



Tuttle's Adventure

Tuttle the turtle was very happy to play near Rippling Brook. Her mother warned her to play close to their home. She always wanted to be an explorer. For a while she was happy to play near the house with her best friend, Tia the tortoise. As she grew older she became a rebel.

One day, "Tuttle where have you been?" said her mother.

"We crossed the brook".

"Tuttle, you know that is forbidden in this household after your father was swept away by the current while crossing the brook. He was never seen again. Go to your room now! I am not going to serve supper to such an insolent turtle"

Tuttle plodded down the hall in her room. Suddenly she had an idea. She would run away!

She wrote a note to her mother stating "I HAVE RUN AWAY". Then she sneaked out of the window and ran into the night. Tuttle had travelled a long distance before she was very tired. She found an abandoned rabbit burrow to spend the night in and fell fast asleep. When turtle woke up, she found her self in a cage. "Oh, no! I have been captured for the zoo!" she moaned. 'I should have listened to my mother.'

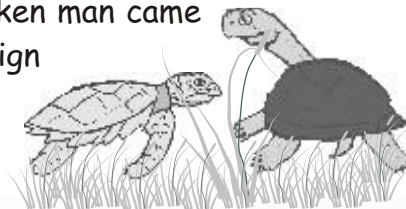
For the next few days all Tuttle did was eat, sleep, and complain. She was very sad. Then some thing very extraordinary happened. Tia was also brought to the zoo. Tia explained that the zoo workers had captured her while she was playing by the creek.

Tia and Tuttle decided that they had to escape.

But how?

Sitting in the cage, Tuttle and Tia noticed two things that would help them escape. One was that most of the men were drunk. Two was that men threw manure and foreign objects out of the cages every night. That night, Tuttle and Tia devised their escape plan. First they would hide by the manure pile and try to look like mound of manure. Once they get out, run to Rippling brook.

The next night, Tuttle and Tia lay down and pretended to be foreign objects. Soon enough, a drunken man came to pick up the manure and foreign objects. Mistaking the two young turtles for piles of waste, the man picked them up and put them in his bag. When he was done, he dumped the bag on to some soft grass. After the men left, Tuttle and Tia ran as fast as they could. It took them the whole night to get back to Rippling brook. They reached Tuttle's house at dawn. Exhausted, they slept under Tuttle's porch.



When Tuttle's mother went to get the newspaper, she found Tuttle and Tia. She gave a whoop of joy. The noise woke Tuttle and Tia instantly.

"I am sorry, Mom" said Tuttle

"Tuttle I am so happy to see you! Tia, your parents were worried sick about you" said the mother.

She continued with a big smile, "Guess what Tuttle, your father has come back. He was swept down river miles away. It took long time for your father to swim against the current"

Mrs. Turtle hugged both of them very happily!