

Polly Evans' Story Page for Boys and Girls

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UNDER THE SPELL OF A MUMMY SORCERER

SYNOPSIS

THE twins, Ray and Raymond, visit a natural history museum to inspect the fossil collection. They are locked in a struggle with a mummy before them. In the night a mummy appears before them and in great quantities of them reach the museum and examine them. They have been examining bones they have been examining. He invites the twins to climb upon his back and sit away with them on a tour of the world. They attend a council of the toothed birds. The mummy and the twins see toward the sea, where Zoogy takes them to take a ride. They behold the Ichthyosaurus and Dick Pliosaurus in fierce combat.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST SUNDAY.)

Chapter IV

A WAR OF MONSTERS

SEEMINGLY unaware of their foes' approach, Tim and Dick continued in fierce combat. Zoogy was enjoying himself to the utmost. He grinned so wide that he almost swallowed barrels of water, as he chanted:

"A pretty little, lively little, nice little fight; O, how pleasant, how delightful—O, what happiness is sight!"

"Why, you bloodthirsty Zoogy!" exclaimed Ray, reproachfully.

"Well, some one must always be fighting here," remonstrated Zoogy, "and shouldn't I be happy that I am not the one to be killed this time?"

While they were talking, two great creatures swept by them. They somewhat resembled Dick, except that they were much larger than he.

"The Atlantosaurus and the Pliosaurus are about to join in the fight," cried Zoogy.

But that was not the immediate pur-

pose of the giant Atlantosaurus. Tim was spouting water from his nostrils in great clouds, so that nothing could be seen very distinctly, but the twins eyed followed the Atlantosaurus as he threw himself furiously upon the combatants and proceeded to untwist Dick's long, snaky neck from about Tim. In an exceedingly short time he had separated the two. And then he talked very sharply to them, pointing out that to

fight was the most foolish thing they could do when their enemies were almost upon them. Tim and Dick acknowledged their error in shame, and put themselves in readiness to fight beside the Atlantosaurus and the Pliosaurus.

Great excitement shone in Zoogy's eyes. "Ah, the enemy has come!" murmured he.

Indeed, the huge waves, topped with foam, now almost met Tim and Dick and their relatives.

"You see," explained Zoogy to the twins, "they are the last of the armored fish. Some of them are over twenty feet in length. Their bodies are inclosed in large bony plates, and they have long, punishing jaws. But those gigantic chaps behind the fishes are related almost as closely to Tim as to the fishes. They are the Dinichthys. Sometimes they fight for Tim; other times, they fight against him."

The conflict was on. There seemed to be one vast, writhing mass, from which occasionally the head of Dick, or that of his cousin, the Atlantosaurus, would shoot up to a great height in the air, quickly to descend again. Everywhere round about the waters boiled and surged, until the swells reached Zoogy.

"I'm afraid, children," remarked Zoogy, "that the waves will sweep you from my back, if we do not seek a quieter resting place."

It was a great sacrifice for Zoogy to go beyond sight of the battle. As he swam away he sighed heavily.

"Do you ever fight, Zoogy?" asked Raymond.

"What! a jovial Zoogy like me fight? Oh, dear, no," replied Zoogy. "Why, I haven't fought since the time I ate my brother."

"Ats your brother? Why, Zoogy, surely you could not have done that!" gasped Ray, horrified beyond measure.

Two huge tears welled up in Zoogy's eyes, overflowed, and splashed into the sea. He was apparently much moved at the recollection.

"Yes," sobbed he. "I really loved Zoogy. But, you see, he was that he could eat me while I bet I could eat him; so, of course, we had to fight. Otherwise, we never would have fought, I assure you, and I never should have eaten him but for that friendly little bet."

They traveled on in silence. The twins imagined Zoogy was still sorrowing over his brother, and they did not wish to disturb him in his grief. Therefore, they kept their mouths shut.

"But now that he's gone, I try to be twice as jovial and comical. You won't tell anybody, will you, if I whisper that I'm taking private lessons from the Cuttlefish? I'll let you see him if you like."

Ray and Raymond admitted that nothing would give them greater pleasure than to see the marvelously witty Cuttlefish.

When they were near the shore Zoogy

dipped his nose in the water. When it came up, there was Mr. Cuttlefish sitting gravely upon it.

"Do you feel very, very funny this morning, Mr. Cuttlefish?" anxiously questioned Zoogy. "Because I have here some friends who would much appreciate your rare humor."

Without a word, the Cuttlefish squirted a stream of water into Zoogy's eye; then he disappeared in the water.

"Hal hal hal hal!" bellowed Zoogy. "Wasn't that the funniest thing you ever saw? Now, WASN'T IT? It was much funnier than anything he could have said."

Neither Ray nor Raymond had a very good opinion of the Cuttlefish's humor, if that were the best he could do. But they didn't say so to Zoogy, lest they offend him.

"Oh, there's a kangaroo on the shore!" exclaimed Ray, clapping her hands in delight.

"I don't know what a kangaroo is," responded Zoogy, dubiously. "But I do know that the animal over there is Mrs. Hoppy Dromatherium."

"What's she running away for? Oh, I should like so much to talk with her!" cried Ray.

"Well, I s'pose it's because she saw me," admitted Zoogy, rather shamefacedly. "You see, I happened to eat Mr. Hoppy and the little Hopples the other day while they were lying on the beach, do you?"

Observing the dismay of both the twins, he hastened to add, apologetically:

"I hadn't eaten any breakfast, you know; and they looked just too nice for anything. You don't blame me so very much, do you?"

Raymond began to think that Zoogy was a wicked old fellow as well as a witty one. So, winking at him, he observed, was to tell Mrs. Hoppy he meant no harm to her.

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