

### **“Mouse and Squirrel’s Spook”**

On a crisp Halloween night, the moon glowed brightly over the forest, casting long shadows on the ground. Mabel the mouse scurried through the fallen leaves, her heart racing with excitement. “This is it, Max! Are you ready for our adventure?” she squeaked to her friend, Simon the squirrel, who was perched on a branch above her.

“Absolutely! I heard there’s a spooky treasure hidden near the old oak tree!” Simon chattered, his bushy tail flicking with enthusiasm.

“Let’s gather our friends first!” Mabel suggested, her tiny nose twitching with anticipation.

As they made their way through the woods, they spotted Benny the bunny hopping nervously. “Hey, Mabel! Hey, Simon! What’s going on?” he asked, his big eyes wide with curiosity.

“We’re off to find the haunted treasure! Want to join us?” Mabel invited.

“Uh, I don’t know... what if we run into ghosts?” Benny said, trembling a little.

“Ghosts are just tales! We’ll stick together!” Simon assured him.

With Benny on board, they continued their journey and soon found Clara the crow, perched on a fence post. “What are you all up to?” she cawed, tilting her head.

“We’re heading to the old oak tree for a treasure hunt! Want to come?” Mabel asked eagerly.

“Sounds fun! I’ll fly ahead and scout for any ghosts,” Clara said with a grin.

As they approached the old oak, the air grew chilly and the wind whispered through the branches. “It’s a little spooky here...” Benny squeaked, his ears flopping nervously.

“Just remember, we’re all in this together!” Mabel said, her voice steady.

Suddenly, a deep voice echoed from the shadows. “Welcome, brave adventurers! To find the treasure, you must solve my riddle!”

Out from behind the oak stepped a ghostly figure, shimmering in the moonlight. “What’s your riddle?” Simon asked, his heart pounding with excitement.

“Here it is: I can fly without wings. I can cry without eyes. Wherever I go, darkness flies. What am I?”

Mabel thought for a moment and exclaimed, “A cloud!”

“Correct!” the ghost said, and a path opened up leading to a treasure chest hidden beneath the roots of the oak.

As they approached the chest, Benny’s voice trembled. “What if there are real ghosts?”

“Just keep close! We’ll be fine!” Simon encouraged, though he felt a bit nervous himself.

Suddenly, rustling noises came from the bushes nearby. “What was that?” Clara cawed, her feathers ruffled.

“Probably just a squirrel trying to scare us,” Mabel joked, trying to lighten the mood.

Out popped a playful raccoon named Rascal, grinning widely. “Boo! Did I scare you?” he laughed, his eyes sparkling with mischief.

“Rascal! You gave us a fright!” Simon chuckled, feeling relieved.

“To claim the treasure, you must solve one more riddle!” Rascal declared, rubbing his paws together.

“What’s your riddle?” Mabel asked, her heart racing with anticipation.

“Here it is: The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?”

Benny thought hard and then shouted, “Footsteps!”

“Correct!” Rascal cheered, and he pointed to the treasure chest, which creaked open to reveal an assortment of delicious treats and sparkling decorations.

“Wow! Look at all this!” Clara exclaimed, her eyes wide with delight.

As they shared their goodies under the shimmering stars, Mabel looked around at her friends.

“I’m so glad we faced our fears together! This was the best Halloween adventure!”

Benny nodded, feeling braver than before. “And we learned that it’s much easier to be brave when you have friends with you!”

As they laughed and enjoyed their treats, they realized that Halloween was about more than just scares; it was about friendship, courage, and creating cherished memories together.

Lesson Learned: Facing fears is easier when you have friends by your side. Together, you can overcome anything and create wonderful memories.