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A Different Part of the Forest: a gentle tale of divorce

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A Different Part of the Forest

Roberta Harman Ford

with illustrations by Laura Funderburgh

Milne Library
Geneseo

The author and illustrator will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book to nationally recognized organizations and institutions that are dedicated to the care and well-being of children.

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*Written for Patrick and Courtney by their “Old Elbows Grandmother”
and dedicated to the Ford grandchildren
in order of their arrival:
Patrick, Courtney, Andrew, Casey, Zoey, Coty, and Brittney*



A Different Part of the Forest





Once upon a time, there was a majestic pine tree who fell in love with...

a very beautiful leafy tree.





They got married and went to live in a peaceful forest.

They were very happy.





One day they bought a darling puppy...

that grew into a huge dog.





They were all very happy.

Then, to their great joy, they had two precious babies.





The first was a little pine tree, just like his daddy.

The second was a little leafy tree,
just like her mommy.





The dog loved both children so much that he thought his heart would burst.

The mother and father loved the children so much that they thought their hearts would burst.





Their grandmas and grandpas loved the children so much they thought their hearts would burst.

No children were surrounded by more love.

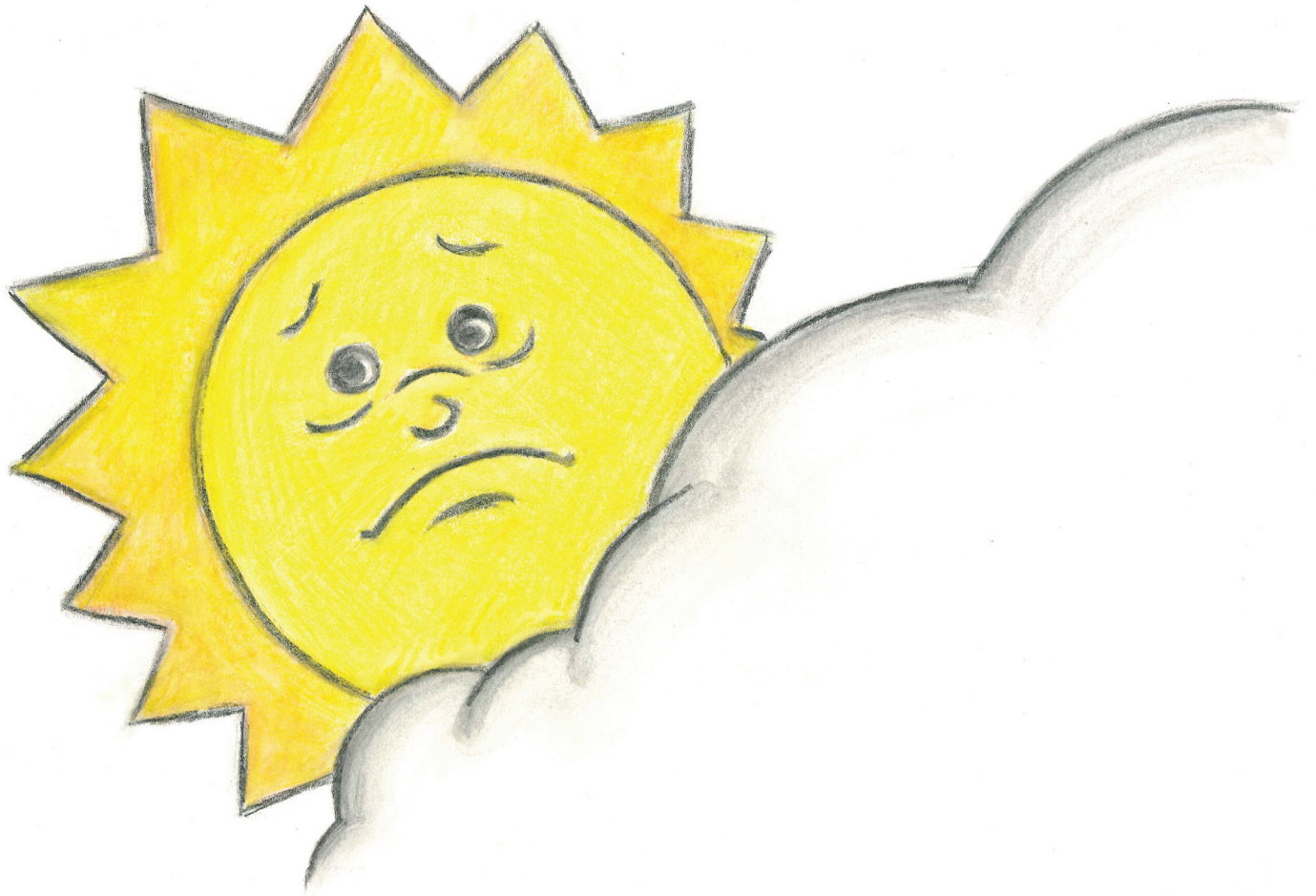




They were all very happy.

Several years went by.





Then something very sad happened.

The daddy pine tree and the mommy leafy tree weren't happy anymore.





They still loved their dog.
Nothing could ever change that!

They still loved their children.
Nothing could ever change that!





But their feelings for each other had changed, and they decided they couldn't be married any more.

“Is it my fault?” asked the dog. “Did I chew up too many pillows or bark too much or bury too many bones in the back yard?”





“No, no! A thousand times, no!” answered the mommy and daddy, and they gave the dog a big hug and kiss to let him know they meant what they said.

“Is it our fault?” asked the children. “Did we leave too many toys on the floor or make too much noise or forget to brush our teeth too many times?”





“No, no! A thousand times, no!” answered the mommy and daddy, and they gave the children a big hug and kiss to let them know they meant what they said.

“Then whose fault is it?” they all asked.





“It is no one’s fault. These things just happen sometimes,” replied their mommy and daddy.



“What will happen now?” asked the dog and the children.



“Daddy and I are going to live in different parts of the forest,” said the mommy tree.

“Where will I live?” asked the dog.





You will live with me because they don't allow dogs in Mommy's part of the forest," said the daddy tree.

“Where will we live?” asked the children.





“Some days you will live with me in my part of the forest and some days you will come back here and live with your daddy,” said the mommy tree.

“Can we still love both of you?” asked the dog and the children.





“Of course!” the mommy and daddy replied.

“Will we still have our grandmas and grandpas, and can we still love them, and will they still love us, and can we still spend time with them just like before?”





“Of course!” the mommy and daddy trees replied.



“It sounds like a good plan, but I am feeling scared and sad about it,” said the dog.



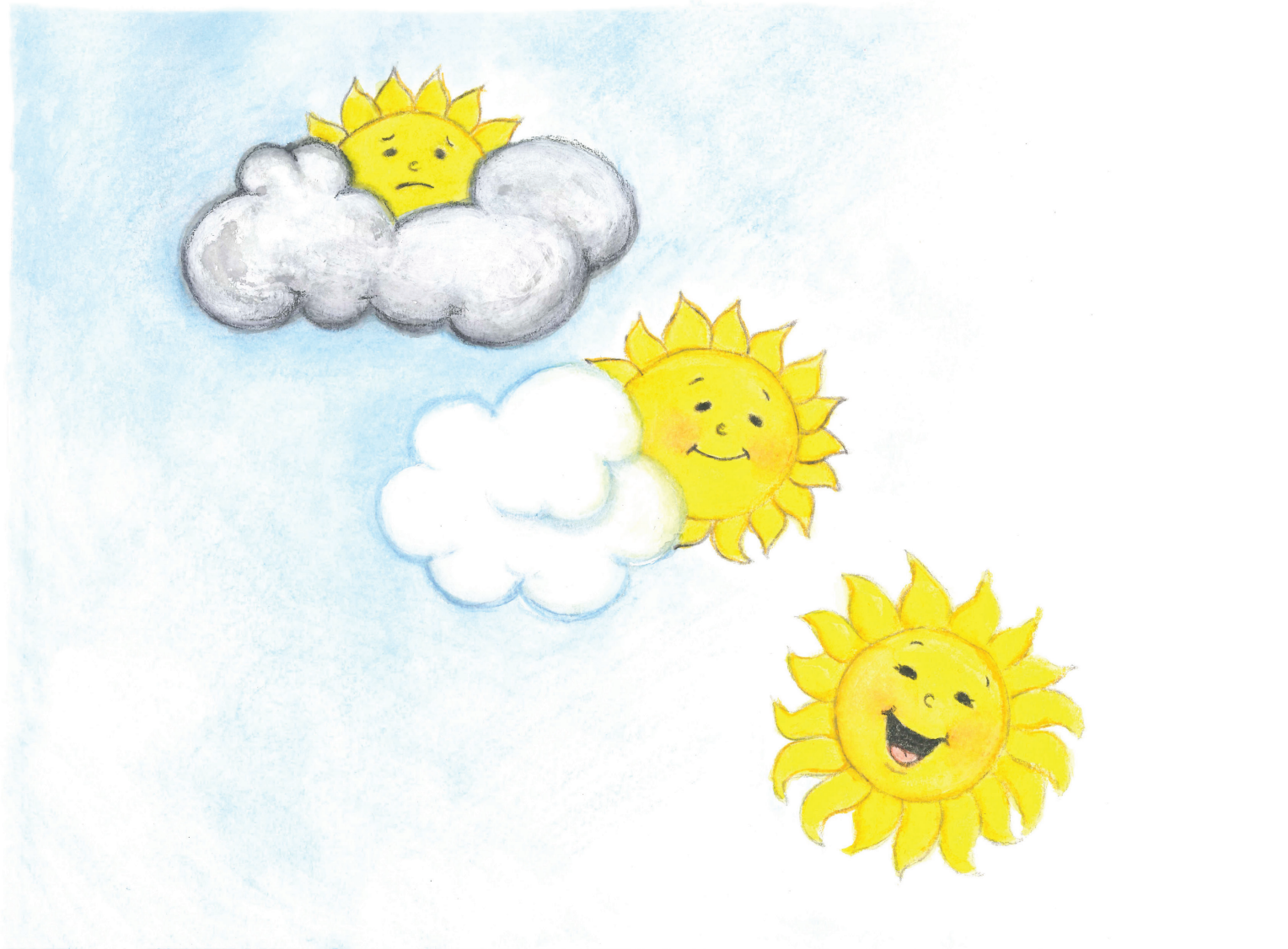
“I feel the same way,” said the little pine tree.



“Me, too,” said the little leafy tree.



“All of us feel that way now, but—after a while—all of us will get used to our new family plan, and we will be fine,” said the mommy and daddy trees.



In time, that's exactly what happened.

And they all lived happily, but differently,
ever after.





About the Author

Roberta Harman Ford completed both a B.A. and an M.A. in education at the State University of New York at Geneseo. She semi-retired after over forty years in education including classroom teaching, serving as both a department chair and program coordinator, serving as a staff development instructor, and being a Cherry Creek School District S.T.A.R. mentor for beginning teachers. Currently she devotes her time to tutoring, consulting, and writing the Old Elbows series of books for and about her grandchildren. Roberta has received numerous teaching awards including Colorado Teacher of the Year and the 2012 Alumni Excellence in Education Award from the State University of New York at Geneseo.



Grandma



Patrick



Courtney

Other books in the Old Elbows series:
Andrew's Big Move

