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Bryna Fireside  
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Chocolate Bar

THEME: Brotherly Love

### BROTHERS CAN BE FRIENDS TOO

"Melissa, if I catch you eating another chocolate bar before dinner, I will take that bag away from you."

Mom seemed even more disturbed by my behavior than usual. She had been yelling at me ever since we got to this dumb campsite. Who's idea was this "Spring Getaway Weekend" anyway? We couldn't even go where there were other people, or kids for me to play with. Dad says we needed to be by ourselves, because we never seemed to be able to get away from people in the city. I think my Dad was beginning to miss the farms and open land that he grew up around in Kentucky.

I missed riding my bicycle to Jane's house and playing with her and her twin sister. Sometimes, I wish I had a sister. But, all I have is my fifteen-year-old brother, Randy. And he never seems to know I'm around. It's strange because he likes girls so much lately, you'd think he'd pay more attention to me. After all, I'm a girl too. Maybe being two years younger makes me invisible somehow.

I walked over to see what Randy was doing, but he didn't notice me as usual.

"Randy, what are you going to do now that you finished putting up our tent?" I asked, not really expecting an answer,

but I was so bored, I had to talk to someone. Then I noticed that he hadn't heard a word that I had said because he had his dumb radio earphones on, and the music must have been loud.

He finally noticed me standing there, and said, "Missy, get lost, I'm busy." It was about time he looked up and saw me.

It seemed like everyone was in a bad mood today. Maybe I'll just wander around and see if I can find something anyone else could have left behind. That would be fun. It would be like a treasure hunt.

"Melissa, don't go wandering off too far, we'll be eating soon."

"O.k. Mom, I won't be gone too long." I really didn't know how long I would be gone. But I wasn't very anxious to come back to boredom, and there's no telling what Mom had planned for dinner. Besides, I had my trusty bag of chocolate's with me. I couldn't go anywhere without them.

As I walked towards the large trees, cutting through the fields of wildflowers, I realized how nice it was to be alone sometimes. Then, I looked around and saw how friendly these flowers seemed. They looked so peaceful, swaying in the breeze. It was as if they were waving at me.

As I munched on another candy bar, I noticed the beauty of everything around me. It made me forget why I had wandered off in the first place.

A few chocolate bars later, I was at the large group of trees that had seemed so far away before. As I looked up to see just how tall they really were, I saw some very dark clouds heading toward me. The wind was getting stronger now, and it was beginning to get cooler quickly. I realized it wouldn't be long until the storm would be here, so I looked around me to see where our campsite was. And I couldn't see any sign of it. This really frightened me, because I didn't know how to find my way around very well in the city, let alone out here in the wilderness!

"OH SOMEBODY, HELP ME!" I panicked, and yelled even more, "HELP, SOMEONE HELP ME!"

By now, the tears were rolling down my cheeks. Through the salt-watery blurr, I noticed that the once friendly looking fields and trees around me, now seemed mean, and made me feel unwelcome.

Just then, I caught a glimpse of something moving near my feet. I had to rub the tears away from my eyes to see that a large green frog had jumped out next to me. At first, I was afraid, and I thought it was too. It just jumped up and down, excitedly, as if it were trying to tell me something.

Then, I realized that I had dropped my, now almost empty, bag of chocolate bars. I was afraid to pick them up because the frog was jumping near them. Then, I had a crazy idea... Maybe this frog would like some chocolate. It seemed kind of

silly, but I would try anything right now to make a friend in this cold, dark, maze of trees.

The wrapper noise made the frog stop jumping and sit so still, that I thought it was dead. I broke off a piece and slowly put it front of it. It didn't move for the longest time, so I put the bag down again, and slowly tried to reach toward the frog and push the chocolate candy closer.

Just then, the frog startled me. It somehow grabbed the corner of the almost empty bag, and hopped quickly away from me. I didn't know what to do. I felt betrayed. I sat down on a small patch of grass as I began to cry again. What a day! And now that frog has disappeared with my only hope of survival out here.

I must have really been crying, because, suddenly, my arms and legs were covered with drops. As I sat huddled trying to keep warm, I realized that these were not just tears because the whole ground was wet.

It was raining harder now, as I realized the storm was here. Just then, a lightning bolt flashed across the sky. I jumped up and let out a squeal. Then, I saw another flash of light, only this one was in my eyes. From behind it, I heard a familiar voice.

"Are you alright Missy? You had us so worried! Thank goodness you love chocolate so much, because I followed those silly wrappers all the way here!"

It was my brother. Since when did he worry about me? I was happy to see him anyway.

"Oh Randy, I was so scared. I didn't mean to get lost... and then I found this frog...and then he ran away with my last candy bar...and..."

"Missy, slow down." Randy said, interrupting my hysteria. "You can tell me all about it later. Right now, I have to get you back to the tent. It looks like it's gonna be a bad storm tonight. Hey...when I told you to get lost, I didn't think you'd listen."

Then he did something I never remembered him doing, he gave me a great, big hug. It was so special it brought more tears to my eyes. I guess he really cares about me after all.

When we got back to the tent, I got an even warmer welcome from my parents. They apologized for not being more aware of my boredom, and their ignoring me.

But the BEST welcome came from that silly frog, who was waiting outside the tent with my last candy bar. I had made a few new friends after all.