

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By THORNTON W. BURGESS. Reddy Proves His Cunning. Old Man Coyote had had a feast up All the day after his discovery that Farmer Brown's Reddy Fox

thought about it. Just thinking about it made him hungrier than ever, if that were possible. He was impatient for that day to end. It seemed to him the longest day he could remember. When the first black shadows

came creeping out from the Purple Hills he sighed with relief. He began to walk about unsteadily. It seemed to him that jolly, round, red Mr. Sun never would go to bed. But at last the Black Shadows had

crept out across the Green Meadows and across Farmer Brown's dooryard. Reddy waited no longer. Keeping in the blackest of the Black Shadows, he crept up behind Farmer Brown's barn. There he waited as patiently as he

could. It was a long wait. It seemed to him that those lights in Farmer Brown's house never would go out. He kept looking behind him anxiously. Would the feast of the night before have made Old Man Coyote bolder,

At last he heard the kitchen door open. He saw Farmer Brown's boy come out. He had a big pan of food. He brought it out and set it down just where Reddy had found the empty pan the night before. Then he returned to the house. A few minutes later the last light in the house went out. Reddy waited only long enough to make sure that it really was out. Then he ran swiftly to that pan of food. My, my, my, how he did gobble that food! Never was a pig more greedy than was Reddy Fox. It seemed as if he couldn't get that food down quick enough. One reason was that he was half starved. Another was that he wanted to make sure of all of it before Old Man Coyote should arrive. He had wasted no time looking for traps, as had Old Man Coyote the night before. You see, Reddy knew there were no traps, for he had seen Farmer Brown's boy bring that food out. When he had licked that pan so clean that it looked as if it had been washed he chuckled happily. Then he

trotted over behind the henhouse and laid down where he could peep around the corner and watch. He waited a long time. But at last he saw a shadowy, gray form come out from behind the barn and go straight toward that empty pan. It was Old Man Coyote. Reddy chuckled again, a wicked little chuckle. But he took care that it wasn't loud enough to be heard. A few feet from the empty pan Old Man Coyote stopped and stared at it. Then as he had done the night before, he circled around it. This brought him to the tracks of Reddy Fox. In the moonlight Reddy could see the lips of Old Man Coyote drawn back so as to show all his teeth. Then without another glance at that empty pan, Old Man Coyote put his nose to Reddy's tracks and started to follow them. Reddy waited to see no more. He ran as only he can run. He no longer chuckled. You see, he hadn't once thought that Old Man Coyote might try to catch him.

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