

Mini Miracle

11 December 2022

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Harry Hogg and Sammy Squirrel met in the Dingly Dell in their Forest home every week. They had been firm friends from school. Indeed on their very first day the teacher had put them sitting beside one another and that was the beginning of their friendship. Both looked forward to the break and chat away from their wives and families and the chance to talk about "boy things". They liked nothing better than to sit on a log and put their world to rights although sometimes in Autumn it was hard to keep Sammy focused as he kept getting distracted and wandering off to look for the nuts he had buried during the previous week.

" Well Harry said Sammy how is life treating you?

" Well to tell you the truth said Harry I was glad to get out of the house. Mrs Hogg when she is in one of her moods is a demon with the broom and duster and she complains when I get under her feet. "

"Is this the big clean up before Christmas asked Sammy familiar with the annual routine. "

"Of course and not only that but I have been ordered to take the hoglets to choose the real Christmas tree in the Forest this afternoon. That always causes a huge argument among my tribe as to which is the best tree."

" I always go for the tallest one advised Sammy as my lot like nothing better than to scamper up through the branches. "

" Hope you have got your axe well sharpened" said Harry.

" I dont need an axe said Sammy sure haven't I the great pair of front teeth on me . I will have chomped through the wood in no time. Indeed I will do yours if you like offered Sammy. "

"That would be great thanks . We hedgehogs dont have great knashers."

"To each their own. I suppose the decorations will be going on tomorrow enquired Sammy. "

"Dont remind me . The hoglets get so excited it does my head in and there is always a competition as to who puts the angel on top of the tree."

Thats my job said Sammy as none of them can go up as fast or as high as me.

Have you the dinner sorted ? .

"Oh thats up to Mrs Hogg but I have a surprise for her ".

"Oh said Sammy I am intrigued do tell . "

"Well you know the way Farmer Brown has a new Sheep dog Pup called Fetch . A right nice lad he is too. He has offered to give us half his Dog Food Christmas dinner this year. He says he always gets to much and he knows how much we hedgehogs like it. "

Oh thats a real treat said Sammy and very decent of him. I suppose that snooty cat Snowflake is not parting with any of her dinner.

" Of course not that would take a miracle. "

" Luckily I dont have that problem all I need to do is go to my nut store and dig up a few Thats assuming I can remember where they are mused Sammy. "

"Are you for the Christmas Panto tonight. Sure am said Harry . I would not miss it . Its Snow White and the seven dwarfs this year and sure aren't the seven hoglets playing the seven dwarfs. They have all been rehearsing and practising for weeks. Me and the family will be their to cheer you on said Sammy and of course I will film it as well. Great job said Harry."

Later everyone was seated in the Dell waiting for the Panto to begin. Their appeared to be a commotion behind the curtain. They could hear the Director counting one. Two, three. Four , five , six over and over. Next thing Harry Hogg appeared looking very worried with Mrs Hogg behind. We have lost one of the hoglets said Harry the one who was to play Dozy the seventh dwarf .None of the other Hoglets have seen him since lunchtime. He often wanders off but never this late and its now really dark. Sammy jumped to his feet. He too was worried." I will organise a search party ."

All the forest creatures were alerted and joined in the search. The owls, the squirrels, the birds, the mice and voles. They searched high and low but there was no sign of the Hogglet. Mrs Hogg was in tears.

Suddenly Fetch appeared on the scene . How can I help ? Tail wagging and nose to the ground he joined in the search. With his superior nose he was able to sniff out the little Hogglet who had got stuck in a drain pipe on the edge of the forest. Sammy pushed and Harry pulled and rescued him.

The next morning and none the worse for wear the Hogglet was tucked up in bed when Harry answered a knock on the door. On the step stood Snowflake with a small bowl in her paw. I thought the Hogglet would like some of my nice dinner said Snowflake after his ordeal. Miracles will never cease thought Harry. Two days later the Panto took place to great aplomb with all seven Hoglets playing their part.

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