



The Robin Babies Were Always Hungry

Daddy's Bedtime Story— The Early Bird Who Gets the Early Worms

"It's the early bird that gets the worm, you know," said daddy as Evelyn and Jack begged for more—just a little more—time before going to bed.

"Which bird is the earliest bird, daddy?" inquired Jack. Jack had often put off the bedtime hour by asking questions.

"Just get ready for bed and I'll tell you. Once upon a time there was a little brown bird with a red breast, and his name was—"

"Oh, Robin Redbreast! We know him!" cried the children. "There are lots of them out there in the trees. We feed them every day if we don't happen to forget."

"Well," went on daddy solemnly, "Robin Redbreast lived in a tree, a maple tree just outside the window of certain children. They were fairly nice children, so Robin thought, for sometimes the little girl would scatter crumbs on the roof of the porch underneath her window, and Mr. and Mrs. Robin would hop down to eat the crumbs."

"Up in the tree the robins had a nest. It was made of grass stuck together with mud, and inside it was lined with soft little roots. Mrs. Robin laid four pale blue eggs in the nest, and by and by four funny little robin babies crawled out of the eggs. The babies had wide yellow mouths, which they were always opening for food, and their little bodies were almost bare of feathers, so that Mrs. Robin had to cuddle them under her wings to keep them warm when the nights were chilly, as they sometimes are in the spring. Papa Robin just had to get up early and work from dawn till dark. When he found a worm he would pounce upon it and beat it against a stone or a tree to kill it. Yes, I am really sorry for the early worms that Mr. Robin caught. In a few weeks the young robins were able to take lessons in flying, in singing and in hunting for bugs and worms. Then the little robins would go out and the woods and meadows for their play."

"If the robin family got all of their children safely started in the world they were lucky, but in the bird world there are many mishaps. Sometimes a young bird seems unable to learn to fly or it may fall to the ground and be hurt."

"There is a pretty story telling how the robin got its red breast. Long ago little children were told this story about the robin. According to the tale, when Christ was dying on the cross the robin flew up to him and tried to help him by pulling the crown of thorns away from his head. In doing so, the story says, the robin's breast was pierced by the thorns. Since then, as a reward for its good deed upon that day, all robins' breasts have been red and everywhere robins are loved."

No Age Limit.

Two men, one aged eighty and the other aged ninety, who are inmates of an institution near Washington, had a quarrel that developed into a fist fight. The eighty-year-old pugilist won. Later he was boasting of

his prowess. "He said I couldn't lick him!" exclaimed the successful fighter. "Gee darn his skin, I could have licked him if he had been a hundred years old!" — Saturday Evening Post.

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