

Chelsea Heibel

Holding Trust Deerly

I believe trust is fragile and must be protected. It was springtime and I was seven years old when the most unusual event happened. On our drive home from church one Sunday morning, my family spotted a fawn near the edge of the woods along our driveway. Dad parked the car atop a hill and we cautiously approached the deer, expecting it to dart. As we walked closer, Bambi tipped his head toward us. Instead of bounding away, however, he continued eating goldenrods. Bewildered, we cautiously walked within reach and petted him.

To our amazement, the fawn seemed to like us and acted as if he'd just found some new friends. My siblings and I laughed giddily at his fluffy, white tail and soft fur. We stood there petting Bambi for some time before our parents piled us back into the car to continue down the rest of our driveway.

As soon as we arrived home, I ran to my cousin's house and told him we had found a tame deer. Being the bright kids that we were, we decided to make Bambi our pet. We ran to the fawn with a dog leash in hand, placed the leash around his neck, and attempted to drag him home. He refused and ran away into the woods. Later that day, my dad lured him back out with birdseed and removed the leash, freeing Bambi into the wild. He never returned.

Trust is a fragile entity. It takes a long time to come by but only a moment to shatter. Trust isn't free; it requires work, without misstep. Bambi was naïve enough to trust five humans approaching him on the first encounter, but for some people it may take years to build a trusting relationship. With one wrong step, one wrong word, or one wrong look, that trust can snap in two, bound off into the woods, and never return. We must learn to treat trust with care. We shouldn't be willing to compromise it for anything. I believe it is imperative to recognize the fragility of trust and protect it.