

# DEW SONG

## A gentle fantasy that could be real

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**O**nce upon a time, there lived a girl so lovely that whoever saw her thought that she must be a fairy princess, she was so very beautiful. Her name was Aurora. Aurora lived on the edges of a great forest.

Every morning before first light, while the stars were still shining far above, Aurora would come out into the meadow, to delight in the fresh smells of the dawn and to listen to the Earth being very still. Aurora would slip out somewhere from between the strong silent trees, when it was still so dark that you couldn't see the trees. You could only feel their good strength here and there around you. She would walk barefooted into the soft grasses of the meadow and listen to the silence all around.



One day the sons and daughters of Man came and cut down some of the trees. They put up in their place many boxes — boxes to live in, boxes to work in, boxes to shop in. Part of the forest was gone.

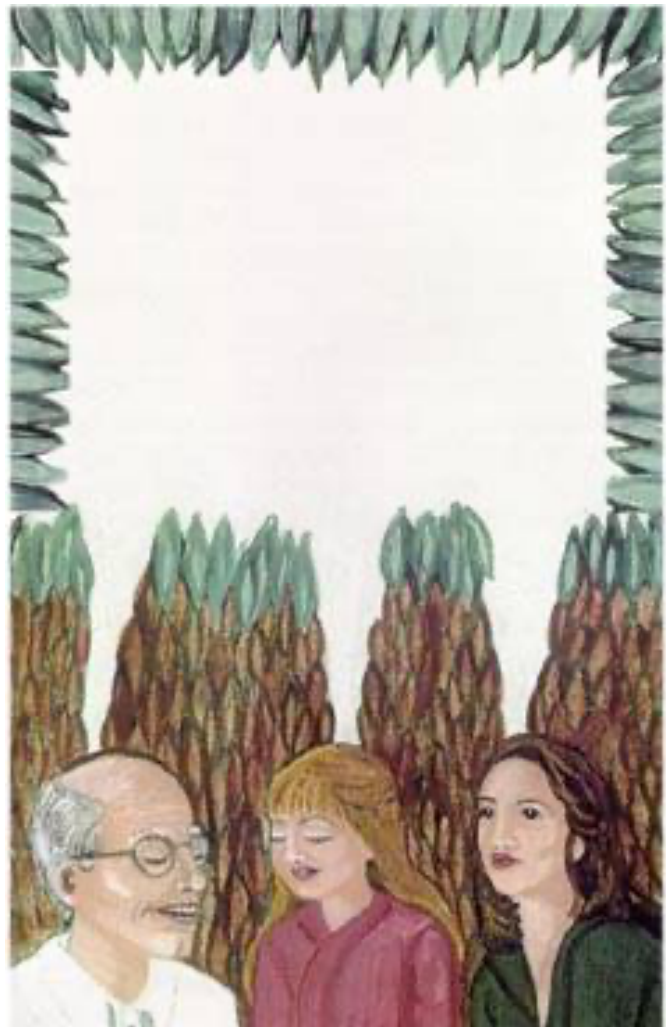
Aurora was sad ... she loved the forest and didn't love the boxes very much. What could she do? She thought that maybe it was time for her to move far, far away ... but first, she wanted to say good-bye to her new friends, John and Sylvia.

As she told them that it was time for her to leave, Sylvia begged her to stay ... maybe there would be a way to preserve the forest *and* have places for the sons and daughters of Man to live in, work in, shop in, and play in.

Aurora had never thought about that! Sylvia and John then told her that the Elders had taught them things, special things, and that maybe ways could be found to have the best of both worlds.

John led them. "Let's take a mental vacation ... just get comfortable and relax and let's all close our eyes to see what will be revealed to us. Maybe there are ways to have it all ... let's ask for a vision from our minds where there is forest, and people with places to stay ... and maybe something will appear to each of us. Sylvia, I can't see what's in your mind, so could you please tell us what you see?"

"I'm in the forest!" said Sylvia, "and you and Aurora are there ... and I see people in the trees! I mean, they are *up in the trees*, in the branches! Now I see treehouses, and I go up one of the trees ... it is a *huge* tree! It is so big that my living room could be up there! The huge lower branches are so strong that they are holding up the bottom floor, and there are other little platforms further up the tree ... there must be four or five levels of house up there! The tree house is kind of open and airy inside, and little birds are



flying around ... the air feels fresh and good, and the sun is streaming in through the branches ... Now I'm looking out into the forest and I see other treehouses out there ... there are many of us living up in these houses in the trees!"

Aurora was amazed! She had known the beauty of the forest all of her life, but she never realized that beauty could come from within, too. She began to feel that there was some hope.

John then said, "Sylvia, that was wonderful! I think even the Elders will be surprised at how well the things they taught us worked! My turn! Now I'll tell you what appears in my mind, and it might be even better than Sylvia's idea."

"Hey!" said Sylvia, "enough of that, John! Now why don't you close your eyes and tell us what you see?"

"Okay ... I'm standing on the ground and all around me is rolling countryside. There are green shrubs all over the place ... hey, wait a minute, there are *houses* behind those shrubs! These houses are kind of lowset and all hidden by the shrubs and the trees. Now I'm walking around, and if I look real hard, I see there are houses and stuff everywhere, but you'd never know it if you didn't look for them! I'm climbing up a tree to take a look around ... it still looks like there are fields and rolling hills everywhere, with little hints of houses poking out here and there ..."

Aurora gasped, and almost started to cry. There *was* hope!

"John, I would like to try this thing your Elders have taught you ... I would like to see the beauty within too!"

"Okay, Aurora," said John, "all you have to do is to close your eyes, relax, feel that there are ways to solve our problems, and then just describe whatever you see in your mind!"

"The beautiful green forest is here, and the birds are singing their songs, the sunlight is filtering through the trees, and you and Sylvia are there with me. You are being like a spider spinning his web! You and Sylvia are putting up strands of silk, no, rope, between the trees ... strands of rope everywhere ... and you are draping huge sheets of colorful fabrics on these ropes between the trees! I see ... you are making your boxes, but they are of cloth and they are in the trees! You have not cut down a single tree, but you have your boxes to live in and play in! And there is one of Sylvia's Tree Houses ... and some of your houses hidden behind the shrubs ... and there is a little house inside a big hole in the ground ... it is about 20 feet deep, with a garden and pond at the bottom, and trailing green vines all around the edges of the hole ... and

the house itself is made of balconies at different levels on one side ... so there is a pretty grotto on the one side, and somebody's house on the other!"

"Aurora," said John, "do you still think that you will have to leave us?"

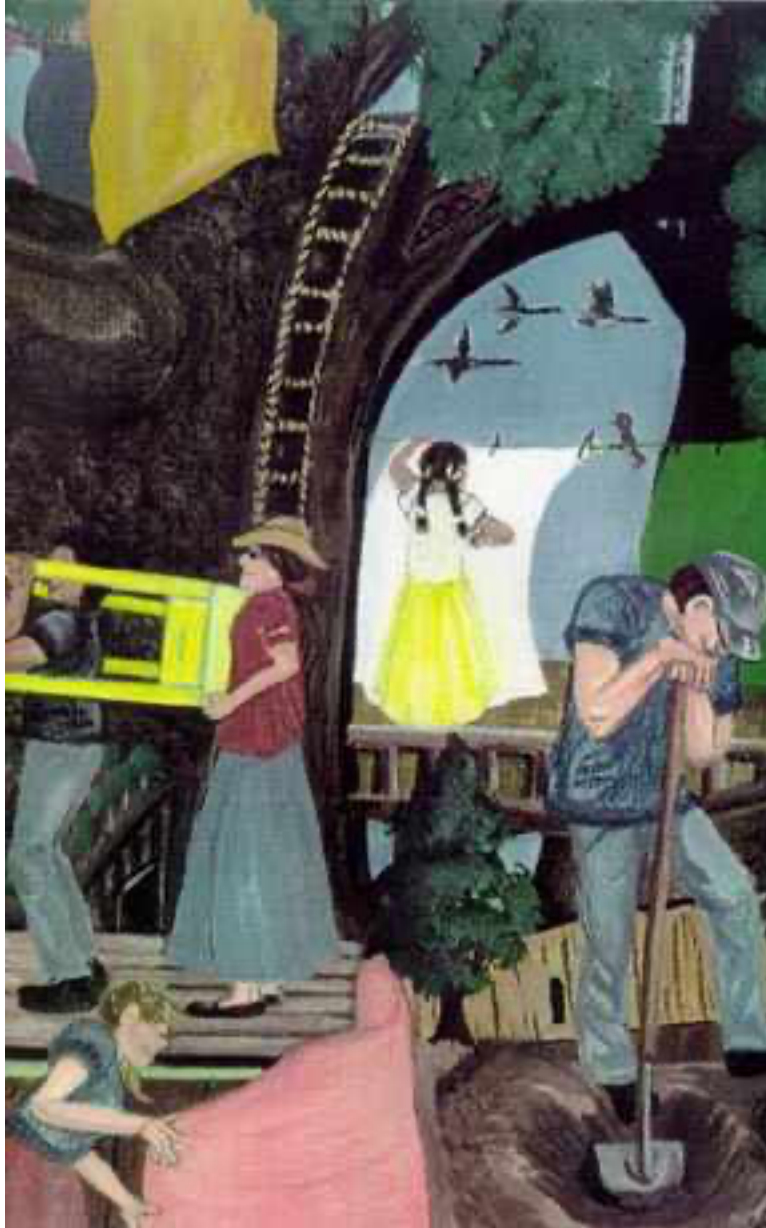
"No, John, I see now that maybe there are ways to have both the forest and the boxes."



And so they went to the Elders, told them of their concerns and ideas, and thanked the Elders for their teachings which had led to these new ideas.

Inspired by the children, the Elders went with them to the townspeople, one by one, and some of them considered the ideas and decided that they too would like to try this new way of living ... they too loved the forest, but had thought the easiest way to live was all in boxes. But now they realized it was just as easy to have both.





And so it came to pass that more and more of the sons and daughters of Man chose to live and work and play and shop in Sylvia's Tree Houses, John's Rolling Hills Houses, and Aurora's Forest Spread and Grotto Houses. ... and Aurora didn't have to move away!

Now, she could still take her early morning walks, with the stars shining far above, the sky slowly becoming light as the dawn approached, the birds breaking into song, the freshness of the foresty air ... but now she had many new friends there with her, and she took delight in watching house lights blink on here and there ... now one lights up in the tree top ... and over there one lights up behind those shrubs ... and

across the forest glade a burst of laughter as one family shares some private joke, and now the sweet smell of someone's breakfast wafting through the air ...

Yes, maybe this new world of Man might just be a good thing after all!



*The End ... or the Beginning?*