**The Phoenix Songbird**

There once was an English Robin known throughout the forest to have an exceptionally beautiful singing voice. Every day Robin would go to the great sycamore tree and sing a song of living well and loving life. She sang so fine one day a spring Breeze decided to lift the song over the treetops and into the mountains where the Great Fox roamed.

When Fox’s ears filled with Robin’s melody, Fox wondered from whence this splendor came and decided to find out. However, on the day Fox set off a horrible storm grew. Booming thunder drowned out Robin’s song. Shiva-armed bridges of lightning flew from steel clouds and one long powerful streak struck Robin’s sycamore, setting it and the entire forest ablaze. Nothing escaped the terrible torrent of flames, not even beautiful Robin. By dawn the rain had purged the fire and all that remained were blackened stumps and charred masses.

Breeze roamed the forest looking for Robin. When it found her it blew the ashes from her little bones with gusty grief. What would it do without her daily songs? Breeze decided to try to recreate Robin’s song by whistling through her ribs, but the tune was not the same and really did not help with Breeze’s sadness. Following the ribcage melody and finally reaching Robin, Fox joined Breeze in mourning. Breeze begged Fox to help, for Breeze loved Robin’s song so very much. Fox took a small spark from within its chest and touched where Robin’s breast had been. The spark ignited a glimmering feathery flame that lifted the bones from the ground and coated them with a new beautiful body. Now, instead of the small gray white and orange feathers, Robin was decorated with majestic red ones that sparkled with the gold light shining from her eyes. Reborn, the Great Robin immediately began her song. And now as she sang, the song reached the mountains on its own and all around her life sprung forth: from the black earth shot green leaves, up bubbled the heads of flowers and their blooms smiled brightly in a grand fiery carpet. Animals, old and young, journeyed from far distances to revel in Robin’s song.

And she still sings daily for anyone who knows how to listen.