

by Catherine Coe

For Julia and Janelle, two total diamonds xxx

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Diamond sat down on the soft warm sand of Paradise Beach, as close as she could get to Mirror Lake without getting her fur wet. She leaned forward to look into the water. Diamond's reflection floated back at her, her pink eyes blinking, her glossy white head resting in her little paws.



"Hey, Diamond!" someone called from behind her, making Diamond jump. She turned to see Sky and Star walking toward her. Well, Star was walking, with her golden tail swooshing from side to side. But Sky was cartwheeling, flinging up sand with her fluffy blue paws as she spun around and around.

Diamond smiled at her friends, or at least she tried to, but the corners of her mouth wouldn't stop creeping back down again.

"What are you doing?" Star asked, stopping next to Diamond and looking around at the white-yellow sand. "Are you digging for surprises?"

Paradise Beach was known for magical surprises that were sometimes buried under the





sand. Not long ago, Diamond had found a beautiful glow shell that lit up like magic. She kept it on her bedside table at home.

Diamond shook her head but didn't explain what she was doing.

"Ooh, I know!" Sky chirruped, clapping her paws together. "You're going for a swim, right?"



"Don't be silly, Sky," Star said before Diamond could reply. "It's way too cold for that."

Diamond nodded. She wasn't so keen on swimming even when it was really warm and sunny. She seemed to splash so much more than her friends did, and she worried that it might annoy other bunnies nearby.

"So what are you doing, then?" Sky kept on, a frown forming across her fluffy blue head. "Is everything okay?"

"I'm fine," Diamond said. "I was just..." She flapped a paw at the lake.

Sky flipped into the air and landed with her back paws in the water. "I've got it! You were trying to read your future! Ooh, I love doing that."

Sky peered over the water so far that her little



blue nose got wet. "I think I see something...
Oh, nope, that's just you, Star."

Star was behind Sky, pulling her back. "Mirror Lake can't really show our futures, you know."

Sky spun around, splashing water everywhere.
"Sure it can!" she squeaked. "Last week I saw the biggest, tastiest dandelion cake in the reflection, and the next morning my dad had made one.
I didn't even ask for it or anything!"

"Well, I can't see anything anyway," Diamond said quietly.

Star frowned. "What were you hoping to see?" she asked, putting a golden paw to her chin.

Diamond sighed and explained, "I thought the lake might show me what my mom and dad are getting me for my birthday tomorrow."



Sky stared into the water again. "Are you sure you can't see anything at all?" she asked.

Diamond shrugged and looked down again, too. "Not really, just my own reflection... I look a bit small though, almost like it's showing me in the past, not the future! Definitely no desk for my bedroom. That's what I've been dreaming about for my birthday. I've mentioned it to my mom and dad burrows of times!"

Star put a paw out and squeezed Diamond's shoulder. "Just because you can't see it here doesn't mean you won't get it," Star said. "If you've asked your parents for a desk, I'm sure they'll get it for you."

"Maybe," Diamond said, but she didn't sound very sure.





"So what's the plan for your party tomorrow?" chirped Sky, trying to take Diamond's mind off her birthday present. "It's at Strawberry Fields, right?"

"That's what it said on the invitation, Sky," Star said, remembering the pretty barknote invitations Diamond had given out last week. "It starts



at twelve o'clock." Strawberry Fields was an open-air cinema in Bright Burrow, and all the bunnies loved seeing movies there.

"But what film are we watching?" Sky asked, her navy-blue eyes wide.





"That's a surprise," said Diamond. "I hope you'll like it."

Sky spun on the spot so she became just a ball of blue fluff. "Ooh, I love surprises!"

"Sky, we should get going," said Star, giving Sky a look. They'd been on their way to get birth-day presents for Diamond, and didn't have much time left before the shops closed. Star wanted to find something perfect for Diamond, but she'd end up with nothing if they carried on chatting like this.

"Sure thing," Sky said. "Or should I say, shore thing," she added, looking down at the shore of the lake.

Star groaned at Sky's joke, but Diamond gave her a little smile.



"See you tomorrow at twelve, Diamond," Star said.

Sky leaped into the air and kicked her legs together. "Bye, Diamond!"

The two bunnies waved and then began sprinting away across the beach.

"See you," Diamond replied, watching her friends disappear into the distance until they were just little gold and blue dots. Diamond looked into Mirror Lake again. There really was nothing there apart from her own face glistening back at her, but it didn't look quite right somehow...