

SLEEPY-TIME TALES THE TALE OF TOMMY FOX BY ARTHUR SCOTT BAILEY

CHAPTER VII

Tommy Chases Mr. Woodchuck. Tommy Fox went up into Farmer Green's back pasture, which lay even nearer Blue Mountain than the field where Tommy and his mother lived. He skulked along among the rocky hummocks, and the old stumps which dotted the pasture thickly. His ears and his eyes and his nose were all alert to discover any small animal that might be stirring—especially his nose; for Tommy could smell things when they were a long way off.



Tommy stole along very carefully.

him—ah! that was quite different. The other forest-people would all know he was coming, for then they would be able to get Tommy's scent. And some day, if he were so foolish as to go about with the wind at his back, some day he might stumble right onto a wildcat, or a dog, or a man, or some other terrible creature. Well—Tommy remembered all these things that his mother had told him. The wind blew fresh in his face. And to his delight all at once he smelled a woodchuck. There was no mistaking that savory smell. It

affected Tommy very pleasantly—much as you are affected by catching a whiff of hot peanuts, or pop-corn, or candy cooking on the stove. Tommy stole along very carefully. And as he peered around a stump he saw, not ten jumps ahead of him, a tiny, fat woodchuck. Tommy crouched up a little closer; and then he sprang for Mr. Woodchuck with a rush. Pudge Mr. Woodchuck saw Tommy just in time. He turned tail and ran for his life; and he was so spry, though he was quite a fat, elderly gentleman, that he reached his hole and whisked down out of sight just as Tommy was about to seize him. Tommy was disappointed. But he was determined to get that woodchuck, and he began to dig away at Mr. Woodchuck's hole. You see, Mr. Woodchuck was smaller than Tommy Fox, and since the underground tunnel that led to his home was only big enough to admit him, Tommy was obliged to make it larger. Though Mr. Woodchuck's hole was under a shady oak tree, Tommy found digging to be somewhat warm work, so he took out his meat, red coat and hung it carefully upon a bush.

He worked very hard, for he was eager to find Mr. Woodchuck. In fact, the further Tommy dug into the ground the more excited he grew. And he had just decided he had almost reached the end of the tunnel, and that a little more digging would bring him inside of Mr. Woodchuck's house, when he met with an unexpected check. To Tommy's dismay, Mr. Woodchuck's tunnel led between two roots of the big oak, and Tommy could not squeeze between them. He reached his paws through the narrow opening and crowded his nose in as far as it would go. But that was all he could do. He did not doubt that somewhere in beyond, in the darkness, Mr. Woodchuck was having a good laugh because Tommy had done all that work for nothing.

I'm sorry to say that Tommy Fox lost his temper. He called after Mr. Woodchuck. Yes—he shouted some rather bad names after him. But of course that didn't do a bit of good. And Tommy Fox put on his coat and went home to think about what he could do. He didn't care to ask his mother's advice, because he didn't want her to know that Mr. Woodchuck had got away from him. But he hoped to find some way in which he could catch the old gentleman.

HOLDING A HUSBAND Adele Garrison's New Phase of Revelations of a Wife

The "Good Workable Plan" Lillian Suggested to Madge. There was such decision, such finality, in Lillian's tones as she voiced her determination to go on with her plan of finding a home for herself near us in the country that I realized, with a selfish little throbbing of thankfulness of which I was ashamed, the utility of opposing her.

the slashed photograph was closed for the time at least. While I was grateful to both my husband and my friend for shielding me from the unpleasantness which I imagined must invest both questions, yet I felt vaguely out of things when, after I had done justice to Katie's "sour milk" pancakes, I went upstairs to talk with Lillian.

"That's a very good line, old dear," he addressed her mockingly. "But it's all wasted on me. Hunt a home for yourself if you wish, but I'm going to move heaven and earth to stay right here."

"In the first place," she said didactically, "you're the most methodical housekeeper I know. From the looks of things I'm sure you had everything sorted and packed away in the shape when you left the house for North Carolina."

"Let's Plan Our Campaign." "Nevertheless, my dear, I shall try it out," he said. "Now if you'll pardon me I must be off. By the way, Madge, I took that little frame from the drawer and gave it to Lil. I thought there was no use disturbing you this morning."

"No-o," I answered. "Well, then, packing for you is going to be a very simple matter, as most of it can be done by Jim and Katie. Can Jim pack china and glass?"

"I'm not worrying about his getting the house back," I uttered the falsehood stoutly. "It's what I hope he will do, for Lillian, I simply cannot let you spend your strength for me any longer. I'm going to take you in charge, my dear, and be a most inexorable mistress. If I don't—"

"I mean," Lillian said, adjusting her hat before the mirror, "that I don't think there's a chance in the world of our getting anything within commuting distance before next fall, and I must be prepared for any kind of a shift that happens. If we do have the luck to hit upon something, such an arrangement of packing won't hurt anything, and if we fail to find what we want it will be the only possible way you can manage."

When Lillian led the room I hurried through the rest of my breakfast, remorsefully conscious that it was not of Lillian I was thinking most, but of the puzzle which her last words to Dicky had given me. Why had she said so significantly, "Neither do you?" Why had he flushed so understandingly? That very reason my husband should not live in Marvin's concern closely, I could not guess, yet I was sure that I should have nothing more about it from either Dicky or Lillian. I surmised, also, that the matter of

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More often than not it has been spent as it came, or lost in speculative ventures. According to the statement given wide circulation by the government in its thrift campaign, out of every 100 average men reaching the age of 65, only six are wealthy enough to be able to retire or enjoy ease of life without worry, while nine are self-supporting but are compelled to work, and 85 are dependent upon children, relatives or charity.

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The man who has made and spent a fortune in his day is then in the same company with the man who never made more than a bare living. Up to the age of 45 the earning ability of the average man continues to climb, thereafter gradually sinking. In those days of youth, when the first earnings seem so meager, it is hard to begin saving, for the small amount that could be held from expenditure often seems scarcely worthwhile when measured with the pleasure of using it immediately. Young men do not like to wait.

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But now comes someone with the old, yet new discovery that money if left alone will double itself at 7 per cent for ten years. Operating on this basis, the man of 25 who saves \$100 every six months, will not only be able to retire at the age of 60, but will have an income of more than \$1,300 a year and capital of \$23,000.

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Under the other method, a man takes advantage of his accumulative years between 25 and 60 to build a fund large enough to provide an ample income by the time he wishes to retire, or to travel, or merely to be free from bread and butter worries. It is simply a matter of deciding how much one can save each year and sticking to it, perhaps saving more in flush times and less in poor ones. The booklet contains a table with a plan for men of various ages up to 50. If you are 35 years old and wish to begin storing up for old age, you find that a monthly income of \$100 at the age of 60 can be assured by investing \$200 each six months up to that time. An income of \$300 a month is produced by savings of \$500 each half year.

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Let's Plan Our Campaign. "Nevertheless, my dear, I shall try it out," he said. "Now if you'll pardon me I must be off. By the way, Madge, I took that little frame from the drawer and gave it to Lil. I thought there was no use disturbing you this morning."

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