

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES

THE MUD TRAP

By DADDY

Peggy, Billy, Podge Bear, Pudge Bear and Toddie Pupkins go to Bearland. The bears and puppy are disguised in rompers and false faces, while Billy has turned himself into the Little Wizard. These disguised actors three wild bears away. Podge and Pudge recognize one of the wild bears as their sister. They follow the wild bears to a cave.

CHAPTER II

They Make Plans. Three wild bears in the cave were fast asleep. Outside stood Peggy, Billy, Podge Bear, Pudge Bear and Toddie Pupkins, listening to loud breathing.

"Why don't you go into the cave and surprise your sister?" said Peggy to Podge and Pudge. "She would be astonished to wake up and find her long-lost twin brothers beside her."

"Right! Bears don't like surprises like that," answered Pudge. "Surprises scare 'em, and the first thing they think of when they are scared is to run or fight. Sister Sukie would be sure to claw us."

"And she had awfully long and sharp claws," said Peggy, with a shudder. "For these claws had come close to her when Sukie had tried to reach her in the left of the log house."

"And Sukie's mate is big and dangerous looking," added Pudge Bear. "He might tear us to pieces before we could tell him we are Sukie's brothers."

"Woe!" barked Toddie Pupkins, under his breath. "If there is going to be a fight, leave the little bear to me. I can attend to him."

"We don't want any fighting," quickly whispered Peggy. "Fraud is to be a happy family reunion; and it wouldn't do to spoil it with a clawing and biting row."

"That's right," agreed Billy, wrinkling up his forehead as he puzzled over the matter. "We will have to figure out some way of letting Sister Sukie know her brothers, Podge and Pudge, are here before she or her mate has a chance to get surprised into a fight. I wish we had some way of trapping them so we could break the news to them peacefully."

Billy's eyes roamed over the rocky hill and the surrounding woods. They didn't see any regular trap, but they did see something that made Billy grunt with pleasure and scramble quickly to the bottom of the hill.

What Billy saw was a bit of a bog about a spring that bubbled into a nearby brook. Billy tested the mud of the bog with a stick, and he found it was very soft and very deep. Any beast that got mired in that bog would have a lot of trouble getting out.

"This will do finely for a trap," said Billy. "The next question is how to get the big bear into it."

Toddie Pupkins bobbed up and down excitedly. "I know how to get him into it," he growled. "I'll get him to chase me and when we get to the bottom of the hill I'll throw him into the mud."

Peggy and Billy couldn't help grinning at that, for they knew how Toddie Pupkins would fare if he tried to throw the big bear into the bog. The puppy was so small he couldn't throw one paw of the big bear, much less his whole body.

But even though Billy grinned, he could see some good points to Toddie's plan. He stripped some broad leaves from a nearby bush and with them he made a path across the mud.

"See if you can run across that path without sinking," said Billy to Toddie. The puppy scooted out upon the leaves and was across the bog in a jiffy. He was so small and he went so fast that the leaves held him up. But when Billy stepped upon the leaves his foot went down, down, into the mud, and Billy quickly jerked it back. The leaves would hold the puppy, but they wouldn't hold him, nor would they hold the big bear.

"I know how we will work our trap," whispered Billy. "Toddie Pupkins shall lead Sister Sukie's mate into it and then scoot across in safety while the bear sinks into the mud."

How the mud trap works will be told tomorrow.

The injured are: Frederick Hooper, thirty-six years old, of 1400 Locust street, a patrolman; his wife, Ellen, thirty years old; Morris Lynch, thirty years old, 400 Richmond street, and Ellen Colbert, thirty years old, of Hope street. The machine skidded in attempting to steer clear of another car, and, turning over, pinned all the occupants underneath it. Passing autoists picked up the injured and drove them to the Cooper Hospital, Camden.

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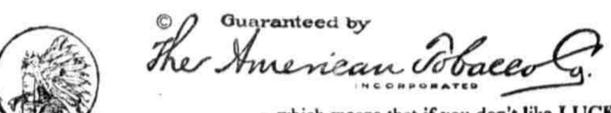
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