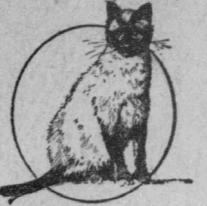


PRINCE DOMINO and "Muffles"



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A new JUVENILE STORY by SEYMOUR EATON, Author of the "TEDDY BEARS"

Illustrations by C. H. TWELVETREES
Each Installment a COMPLETE STORY

XIII. THE FISHING ACCIDENT.

'Twas a thunderstorm that made them run
And spoiled the end of their picnic fun.
They had almost reached dear granny's door
When darkened sky and crack and roar
And lightning flash and rumbling noise
And gusts of wind told girls and boys
That they would better shelter find
And leave their picnic pranks behind.

THE ground was wet and clothes were damp
And things upset around the camp;
But when the Prince returned that day
He gave some orders straight away
To build camp fires and clothing dry
And a supper of bacon and eggs to fry;
And when 'twas dark and the lantern lit
And the boys had wood both chopped and split,
They all sat round the blazing fire
Each wrapped in quilt or night attire;
For the clothes of each were hanging high
On ropes and poles and limbs to dry.
They talked of the fun and the picnic play,

"Dis butler c-cook wants f-fish to eat
Which for de Prince will be a t-treat;
Black b-bass and t-trout in butter fried
Dat make you h-happy all inside;
An' if to-morrow you e-come wif me
Some fancy f-fishin' sure you'll see."
The boys agreed his plans to take
And to go next day to a near-by lake
With Muffles as the guiding mind
The surest fishing spots to find.

THEY made early start the following day
For the little lake a mile away
With hooks and lines and fishing poles
And lunch of cakes and jelly rolls
And baskets made with covers tight
To bring the fish to camp at night.



Muffles frisked from tree to tree
And seemed as glad as he could be
As he led the way through valleys deep
And over hills and ridges steep
Till they reached a wharf on a little bay
Where they hired a boat without delay
And rowed around the wooded shores
With Captain Dinkey at the oars
And Muffles seated in the bow
And the Prince showing Jap and Dutchy how
To wind a line or bait a hook
Or to cast for fish in shaded nook.
The lake was calm and the weather right
And a thousand fish prepared to bite
And all enjoyed the sport that day
And the boat and lake so much that they
Forgot at noon their lunch to take
Or to go ashore their fish to bake
Till Dinkey said about six o'clock
That he proposed the boat to dock.
They all agreed and Prince Domino
With hand on rudder said "Let her go."
The fellows rowed with all their might
And made that boat go like a kite
Till Muffles gave a warning cry
As straight ahead he cast his eye,
For in the water where he could see
Was the pointed top of a cedar tree.
The Prince called "Stop" and they slowed a bit
But 'twas too late for the tree they hit
And the sharpened point came with a crash
And their little boat went all to smash.

(Continued next Sunday.)

Captain Dinkey was the first to scare
And in half a minute he wasn't there;
Just disappeared with a lightning flash
And was out of sight before the crash.
The farmer lad with his motor kite
Started for home but said he'd write
From England, China, Brazil, or Spain,
Or perhaps not till he got back again.
For he meant, he said, to begin a trip
Around the world on a flying ship.
Prince Domino sent the other two
Back to the camp some things to do;
To close the tents and there to stay
And keep their goods from blowing away.
Then he looked about and shelter found
Beneath some overhanging ground
Where trees and vines had made a bower
Which hid them safe from wind and shower;
And there the five girls in a bunch
Laughed at the rain and nibbled lunch
And sang their school songs, new and old,
And played with Muffles and riddles told.

And how they were all dressed up that day,
And the five cute girls and their jolly chat,
And how the girls admired the cat,
And the songs they sang and the swing they
made,
And the picnic lunch and the games they played,
And the boys agreed that rain and all,
And camps upset with the thunder squall,
That this one day was the jolliest yet,
Even if they did get good and wet.
Jappy whispered to little Dutch,

THEN Domino picked from vine and tree
The prettiest leaves that he could see;
Some brown, some green, some colored bright,
As leaves are shaded by the light.
Then Muffles chose a leaf for each
A fortune-telling game to teach.
The Prince then gave each leaf a look
And read it off just like a book;
Told each her age and about her folks
And where she lived and made some jokes
About the boys they liked to meet;
And told each girl what she liked to eat;
And then gave each the leaf to keep
To put under the pillow when next asleep,
"For whatever you dream on the leaf," said he,
"You future fortune will surely be."
When the game was o'er and the storm had
passed
The little girls started home so fast
That they forgot until well away
To wave good-by or to say good day.

"The girls from school, me like them much,"
And Dutchy answered, "But I like best
The one eyes twinkle more all the rest."
Before the boys turned into bed
The Captain to the fellows said:

