



## Help Me!

Bonny was the family dog and she had one little puppy. They lived on a farm in Africa with a father, a mother and three children. Everyone in that family loved the two dogs.



Bonny and her puppy were very happy there and were always having a really good time together. This afternoon they played with a ball but after a while they got bored with that game. So Bonny and her puppy started to race around trying to catch some butterflies, which they found too hard of course. So they wandered off on their own into the bush behind their house.

They had walked for a really long time and did not realise how far they had gone. And after a while Bonny was getting quite worried. The family at home was



probably looking for them now. Perhaps they were also getting very worried. It was time to turn around and go back home.

And then it happened.

An accident!

It happened so suddenly that Bonny at first did not even realise what had happened.

Suddenly her puppy had disappeared. Where was she? She had disappeared into the ground. There was a deep hole in the middle of the path that some cruel people use to catch small animals. And her puppy had fallen right into it. It was a trap that some hunters had dug. They had covered it with branches, twigs and leaves so that you could not see it. It was no wonder that the puppy fell into it.

Poor thing.

She was crying and whimpering at the bottom of the hole and tried to get out. She tried very hard but just couldn't get out by herself. It was impossible.

She needed help. So Bonny tried to help the poor puppy, but she was afraid she would fall into the hole



A short story by Leo Schoof, Kelmscott, Western Australia

herself. And that would be worse. Then they would both be stuck at the bottom of that hole.

Further up the track an elephant was quietly eating some leaves from the trees.

What did she hear? An animal crying? Some animal in trouble? Then I must help. I am big and very strong. I must go and see what I can do for other animals in trouble.



She stomped up the track where she heard the whimpering sound coming from. And there was Bonny trying to rescue her puppy. Her head was right into the hole and she nearly fell in herself.



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“What’s the matter”, the elephant said to Bonny.

Bonny was frightened by this big animal.

“I did not see you coming”, she said.

“No wonder”, the elephant said, “that’s because you had your head in that hole”.

“What’s down that hole”? the elephant asked.

“My dear little puppy has fallen into the hole and I can’t get him out”, Bonny said.

“Maybe I can help you”, the elephant said.

“I’ll see what I can do”.





Elephants have long noses. Do you know what these noses are called?

They are called trunks.

“I will see if I can lift him out with my long trunk”, the elephant said.

“You just grab hold of my trunk”, he said to the poor little puppy. “I will lift you out and I promise that I will be very, very careful. Don’t you worry”.

The elephant carefully put his trunk into the hole.....and then.....“Ah, Ah”, the elephant said, “My trunk is too short, I can’t reach him”.

“What now?”, said Bonny.

“I know what I will do. I will go down on my knees and then I am sure I can reach him”, the elephant said.

And that is what he did. He went down on his knees and put his trunk into the hole.

But the puppy was frightened of the long nose of the elephant and tried to get away from it.



“Well that doesn’t work, does it?” the elephant said to Bonny.

“You know what? I have an idea”, the elephant said.

“What is it”, Bonny asked him.

“If you grab hold of my long trunk I will gently let you down the hole. Then when you get to the bottom of the hole you show your puppy how to get hold of my trunk. Then you both grab my trunk and I will lift both of you out of the hole”, the elephant explained.

“When you do it together your puppy won’t be so scared any more”.

“Are you sure you can lift both of us”, Bonny asked.

“Of course I can. Elephants are very strong, you know”, the elephant said to Bonny.

“I really hope it works and I also hope we don’t both have to stay in that hole”.

“Ok then” said Bonny. And it was not even that hard. He hardly had to hold on to the trunk because the elephant was holding him like a baby. He curled his trunk around him and held him tight.



When he landed at the bottom of the hole she first had to calm her frightened little puppy. Then she showed him how to get hold of the elephant's trunk. After a while they were both settled and they held firmly onto the elephant's trunk. The elephant was helping them and made sure they did not fall off. And that is how the elephant gently lifted both of them out of the hole.

“What now?”, said the elephant.

“Where do you live? You must be a long way from home and you must both be very tired. You know what? I will give you a ride home on my back”.

“But.....how do we get on to your back. You are so tall”, Bonny asked.



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“That’s easy”, the elephant answered, “I will go down on my knees and then you will be able to jump onto my back. No problem at all”.



And that’s what they did and they had the most comfortable and exciting ride of their life.

After a while the elephant said: “I can see a house in the distance”.







SpindleWorks 



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“That’s our house. Yes, I can see it now myself”, Bonny said. When they came home the whole family came running out of the house. They were so pleased to see Bonny and her puppy back again. They all thanked the elephant by giving him a friendly pat. The elephant had found some new friends and Bonny and her puppy also found a new friend. They were very happy and thanked their new friend and asked him to come back some day and they would offer him some fresh leaves from the trees in their back garden.

It is always good to make some new friends. They all thought it was very clever how the elephant rescued their little puppy. The elephant was happy that he could use his strength to help the dogs.

Everyone was very, very happy and thankful.

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