

## *The Little Thief in the Pantry*

"MOTHER dear," said a little mouse one day, "I think the people in our house must be very kind; don't you? They leave such nice things for us in the larder."

There was a twinkle in the mother's eye as she replied,—

"Well, my child, no doubt they are very well in their way, but I don't think they are quite as fond of us as you seem to think. Now remember, Greywhiskers, I have absolutely forbidden you to put your nose above the ground unless I am with you, for kind as the people are, I shouldn't be at all surprised if they tried to catch you."

Greywhiskers twitched his tail with scorn; he was quite sure he knew how to take care of himself, and he didn't mean to trot meekly after his mother's tail all his life. So as soon as she had curled herself up for an afternoon nap he stole away, and scampered across the pantry shelves.

Ah! here was something particularly good to-day. A large iced cake stood far back upon the shelf, and Greywhiskers licked his lips as he sniffed it. Across the top of the cake there were words written in pink sugar; but as Greywhiskers could not read, he did not know that he was nibbling at little Miss Ethel's birthday cake. But he did feel a little guilty when he heard his

mother calling. Off he ran, and was back in the nest again by the time his mother had finished rubbing her eyes after her nap.

She took Greywhiskers up to the pantry then, and when she saw the hole in the cake she seemed a little annoyed.

“Some mouse has evidently been here before us,” she said, but of course she never guessed that it was her own little son.

The next day the naughty little mouse again popped up to the pantry when his mother was asleep; but at first he could find nothing at all to eat, though there was a most delicious smell of toasted cheese.

Presently he found a dear little wooden house, and there hung the cheese, just inside it.

In ran Greywhiskers, but, oh! “click” went the little wooden house, and mouseie was caught fast in a trap.

When the morning came, the cook, who had set the trap, lifted it from the shelf, and then called a pretty little girl to come and see the thief who had eaten her cake.

**“What are you going to do with him?” asked Ethel.**

**“Why, drown him, my dear, to be sure.”**

**The tears came into the little girl’s pretty blue eyes.**

**“You didn’t know it was stealing, did you, mousie dear?” she said.**

**“No,” squeaked Greywhiskers sadly; “indeed I didn’t.”**

**Cook’s back was turned for a moment, and in that moment tender-hearted little Ethel lifted the lid of the trap, and out popped mousie.**

**Oh! how quickly he ran home to his mother, and how she comforted and petted him until he began to forget his fright; and then she made him promise never to disobey her again, and you may be sure he never did.**

# Pencuri Kecil di Pantry

Pada suatu hari seekor anak tikus memanggil ibunya dan berkata “ Wahai Ibu, orang orang di rumah kita sangat baik, bukankah begitu? Mereka selalu menyimpan makanan enak untuk kita di lemari makanan.

Lalu Ibunya menjawab dengan mata yang bebinar

“ Yah, anakku, mereka memang sangat baik, namun Ibu tak begitu yakin jika mereka begitu menyukai keberadaan kita seperti apa yang ada dibenak mu. Sekarang ingat, Greywhiskers, Ibu sangat melarang mu mengendus tanah kecuali Ibu bersamamu, Ibu tidak akan terkejut bila mereka mencoba menangkap mu.

Greywhiskers meremehkan nasihat Ibunya sambil mengoyangkan ekornya; Dia merasa cukup tahu bagaimana menjaga dirinya sendiri, namun dia tidak ingin berlari dari sang Ibu yang selalu bersama selama hidupnya. Ketika Ibunya sedang tidur siang, Greywhiskers dengan perlahan berlari dan mendekati rak pantry.

Ah! Hari ini Greywhiskers sangat beruntung karena dia menemukan sebuah kue besar yang berada cukup jauh dengan rak pantry. Lalu , Greywishkers yang tergoda kemudian mulai mengendus kue itu. Dia yang tidak dapat membaca, tanpa sadar sedang mengigit kue yang bertuliskan nama Putri Ethel. Ketika Ibunya memanggilnya, Greywhiskers yang tak merasa bersalah kemudian berlari ke rumahnya dan sampai di rumah saat sang ibu terbangun dari tidur siangnya.

Sang Ibu yang kesal mengajak Greywhiskers ke dapur untuk melihat apa yang sudah dia perbuat.

“Beberapa tikus terbukti telah ada di sini sebelum kita,” ucap sang Ibu, tetapi tentu saja Ibu tidak pernah menduga bahwa itu adalah putranya sendiri.

Keesokan harinya tikus kecil yang nakal itu muncul lagi ke dapur ketika ibunya tertidur; tetapi pada awalnya dia tidak dapat menemukan apa pun untuk dimakan, meskipun ada aroma keju panggang yang paling lezat.

Saat itu, dia menemukan sebuah rumah kayu kecil dan sepotong keju tergantung didalamnya.

Greywhiskers kemudian mencoba untuk memasuki rumah itu, namun ketika dia berada didalam rumah itu untuk mengambil sepotong keju yang tergantung, tiba tiba terdengar bunyi “klik” dan anak tikus itu terjebak didalam perangkap tikus.

Ketika pagi tiba, sang koki mengangkat perangkap tikus yang sudah dipasang olehnya dan kemudian memanggil Putri Ethel untuk melihat pencuri yang sudah memakan kuenya.

"Apa yang akan kamu lakukan padanya?" Tanya Putri Ethel.

“Kenapa? Tentu saja menenggelamkannya”. Jawab sang koki

Sang putri kecil bermata biru itu kemudian meneteskan air mata.

Kamu tidak tahu apa itu mencuri kan tikus kecil? Tanya Putri Ethel

“Tidak, aku benar benar tidak tahu” kata Greywhiskers dengan sedih

Saat sang koki membalikan punggungnya, Putri Ethel yang baik hati membuka tutup perangkap tikus untuk membebaskan anak tikus yang malang itu.

Grewhiskers dengan cepat berlari ke rumah dan menemui Ibunya. Kemudian, Ibunya mencoba untuk menghibur anaknya yang benar benar ketakutan. Sang Ibu ingin Grewshikers berjanji untuk mematuhi Ibunya dan tentu saja tidak akan mengulangi kejadian ini.