

LITTLE GROWLING BIRD IN WINDEGO LAND



Red Deer became very fond of Little Growing Bird, and was always trying to prove grateful for the way Little Growing Bird saved his life, by shooting Mah-sen-gun, the Wolf. One day Red Deer showed plainly that he wanted Little Growing Bird and Yellow Hair to climb on his back, and he would take them for a long ride. Red Deer carried the children a long way into the woods, and, on the way, told them all about the Deer People.

He told them how their nice big horns fell off early in the spring and how the new ones sprouted very quickly, but soft and fuzzy, so that hunters say, when the new horns are growing, that they are "in the velvet." In the fall the horns grow harder, and the fuzzy stuff dries up, leaving the new horns white and strong, and all the points very sharp. Then the deer felt so strong that they wanted to try their new horns and were very quarrelsome, going around looking for fight. After a while their tempers were better, and they were quiet and kind for the rest of the winter.



In the springtime their horns began to get loose, and when they felt that the horns were about ready to come off, the deer went away to some secret place and hid them.

When Red Deer reached a strange-looking cave he stopped and told the children to look into the dark opening and they would see horns of all shapes and sizes that the Deer People had hidden there.

The children had great fun holding the great horns on top of their heads and playing about the cave, pretending to be deer. Suddenly Red Deer gave a start and looked about in an excited way. He had heard another deer nearby.



Before the children knew what Red Deer was about they heard the crackling of the leaves and twigs. Looking around they saw Red Deer with head down, rushing wildly toward another deer that was standing behind some tall bushes nearby. For a moment the children were frightened, but remembering what Red Deer had told them they laughed, and, holding tightly to their horns, they started running for home. They wanted to show Big Bear the beautiful horns they found.

Big Bear was hugging Yellow Hair's dolly when the children reached home. They rushed toward Big Bear with the horns on their heads, making as much noise as they could, thinking to frighten Big Bear. The good-natured fellow just laughed at them, laughed until the tears ran down his funny nose. But Big Bear would not have laughed if real deer came running at him this time of the year. Because Big Bear knows that deer will fight any animal, no matter how big, in the fall of the year.

