you scare those swans? Don't you know that I'm a swan too? Now you go on home!"

"Suki, why did the swans fly away?" Kio asked quietly.

There was no answer.

"Suki, why did the swans fly away?" a little louder this time.

There was no answer. Instead, as a response, Suki began to rummage through Kio's bag for his pajamas. As Kio quietly prepared for bed, a couple of loud, unmistakeable sobs could be heard from the little boy.

When Suki emerged from the tent, Lisa turned on her furiously. "Why did you do that? He's your brother! He just asked you a simple question! Why didn't you answer him?"

There was no answer.

The soft melodic voice of the little prince was heard. "I once had a fox for a friend," he said, repeating his earlier statement. "I tamed him."

Lisa and Suki did not respond, so he continued. "The fox was very wild when I met him. He chased chickens, and hunters chased him."

Lisa turned to the prince, "Why are you telling us this? It won't help Kio and Suki. Why aren't you more sensitive?"

The little prince said, "Please, listen to my story. I want to tell it to you. I want to give to you what the fox gave to me.

"When I tamed the fox, we became special to each other. We would look forward to our time together, and we cared for each other. We learned to understand one another."

Lisa, in spite of herself, discovered that she had been listening intently to the words of the little prince. "Why did you leave him?" she asked.

"I left because I needed to find people, and there were ever so many more things that I needed to understand. But before I left, the fox gave me a present."

"What did he give you?"

"The fox told me that 'it is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.'"

"How beautiful!" murmured Suki. "I was angry with Kio because he is always demanding attention. He fell down the stairs the other day. It was almost...almost as

if he had done it on purpose. Maybe if I learn to see him with my heart, like I do my poetry..." her voice trailed off.

"What is essential is invisible to the eye," Lisa repeated. "Suki, you were angry with Kio because you can't seem to do your schoolwork, take care of the house, enjoy your friends, and take care of Kio as well. You are like some wild thing, like...like the fox, and you want someone to help you understand. Perhaps if you let Kio tame you...," Lisa paused.

"Yes...yes," came Suki's quiet response.

The laughter of the little prince rang out. And somewhere overhead, an owl hooted.

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Source

Antonie de Saint Exupery. The Little Prince. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc., 1943.