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F. A. ROTH & COMPANY

THE STORE THAT ALWAYS SELLS THE CHEAPEST

LOUISBURG, NORTH CAROLINA

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

ANIMAL SPRINGTIME

"It is springtime," said the little prairie dogs to the ones who were still asleep. "Get up, lazy bones, get up!"



"Above Our Mounds."

"Springtime is here! We want to dig and look at the world above our mounds. Get up, every prairie dog. Get up! The springtime is here. The time that the animals love the best. We have had a fine winter's sleep. We are well rested. We have had naps aplenty and sweet dreams.

"We are the last to go to bed in the fall. It is true, just as late as are the chipmunks, but still we must get up now. We would even peer forth if a warm day should come before the springtime. The warm weather is so nice.

"We got good and fat last fall. Now we must work and play and be busy. Yes, we must be up and about, for the springtime has come. The Animals' Springtime. Perhaps the springtime doesn't just come for the animals who so enjoy it after their winter sleep, but it almost seems that way. It almost does!

"It almost seems as though the springtime were just for us."

"We have had a longer sleep than any of the others," said the Richardson Ground-Squirrels. "Especially we older members of the family. The younger ones didn't come to bed as soon as we did. We went to bed last summer—during the latter part of the summer, and we're only just getting up now. But we like the springtime, the lovely springtime. So, all of the Richardson Ground-Squirrels, hear the call of the spring and awaken! For we do not stay awake long and we want to be awake at the best time of the year, which the Richardson Ground-Squirrels think is the spring."

"Jump up, jump up," said Mrs. Jumping Mouse. There were still a number of Jumping Mice who had not arisen.

"Jump up, jump up, for the springtime has come." And the Jumping Mice who were already up sang this song to the ones who were getting up:

"Hurry, hurry up, jump, jump, jump! Don't stay asleep like a lump, lump, lump!"

"Be frisky and gay, be frisky and gay. For this is a wonderful springtime day. You've slept enough; it is time to awaken.

"And if you don't get up, you'll have to be shaken."

So the Jumping Mice who were not already up, got up with a jump and began frisking about, too.

All over the country the animals who had been asleep for the winter were getting up. They were in their own colonies and others were scattered here and there.

"Get up, get up," said the bears to each other. "We've slept long enough.

"We want to go hunting for berries and vegetables. Get up, lazy bears!"

So the bears all got up.

"Get up, get up," cried Mrs. Woodchuck to her family. "Get up and let's see if the farmers have begun to plant their vegetables." For Mrs. Woodchuck knew that that would make all of her family get up.

"Come out of your holes and see the world, and see the sunshine and the springtime! The fine springtime when everything is coming up out of the ground, the woodchucks, too!"

So all over the country animals were awakening from their winter's sleep and were brushing their spring suits and looking their very best as they started forth for adventure and to do their marketing.

And all of the animals sang and chirped and talked in groups, and this is what most of them said:

"The springtime, the springtime, is the happy, happy season. It's waking up time, and that is the main reason.

"We wouldn't be happy if we hadn't slept well.

"But we slept most soundly, we're delighted to tell.

"We're ready for adventures and plenty of fun.

"We're out in the air again, right below Mr. Sun.

"And we think the world is very fine, but the springtime best of all.

"So think so many animals, little ones and tall."

And Miss Springtime smiled and said to Mr. Sun:

"They are very flattering to me, but it is most pleasant, most pleasant, Mr. Sun."

Lesson in Punctuation.

"Dad, how would you punctuate this sentence: 'A five-dollar bill blew around the corner.'"

"Put a period at the end of the sentence."

"I wouldn't; I'd make a dash after the five-dollar bill."

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The farmer looked at the merchant a moment and then said:

"Why don't you patronize your home paper and advertise? I read it and didn't know that you had the stuff I have here."

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