

THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF  
OLLIE AND MINNIE

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THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF  
OLLIE AND MINNIE

Passing on the love of Jesus

and

the truth about friendship.

Children can read it or you can read it to your children.

# Chapter 1

## A New Friend

In a land not too far away from you, there lived a little dog with his family on a meadow near a big, green forest. His parents and his sister and brother loved him very much. This loving dog family spent much time together especially taking walks along the edge of the woods. This little dog's name was Ollie. Like you, he loved to explore. His mom and dad told him to never walk into the deep, dark forest alone. There were many dangers there...lurking...waiting. A little dog like him could be hurt very easily.

On a particularly bright and sunny day, Ollie did not listen to the warnings of his parents. He entered the dark, green forest and started to walk down a winding and shaded path that seemed to lead deeper and deeper into the woods.

As Ollie walked along the path, he seemed to forget about what time it was. He was having such a good time exploring! As he walked, he discovered many tall, beautiful trees and saw many small forest animals. Squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, and raccoons...frogs, turtles and birds everywhere! This woods was an amazing place!

The forest was so thick that only a few of the sun's rays actually filtered down to the forest floor. Everything looked deep green and enchanting.

After walking along the forest path for some time, the little dog came to a quiet clearing. He stopped for a minute to rest. Just then he noticed something half buried by pine needles near one of the giant pine trees that seemed to reach up to the sky.

Ollie was afraid but decided to find out what it was. As he walked slowly and carefully, his nose was sniffing as best it could. His mom and dad always told him to be careful when walking toward something strange and unknown.

When he finally reached his discovery, he slowly removed the needles that were covering it. To his amazement, he found a tiny bird starving and trembling with fear!

The little dog's eyebrows turned up and his head turned to the side. As he did, his floppy ears turned up just a little too. A silver tear rolled down his cheek from his big, brown eyes.

Ollie felt bad for the poor little bird all alone, weak, and hungry. She looked so sick! He gently nudged her with his nose and as he did, the bird made a little "squeak" sound.

Ollie thought to himself ... "What do I do now?" He looked around the clearing and quickly went into action. He found a juicy blackberry bush full a ripe berries. So he bit off a branch of them and carried it over to the sick bird. Even though the bird was weak, she thankfully gobbled several of the plump, tasty berries.

It must have been days since the little bird had eaten or drunk anything. After a few minutes, the young bird's eyes opened wide. She seemed more perky and alive now.

Ollie looked down at his new friend and said, "Are you OK?" The small bird looked up at him and said, "Oh yes, thank you!" Ollie asked her what had happened. She told him that five days earlier on a cold and stormy night, the mean, giant grizzly bear from the dark woods snuck up on her entire family who were sleeping in their tree home. With his huge claws, he quickly tore apart their house and grabbed her mom, dad, two brothers and two sisters. She was the only one that got away.

As she fell to the ground, she hit a branch and hurt her wing. She told Ollie that since she could not fly, she could not reach the berries which were her main food source. As the days past, she got weaker and weaker. She tried to cover herself with pine needles so that the hungry, old bear could not find her.

Ollie looked into the little bird's eyes and gently asked her name. "Minnie", she said. "My name is Minnie". The little dog smiled and said, "Well my name is Ollie". Just then Minnie began to sob. "Ollie ... what about my family and that bear. What if they're ..." She could not go on.

Ollie just sat there with Minnie and cried with her. He cared so deeply. He looked down at her through his tears and said sadly, "Do you think your family is ... is ... still alive?" Minnie's eyes filled with tears and as her chin slowly drooped down, she said quietly, "I don't know ... I just don't know."

Ollie, taking a deep breath, said with determination, "Well, Minnie, I'll be your friend and we'll stick together no matter what. We'll hunt through this big, green forest until we find out about your family." Minnie cracked a big grin and then thanked her new found friend with all her heart!

## Chapter Two:

### The Hungry Owl!

As the little dog and the tiny bird were talking; they both grew very, very tired. It was getting dark, so they both nestled down into the thick bed of soft pine needles and fell fast asleep under the bright and shining Stars.

The next morning, they woke up to warm sunshine and crisp, fresh air. They both felt so alive and so glad that they had each other for friends.

Ollie thought the best way to look for Minnie's family was to start right down the path that looked the scariest. That big, old bear probably prowled around in the thickest, darkest part of the woods.

As Ollie began to walk, Minnie cried out saying, "I can't keep up with you! You are too fast for my little legs!" Ollie smiled, knelt down, and said, "Jump on top of my head and leave the walking to me. After all, we are best friends now, aren't we?" The little bird jumped on his head and just smiled with contentment.

It would be several days until her wing would be strong enough for her to fly. So this is how they traveled through the forest. They were a funny sight but Ollie liked Minnie on his head. This gave him an extra set of eyes as they journeyed through the forest.

They were walking along the winding path amidst the tall, green pine trees when Minnie suddenly looked up in the sky and heard a wild screech! Just as Ollie looked up, he saw a light that terrified him! Just a few feet away, flying at full attack speed was a huge Great Horned owl with its razor sharp claws just seconds away from grabbing Ollie and Minnie.

As the little bird screamed, her friend, Ollie, quickly jumped behind a massive hundred foot pine tree. Minnie clung on to Ollie's neck for dear life! They both felt the owl's ugly claws brush against them. Luckily, they both were able to escape the owl's grasp. The two friends had just enough time to regain their footing only to find that the hungry owl had turned to try and get them again!

Minnie and Ollie felt trapped against the trunk of the wide pine tree. The fierce, screeching owl, with big eyes gleaming, was coming right at them with its powerful claws wide open. The two frightened friends had no place to go.

As they pressed harder and harder into the trunk of the tree, they both knew for sure that in two seconds, they would be captured for this owl's supper tonight!

Just then, Ollie and Minnie fell through what must have been some kind of hidden trap door. As the wooden door quickly shut, they heard the smash of the Great owl as it crashed into the trunk of the tree where Ollie and Minnie had been just a second before.

The two friends seemed helpless as they slid down a long, dark tunnel for what seemed a long, long time. When they finally stopped, they both remained still for they did not know what fate had befallen them. They feared that they had landed into a spider's den or worse yet, the underground home of a hungry wart hog or wolf!

As Ollie turned to Minnie, he fearfully whispered, "Wha .. what do we do now?" Minnie just whispered back, "I just wish I knew..."

As their eyes adjusted to the darkness of the underground tunnel, the little bird noticed a heavy, wooden door. It said, "Knock three times and you will find rest and encouragement."

The two friends looked at each other for a moment and then the little dog gathered up enough courage and finally knocked three times on the strange door. A moment passed and then it happened! The heavy wooden door slowly began to open. As the door turned on its old, rusty hinges bright and cheery shafts of light came from the room inside. This welcome light flooded the dark, damp tunnel. The darkness seemed to just melt away.

Suddenly, a kind looking mother squirrel appeared at the door. Her whole face shined with a loving, hopeful smile. Wearing a cheery pink apron, she looked at the two scared friends and said, "AH! Won't you come in? You both look so tired and hungry. I bet you would like some ice, cold milk and how about some fresh, chocolate chip cookies that just came out of the oven."

Ollie and Minnie walked into Mrs. Squirrel's home. Everything looked so soft, warm, and comfortable. They felt so safe here!

Mrs. Squirrel gave them all the milk and cookies they wanted. As they sat quietly on the couches by the warmly lit fireplace, they told Mrs. Squirrel their entire story. She was so kind. She listened to every word. After they finished telling her how they ended up at her door step, she reached over to them and gave each of them a caring hug.

Since it was getting late, Mrs. Squirrel said they could sleep in the twin beds in one of the upstairs bedrooms. They both were so tired from the scary owl attack that they thanked Mrs. Squirrel, went up to bed, and fell fast asleep.

The next morning, after being served fresh eggs, bacon, pancakes, and hot cocoa for breakfast, Mrs. Squirrel took them through a winding passageway that led to a spiral stairway. She took them all the way up to the top of the stairs. At the top, she opened a wooden window. To their surprise, Ollie and Minnie found themselves at the very top of the tallest pine tree in the forest! "Wow! Look how far we can see!" said Minnie.

Ollie asked Mrs. Squirrel which way they should go in order to find the big, hungry bear. Mrs. Squirrel said, "Walk along the wide, green path. It leads into the darkest, most dangerous part of the forest. Now you both be careful on your journey to find Minnie's lost family."

After that, she took them out the front door of her home. Mrs. Squirrel kissed them both good bye, gave them some juice and sandwiches to take along. She closed her eyes, said something quietly as if she were talking to someone other than Ollie and Minnie. She then opened her eyes brightly and sent the two on their way.

## Chapter Three:

### The Dangerous Bear!

As the two loyal friends journeyed on down the wide, green path, Minnie, sitting on top of Ollie's head, first noticed it. She said to her friend, "Ya know, Ollie, everything seems to be getting a little darker and bushes and trees look snarled and ugly."

The both felt a chill in the air as the forest wind began to blow a little stronger. As they came to a quiet place along the path, they stopped to eat and rest. Minnie and Ollie both began to get homesick for their families. It had been quite sometime since they had seen their mom's and dad's.

"Gee", Minnie said, "I really miss my dad. At night, he would tell me stories, tickle me, and then tuck me into bed." Ollie, thought too, for a moment how his mom would rock him at night in the big rocking chair.

Strangely, as the two small friends were quietly chatting about their families, they did not notice that just beyond the path, about 20 feet from them, there were two huge, red eyes glowing hideously and staring ominously at the two travelers.

Minnie and Ollie finished their lunch and were soon on their way. Again they noticed how thick, dark, and dreary the forest now looked. The path they were following became full of bumpy rocks and tree roots. The forest, itself, became so shaded from the sun, that it actually seemed like it was night time even though it wasn't.

The little bird riding on top of the dog's head first noticed them. She said to Ollie, "Look! There are all kinds of tiny yellow and green eyes glaring at us from the darkness of the woods." "Ollie, by now, also saw them and whispered, "Oh my! Minnie, do...do you...think any of them will leap out and try to get us?" Minnie quickly answered, "Let's just keep moving and trust that they won't."

Just then, they both felt a chill down their backs as they heard the lonely howl of a hungry timber wolf. By now, the wind was blowing fairly strong. Dust, twigs, and leaves were flying everywhere. The little dog began to walk faster as both of them became more frightened by the second!

Suddenly, a giant creature jumped from the shadows onto the path. It landed just inches behind the two small friends! Like lightning, Ollie and Minnie quickly turned around. Their mouths dropped open wide as their eyes looked up.

Looming over them was the giant grizzly bear! He was at least ten feet tall! He was standing on his two hind legs, mouth open, teeth glistening...eyes wild and bulging! His evil growl was more like a piercing scream. His fiery, red eyes were staring madly right down at the two little friends.

At first, Minnie and Ollie were so terrified, they could not move a muscle. But in a few seconds, Ollie was able to move his legs and he started to run down the dark path. The insane bear clawed the ground where a second before, Ollie had been.

That horrible, huge bear suddenly began to chase after the two. The little dog was running so fast that Minnie had slipped off the top of his head and was now clinging on to Ollie's right ear with the fragile might of just one little bird claw.

She was screaming at the top of her lungs! "Yaaaaaaaaaaaah!" That old bear was so big and fast that he quickly caught up with them. Just as the bear was about to sink his razor sharp teeth into the hopeless dog and bird, they made one last effort and dove into what appeared to be a nearby cave.

### **THE UGLY BEAR STOPPED ...**

Instead of getting more furious, his fat face produced a hideous and unforgiving smile. Ollie and Minnie didn't realize it but this wasn't just any cave .... This was one of the bear's caves!

The wretched bear now had the two trapped. As the bear walked slowly into his dark cave after them, Ollie and Minnie backed up further and further into this den of death. Ollie said to Minnie, "What if there is no way out of here?" The small bird did not answer but kept her eyes fixed on the two bulging eyes of the approaching monster.

By this time, the bear had cornered the two in the back of his cave. Bones of other captured animals were all over the floor. Minnie wondered if her dear family members were among them. The two terrified friends kept backing up. As they did, the cave became narrower and narrower. Finally, it seemed like they could back up no further. The bear, by now, could only stick his ugly head into the narrow pathway.

He tried to use his teeth and long tongue to thrust the two animals into his drooling mouth. The bear's tongue just kept missing the two. This made the evil bear livid with rage! The little bird and dog felt hopeless. It was all over. They might as well give up. There was no way out!

For some reason, Minnie looked up and to her surprise, there was a little opening going straight up from where they were. She gasped, "Ollie, look! I'll hang on to your neck ... Try to climb up here ... through this hole. It might be a dead end but we must try it!" Ollie started to climb almost straight up. This put a great strain on his back and legs and at any moment, he could slip and the two friends would plunge to their death.

He climbed up for about 15 feet through this narrow, pitch black tunnel. Finally, they came to the end and they pushed hard on the dirt ceiling. After three hard pushes, the dirt gave way! Fresh air rushed in and they could see bright blue sky above.

They crawled thankfully through the opening and found themselves on a beautiful, grassy mountain overlooking a valley that seemed to go on for ever. They both fell to the soft ground exhausted.

## Chapter four:

### The Terrible Storm!

In seconds, they were sound asleep. When they awoke, they looked out over the valley only to see the darkest storm clouds they had ever seen. They were coming fast ... right toward them! Even though they knew they had to take cover from the soon to come wind, lightning and rain, Minnie just had to talk to Ollie. She said, "While we were in the bear's awful cave, did you see any sign of my mom, dad, brothers, or sisters? Did you see any cage or anything that they could have been held prisoner in?"

Ollie turned toward his faithful friend and said sadly, "No ... I didn't have much time to look. What little I did see, I didn't see any trace of them. I just have to believe that they weren't taken in there. I sure didn't see any loose feathers ... ah ... I guess that's good news."

A faint smile broke out across Minnie's face. She said, "Well, then maybe they are still alive and maybe that crafty bear has them hidden in another cave somewhere else." Ollie smiled back and said, "Yea, we'll just have to keep looking. Don't worry, my friend, we'll find them."

Minnie then said, "Ya know, it's time for me to try something!" She quickly crawled up on a rock, winked at Ollie and then jumped off the edge! She flapped her wings and to both their delight, she was able to fly again!

They both shouted for joy! She soared above the ground like a majestic eagle. She did not stay in the air too long though because that storm was approaching fast and it was getting windy.

Now as Ollie ran on the ground, Minnie flew just a few feet over his head. What a sight they were! Their friendship was beginning to deepen. While both of them kept on the lookout for that dangerous bear, they hoped they would find shelter...someplace warm and safe from the storm and the bear.

They soon found a large, old tree that was right near the edge of the cliff overlooking the valley. There was a little opening at the base of the tree and so both of the little friends ran into it. Strange ... there seemed to be an odd stairway made of mud, leaves and sticks. They followed it up and up until they reached the top of the old tree. At the very top, Minnie discovered a door which she quickly opened. Inside, was a cozy, abandoned raccoon's home with lookout windows and a storehouse of food supplies.

Ollie said, "Well, since we have to wait out the storm here, we might as well eat and enjoy ourselves." And that they did! The two friends looked outside through the windows at the oncoming storm. The clouds were so black that it seemed like midnight. Bright, jagged flashes of lightning occurred every few seconds. For a brief moment, everything was still and calm.

Wind, rain, dust, and leaves were everywhere! The thunder and lightning were so close and frightening that the two adventurers in the raccoon's nest crawled into a corner and trembled. They closed their eyes and held their breath in total fear!

Both were homesick for the safety of their own homes and families. All of a sudden, a large, black cloud funnel dropped from the sky and started twisting around and around! Worse yet, it was headed for their tree hideout!

In a matter of seconds, the twister was upon them. Just as the two began to scream and cry out for help, a blinding bolt of lightning struck the trunk of their tree! The tree became a blaze with fire!

As thick, black smoke began to come up the dark stairway inside the tree, Minnie and Ollie wondered if they would ever come out of this alive. Just as the flames reached the door of their hideout, a tremendous gust of wind grabbed the whole tree and pulled it up by its roots right out of the ground.

The old tree, now up rooted, with Minnie and Ollie inside, began to fall over the edge of the steep cliff. As they began to fall over the edge, Ollie looked out the window and caught a glimpse of a raging river several hundred feet below them! The two, at the same time, screamed,

**"OH NO! THIS IS IT !!!"**

As they were inside the falling tree, Ollie looked at Minnie, forced a quivering smile and said, "I ... I ... wi .. wish this tree had wings!" Finally, the tree hit the river with great impact. The noise was deafening as the tree's branches were crushed and broken all around them. The raccoon nest the two were hiding in fell apart. All the two friends could do was hang on to a near by floating branch.

For a moment, the little bird and dog were thankful and amazed that they survived the fall into the icy cold water. But now, a new fear gripped them. Where was this dark, fast moving river now taking them?

Minnie heard it first and cried out to Ollie screaming, "What is that rumbling noise?" Ollie was sure what it was, but he told Minnie to just hang on to his neck. He told her that whatever was going to happen to them, he wanted to go through it with her together.

As the rumbling, rushing noise became louder, the river water moved faster and rougher with each yard they traveled. It was nearly impossible to see since the mighty storm was still unleashing its cruel fury.

Every few seconds, the lightening would light up the sky. Thunder would ripple the cold, night air with bursts of anger.

Ollie then saw it! "Minnie! Hang on tight! Take a deep breath because right about NOW we're going to go over the biggest waterfall I've ever seen!"

## **Chapter Five:**

### **Help!**

Minnie and Ollie were falling straight down a hundred foot sheet of freezing water! It was pitch dark. The two were being tossed and turned in the rushing, foaming waterfall.

Ollie had lost track of his friend and did not know where she was. The noisy, turbulent water kept turning Ollie over and over. He could only get gasps of air now and then. He took one last, big breath just in time.

### **SPLASH!**

He hit the bottom of the waterfall with tremendous speed. All control was lost and he felt himself sinking deeper and deeper into the dark, cold, liquid grave. As he sank down...10 feet...15 feet...20 feet...he expected to breath in water. He thought, in a moment, he would be dead.

Just as his lungs were ready to burst, he heard a strong, yet gentle voice. From somewhere, he felt more than he heard the words, "I will help you, because I care for you."

He suddenly found within himself a new strength and hope. Kicking his hind legs and paddling hard with his front paws, he soon found himself reaching the surface! His aching lungs gasped in the fresh, night air.

Ollie quickly looked around for his friend, Minnie. Only the moon peeking out from the passing storm clouds offered any light for the weary dog to see. He strained his tired, bloodshot eyes in the dim light.

After looking out across the dark, watery distance, he finally saw her. Minnie was floating half submerged in the water about thirty feet away. Ollie swam over to her, grabbed her gently with his mouth and dog paddled the rest of the way to the shore.

He was totally exhausted yet he knew he had to try to save Minnie's life. As he stood over her, she looked drenched and lifeless. It did not look like she was breathing! Her little eyes were closed and the toes of her little feet were clutched real tight.

Ollie began to cry. He was so sad he felt his own heart would break. Never had this little dog experienced such despair. He was far from his parents. They probably gave him up for dead. And now, his very best friend was...lifeless.

As Ollie looked up to the lonely moon, the tears just rolled down his face. In a quiet, humble, voice, he cried out to the Helper or whoever it was that had somehow given him strength to swim when he was twenty feet under.

He softly cried, “Oh Helper, Minnie is my best and only friend. You helped me before. I cannot see you, but please, please help me again. I need you right now. Please let Minnie live.”

He looked down at the cold stillness of little Minnie and cried on and on into the silence of the night. Ollie looked up at the moon, then out across the whispering pine trees. Then again, he looked down at his friend. Strange, Ollie thought he saw something but quickly dismissed it. What he saw could not be happening!

He looked closer and, yes, to his great joy, Minnie was beginning to breath again! Ollie pondered to himself, “Something wonderful is happening!” He began to lick Minnie’s face in hopes that this might help. Soon her little eyes blinked and then they opened wide.

Ollie cried for joy! He yelled, “You’re alive! You’re alive!” Then he quickly looked up and shouted, “Thank you, Helper! Thank you so much for what you have done!”

Although tired, cold, and wet, Minnie fully recovered. As soon as the two friends found shelter under a large rock, they exchanged stories of when they each fell down the giant waterfall.

Ollie anxiously told his beloved friend how the Helper, unseen as he is, saved him from drowning, gave him strength to rescue her and then...

### **MIRACULOUSLY BROUGHT HER BACK TO LIFE!**

Little Minnie said to Ollie, You know, when I hit the bottom of the waterfall, everything went black. From that point on, it felt like I was floating and going somewhere. But then I sensed Someone very kind and powerful was pulling me back from the direction I was going. I soon felt warmth and life pouring back into my body. Then I looked up and saw you!

## Chapter Six:

### The Good News

The next morning, the two adventurers woke up and started walking briskly on the nearest trail they could find. They found themselves heading straight into a very dark and enchanting part of the big, green forest.

As they walked through this part of the woods, they came across many forest creatures. They saw birds, rabbits, chipmunks, beavers, and woodchucks. Ollie and Minnie asked two gray fox if they knew the best direction to head out in order to find other caves that the big bear lived in.

The gray fox, not much older than Ollie, looked strangely into the little dog's eyes. He said with a rather shifty, untrustworthy voice, "Ah...well...yes. I do believe you are headed in the right direction. But before you and your little friend leave, wouldn't you like to eat some of our delicious, red berries? They will take your worries away. Hmmm?" A slow, sinister grin broke out over the face of this crafty fox.

Ollie, who was too trusting, said, "Well, yes. I guess so. Are they free?" The fox narrowed his eyes and said, "Oh...ah...yes...hmmm...at first. Then if you like them, you can get more by doing certain work for us..."

Minnie, whose father warned her of such evil temptations broke in and said, "Ollie...No! Fox, we don't want your drugged berries. Once we eat them, we will do anything to get more."

With that, Minnie pulled Ollie's ear and dragged him down the path away from the dangers of the berries and the fox. Ollie sighed and said, "Golly, Minnie...thanks for saving me back there from making a very stupid decision. You are really wise!"

As the little bird and dog traveled, Minnie continued to sit on top of Ollie's head. She did not have to since she could now fly but she liked being close to her trusted friend.

On their way down the path, Minnie, noticed an old tree fallen on its side. She could smell the sweet fragrance of honey. Ollie quickly ran over to it. They found out that there was an abandoned bee hive inside the dead tree.

Since no bees were around, they both crawled inside the decaying tree. Their empty stomachs seemed to jump for joy since the tree was full of sweet, mouth watering honeycomb. They both sat down in the tree and ate and ate until their little tummies were full and satisfied.

After a few minutes of rest and quiet conversation, the two set out again to look for Minnie's lost family. As they were traveling along the path, Ollie had some time to think about his mom, dad, sister, and brother. The more he thought, the more he missed them.

He started getting homesick. He knew he was wrong for disobeying his father about entering the woods alone. He was sorry he had not listened to his father. Pretty soon, Minnie sitting on Ollie's head, heard great sobs of sadness and could see a stream of tears rolling down his face.

Minnie, full of compassion, said, "Gee, Ollie, I was just thinking. I believe we should change our plans for a little while and return you to your family. They must be worried sick about you and I cannot stand to see you so sad and upset." Ollie looked up through his tears and said, "We'll see. We'll see."

Over the next hill, the two adventurers came upon a community of deer. There were at least four separate families all living in the same part of the woods. They were so gentle and kind. They welcomed Minnie and Ollie with warmth and hospitality. There were mother deer, father deer, and lots of young deer about the same age as Ollie and Minnie. The two felt safe and loved right away.

Over dinner, Minnie asked Grandfather Deer something that was puzzling her. She asked, "Grandfather Deer, aren't you all afraid of the terrible grizzly bear that stalks the woods? How do you keep safe from him?"

A gentle, broad smile broke out on the wise, old deer's face. "Years ago, we all feared the evil bear. We lived in constant worry that one of us would be his next victim. Because of this, we were always moving from one part of the woods to the next trying to keep safe from being captured by that awful creature."

Then, one day, a trusted and faithful deer from the Land of the Lost Lagoon, near the great White Mountain, journeyed through our woods to tell us Good News of the Great and Loving Helper who made all creatures.

He joyfully told us that the great Helper is King of all forests, seas, lands, and skies everywhere and that he is in total, loving control. He went on and shared with us that, "He is a Spirit person who loves and cares for His family of creatures. He protects those who trust Him and take refuge in Him."

Grandfather Deer went on. "We were so tired of running and hiding from that grizzly bear that we made a decision to take refuge in the Great Helper even though we could not see Him."

The deer who brought us this Good news told us that when we die, we would not have to worry. Because we have placed our trust in Him, He has fully forgiven our selfish, hurtful thoughts and actions and that all our mistakes and wrong steps are, right now, right this minute...washed away!"

Grandfather Deer looked kindly into the eyes of Ollie and Minnie and said, "This is indeed Good News! When we do die, we will live forever and will see our King and Protector. We will be with Him for all time in the Land of the Beloved."

"He promises to protect and provide for us always. We don't do anything to earn His love and favor. We just need to trust, welcome, and thank Him for this wonderful kind of love. If we refuse or reject Him, along with His forgiveness and His love, He grieves greatly. For when we die, we are lost to roam the Land of the Dead and the Lonely forever!"

“Since we each made that individual decision, that miserable bear has not entered our forest refuge. Oh, we hear him growling now and then but it’s just his attempt to scare us and try to get us to leave the safety of our refuge. Our Great Helper provides everything we need.”

Minnie looked at Ollie with wide eyes and a big smile. She said, “Their Helper is the same one that helped us at the water fall!” Ollie was thankful for the generosity of the deer families but his heart was really aching for his own family. He missed them so.

Ollie and Minnie each made clear decisions to trust, welcome, and thank their Great Helper. They now belonged to Him and he would watch over them forever. Nothing could happen now to ever change this fact! This was indeed:

### **GOOD NEWS!**

The two adventurers stayed with the deer families for one more night. The next morning, they set out on their journey again. Just before they left, Grandfather Deer bent his long neck down and whispered, “Be careful, but don’t worry. Always take refuge in your Helper, the King. He will protect and guide you. He will give you the strength you need.”

## Chapter 7:

### The Great Rescue

After only an hour of walking down the tree covered, forest path, Minnie and Ollie heard a ferocious roar! This was followed by a wicked growl! This noise was coming from just over the hill 50 feet in front of them!

Ollie ran to the top of the hill with Minnie flying above his head. They got down close to the ground and peered over the top of the hill to see what the trouble was. What they saw made their hearts pound with fear!

The giant, drooling bear was attacking a helpless family of rabbits! He was 10 feet tall standing on his hind legs. His front paws were outstretched. His needle like claws were glistening in the bright morning light.

His eyes were what frightened the mother and father rabbit and their six children the most. They were wild, glowing, red eyes that radiated total evil and hate! As the bear charged the family, rabbits, large and small, ran frantically all over the place. They were screaming and crying for help!

This was painful for Minnie to watch because this reminded her so much of when the same bear viciously attacked her own family. She felt a chill run up and down her back.

She called out to her Helper, the great Invisible King of the Forest. She whispered, "Please give us courage, dear Helper. Please shield us from harm. Give us strength to fight this enemy and save this helpless rabbit family from disaster."

Ollie listened closely as Minnie whispered. When she was finished, they both looked at each other as if in total agreement. Then they dove over the hill and charged the bear head on! They screamed at the top of their lungs as they came closer and closer to the raging beast.

As Ollie bravely jumped on to the bear's leg, Minnie flew straight for the bear's head. Ollie bit deep into the bear's leg and Minnie began to peck at the bear's eyes and ears. The beastly bear stopped chasing the rabbit family and focused on his new attackers.

He roared with pain from Ollie's bite but just as he went to swat the little dog, Ollie jumped on to the bear's gigantic, hairy back and began to bite there. Meanwhile, Minnie was doing a great job of confusing the beast by pecking his eyes, nose, and ears.

Once, the ugly bear snapped his drooling jaws. His big, yellow teeth just missed crunching her tail. She flew around his large head trying to get him dizzy.

After a few minutes of this frenzy, the old bear had had enough. He was so frustrated that as he backed up, he tripped over a rock and rolled down a fairly good sized cliff. The two brave friends looked from the top of the cliff as the defeated bear ran far, far away.

The two turned around and shouted, "It's OK now! You are safe! The bear is gone!" Out from behind the bushes and trees came all the different members of the rabbit family. Father Rabbit gratefully thanked the two warriors for saving their lives.

Not wanting the glory to go to them, Minnie took this chance to tell them about their Mighty Helper and how he is the One to thank. From that point on, the rabbit family took refuge in Him.

They, of course, invited Minnie and Ollie to spend the night and have supper with them. What a joy their home was! It was full of love, peace, tenderness, and happiness. The rabbit children were eager to hear of the adventures of these two rescuers. They all sat around a large mushroom table that night anxious to learn more about their Helper.

## Chapter 8:

### Homeward Bound

The next morning, after a hearty breakfast of juice, milk, hot tea, eggs, sausage, hash brown potatoes, French toast, and fresh made sugar doughnuts, they two adventurers got ready to set out on their journey to find Minnie's family.

Minnie asked father and mother rabbit, if they possibly knew where the old bear might have taken her family. They did not know for sure, but they heard once from an old and wise rabbit that lived far away near the Lost Lagoon. He told them that an evil bear was known to imprison his captives high up in a dark cave on top of The Great White Mountain which lay just beyond the Lost Lagoon.

Just as they were about to set out on the trail that would lead to the Lost Lagoon, Minnie stopped Ollie and said, "Nope! No further! First things first!"

As tiny tears welled up in her eyes, she turned to her faithful partner, looked kindly into his big, brown eyes and said, "Look, you have risked your life trying to help me find my lost family. I love you for that. You have put off trying to return home to your own family so I could find mine. And because of you, I now know my Creator, Helper, and King who watches over me and cares for me. I can't thank you enough! Now it is time I help you!"

With a nod of her head, she told him they would find the way back to his home so that he could be rejoined with his loved ones. Ollie's voice got all choked up. Through watery eyes, all he could whisper was, "Thank you."

Ollie faced Minnie and said, "I have no idea how far my home is from here or even which direction we should head in. I just don't know how to get home." Minnie, full of faith, then said, "Let's call upon our Helper." As they both sat there quietly, the two friends did not really hear His voice, but, instead, they sensed his comforting presence.

The quiet, gentle message that He brought to their seeking, humble hearts was, "Do not worry, little ones. I am with you always. Remember the Star." Ollie looked at Minnie and shouted, "Of course, the Star!"

Ollie told Minnie that every clear night there was always one bright, shining Star that stood out more than the rest. It was always on the horizon behind their house. Since the front of the Dog's home faced the forest, they simply had to locate the bright and guiding Star and follow it home.

Just then, Ollie's eyes and face drooped down. He said sadly, "But how can we find the Star? The forest trees are so thick and tall that there is just no way we can see the Star. Without it, we cannot head in the right direction to get home."

Little bird had an idea but it exhausted her just thinking about it. She looked at Ollie and said, "Let's wait until tonight when the stars come out. When it is dark enough, I will try to fly way up high above the tall pine trees so see if I can catch a glimpse of that guiding Star."

When night came, Ollie said to Minnie, "Are ya sure you can fly that high? You're still pretty weak from the waterfall and the bear attack. It's such a far distance to fly straight up for such a little bird."

Minnie knew it would be hard but she had to give it her best try. She quietly called out to her Helper. "Please help me and lift me high for I am small and weak and cannot do this on my own."

She winked her eye at her homesick friend and began to flap her frail, tiny wings. Up and up she went. When she got half way up the height of the pine trees, she began to get tired. Her wings began to feel like lead. Her breathing began to get heavy and she just knew she could not hold out much longer.

After a few more exhausting seconds, she began to weaken and lose altitude. Slowly and sadly, she began to drop to the ground. But deep within her, she clung to her faith in her Helper. He would not let her down. Then with every ounce of determination, she began to flap her wings harder even though the pain was intense.

Ever so slowly Minnie began to rise up...up...and up! Her little wings were flapping as fast as they could go and she continued to move upward. To her amazement, she found herself flying right at the tip tops of the great pine trees of the forest. She whispered to her Helper, "Just a few feet higher..."

Suddenly, she found herself a good 20 feet above those tall pine trees. She looked in all directions and she found the Star...bright and beautiful, full of light. It seemed to give off a message that said, "Come home. Come home." She quickly lowered down to the ground and told Ollie what she saw. They now knew the direction to take to get back to Ollie's home.

Even though he was very tired from the long journey, he ran full speed toward home. Minnie was filled with joy for her friend. She flew just above him as he came out of the dark forest and into the clearing. As he came within 200 feet of his front door, his mom, who was sitting out on the front porch, caught sight of her lost son.

Her mouth opened. But for a second, she could not speak. Tears filled her eyes. Then suddenly she cried out to the rest of their family. "Come quickly! Come outside! Ollie's come home!" Ollie's dad, brother, and sister came running out of the door. They quickly caught up with Ollie's mom who was running toward her beloved son as fast as her legs would carry her.

In a moment that will not be forgotten, Ollie ran into the loving arms of his family. That night the two friends told of their dangerous forest adventures in search of Minnie's lost family. Ollie asked his father to forgive him for venturing into the woods alone. His dad quickly forgave him and wrapped his big "daddy" arms around his beloved son.

Then, just before bedtime, Ollie and Minnie told Ollie's family about the Great Helper who saved their lives. They also shared with them that He provides comfort, strength and refuge for

those who trust Him. Ollie's family happily chose to take refuge in their Helper from that day on. They, too, now belonged forever to Him!

They were so glad that they belonged to the Great Helper. Their whole family could now experience new life and hope knowing that even if they died, they would live forever with their Helper in Heaven:

### **THE LAND OF THE BELOVED**

They knew He made them, He provides all of their needs, and His Spirit will always live in their hearts. They were all so full of joy!

Ollie comforted Minnie and told her that she would be loved and be counted as a part of their family. He also told her that she could stay with them until her family was found. She thanked them with a grateful heart and gave each member of Ollie's family a kiss and a hug. Much love was present there and many happy tears were shed that day in the warmly lit home on the edge of the big green forest.

## CHAPTER 9:

### Off to the Lost Lagoon

It was a bright and clear morning when the two faithful friends set out in search of Minnie's little bird family. They spent just three days resting at Ollie's home by the edge of the big, green forest. And now it was time to do what must be done.

Ollie's father could not go with them because Ollie's mom had fallen and hurt her leg. So the adventurers took off together ... just the two of them. Ollie's family said they would pray for them every day they were gone.

As they began to, set out on their new journey, Minnie turned to her beloved friend, Ollie and said, "You know, Ollie, I have never had a friend like you. If you hadn't found me in the woods that day, I simply would not be here. Thanks for being so loyal to me."

Ollie looked at Minnie on top of his head and just said, "That's what good friends are for and by the way, I'm thankful to have you as a friend too!"

Ollie's father was able to walk with them to the edge of the prairie. A long journey lay ahead of them. With hugs and prayers, Ollie's father bid the two adventurers farewell and wished them a safe journey.

Since the Lost Lagoon was west from their starting point, the two friends starting walking without delay. Since they knew it could be a dangerous journey, they told jokes and laughed allot to keep each other from getting scared.

They walked through corn and hay fields, gardens and pumpkin patches. Since it was now Fall, the wind rustled up leaves and blew them all around. The smell of burning leaves was in the air.

Ollie and Minnie were so thankful for the warm coats that Ollie's mother had made for them. They also were glad that they had plenty of food in Ollie's backpack.

On the third day of the journey as they came out of a very thick wheat field, it was little Minnie who first saw the dismal entrance to the Lost Lagoon. Ollie lifted up his head and shouted, "Look!" Looming before them just beyond the Lost Lagoon was the Great White Mountain! ... the deadly home of the evil, giant grizzly bear that kidnapped Minnie's family.

The Lagoon was a sight! Gnarled branches, black moss hanging from dead looking trees, darkness, dampness, and a smell that stopped them cold...It was the smell of death!

As the brave rescuers entered the wet, soggy Lagoon, they both soon felt as if someone or something was saying, "Get out! You do not belong here!" Although their knees were trembling

with fear, their mission of finding Minnie's family kept them going further and further into the hideous darkness.

Ollie never imagined any place could be so awful as this. Things slithered in the murky water, bubbles rose to the slimy surface from boiling underground springs. A foggy mist seemed to swallow up everything in sight.

Ollie and Minnie knew that where they had to go was right through the scariest part of the Lagoon. Since there was so much water and green slime everywhere, they were forced to jump from log to rock and from rock to tree stump in order to cross the soupy, inky, bubbly Lagoon.

Minnie looked down from where she was sitting on top of Ollie's head and she began to tremble because she was sure that some monstrous thing was going to surface from the penetrating dark of the deep and drag them both down for it's supper.

At one point, as the rocks and logs became slimier, Ollie almost slipped but caught himself just in time! He was so frightened he felt that his heart would pound right out of his chest!

Just then, a huge, thick, greasy looking snake slithered by ... about four inches from Ollie's feet! It must have been thirty feet long and at some places almost one foot wide! The oily water around them began to swirl. It juttied up with lightning speed out of the water! It came face to face with Ollie and Minnie and they were suddenly forced to look deep into the dreadful face of this hideous creature.

### **SLOWLY ... WITH WILD EYES ...**

...the beast opened it's fang-filled mouth. Minnie quickly jumped off of Ollie's head and screamed, "Ollie, oh Ollie! Let's get out of here!"

Just as the snake lunged to bite and swallow Ollie, the brave dog dove to a near by rock in hopes of being able to cross to the other side of the Lagoon. Minnie cried out to their Great Helper to save them! Just then the huge snake lunged again at the little dog and bird. Again, both moved just in time.

This time the snake noticed a large, fat swamp rat swimming near the two friends. The ugly, hairy rat never knew what hit him. The snake dove for him and swallowed him in one big gulp! Slowly ... silently ... the serpent slithered away ... satisfied ... for awhile.

Ollie and Minnie right then knew that their Helper pulled them through. "He must always be with us!", they said joyfully. While they had both sat exhausted on the rock they had jumped to, they began to wonder how in the world they were going to get to the other side of the Lagoon. There was still fifty feet of black, oily, bubbling water between the shore and themselves.

Ollie turned to Minnie and said jokingly, "Wouldn't it be great if rocks could swim?" Just then, the rock they were standing on began to slowly move to the shore on the far side of the Lagoon. They simply could not believe what was happening!

When they finally reached the shore, Ollie and Minnie jumped to the dry land. Out from the water popped the head that belonged to the floating rock. Why it was a great swamp turtle about four feet long!

Minnie looked at his kind face and asked him his name. He broke out into a big, happy smile and said, "Terrance ... Terrance the Turtle!" They thanked him and he told them that he would help them if ever they needed his help again.

The two said good by to Terrance and onward they marched with Minnie again sitting on Ollie's head. They were so glad to be through that awful and scary Lost Lagoon. Soon they would reach the base of the Great White Mountain where they would begin to climb to the top ... up ... up ... up through the thick, green mountain forest with it's bright blanket of soft wintery snow.

As the two travelers cleared the gloom of the Lagoon, they looked and all they could see was the biggest mountain they'd ever seen! It was so high, the top half was hidden in the white, billowy clouds. Soon they would discover the mysteries awaiting them.

## **CHAPTER 10:**

### **The Journey to the Top Begins**

The two faithful friends were thankful that they were not hurt in that terrible Lagoon. The first stretch of mountain climb was pleasant and beautiful. They saw many forest and mountain birds and animals and the bright colored flowers were so pretty.

An ice cold stream came flowing down the mountain side. It tasted so fresh and sweet. They could see why many animals wanted to live here. It was here, along this precious stream that the two set up camp in order to rest.

They built a nice camp fire and ate berries, fresh roots and special treats from their backpack. Although it was a little chilly, the stars in the sky were big and bright. It was a bold, clear night ... crisp and silent. The big full moon, all white and high in the sky, made it seem like twilight. The air was fresh and cold ... a night of beauty indeed.

In the morning, after a light breakfast, the two little animals set out again. They soon began to climb up through the thickening forest. It seemed they were climbing for hours and hours before they actually sensed they were up high.

They came to a ridge and Ollie made the mistake of looking down. Just then, he became dizzy and began to slip down the side of the ridge. As he rolled down he began to scream! Minnie screamed too and feared that Ollie might be killed if he slid far enough to fall off the edge.

Ollie was never so scared! He dug his paws into the dirt and gravel but the more he grabbed, the faster he seemed to slide. He just knew he would slide off the edge and fall the one thousand feet straight:

### **DOWN TO HIS DEATH**

Minnie cried out for help! Just as Ollie began to slip over the edge, his left paw caught hold of a root in the ground. It stopped his fall! With his feet dangling over the edge, he slowly crawled back to safety. Ollie and Minnie rested for a few minutes and they agreed to not look back or down again until it was time to go home!

They finally resumed their quest to find Minnie's family. As they walked through the tall pine trees, they knew they were making steady progress climbing up to the top of the mountain. The air was so fresh and clean smelling, the sky so blue and the path they were walking on was wide and smooth.

Riding on Ollie's head, Minnie looked down over his forehead and peered deep into his kind, brown eyes. "Ollie," she said, "Do you think my family is still alive?" Ollie looked up into her soft twinkling eyes and a growing smile began to form on his face. He said, "Yes ... Yes ... Oh yes I do!"

Just as he finished speaking, they heard a distant thunder rumbling off in the distance. There it was. Off to the side of the mountain along the horizon, a dark and wintery snow storm was approaching. They noticed the breeze was picking up and the mountain forest leaves were beginning to blow around. A chill ran down their backs.

## CHAPTER 11:

### The Blinding Snow!

Ollie and Minnie knew they had to find a safe place to wait out the snow storm. If they got caught in it, they would be covered with wet, drifting snow and then they would freeze to death!

Minnie flapped her little wings and began to fly around looking for an empty, hollow tree or a cave. There were none to be found. The snow, the dark clouds, and the frigid wind would be whipping torment and soon be upon them.

Huge, wet snow flakes began to fall around them and the once blue sky had now turned into a black, windy, snowy nightmare! Cold air seemed to fall all around them. Ollie wondered if they would be buried in the fast falling snow.

By now, they were moving as fast as they could up the path toward the top of the mountain. The raging storm was now right upon them! Neither Ollie nor Minnie could see more than two feet in front of them. It seemed as if this big, foreboding mountain they were on was being swallowed by this terrible snow storm.

It was all they could do to stay on the path. They could not see! The snow was now nine inches deep and some of the drifts were three feet high! By now, the storm was so ferocious, they simply could not tell where they were or in what direction they were headed.

Ollie looked up at Minnie and saw her shivering on top of his snow capped head. He said through clattering teeth. "Min-Min-Minnie ... We've g .. g \_ . got to f .. find a p .. p .. place to hide!"

The wind was now blowing so that six foot drifts were forming all around them. Ollie's little paws were beginning to feel numb. Just then, Ollie had an idea. He said, "Come Minnie! Come here!" They began digging into the side of a snow drift. They dug feverishly and formed a little snow cave. It was very cold but at least they were out of the wind.

They lay quiet and cold totally covered by a heavy blanket of snow. They could barely hear the howling of the wind above them. They curled up close to each other hoping to help each other keep warm. It didn't do much good. They both felt like they were locked inside of a freezer ... dark ... sealed ... cold.

Minnie thought that this is what it must be like to be buried alive! Minnie whispered to Ollie, "Do you think we'll freeze in here, Ollie?" Ollie whispered back, "Well, I pray not. Even if we survive the storm, there will be feet of icy, wet snow to climb through.

They both felt cold, frightened, and hopeless. They huddled close to each other and prayed to their Helper. Something strange began to happen. As they lay there in the pitch blackness of their snowy tomb, Ollie began to hear a faint scratching sound ...

## **UNDERNEATH THEM !!!**

Ollie whispered, "Minnie ... do you hear that?" Minnie turned and said, "All I hear is the faint howling of the storm." "No! ... " Ollie said. "Minnie ... don't you hear that strange scratching, digging sound right underneath us?"

Minnie listened. Then...finally, she heard it. "Yes, Ollie, I do hear it!" "I have no idea, Minnie, but whatever it is, it can't be as bad as facing the cold and the storm above us. Come on! Let's dig!"

So the two shivering friends dug into the ground beneath them. As they were digging, they suddenly saw two claws pushing and pulling away the dirt. Just then, up popped a dirty, ugly head with two beady eyes!

Minnie jumped with fright! She cried out, "Who or what are you?!" The odd creature peered up from his freshly dug hole and said in a raspy voice, "Why I'm Scrappy, the mountain badger and if you'll quit askin' all a your silly questions, I'll git you two out a here!"

"How did you find us in all of this snow and storm?" asked Ollie. "Well", Scrappy snorted, "I've been a followin' you two since yesterday. Guess I figured you'd git yourselves into a mess sooner or later. Now if you're through with your goofy questions, I'll lead ya out a this death trap! Follow me!"

The snippy, yet very strong badger turned around quickly and led the way down his self made tunnel. Ollie and Minnie followed him for what seemed an hour or so. This long network of tunnels would have been totally dark if it had not been for underground crystals that gave off a gentle, amber light.

Scrappy led them to his home which was underground about fifty feet. Yet it was way up near the top of the mountain. He brushed the dirt off his badger fur and opened a little wooden door which led into his snug underground home. For being a touchy, cranky animal, his home didn't seem to match his personality.

### **IT SEEMED WARM, FRIENDLY, AND INVITING.**

There was a cracking fire in the fireplace and candles were lit everywhere. His tiny kitchen was filled with all sorts of delicious food and sweet smells.

Scrappy invited them to sit down in the soft, cozy couch and chairs. They all sat by the warm, dancing fire. The warmth felt so good! Scrappy looked at them both and said, "Now what in Sam Hill are you two animals doing on this dangerous mountain at this time of year? Why ... it's a miracle you're alive!"

Just as he started to brag to them how great a tunnel digger he was, out popped a pretty lady badger from a bedroom. Sweetie, Scrappy's kind and soft spoken wife, seemed to be everything that Scrappy wasn't. She was caring, gentle, and humble ... a perfect match for old Scrappy!

She looked at her bragging badger husband and said in a kind, respectful voice, "Now, Scrappy, introduce me to our new friends here and then please help me in the kitchen. We will have a party to celebrate our new, wonderful friends."

Scrappy looked at Ollie and Minnie and then said, "Oh...I...I'll be back in a few minutes to tell ya more. Now I gotta help out in the old kitchen to get some vittles for supper don't ya know."

This brave, hard working animal quickly ran into the kitchen, quietly put on an apron and got to work helping his lovely wife. He seemed so gruff, yet underneath it all, he was tender, loyal, and considerate. On the outside, Scrappy was all talk. On the inside, he was all heart.

The four animal friends spent the evening eating and chatting by the fireside. Scrappy and Sweetie were amazed at the courage this little dog and tiny bird possessed. Minnie, as proud and thankful as she could be, naturally shared her deep love for her Helper. She simply invited the badger couple to place their trust in the invisible, yet faithful Helper.

Scrappy looked deep into his wife's soft eyes and said slowly, "Well, honey, all along I thought I was pretty hot stuff .. ya know ... best tunnel digger and fighter on White Mountain. Yet, way down inside, I've been mighty empty and afraid because I knew there just had to be more than diggin' and livin' on this old mountain."

Sweetie looked back into his spunky, yet searching eyes and said, "I think it's the wisest thing in the world to give our lives, our future, and our love to our Great and Loving Helper. I think we need him very much!"

That night the special badger couple, so much in love, put their hope in their Helper ... the one who made them, watches over them, and will keep them in His loving care forever.

## CHAPTER 12:

### The Final Battle!

The next morning, Scrappy led Ollie and Minnie through a long, well dug tunnel up to the very top of the Great White Mountain. Scrappy knew exactly where the big, old bear's cave was ... the most feared place on the entire mountain. Many a forest animal had become "dinner" for that evil, drooling bear!

Minnie turned to thank Scrappy and say good bye ... and then he stopped her abruptly. "Ain't no way you two are a facin' that old bear alone without me! I love a good fight and ain't no animal on this here mountain as tough a fighter as me. What ya think they call me Scrappy for?"

A big smile broke out across his grubby, whiskered face. "Now that I have my Helper in my heart, I now know why He made my teeth long and my claws so sharp." Scrappy added, "I guess I was born to fight ... and fight well is what I'll do! You're my friends!"

Ollie, Minnie, and Scrappy turned to face the entrance of the cave. Scrappy blurted out ...

**"HELPER! PLEASE HELP US! THANK YA!"**

Off they went. The three of them...right into the home of the most feared beast of all! As they walked deeper and deeper into the cave, it got darker and scarier. Bones, large and small, littered the path.

Everything seemed deathly quiet. They could almost hear their own hearts beating! Strange shadows seemed to lurk behind every rock and corner. Minnie was the first to see it. "Look!", she whispered as loudly as she could. "There is the cage up ahead!"

Scrappy, with his keen eyesight, looked within the cage and said, "Yup! Your family is all there Minnie! ... your mom, dad, brothers and sisters." Minnie about shouted, "You mean they're all safe?" "It looks like it, my little winged friend", said Scrappy.

"Yea, but where is that giant bear?" cried Ollie. Minnie, sensing there was not a minute to lose, turned to her friends and said, "Maybe he's gone! So let's get them out of that cage!"

The three of them quickly ran to the cage and Scrappy chewed the tight ropes that kept the bird family imprisoned. As soon as Minnie's loved ones were all out of the cage, Minnie quickly ran into their loving arms. How wonderful it felt to be reunited.

Minnie's mom cried out, "Minnie! We all thought we'd never see you again!" Scrappy turned toward the cave entrance and shouted, "Let's all git out a here! If that nasty bear traps us in here, we'll all be his supper tonight!"

Quickly, all of the animals ran out of the cave and stood for a moment by the entrance. Minnie's dad said, "Boy, someone must be watching out for us all! That giant grizzly bear told us that he was going to finish us off to night!"

**ROOOOAAAAARRRRR !!!!**

The tiny animal friends suddenly look above them and to their shock and horror, the hideous bear was standing on the rocks right above the cave entrance. His fiery red eyes were staring right at them!

He roared again and then jumped right in front of helpless animals. There was no escape! To run in the cave would be foolish. The path led right to the cave entrance. And just a few feet away was the treacherous mountain ledge with a drop off going straight down a mile or so!

**THEY WERE DOOMED**

... totally trapped! Ollie screamed, "It looks like we are helpless!" Minnie yelled, "Yea ... That's the best way to be! Our Helper helps the best when we MUST totally depend on Him." Come on! Let's battle this evil beast but let's never forget that this is not our battle! No way! It's our Helper's!"

As quick as a flash, the bird family flew into the air and began pecking at the bear's head. At that same moment, Ollie rushed and bit into the bear's left leg. The huge bear growled and laughed at the same time. Through his sharp, long, ugly teeth he yelled, "You are powerless against me! I will crush you one by one until you are all gone!"

Scrappy, the badger, stood his ground right in front of the bear staring bravely and fiercely into the hateful eyes of the wicked monster. He shouted, "Your time of terror is over, bear! You are no match for all of us. We have the Helper! You are not our battle. You are HIS BATTLE! There is no way we can lose!"

The bear stood up high on his back legs and just laughed and laughed. He snarled and drooled. Then he growled, "You simple fools! I'm just toying with you!"

Then with lightning speed, he grabbed Scrappy and threw him high up the mountainside. Scrappy slammed against the rocks above the cave entrance. Then the bear went to grab Minnie. She quickly moved back and the bear followed her leading him dangerously close to the edge of the steep cliff.

As the bear's glaring, red eyes focused on poor, little Minnie, a deep, hideous chuckle came from inside the horrible bear. He knew he was going to get her now!

Just then, something amazing and powerful happened. The ground...in fact, the entire mountain began to shake. Ollie cried, "The Helper must have caused an earthquake!" This seemed to shake up the massive bear.

He lost his footing and began to slip toward the edge of the cliff. As he did, he grabbed mother bird and threw her into his huge mouth.

Suddenly, something small, yet very strong came flying right at the bear's head. Yes! By some miracle, it was good, old Scrappy! He had jumped for the bear with all his muscle force that he could muster up. He had jumped a good thirty feet from where he had been thrown by the evil bear.

The last words the old bear heard were, "There ain't no animal as tough as me!", as Scrappy lunged for the big bear's fat nose. Scrappy sunk his long, razor sharp teeth in that nose and did not let go.

The stunned bear opened his trap-like mouth in pain and out flew mother bird unharmed! The force of Scrappy smashing into the bear's face was enough to cause the bear to lose his balance. He slowly fell backward over the edge of the cliff with Scrappy still clinging to his nose.

They both went over the edge and all that could be heard was the scream of the bear as he fell.....straight down one whole mile to the bottom of the mountain. Ollie began to cry. "Oh no! Our faithful, fighting friend gave his life to save ours!"

Minnie looked over the edge with tears welling up in her eyes. A big smile suddenly broke out on her face. Why... Scrappy was hanging for dear life on to a pine tree that was growing out of the side of the cliff! He had somehow grabbed on to it as he and the bear went falling.

Quickly, the bird family went into action and grabbed Scrappy with their claws and lifted him to safety as they flapped their wings as fast and hard as they could. All the little animal friends gathered together and sang with joy and gave thanks to their Great Helper for getting rid of that terrible bear.

**HE WOULD BE GONE FOREVER!**



## **CHAPTER 13:**

### **Back Home Again!**

Scrappy and Sweety fed their friends and then helped them down the mountain safely. Minnie, all her family and Ollie then turned to the wonderful badger couple, gave them long hugs and then said good bye.

They invite the badgers to visit them all by the edge of the big woods as soon as possible. Scrappy said they would in a week or so. The entire bird family, now finally complete, along with Ollie took off as fast as they could back to Ollie's dog family and home. As soon as Ollie's mom and dad saw them coming up the trail, they shouted for joy and ran to meet them.

Many exciting stories were shared as Minnie and Ollie told of their dangerous adventures. Minnie's family decided to build a beautiful new bird house high up in a sturdy, tall pine tree right on the edge of the forest.

The dog and bird families got to know each other very well and they spent much time together. They all especially liked it when Scrappy and Sweety badger came down from their mountain home to visit. Scrappy always had a good story or two to tell.

Many things were learned in the big woods and on that Great White Mountain. Minnie and Ollie found that friendship, loyalty, and trust were things that grow through the struggles they face.

They also learned to be thankful for their Helper and for their families. The beautiful meadow and the big, green forest would always be "home" for them ... Yes ... a home that is safe and full of love.

## **Chapter 1 Guide      A New Friend**

**Main Thought:** Loyal, caring friendship is good.

**Key Verse:** Proverbs 17: 17: "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

### **Don't Forget:**

1. A friend who is loyal and caring is hard to find these days. Ollie and Minnie became such friends.
2. Some of you have friends who talk about you behind your back and try to hurt you.
3. If you are like me, this really hurts. I feel all alone and sad when they reject me.
4. The Lord Jesus is the Son of God.
5. He loves and likes you all the time.
6. He is always loyal to you.
7. He wants you to trust Him with your life.

### **Key Questions to ask:**

1. What does it mean to be a loyal, caring friend?
2. Do you think Jesus is this kind of friend? Why?

**Prayer:** Reader: Pray out loud and have the kids pray silently unless they can and want to read it.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for being my best friend. Please help me to be a loyal and caring friend to someone today. Help me to be just like You.

Thank You, Jesus.



## **Chapter 2 Guide     The Hungry Owl!**

**Main Thought:** When you trust in the Lord Jesus, He will keep you safe.

**Key Verse:** Psalm 4: 8: "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

### **Don't Forget:**

1. That hungry owl was scary, wasn't he!
2. Ollie and Minnie were in real danger!
3. Mrs. Squirrel kept Ollie and Minnie safe from harm.
4. She took good care of them and encouraged them.
5. She met all of their needs. She was very kind.
6. Jesus wants to do that for you.
7. He is God so he is very strong. He is able to protect you. No one is stronger than Him!
8. You don't have to be scared anymore ... at school, at bed time, or when you are alone. He loves you. He is with you.

### **Key Questions to discuss:**

1. Do you get scared sometimes like Ollie and Minnie? When?
2. Can anything or anyone keep you as safe as Jesus?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

I get scared and lonely at times. Please keep me safe in your loving care.

Thanks, Lord Jesus



## Chapter 3 Guide      **The Dangerous Bear!**

**Main Thought:** The Devil wants to harm you. The best way is for him to get you to do harmful things.

**Key Verses:** Psalm 101: 2-4: "...I will walk in my house with a blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing ... I will have nothing to do with evil."

### **Don't Forget:**

1. The Devil is real.
2. He is more evil than that bear.
3. When you don't obey Jesus or your Mom or Dad, the Devil can hurt you.
4. Keep close to Jesus. Talk with Him.
5. Ask Him to help you do good and think kind thoughts at home, at school, and when you are playing.
6. Please obey the Lord and your Mom and Dad. You will be protected then.
7. You are a Winner. The Devil is a Loser. Don't let Him control you. Say "No" to him. Say "Yes" to Jesus.

### **Questions for discussion:**

1. Are you thinking about looking at evil things?
2. Are you thinking about doing wrong things?
3. Will you stop evil and do good?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

Forgive me for the evil and wrong that I do. Help me know that I'm a Winner. Help me to obey you and my parents. Help me to have nothing to do with evil. Protect me, Lord.

Thank you, Lord Jesus.

## **Chapter 4 Guide            The Terrible Storm!**

**Main Thought:** You don't have to be afraid anymore!

**Key verse:** Joshua 1: 9: "... Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

### **Don't Forget:**

1. Ollie and Minnie were afraid, weren't they!
2. Sometimes at home, at school, outside or when it is dark we become afraid.
3. Maybe we fear a bully, a school test or when it is dark.
4. We all become afraid at times.
5. Yet we don't have to be fearful anymore.
6. The Lord Jesus promises to never leave your side ... day or night.
7. He is right here with you now.
8. He will comfort you.

### **Key Questions:**

1. Are you afraid sometimes?    When?
2. Do you believe that God is strong enough to watch over you and keep you safe?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

I become afraid and scared at times.  
Please take all my fear and worries away.  
I trust that You love me and  
that You will never, never leave me.

Thanks, Jesus.

## **Chapter 5 Guide      Help!**

**Main Thought:** God loves to help you.

**Key verse:** Psalm 46: 1: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

### **Don't Forget:**

1. Ollie and Minnie needed help in that nasty waterfall. They almost drown.
2. Ollie called out for help! His Helper ... really our Lord Jesus, helped him and kept Minnie alive too.
3. Many times during your life you will need help.
4. You will need to depend on Jesus, your Helper ... Your Good Friend.
5. He wants you to call to Him for help often.
6. Ollie and Minnie are learning this.
7. We hope you will too!

### **Key Questions for discussion:**

1. Do you ever need help? When?
2. Do you think Jesus can help you at school, at choosing loyal, caring friends, and at obeying Mom and Dad with a good attitude?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

I confess I need help. I am weak. Thank You that You are strong. Thank You that You love to help me. Please help me where I struggle.

Thanks, Jesus.

## Chapter 6 Guide            The Good News

**Main Thought:** Jesus loves to save you from you sin.

**Key Verse:** Isaiah 45: 22: Jesus is saying to you, "Turn to me and be saved ... "

### **Don't Forget:**

1. The Devil destroys.
2. Jesus saves.
3. He is your Great Helper. He is God the Savior.
4. Only He can save you.
5. He has forgiven all your sins and mistakes.
6. He died on the Cross and paid for all of your sins.
7. He now wants to come into your heart and clean you and give you Eternal Life.
8. He rose from the dead after dying on the Cross for you. He is alive! He wants you to belong to Him. He wants you in His family forever.

### **Other Key Good News Verses**

Romans 5:8    "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

John 3:16    "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 1:12    "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Joel 2:32:    "...everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved;..."

Revelation 3: 20: Jesus is *saying to you right now,*

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in ... "

### **Key Questions for discussion:**

1. Do you want to receive ( or welcome) Jesus into your heart? Do you trust that only He can save you?
2. Once He is in your heart and life, will He ever reject you? Read Joshua 1:5    "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Assure them of their eternal security. John 10: 27-29    "27My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

**Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus,

I confess I'm a sinner and lost. Only You can forgive and save me. Please come in to my heart, clean me, and make me the kind of person you want me to be.

Thanks so much, Lord!

## Chapter 7 Guide      The Great Rescue

**Main Thought:** If you are trusting in Jesus' love and power, you can do all the things He wants you to do.

**Key Verse:** Philippians 4: 13: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

### **Don't forget:**

1. If you are not depending on Jesus, you will fall flat on your face!
2. Ollie and Minnie could rescue the rabbit family ONLY with their Helper's help.

### **SAY "NO":**

- To drugs.
- To the kids who are not loyal, caring, and wise.
- To sex before marriage.
- To dirty magazines, videos, computer web sites, movies, or sexting,
- To lying, cheating, or stealing.
- To disrespect, rebellion, and unkindness.

### **SAY "YES":**

- To obeying and respecting your parents.
- To being kind to your brother or sister.
- To being honest ... always!!!
- To good, clean fun with loyal, caring and wise friends.
- To working hard at your homework.

### **Key Questions:**

1. Who is controlling your mind, your mouth, and your actions? You or Jesus?
2. Are you saying "NO" to the wrong things and "YES" to the right things?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

At times I know I'm in control: selfish, rebellious, and angry. Forgive me. Take control of me right now with your love, kindness, and strength.

Thanks, Jesus!

## Chapter 8 Guide      Homeward Bound

**Main Thought:** True friends show they care.

**Key Verse:** “Carry each others burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)”

**Don't Forget:**

1. Minnie cared for Ollie enough to carry his burden.
2. He missed his home and family.
3. Minnie had not found her family yet.
4. She put aside her need to find her family so that Ollie could find his.
5. She helped to lift his burden. This is called "love".
6. Some of your brothers or sisters or friends may have burdens you can help with.

**Key Questions:**

1. Can you think of one person who has a burden?
2. How could you help carry his or her burden this week?

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

You are my Lord and Savior. I'll gladly do what ever you want. Help me to love someone this week. Help me to carry their burden.

Thanks, Jesus.

## Chapter 9 Guide      Off to the Lost Lagoon

**Main Thought:** Jesus will defend you. He will stick up for you.

**Key Verse:** Hebrews 13: 6: "...The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

### **Don't forget:**

1. That snake from the Lost Lagoon reminds me of some bullies that teased me and hurt me.
2. When other kids pick on you, call you names, and push you ... that hurts! I've been there!
3. Sometimes you feel like crying. Go ahead and cry. It's O.K.
4. You can pour your heart out to Jesus.
5. He will listen and He will help you. Let Him take care of those mean, disrespectful kids.
6. And ask Him to give you one friend ... a true and loyal friend... one like Ollie or Minnie.
7. The Lord Jesus is good at dealing with the "snakes" in your life!

### **Key Questions:**

1. Do mean kids pick on you?
2. Do you pick on or make fun of some other kids?
3. What do you think it feels like to be picked on or bullied?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

When kids pick on me or tease me, it feels real bad. Please defend me, Lord. Please give me a true and loyal friend like Ollie or Minnie. Please help me to be loyal and kind as well.

Thanks, Jesus.

## Chapter 10 Guide      The Journey to the Top Begins

**Main Thought:** Keep your eyes on Jesus.

**Key Verse:** Psalm 105: 4: “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”

**Don't Forget:**

1. Ollie made the mistake of looking down as he was climbing up.
2. He became dizzy and slid down almost falling off the ledge.
3. He should have kept his eyes upward.
4. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Learn to love the Bible.
5. If you look away to bad, dirty, or hurtful things, you can get hurt seriously.
6. Be careful of the friends you choose.
7. Be careful of what you do and what you look at when no one is watching.
8. Only Jesus can make you happy. Nothing will satisfy you like He can.

**Key Question:**

What friends, movies, T.V. shows, web sites, books, worries, or other things tempt you to look away from Jesus?

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please help me to keep my eyes on You and the Bible. I don't want to look away or down like Ollie did. I don't want to get hurt.

Thanks, Jesus.

## Chapter 11 Guide      The Blinding Snow!

**Main Thought:** When all seems hopeless, God brings hope.

**Key Verse:** Jeremiah 29: 11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

### **Don't Forget:**

1. Sometimes you may flunk a test, get picked last for a team, see Mom and Dad arguing or you might get sick and be in a hospital.
2. These are the times you might feel hopeless and down.
3. You might feel awful and scared like Ollie and Minnie felt buried under all that snow.
4. It is important to tell someone how you feel. This is good.
5. If you wish to bring joy to Jesus, tell Him how you feel and then ask him to control and direct your life.
6. He will work it all out.
7. He will brighten your day.
8. Don't you worry anymore!

### **Key Question:**

Have you ever felt hopeless and worried like Ollie and Minnie felt? When?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

Sometimes I do feel hopeless and worried ... like I'm all alone. Please take control of my life and give me your shining joy and hope.

Thanks, Jesus.

## Chapter 12 Guide      The Final Battle!

**Main Thought:** You will face some tough times. Give them to God to worry about.

**Key Verse:** II Chronicles 20:15 “...This is what the Lord says to you: Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but Gods.”

### **Don't Forget:**

1. Ollie, Minnie, Scrappy, and the rest had to face the bear.
2. They were scared but they were brave.
3. They gave the "battle" to their Helper and He helped to defeat the bear.
4. Maybe you have a big battle facing you.
5. Maybe that battle is math, reading, or science.
6. Maybe it's that the neighborhood kids don't include you.
7. Maybe someone in your family is very sick and is not getting better.
8. Maybe there is trouble, yelling, and tension at home.
9. If so, give your battle to Jesus.
10. He is waiting for you with His arms wide open.

### **Key Questions:**

1. What is the biggest battle facing you right now?
2. Will you give your battle to Jesus?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

I'm not facing a wild bear but I am facing a battle of my own. I'm really worried about it. You know what it is. I give it to You. It is no longer my battle. I can relax now!

Thanks, Jesus!

## **Chapter 13 Guide      Back Home Again!**

**Main Thought:** Your best friend in all the world is Jesus!

**Key Verse:** Proverbs 18: 24: "...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

### **Don't Forget:**

1. Jesus is your Lord.
2. He is your Savior.
3. He is your Helper.
4. He is a loyal friend who will stick with you through thick and thin.
5. He will never leave you or forsake you.
6. If you received or welcomed Jesus into your heart as Ollie and Minnie did, then you belong to him forever.
7. Just as Ollie and Minnie came "back home" from their adventures, one day Jesus will call you home to Heaven, the "Land of the Beloved".
8. Be sure to stick close to Him too!

### **Key Questions:**

1. Who is the "friend" who sticks closer to you than a brother?
2. Will He ever leave you?

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thanks for sticking with me through the good and the bad times and through the happy and the sad times. Thanks again for saving me from my sin. Work in my life the way you want to. I love you and trust you to guide the way.

Thank You so much, Jesus!!!

Thank you for reading **The Adventures of Ollie and Minnie.**

Please pray God would further bless many homes with:

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