



The Young Moorhen

Once there was a young Moorhen, and her name was Maurine. Now Maurine was an ordinary Moorhen except for her mind. Her mind was in the body of an ordinary, young human girl. Every Christmas she would ask her parents for make up and a pink phone. Well her parents did not understand why she wanted all these human things. So when Maurine asked her parents to go shopping they did. But instead of going to their normal shopping centre in the Moorhen village, they went to a *human* shopping centre. The only human shopping centre they knew was West Way Cross, which was very near where they lived.

One cold winter's afternoon they set off shopping together. Maurine was stunned in disbelief. She could not believe her eyes! Well, Maurine was standing there, unable to move, whilst her mother walked off to a shop. Her mother thought that Maurine was following her, so when she turned and saw nobody there, she was in a panic. After half an hour Maurine could move again, but, her mother wasn't there. She was terrified, just like you and me when we lose our parents.

Maurine's mum was running around shouting, "Maurine, Maurine, where are you?" She thought she had lost her only daughter. Maurine has lots of brothers. Fourteen to be exact! So Maurine's mum ran home immediately to alert Maurine's father and all her brothers. She ran in the door of her house and screamed "MAURINE'S MISSING," and collapsed into her husband's wings and burst into tears. They all ran out of the door in a big rush to search for Maurine.

One of Maurine's brothers had made 'MISSING' signs to put up on trees. "Max", cried his mother "she is not a pet ant, she is a moorhen, one of us."

"Oh," said Max a little embarrassed. "I just thought if other moorhens knew about it they could tell us if they spot her, mum."

"I know Max," said his mum "but, if we just tell people, I think that might be a bit better." So they gathered all the moorhens from Moorhen village and everyone was running around screaming "MAURINE" as loud as they could.

Soon after her mum found Maurine and they flew into each others wings. So they all went home and you know, her mind couldn't be more like a moorhen ever since she got lost. So, they all enjoyed life as a normal moorhen family.

