THE FOREST OF FORGOTTEN FOOTSTEPS

# Welcome to the Forest!

*True Friends* | *Educator Review Kit*

A story about friendship, asking for help, and belonging.



## Dear Educator,

Thank you for taking a little time to visit The Forest of Forgotten Footsteps. I'm Bob J. Wolfe, the author and creator of this series. I write these stories to give children and the adults who care for them gentle ways to explore feelings, friendship, courage, kindness, and the joy of belonging.

I'm sharing True Friends with a small group of educators because your experience matters. I'd love to learn what connects with children, what helps a read-aloud feel meaningful, and what could make these resources easier to use in a busy classroom.

## Three simple ways to explore the kit

**01** **READ**
Share the illustrated story as a read-aloud or review it yourself.

**02** **TALK**
Try a short question about helping, friendship, or belonging.

**03** **TRY**
Choose one low-prep classroom activity—there is no need to do them all.

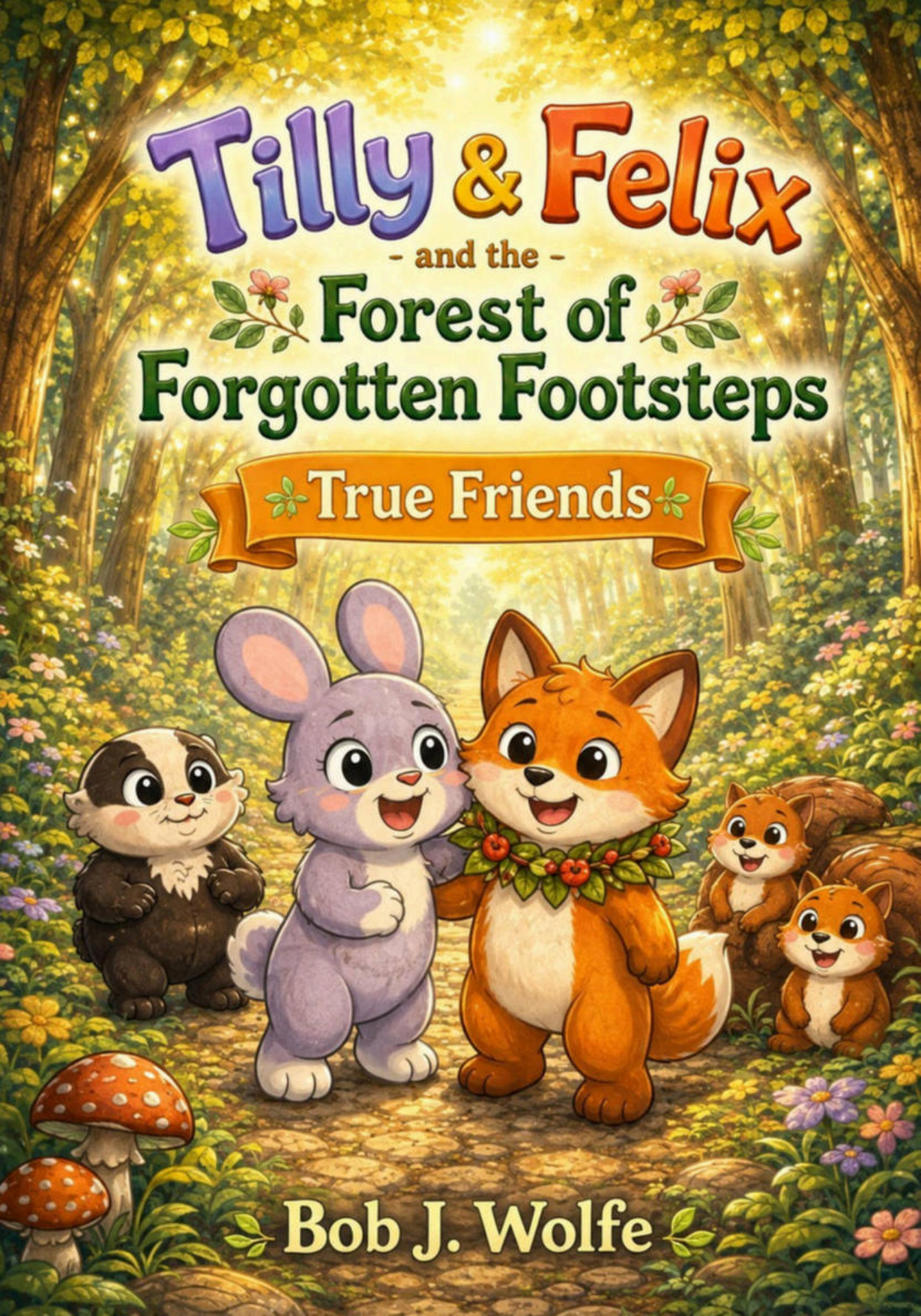
### Your feedback is the most helpful part.

What held the children's attention? What would you change? Even one observation is valuable. If you have a few minutes, share your thoughts at www.tfoff.com/betafeedbackform or reply directly to me.

*With gratitude,*
**Bob J. Wolfe**

Jonathan (Jon) Woelfle, writing as Bob J. Wolfe
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Complimentary educator review kit • Please do not redistribute or resell the story PDF.


Tilly & Felix
- and the -
Forest of Forgotten Footsteps
True Friends
Bob J. Wolfe

## In Appreciation:

This book is dedicated to my family, whose love, patience, and encouragement made every page possible.

Especially to my wife, Nicole — thank you for your constant support and your belief in this story.

## A Dedication

This is a dedication to all the families, parents, caregivers, and loved ones who read aloud, listen closely, and help nurture a love of stories — this book is for you.

Thank you for helping young readers grow, dream, and discover the magic of kindness, one page at a time.


In a quiet valley nestled between two whispering hills, there was a forest unlike any other. It was called the Forest of Forgotten Footsteps, not because it was sad or scary, but because everyone who entered found something they didn't know they were missing.


Some found courage. Some found laughter. But one day, a young rabbit named Tilly found something even more special: a friend.


Tilly was not like the other rabbits in her warren. She liked to hop off the trails and wander under ferns, listening to the way the leaves rustled like secrets.


The others were happy to stay close to home, but Tilly wanted more. She wanted to explore.


One crisp morning, Tilly slipped away while the others were busy nibbling breakfast clover. The forest air was cool and smelled like pine needles and something faintly sweet.


As she bounced down a mossy path, a golden leaf twirled down and landed on her nose. She giggled and chased it deeper into the woods.


?
Before long, Tilly realized she didn't recognize her surroundings. The trees looked taller here, older somehow.


The air felt still. She stopped and twitched her ears.


"Hello?" she called. "Anyone here?"
A rustle.
Then a snap.
Tilly crouched low, heart thumping.


Out stepped a fox.
Not just any fox, though. This one wore a scarf made of knotted berries and leaves, and his fur shimmered like moonlight.


"Don't be scared," the fox said quickly.
"I'm not here to eat you."
Tilly blinked. "You're not?"
"Nope. I'm Felix. I'm...
well, I suppose I'm lost."
Tilly stood up slowly. "I think I am too."
They stared at each other for a moment.


"Wanna be lost together?" Felix offered.
Tilly grinned. "Okay."
So, they walked.


They told stories. Felix spoke of stars and maps and how he once tried to fly by jumping from a tree with leaves tied to his paws.


Tilly talked about her favorite hiding spots and the time she startled a whole flock of birds by sneezing too loudly.

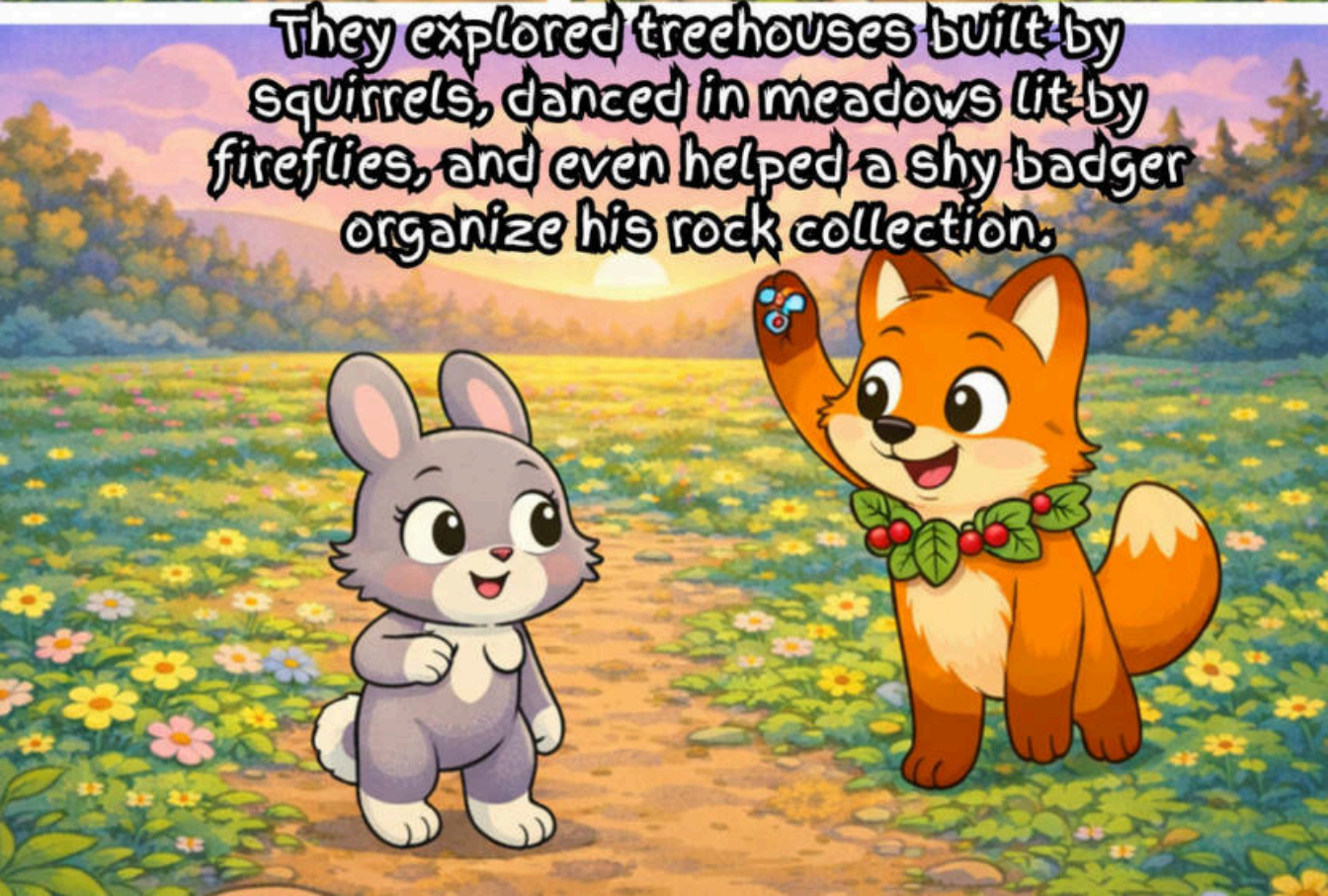

They discovered a hollow log that echoed like a tunnel. They sang songs through it until they laughed so hard their sides ached.


They found a pond so still it reflected the sky like a mirror. They skipped stones and watched the ripples dance.

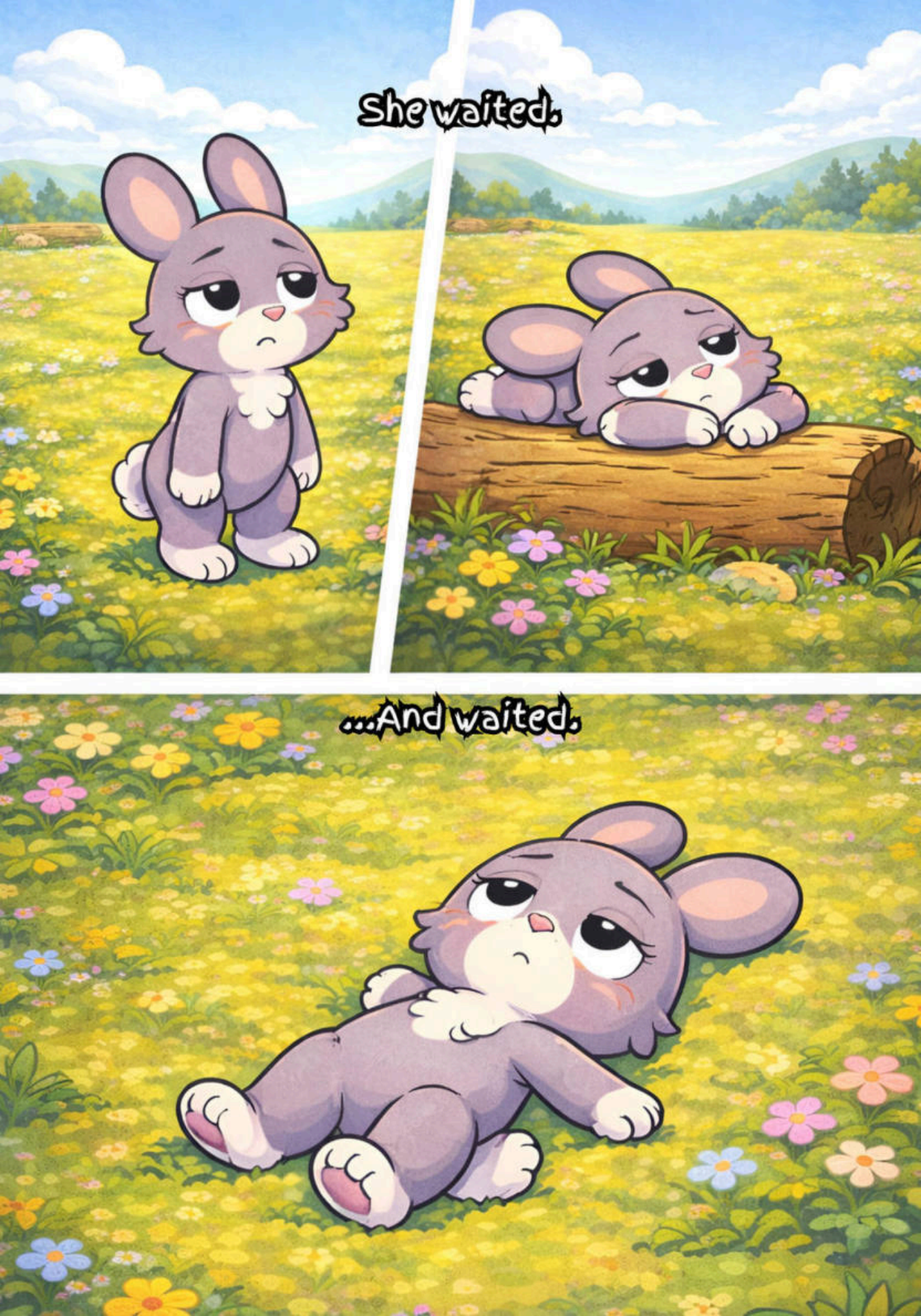

But as the sun dipped lower, shadows stretched across the forest floor.
"I should be heading home," Tilly said softly.
Felix nodded. "Yeah, me too. I think my den is... somewhere east?"


They stood awkwardly.
"I don't want to say goodbye," Tilly admitted.
"Then don't," Felix replied. "Let's meet here again. Tomorrow?"
Tilly's ears perked up. "Yes! Same time?"
"Same place."
And just like that, they weren't lost anymore. Not in the ways that mattered.


For many days, Tilly and Felix met at their spot in the Forest of Forgotten Footsteps.


They explored treehouses built by squirrels, danced in meadows lit by fireflies, and even helped a shy badger organize his rock collection.


But one day, Tilly arrived and Felix wasn't there.


She waited.
...And waited.


A squirrel scampered by. "Haven't seen your shiny fox friend today," he chattered. "Maybe he's sick?"
Tilly's heart sank. What if Felix was hurt? What if he couldn't find his way?


She made a decision. She would find him.


She sniffed the air and followed the scent of berries and pine. She trotted past the hollow log, the mirror pond, even the sleepy badger's den.


At last, she heard a groan. Under a fallen tree lay Felix, his leg caught beneath a log.


"Tilly?" he murmured.
"I'm here!" she cried. "I'll get you out."
She pushed. She pulled.
But the log was too heavy.


"Wait here," she said, and raced back through the forest.


One by one, she found their forest friends:
the strong badger, the nimble squirrels,
even a pair of curious raccoons. Together,
they returned and heaved the log away.




Felix winced as he stood, but he smiled.
"You came for me."
"Of course I did," Tilly said.
"That's what friends do."


From then on, they didn't just explore. They built a tiny shelter near their favorite pond, a meeting place for any creature needing help or a hug. They called it The Burrow of Belonging.


News spread. Animals who felt alone came, and left smiling. They stayed for tea and stories and songs sung through the echo-log.


Tilly and Felix grew older, but their friendship only grew stronger. They still wandered, but never felt lost again. Not really.


Because in the heart of the forest, beneath the whispering trees and forgotten footsteps, they had found something everyone needs—someone who sees you, and stays.
A true friend.

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# A Little More to Explore

*The story may be over, but there's still more to discover together.*

## Let's Talk About the Story!

1. Tilly and Felix were both lost when they met. What helped them become friends?
2. How do you think Felix felt when Tilly came looking for him?
3. Tilly couldn't lift the branch by herself. What did she do when she realized she needed help?

## A Little Forest Challenge

Think of someone you care about. What is one small thing you could do today to show them: 'I'm here for you.'

*You could invite them to play, help with something, listen, or spend time together.*

## Something to Notice

Look back through the story. Can you find some of the special places Tilly and Felix discovered together? Which one would you most like to visit?

## There's More Magic Waiting!

Visit TFOFF.com for free coloring pages, activities, and more adventures with Tilly and Felix.

**TFOFF.com**

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# Become a Forest Explorer!

*Join our Forest Explorers for free woodland fun and extra adventures beyond the book.*

## What You'll Discover

Forest Explorer

- Free coloring pages
- Printable activities
- Monthly Forest Explorer fun
- More adventures with Tilly and Felix

## For Grown-Ups

Parents, caregivers, and teachers can visit the link below to sign up and bring the magic of the forest home.

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Scan to become a Forest Explorer

*We can't wait to explore with you!*

A heartwarming woodland adventure about friendship, courage, and finding your way back to each other.

# About the Author



Bob J. Wolfe lives in Tacoma, Washington. He is married and the proud parent of an autistic son, who has taught him the importance of patience, listening, and seeing the world from different perspectives.

Bob believes that stories help families connect by opening space for empathy, curiosity, and shared understanding. He writes children's stories to celebrate kindness and the idea that empathy and understanding are built one person at a time. Through his books, he hopes to encourage families to slow down, read together, and discover something meaningful along the way.

# TRUE FRIENDS

Classroom Activity Pack

Ages 4–6 • Read-aloud extension • Low-ink classroom version

## Teacher Storytime Guide

**Story focus:** friendship, asking for help, and belonging

**Quick summary:** Tilly meets Felix in the Forest, and their new friendship grows through time spent together. When Felix needs help, Tilly learns that being a good friend sometimes means asking others to help and staying together until the problem is solved.

**Try asking after the story:**

1. How did Tilly help Felix?

2. Why was it a good idea for Tilly to ask others for help?

3. What is one way you can be a good friend?

### Student Page 1 — I Can Be a Good Friend!

Invite children to draw themselves helping a friend or making someone feel welcome. Encourage them to say what is happening in the picture.

### Student Page 2 — Who Can Help?

Read each simple situation aloud. Children can draw a helper or name someone who could help. The goal is to reinforce that asking for help is a brave and smart choice.

### Optional group extension — Build a Burrow of Belonging

Use pillows, blankets, chairs, or blocks to make a small welcoming space. Ask: “What would help a friend feel welcome here?”

## Notes for teachers:

• Keep the discussion short and concrete for preschool and kindergarten students.

• Model phrases such as “Can you help me?” and “I can help you.”

• These pages are intended to be used independently of a subscription or login.

# I CAN BE A GOOD FRIEND!

Draw a picture of yourself helping a friend or making someone feel welcome.

My name: _____

I can be a good friend by _____

# WHO CAN HELP?

Draw or name someone who could help in each situation.

**1. You fall down on the playground. Who can help?**

**2. You cannot reach something on a high shelf. Who can help?**

**3. A friend feels sad. Who can help?**

Asking for help is a brave choice.