

Naughty

Cat



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Once upon a time there was a cat named Whiskers who loved to chase animals. He would run after mice, squirrels, birds, dogs, and even bears. All the animals were very afraid of Whiskers because he had unusually pointy teeth, piercing claws, and he loved to bite just about anything that was in his sight.

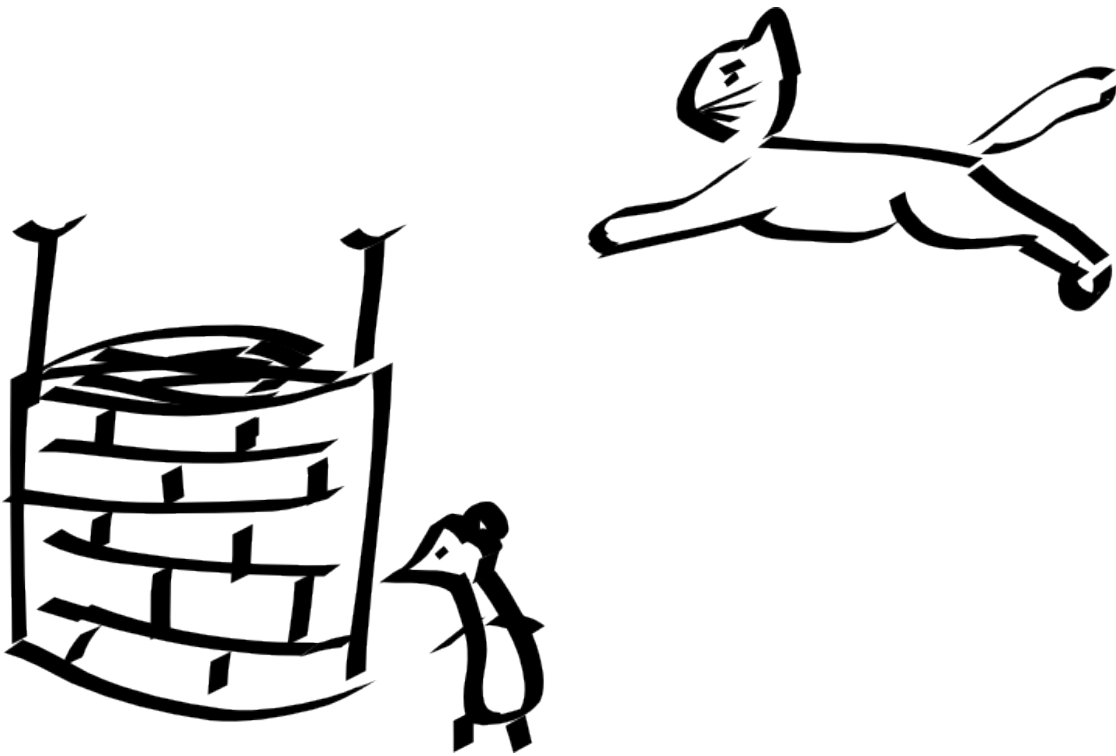
On one fine morning, Whiskers realized that he was hungry, so he decided to go explore. He looked behind rocks, inside bushes, in holes, and on grassy plains until he finally spotted a little mouse named Tony. Tony was minding his own business near a trash bin, nibbling on some cheese, when Whiskers quietly approached from behind, hoping to go unnoticed.

*Crack!* Whiskers broke a twig and Tony turned his head around.

“Oh no!” Tony squeaked.

Whiskers hissed and Tony began to run as fast as he could.

Tony was fast, but so was Whiskers. Whiskers chased Tony through the woods – past oak trees, juniper trees, redwood trees, and through rotting logs. Tony headed toward a well in the middle of the woods. Whiskers leaped toward Tony, but Tony turned abruptly. Whiskers couldn't stop his flight in midair and as a result he fell into a deep, dark, well.



“Meow!” he cried. “Somebody please help me!”

Tony was very relieved. He wouldn't have to worry about the cat anymore. He soon set off toward his home, which happened to be near the well.

Whiskers groaned over and over again for hours and hours, hoping that somebody would help him. Many animals walked by the well and heard Whisker's pleas, but they also remembered all the cruel things Whiskers had done to them, and as a result they refused to help him.

As night approached Tony began to feel sorry for Whiskers. He walked over to the well and climbed up to the rim. He peaked down but couldn't see Whiskers because it was nighttime and the well was deep.

"Tony, is that you?" Whiskers asked. "Please, please help me."

"Why should I help you when you wanted to catch and eat me?"

"I'm sorry, I was just hungry and...and I promise I won't do it again if you help me get out of here."

"I don't know. Why should I trust you?" Tony asked as he wandered around the rim. "How can I be sure that you won't chase me or any of the other animals around here?"

"I swear that I will bite off my claws and hand them over to you once I get out."

There was a moment of silence as Tony walked around the rim trying to decide whether to help Whiskers.

"Alright, tomorrow I will try to help you," Tony finally said.

When Tony woke up on the following day, he knew that he couldn't pull Whiskers out of the well alone, because after all, he was only a tiny mouse.

Tony walked toward an oak tree where his squirrel friend lived. He yelled, "Nutty! Nutty! Please come out!"



"What's all the ruckus?" Nutty responded. "You woke me up from my wonderful nap. What do you want?"

"I have a favor to ask you. Could you help me rescue Whiskers?"

"Whiskers – that good for nothing cat? Why would I ever help rescue such a cruel beast?"

"I promise that he'll never chase you again."

"I don't know if I can trust that cat. However since you're my friend I will help you."

So Nutty crawled down and tagged along with Tony. They both walked toward a cave where Grizzle, a big grizzly bear, lived.

"Hello, Grizzle, are you there?" Tony asked as he entered the cave.

"How's it going, Tony? What are you up to on such a fine day?"

"I have a favor to ask you. Could you help me and Nutty rescue Whiskers?"

“But Whiskers scared my little cub up a tree. Instead of helping him I should crush him to pieces!”

“I promise that he will never, ever, scare your little cub again.”

“Oh, all right,” Grizzle replied.

So the bear crawled out of the cave and tagged along with Tony and Nutty.

They headed through the woods and stopped at a tree house.

“Twitter, are you there?” Tony asked.

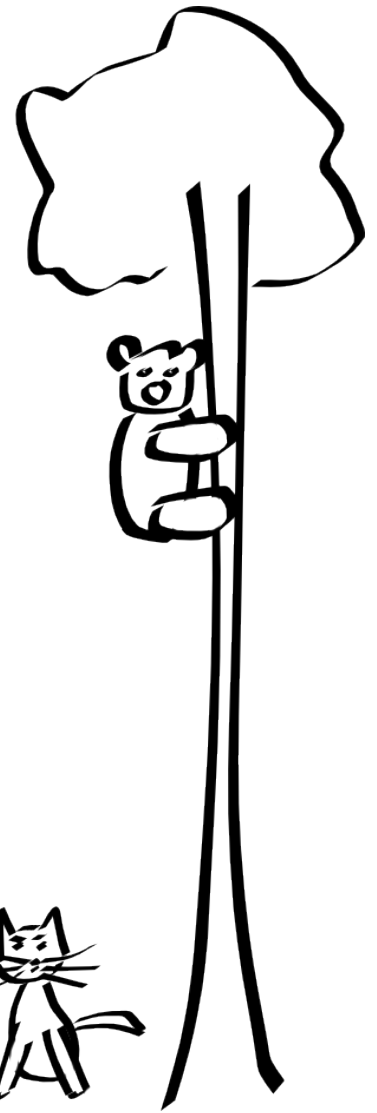
“Hi, Tony,” Twitter chirped. “Care to tell what you, Nutty, and Grizzle are all doing here?”

“We are off to rescue

Whiskers and I’m in search of those who can help us.”

“But that evil cat clawed at my wings and nearly stole one of my eggs. Why, oh why, would you ever want to rescue him?”

“I promise that he’ll never claw you, nor steal your eggs, ever again.”



“But why should I believe your promise?” Twitter replied, still not convinced.

“I think that if we help Whiskers, he will show his appreciation by stopping his bad behavior.”

“Oh, all right. I guess I’ll help,” Twitter finally conceded.

So Tony, Nutty, Grizzle, and Twitter all headed toward the well, discussing and formulating their plans to rescue Whiskers. Twitter flew to a nearby farm where he found a long piece of rope and carried it back to the well with his beak. Grizzle brought his bucket that he previously used to store honey. Nutty found a strong stick lying near the well. Tony told Grizzle to tie one end of Twitter’s rope to Nutty’s stick. Tony then told Grizzle to tie the bucket to the other end of the rope.



“Okay,” Tony yelled. “Let’s hoist everything above the well and drop the bucket.”

“If that cat tries to scare anyone again, I swear I’ll feed him to the dogs!” Grizzle claimed.

The bucket was slowly let down until a plop sound was heard.

Whiskers meowed with joy as he got into the bucket. He frantically shivered as a result of his long stay in the cold water at the bottom of the well. Grizzle soon pulled the bucket all the way up and Whiskers finally appeared. He looked frightened, yet happy and relieved.

“Oh my gosh, thank you all!” Whiskers said.

“Since you are rescued you must fulfill our deal,” Tony said. “You must never ever chase, steal from, or taunt any of us again. Do you promise?”

“Yes!” Whiskers exclaimed.

“And the claws?” Tony asked.

“You really want my claws? I...I thought you were only joking.”

“A promise is a promise.”

“Oh...all right,” he finally responded.



Whiskers began biting his nails.

“Okay, Whiskers,” Tony said. “You can now stop biting your nails. We just wanted to see if we could gain your trust.”

“Oh, thank goodness,” Whiskers replied.

The animals soon went off their own ways. Whiskers never again caused any trouble to any of the animals and they all lived happily ever after.

THE END