

THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF BESSIE BUSYBODY



1.—WELL, YOU KNOW, I told you about that Wizard we rescued from the waves. He was the craftiest and cruelest of all the Wicked Wizards I ever met. He promised us all kinds of good things if we would take him back to his island.



2.—AND WE WERE just foolish enough to do it, too. It was a grand place, and the Wiz had a scrumptious big palace, and he showed me all through it. Then he pointed out the great volcano that crowned the mountain island, and asked if I wanted to go up and see the fireworks.



3.—OF COURSE I DID, for it was a glorious sight to see the volcano belching out rocks and lava and fire. So the Wiz brought out one of his pet animals that had some long German name, but he called it his "Talkative Frankensteinheimer" for short.



4.—SO I GOT ON THIS queer-looking thing's back, and away we galloped up the zigzag mountain road. I could see the captain, who remained in the submarine, way down below, and I knew he was watching me through his telescope to see that I was safe.



5.—PRETTY SOON WE got near the top, and the rumbling and roaring of the eruptions scared me somethin' awful, and I yelled at the Frankensteinheimer to take me back, but he only snorted at me and ran all the faster straight for that awful volcano.



6.—THEN I SAW IT was the work of that Wicked Wizard, and knew the terrible beast was trained to the work of dumping people in the awful fire-pit. I tried to jump off the monster's back, but was not quick enough. Up went his heels in the air, and he stopped short like a bucking broncho, and over his head went poor me.



7.—WELL, I WAS frightened most to death. Guess I sorter forgot jes' where I was for awhile, and, of course, I thought I must be dead. But, you see, the joke was on me, for I wasn't dead at all. Nope! Jes' stunned. The volcano thundered in my ears and the sulphur nearly choked me. I thought I heard someone calling my name, and sure enough there was the dear old captain not far above me.



8.—HE WAS LOOKING over the edge of the crater, and quickly threw a rope down to where I was lying on a rock. Well, mebbe I didn't grab it quick and hang on for dear life! In a jiffy I was hauled up over the edge and was in the captain's arms.



9.—WE HAD A pretty close call of it in escaping from that terrible island. The captain wanted to blow up castle, Wizard and all, but I begged him not to, so we hurried down the opposite side of the mountain and sneaked aboard the submarine. The Wiz and his Frankensteinheimer rushed down to the landing, but we only laughed at them as we sank out of sight in the submarine "Bessie B."