

"Tails" From Granary Field

By
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for my
grandchildren

There are many ladybirds hiding in this book.
See how many you can find !



OLIVER OWL

OLIVER OWL



Oliver Owl lived in the big barn at Southwood Farm. He had his own special corner of the barn, high up in the roof where he kept his wise owl books, his green teapot and his cuckoo clock. The cuckoo that lived in the clock always told him when it was time for him to leave the barn and go on one of his favourite flying trips. You see Oliver always imagined that he was flying an aeroplane and he always put on his flying helmet and goggles and took his case of maps with him.

He was quite tired today as he had completed a very long flight the night before. "Just going around the world, cuckoo", he had told the cuckoo. "I will probably be quite late getting back as it is rather a long way around the world". In fact he flew for 2 hours, which is almost like flying around the world for an owl. When he returned he fell fast asleep in his own special part of the barn. He did not hear Dave the farmer start up the tractor

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or the large yellow combine harvester and then leave the barn.

He was so very tired that even the cuckoo kept very quiet.

Suddenly Oliver Owl awoke with a start. "Where am I?" he said. "Have I reached Africa yet?" "You're in the barn", said the cuckoo in the clock, "and you're late for your next flight".

"Oh, dear oh dear", said Oliver. He did not like being late, so he took a big breath to fill his lungs with air and flew out of the barn. WHOOSH! He had flown off so fast that he had completely forgotten his flying helmet, goggles and the important map case.



He flew over the large wheat fields where the combine harvester was hard at work. He flew over the church tower and then he saw the chimney of The Granary. "I must have a rest," he thought. So, very carefully and expertly he landed on the rim of the chimney pot. "I need to consult the map", he said, "to see where I am". But oh dear, oh dear, in his haste he had forgotten his map case.

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..... and he always put on his flying helmet and goggles and took his case of maps with him.

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He scratched his head with his claw and proceeded to do some wise owl thinking. After a few moments he said. "I need to fly up to that higher branch, then I might be able to see the barn at Southwood Farm". So he fluttered up to the branch above the chimney pot. He walked along the branch, looking from right to left. In fact he did not look down at the branch he was standing on and suddenly there was a loud CRACKING noise. The branch had snapped and off tumbled Oliver Owl. He fell straight down. Down, down into a dark, dark tunnel. Oh dear he had fallen down the Granary's chimney!



.... He fell straight down.
Down, down into a
dark, dark tunnel.....

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It was so dark inside the chimney that it took Oliver a little while before his eyes became accustomed to the dark, as owls are able to see at night you know. He realised that he was in the Granary's chimney and that he was well and truly stuck! Oh dear! Now the lady who lived in The Granary was in the kitchen and she suddenly heard a rather unusual sound. It was a kind of SCRATCHY noise but she thought she could also hear a faint TWIT-TWHOO. She looked around the kitchen. She listened. "Where did the noise come from? " she asked. She heard the noise again but this time she heard, "HEELPP!" It was coming from inside of the chimney; something or someone must have fallen down the chimney! She called to the man who lived in the Granary. They both listened and then the man said. "I will send for Mr Thomas the sweep, he will know what to do".

Very soon the sweep arrived in his van and unloaded his special brushes and poles. They all came into the kitchen and looked at the wood-burning stove's black chimney pipe. "I will have to

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open the little hatch door and shine my torch inside the pipe", said Mr Thomas. So he opened the little door and shone his torch inside. Suddenly he saw 2 big yellow eyes staring at him. Was it a monster? No it was Oliver Owl. The sweep said "I'll soon get you out Oliver, don't panic". Mr Thomas put his arm up the chimney. He caught hold of Oliver's beak and he pulled and he pulled very slowly. Oliver could feel himself sliding slowly towards the little door. "Nearly there," said Mr Thomas. At last the owl reached the door and with a great flapping of wings he stood on top of the stove. There was a lot of soot and dust and the odd feather or two floating in the air.

"Oh dear, oh dear, are you alright Oliver?" asked the lady. "Just about", said Oliver, "but my beak is sore". "Sorry about your beak", said the sweep, "but there was nothing else that I could grab hold of". "Are your wings flappable?" said the man who lived in The Granary. "I'll just try them out", said Oliver. So he gently flapped his wings. All seemed to be working fine,

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no broken wings. "Perhaps you would like a cup of tea or a glass of milk?" asked the lady. "A glass of milk would be lovely", replied Oliver.



After he had had his milk, Oliver looked a little sad and a big teardrop fell from his eye. "I think I am lost, unless anyone knows where Southwood Farm is and Dave the farmer". "No problem", said the man, "I'll give him a call on his mobile. He's probably out on the tractor with Ben the sheepdog". After 10

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minutes a tractor type noise was heard outside. Dave had arrived. "You don't generally get lost", said Dave, "what has happened? Hop up on to the seat beside Ben and you can tell us about your adventure on the way home".

Oliver explained how he had flown off in a big hurry and had forgotten to take his map case as well as his flying helmet and goggles. All very necessary when you are flying around the world. "You'll remember them next time", said Ben the sheepdog. "Don't want to make a habit of falling down chimneys!" The tractor trundled up the lane and soon came to the farm. With a big WHOOSH and a swoop, Oliver flew into the barn and up to his special corner. The cuckoo who lived in the clock was very pleased to see Oliver safely home. Now each time that Oliver goes flying around the world the cuckoo asks, "Have you forgotten anything?" "Oh Noooooowh.

