

Opie

by

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Opie is a harvestman spider. He lives at the bottom of a big tree in an even bigger forest. The forest is kind of warm and a little damp– the perfect home for Opie. Because his home is warm and damp, mushrooms grow nearby, and Opie loves mushrooms!

Early one morning while Opie was looking for food in the meadow by his tree, he came upon the most beautiful web he'd ever seen.

It stretched from a high branch to a low bush; there were so many threads! Opie wished he could spin such a beautiful web, but he couldn't make silk and wondered why he didn't have any special abilities.

Opie decided to go on an adventure to look for other bugs like him and find out if they had any special abilities.

The next day, Opie left his tree and excitedly set out on his adventure. After traveling for a while, he heard a buzzing noise and came upon a honey bee gathering pollen from some flowers, "Hello up there!" Opie called.

The fuzzy bee's little head popped up, "Oh hello! I'm Mellie, what's your name?" she shouted down. "I'm Opie. Nice to meet you" he hollered back up to her. As she buzzed down from her flower and landed in front of him, she said, "It's nice to meet you, Opie."

After chatting about the weather and the amount of gnats vacationing this season, Opie found it time to be on his way. "Say, might I get your help with something?" Mellie asked.

"Sure! What can I do for you?" Opie replied.

Mellie explained that she had a lot of pollen and nectar to take back to her nest but it was a little too heavy (this was her first job after all). Opie was happy to help and they made their way through the forest towards Mellie's hive. While walking (and buzzing), Mellie explained the honey-making process.

Opie and Mellie arrived at a rather large tree- larger than the one that Opie lived in! "Well, this is my tree. Thank you for your help! I think I'd still be pretty far behind if it weren't for you" Mellie said. "I was happy to help! Opie replied.

Mellie offered him some fresh honeycomb for all the help to which he happily accepted.

Mellie buzzed up to her hive, and Opie continued on his journey.

On day two of his journey, Opie was coming upon a rather popular area of the forest where a lot of different bugs lived; he'd never seen so many types before!

There were pill bugs, earthworms, ladybird beetles, stick bugs- "whoa!" cried Opie.

He was so amazed by all the bugs, he didn't even see the giant frog right in front of him!

Opie was a little dizzy, but unharmed, and began to gather his things, "I'm so sorry," he said, "I hope I didn't hurt you." And once Opie finally glanced up and saw *who* he bumped into, he went from feeling sorry to feeling scared.

"That's okay, friend. I barely felt a thing. I'm Rana. Who are you?" Rana was a red-legged tree frog, with a low voice, and she was much bigger than Opie! "I'm- I'm Opie.

"Are you sure you're... alright?" he asked while carefully looking her over, and backing away.

"Oh yes dear. I'm fine. I barely felt it. You aren't from here, are you?" she asked, looking at Opie and his small bag. "What gave it away?" Opie and Rana laughed.

“I’m actually just passing through for the night” he continued.

“Well, why don’t I show you around while you’re here!” exclaimed Rana.

While walking (and hopping), Rana showed Opie where he could stay for the night and get some food and water. She took him to the pond (the best place in Rana’s opinion) and went on to tell him that a small, but important, part of her home had fallen into a log where she couldn’t reach.

“Say, Opie, you’re fairly small. Do you think you could help me?” asked Rana

“I’ll sure try!” he exclaimed.

Rana took Opie to her home on the shore of the pond, and after arriving, he saw just how small the opening was! Opie crawled into the log and saw several different things in there: moss, twigs, leaves– “hey, this would make a nice home,” he thought.

Rana peeked one of her eyes through the hole, “Okay Opie, you’re looking for a long twig, split in two at the top with little vines wrapped around it.”

It didn’t take long for him to spot such a unique item. “I found it!” Opie shouted with joy, putting it on his back with his hind legs. Carefully, he made his way out of the log and back to Rana. “You have just saved the day, and my home, Opie!” cried Rana happily.

She explained the item Opie rescued was a very important piece to her house; it helped part of the roof stay up during the rainy seasons, but more importantly, it was made by Rana's great-grandfrog and passed down generations. It's even said to be magical!

When Opie found it time to be on his way, Rana offered him a beautiful, shining shell she collected from the bottom of the pond.

He eagerly accepted, and continued on his journey.

As the sun was setting, Opie decided to stop for the night, and just in time too! It began to rain just as he was getting tired, so he set up camp under a large green leaf Rana had shown him. He enjoyed the honeycomb from Mellie and admired the shell from Rana. The perfect ending to a perfect day.

On day 3 of his journey, Opie woke up to a bright and sunny morning ready to continue on his way.

As he walked along a small dirt path speckled with pebbles, he heard a noise in the grass next to him. He stopped to check, but didn't see anything. Opie continued on and heard the noise in the grass again, "hello? Is someone there?" he asked.

"Yes. I'm someone. I'm Talli!" said a friendly voice, "but I need help."

Opie walked towards Talli's voice and saw a small rabbit in the grass and leaves. His fur was light brown and looked very soft. He had a fluffy white tail that reminded Opie of the dandelions in the field near his tree.

"It's nice to meet you, Talli." said Opie.

"Yes. It's nice to meet someone else out here. Finally!" replied Talli.

Talli went on to explain to Opie that he was preparing his den for fall when he happened upon this tree that had delicious looking apples. He just wanted one to try, but he couldn't climb the tree to get the apples.

"Opie, do you think you could climb the tree and try to free one of those apples?" asked Talli.

"I can sure try!" said Opie, and off he went up the tree to the closest branch with an apple.

Opie wondered how he was going to get such a big apple out of the tree, then he recalled the shell Rana gave him and how one of the edges was kind of rough and had an

idea.

Opie got to the apple and looked down, Talli sure did look far away.

“Okay Talli, I’m going to start cutting the apple down, get ready to catch!” Opie yelled. “I’m ready!” Talli shouted back excitedly.

Opie pulled his shell from his pack, and with two legs holding onto the tree, and four legs holding onto the shell, Opie sawed back and forth through the apple’s stem.

It didn’t take long for Opie to saw through the stem and right before it fell, he shouted, “look out below!”

On the ground, Talli looked up and kept his eye on the apple, outstretched his arms, and wham! Caught it right in his arms!

Talli thought the apple was even more beautiful than before. Opie made it to the bottom of the tree, “Well Talli, what do you think? Was it everything you ever imagined?”

“Oh yes!” said Talli with a mouthful of apple, “how can I ever repay you?” Talli asked.

“I’m happy to help!” said Opie.

Even so, Talli knew exactly what to give Opie. He hopped into his den and quickly returned with a large empty walnut shell with little oars on each side. "You never know when you're going to need a boat!" said Talli.

And in that moment a giant raindrop plopped right down between the two of them. It was time to get under cover!

Talli hopped to his den and shouted, "Come on Opie!" as the rain began to come down harder. The wind howled! A flash of light! Thunder!

As Opie headed for Talli's den, he heard a cry for help. He looked around and through the rain he saw a small spider family trapped on a rock surrounded by water.

The boat!

Opie climbed into the boat and rowed to the spider family, "Hop in!" he said.

The spider family got into Opie's walnut boat and just then, a wind gust blew through and pushed the little walnut boat down the newly-formed river.

"Hang on!" Opie shouted. As they thrashed down the river, Opie held onto the oars with two legs and kept the boat steady with his other four legs. Opie was actually having fun!

The walnut boat finally came to a stop against a dam of leaves. The little spider looked at Opie and said, “you’re the bravest spider I’ve ever met!” Opie felt sadness because he wasn’t actually a spider, and he couldn’t spin the beautiful webs he loved so much.

After the little spider family went along their way, Opie sat near the leafy dam and thought about his journey so far. He thought of Mellie and her honeycomb, Rana and her pond house, Talli and his delicious apple, and realized that his special ability is helping others!

With his adventure now over, Opie thought it was time to head home (he sure did miss his tree).

As he began to make his way back, he heard a clicking noise underneath the leaf dam and got closer, “hello?” said Opie.

“Help!” cried a squeaky voice.

And without a second thought, Opie jumped into the leaves and began digging.

THE END