

SAMMY AND THE DREAM CATCHER



Das Traumabenteuer – eine Freundschaftsgeschichte

Aus dem Freundschaftsbuch von Nele Palmtag:
Meine Freundinnen und Freunde – zum Eintragen mit Pinsel, Stempel, Kleber.
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Übersetzung ins Englische von David Bumstead und Jocelyn Polen.

A STORY ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

Line, Sammy and Kät are really good friends. If it were up to them, they'd do everything together – well, almost everything. You know how it is. Sometimes Line and Kät act like they're in love. They huddle together and start whispering and giggling, and neither of them will even go to the toilet without the other! Sammy gets annoyed when they act like that. "Red alert!" he always calls out, and goes off to play football.



Sometimes, Kät and Line suddenly start playing cat and mouse. Nobody knows why. Kät hisses: "Line, come on! You always want to make the rules. You're not my friend anymore." They argue and get into a bad mood. So Line and Sammy play together without Kät – sometimes Line pretends to be a dog on a lead. Kät doesn't like dogs. But that's okay – friends don't always have to do everything together.

The next day, everything is different again. Kät has an idea. "Let's practise creeping up on each other," she meows. "Let's play with a bow and arrow!" shouts Sam. "Let's go and catch wild horses!" shouts Line. And just like that, they run off to play again – hand in hand.

But what the three of them like to do best of all is build dens. They build their dens to look like tepees. They're very good at it. They wish they could live in their tepee for real – they want to eat and sleep there and everything. But it's always when they're having the most fun in their den that their teacher, Bea, comes along and says, "Play-time's over now. Time to tidy up." It's the worst!

Then one day, something amazing happened. In the afternoon, Bea came and said, "We're going to have a sleepover party here at the kindergarten tomorrow. If you all come, we can leave the tepee up and you can sleep in it."

It was like a dream come true!

"I'll bring my torch!" cried Line.

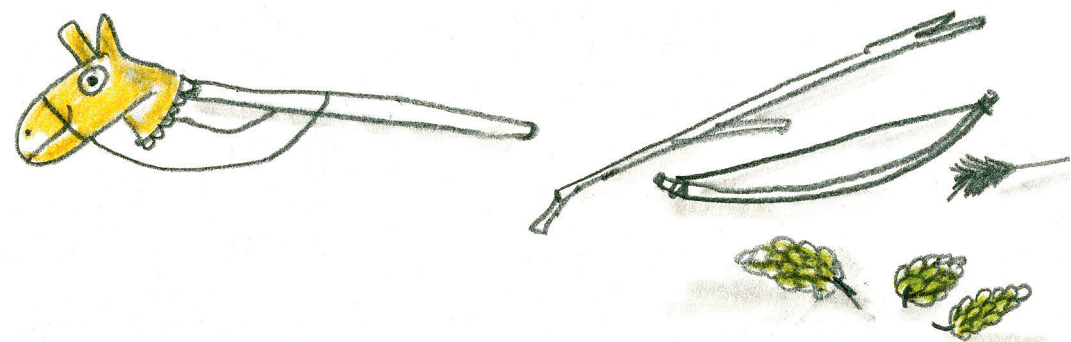
"And I'll bring a midnight snack so we don't go hungry," said Kät.

Suddenly the others realised Sammy hadn't said a word the whole time. "What's the matter, Sammy?" asked Bea. "Don't you want to come to the sleepover?" Sammy didn't answer straight away. "It's just...it's just that I've never spent a night away from home," he said at last. "Not even at gran's!"

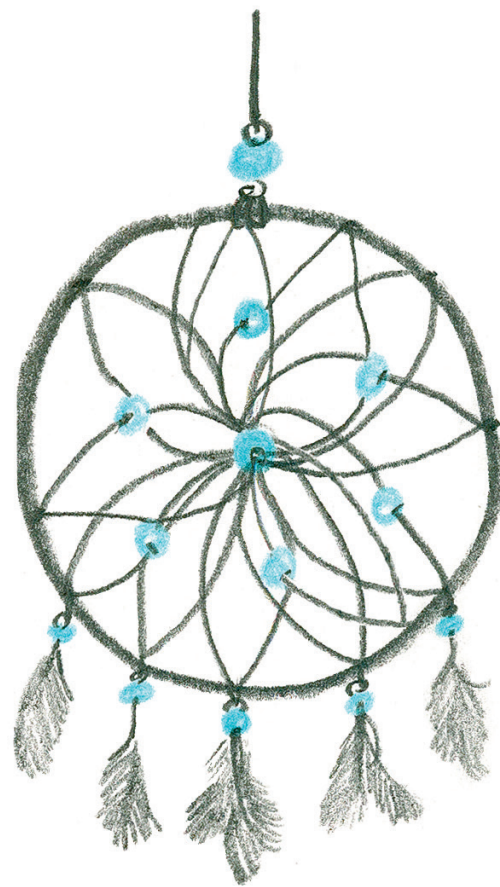
"I see," said Bea. "Is there something you're afraid of?"

"Bad dreams," whispered Sam, so quietly that they could hardly hear him. "I'm afraid of bad dreams." The others looked embarrassed. Kät went and stood next to Sam. "Don't worry, Sam-Sam," she meowed, "I'll sleep next to you! And I can see in the dark. I'll show my claws and hiss – and it'll scare all the dreams away, especially the bad ones."


"Exactly," said Line, "we'll all be there together. You can sleep in the middle and we'll protect you."



Then Bea came over with something special in her hands. It was a ring as big as a plate, decorated with feathers and beads, and it had threads tied across the middle to make a net. "This is an American Indian dream catcher," she said, handing it to Sam. "We'll hang it above your bed, and it will catch all the bad dreams so you can sleep in peace." The children looked at the dream catcher in awe. "Thank you," said Sam bravely. But then he turned to his friends and said, "It's no use! I've tried one of these before. My dreams are far too big for such a little net!" Suddenly Line lit up, like she always does when she has an idea. "I know!" she said. "We'll build a great big, dangerous dream trap – one big enough to catch even the most gigantic dream!" The others thought it was a fine idea.



The next evening, lots of children arrived for the sleepover – including Kät, Line and Sammy. The three friends put on their pyjamas, rolled up their sleeves and started to build the dream trap. They threaded and looped and tied strings into snares. They scattered and piled and pushed objects here and there, being sure to leave something sweet in the middle as bait. Then they put a blanket over it and voila!



The three friends sat in their den and ate the rest of the cookies Kät had brought. The midnight snack was gone.

Soon it was dark. Bea told all the children it was time to brush their teeth, read a goodnight story and sing a lullaby. After that, they all settled down in their dens for the night. And then – lights out!

Line, Kät and Sammy crawled into their tepee. They could hear bursts of giggles coming from all around for a while. Then everything was quiet.

Kät curled up in her place in the den, trying to find a comfortable position. Line kicked her legs back and forth in her sleeping bag, and turned the torch on and off. Click, click – “On”, “Off”, “Testing! Testing!” The air was thick with tension.

Sammy yawned, lying comfortably in between Line and Kät.

After some time, the children had almost dozed off. But suddenly they heard something. Look – there’s a shadow, with pointy claws and a head like a monster! The children were wide awake now. Kät hissed and her eyes glinted fiercely in the dark. Line pulled hard on a string. And with a loud CRASH, the nightmare fell right into the trap!

“Oh no, I think we’ve caught it!”

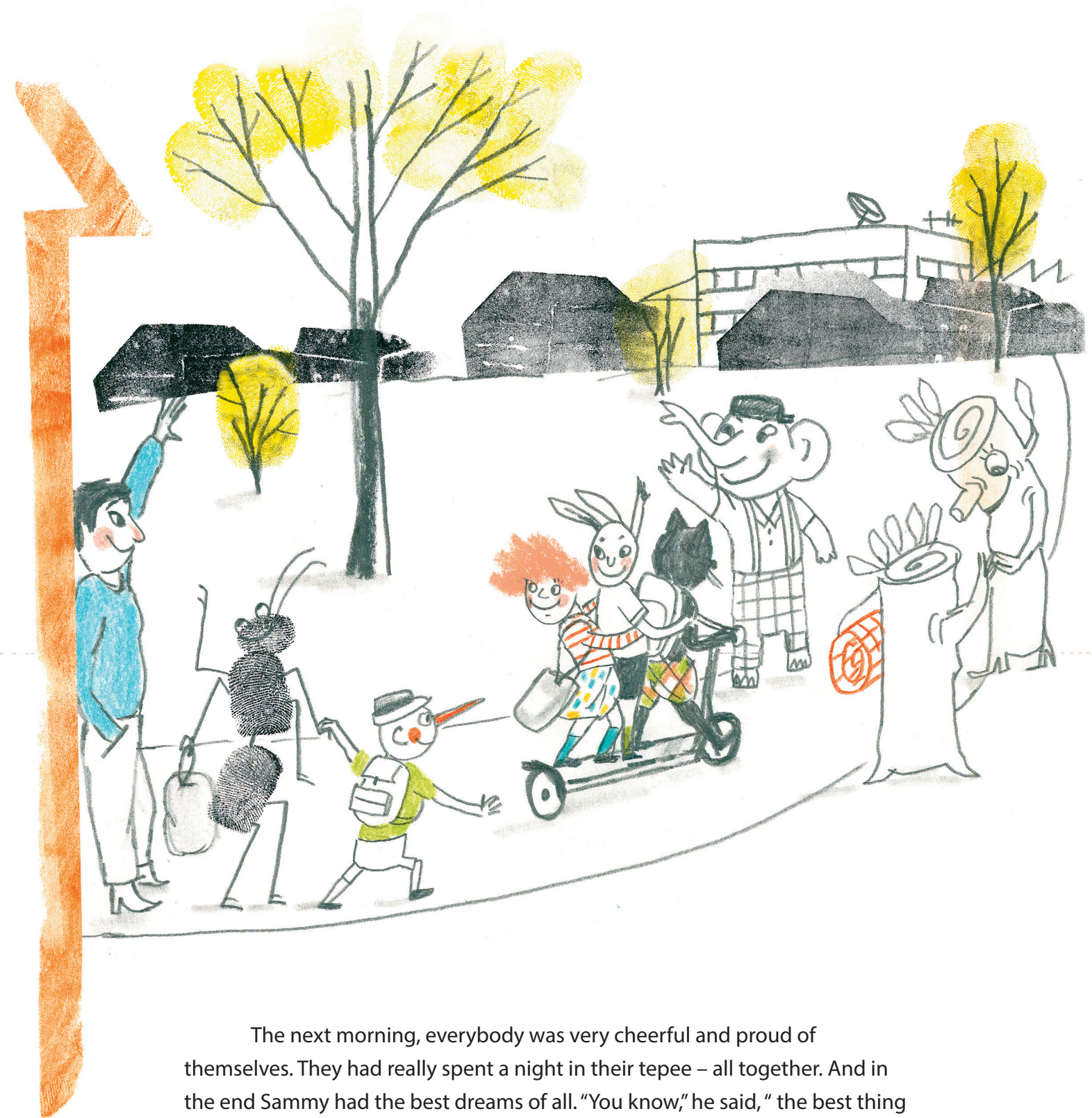
Line switched on the torch.

And what do you think they saw in the trap? It was Bea, their teacher! Her legs had got caught in Line's string. The pile of pillows had fallen all over her, and her trousers were covered in squashed marshmallows.

Bea looked wide-eyed at Kät and then at Line.

"Good heavens! What a mess!" Bea exclaimed. But then she began to laugh uncontrollably. "I only wanted to make sure Sammy was having sweet dreams," she said through her laughter. "But with friends like yours, Sammy, you certainly will!" They all looked over at Sam. But he didn't respond! He was probably the only person in the entire building who hadn't heard the racket. Wedged cosily between his two friends, he was fast asleep.

So the dream trap worked after all!



The next morning, everybody was very cheerful and proud of themselves. They had really spent a night in their tepee – all together. And in the end Sammy had the best dreams of all. "You know," he said, "the best thing for keeping nightmares away is really good friends."