

## **1. Eat Your Peas**

It was dinner time again and Daisy just knew what her mother was going to say, before she even said it.

“Eat your peas,” said Mom.

Daisy looked down at the little green balls that were ganging up on her plate.

“Mom, I don’t like peas,” said Daisy.

Mom sighed her usual sighs. “If you eat your peas, you can have some pudding.”

“But I don’t like peas,” Daisy argued.

“If you eat your peas, you can have some pudding and you can stay up for an extra hour.” said Mom.

“I don’t like peas,” said Daisy.

“If you eat your peas, you can have some pudding, stay up for an extra hour, and you can skip your bath.” Mom didn’t give up and kept trying to persuade her.

“I don’t like peas,” said Daisy.

“If you eat your peas, you can have ten puddings, stay up really late, you don’t have to wash for two whole months, and I’ll buy you a new bike.” said Mom.

“I don’t like peas,” said Daisy.

“If you eat your peas, you can have 100 puddings. You can go to bed when you want, wash when you want, and do what you want when you want. I’ll buy you ten new bikes, two pet elephants, three zebras, and a chocolate factory!” said Mom.

Daisy closed her eyes and covered her ears saying, “I don’t like peas, I don’t like peas, I don’t like peas, I don’t like peas.”

“If you eat your peas, I’ll buy you a supermarket, a candy shop, a toy shop, and a bike shop. You never have to go to bed again, or go to school, or wash or brush your hair, or clean your teeth, or tidy your room. You can do whatever you want, and I’ll buy you

ninety-two chocolate factories! I'll even buy you the Earth, the Moon, the Sun and the stars!" said Mom.

Daisy stared at her mom for a second and said, "You really want me to eat my peas, don't you?"

"Yes," said Mom.

"I'll eat my peas if you eat your carrots," said Daisy.

Mom looked down at her own plate and her bottom lip began to wobble.

"But I don't like carrots," said Mom.

"Exactly!" said Daisy. "You don't like carrots and I don't like peas!"

Daisy paused then she said, "But Mom, we both like pudding!"

Mom smiled. She stood up and went to get the pudding.

Daisy cheered, "Yeah, Mom is the best!"

## **2. The Lion and the Mouse**

One day, when the lion was asleep, a small mouse carelessly ran over the big lion's nose. This startled the lion and woke him up. "Roar!!!!" with an angry roar, the lion grasped the mouse with his sharp claws.

"Please, please, Your Majesty, I didn't mean it! Please spare my life!" begged the frightened mouse. "Set me free and maybe someday I can be of some help to you."

The lion laughed at the idea of the tiny little mouse helping him and said, "Get on your feet and run, I'm letting you go, but I can't see how you could ever be of any use to a great lion like me!"

Soon after this, the lion fell into a pit and was trapped in a big net! Shocked and angry, he twisted, scratched, and chewed the net, but the more he struggled to escape, the tighter he was trapped. At last he was caught so tightly in the net that he couldn't move at all!

The lion roared at the top of his voice. His sad and desperate cry surprised even the tiny mouse, who was sitting in his small home underground.

"That was from His Majesty!" said the little mouse.

Quickly the mouse ran out of his hole and found the trapped lion. He looked down from the top of the pit and said, "Your Majesty, don't panic. I'm here to rescue you!" "Thank you, but you are too tiny to be of any help." the lion shook his head with a sigh.

The little mouse ignored what the lion had just said and just jumped down into the pit and began to chew the cords with his small sharp teeth. His teeth were small but they were as sharp as razors. In a few minutes, the mouse chewed a big hole in the net. The great lion was finally saved by the tiny little mouse!

The lion said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you very much for saving my life! I'm sorry that I was so proud of myself. I thought you were too small to be useful, but I see that you are indeed a good and useful friend!"

### **3. I've Got a Secret**

Recently Matthew has been staying in the yard more often, and longer, than ever. "Matthew, it's getting dark!" yelled his mom from the living room.

"Come on in, Matthew!" Dad called out to him.

Matthew came in, washed his hands, and sat on the sofa. With a weird look in his eyes, Matthew said to his family, "I've got a secret!"

"What is it? Please tell me!" asked his little brother Alex. "I'm very good at keeping secrets," he whispered.

But Matthew just shook his head and said, "I'm not telling."

"Matthew, my boy," Dad said, "What's the secret? Tell your father, will you?"

But Matthew just shook his head and said, "My lips are sealed."

Mom jumped up from her rocking chair and rushed over to Matthew for a hug. "Tell Mommy the secret," she said, cuddling her boy.

But Matthew just shook his head and shouted, "It's my secret! I won't tell!"

The noise woke up Granny. "Was I dreaming or did I hear that Matthew has a secret?" She leaned over and studied Matthew's face, "Tell Granny the secret, Sweetie."

Matthew looked at her and smiled, "All right, all right, everyone, just come with me!"

Matthew was the leader and everyone followed him outside. They passed the swings, the slide, and the big old oak tree. Then they came to the secret.

"O.K. That's my secret! Isn't she cute?" said Matthew.

"Wow, it's a kitten! How adorable!" Alex shouted excitedly.

"Shhh, be gentle and quiet, you might scare her!" Mom stopped Alex.

Matthew handed the kitten to Granny. “Kittie, kittie... you are a little fuzzy wuzzy ball.” Granny cuddled and patted the cat.

“I found her under the bush a week ago. Can we keep her? Can we keep her? Mom?” Matthew begged.

“Yes, yes, Mom and Dad, let’s keep her!” Alex whined.

“How can we resist this little cutie? But, wait, only if you promise that you will take care of her,” Mom and Dad told them. Matthew and Alex nodded happily.

“Come home with us, Fuzzy Wuzzy. Now you have a home.” said Granny.

“Yes, Fuzzy Wuzzy, that’s your name!” both boys giggled.  
And it was a great secret for the whole family to share.