

The last snow had just melted a few days ago, Sagwa remembered, was the forest floor still covered in a thick blanket of snow. Only a few small piles remained as evidence of the long winter before. Sagwa pulled her jacket tighter around herself. It was still quite early and cold. Her breath formed little clouds in the air as she walked along the small forest path that began behind her house. The air was fresh, the leaf's and grass damp with morning dew, and in the distance, Sagwa heard the gentle chirping of birds that had returned from their winter quarters. Sagwa loved the forest. In winter, the wood seemed silent and sleepy, barely any sounds could be heard. But in spring, the flora and fauna began to awaken again, bursting into full bloom. Her gaze wandered across the ground, searching for the first early bloomers. Between the bare roots of an old tree, the first snowdrops peeked out. Their white blossoms swayed gently in the cool wind, as if nodding in greeting to Sagwa. She crouched down to take a closer look at them. The snowdrops were always the first to emerge from the earth, as if they were checking whether it was safe for the other flowers to follow. The messengers of the spring, what Sagwa called them. A little further ahead, where sunlight filtered through the bare branches, small golden winter aconites shone bright among the moss. Their sight made Sagwa's heart leapt, yet she knew they wouldn't bloom for long. Soon, other flowers would take their place, but for this brief moment, the forest ground belonged to them. Sagwa smiled and slowly stood up. The first rays of sunlight broke through the clouds, casting a warm glow on her fur and jacket. She continued along the path and reached a small clearing. The air was warmer here, and in the center, a carpet of crocuses in all colors bloomed. Violet, yellow, white flowers covered the ground, swaying in the wind as if they would be dancing to celebrate the start of a new season. "Spring is really coming," Sagwa murmured, spotting a robin chirping happily in a tree. Its red feathers shining in the light. Sagwa closed her eyes, took a deep breath of the fresh spring air, and smiled. Her ears twitched to hear all the sounds around her. Yes, spring had finally arrived, revealing itself in all its colorful glory. Soon, all the early bloomers would wither, making way for summer flowers. But at this moment, Sagwa was completely content, thinking only of the beautiful time that was about to begin. She was already dreaming about the activities she wanted to take part in with her friends. A picnic under a cherry blossom tree, a bike tour or maybe even searching for easter eggs. Spring just had started but Sagwa already knew it would be a spring full of surprises. She was eager to make a list but first... She would just stay here, in the wood and enjoy the morning.