

Nanna Neßhöver: Goway, The Bat

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Die kleine Fledermaus Wegda

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ENGLISH SAMPLE TRANSLATION

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Here comes Goway!

The little bat Goway lived with her family in a small cave very close to a large forest. It was pitch dark here during the day. Only at night did it glitter mysteriously. Those were the fireflies getting ready to buzz in the moonlight. Goway loved her cosy bat cave, although it was perhaps a little cramped. Goway was tiny, much smaller than her brothers and sisters, but she always had a space problem. How could that be, you want to know? It's simple: she had incredibly big feet that she was always tripping over. Try to have a race with daddy's rubber boots... That's what happened to Goway every day when she walked through the cave.

In addition, Goway also had two huge wings with which she constantly bumped - RUMM, BOING, CLATCH! - somewhere. The wings also had advantages, of course: Goway could flap them back and forth or hide under them when she had done something wrong. But mostly the wings did what they wanted. And when Goway was on the move, she only left chaos in her wake. She lurched and tumbled around awkwardly instead of gliding elegantly through the air. Of course, that didn't stop Goway from flying fast anyway.

For the little bat, everything was a great adventure. Higher, faster, further, flying curves, dropping ... Collisions were inevitable.

But because Goway was a particularly friendly bat, she had taken to warning everyone before she appeared.

"GO AWAY," she then shouted. "GO AWAY, I'm coming!"

That is how she got her name.

A clumsy bat that can't fly well! Oh dear, Goway's parents really had to be very patient with her. And there was something else different about Goway.

Something that turned the whole bat world upside down.

She wanted to sleep at night. You might think that's not unusual. But bats are wide awake at night and rest during the day.

Goway didn't. As soon as the last rays of sunlight touched the cave, she became terribly tired and prepared herself for the night. But then she had to have strong nerves. Because while a pleasant tiredness rose in her, all the other bats suddenly woke up.

Time to sleep, thought the bat, shaking its head every time it watched the fluttering and scurrying of the other excited bats. How could anyone make such a racket? At this time of night? But what was she supposed to do? She was just tired so early in the evening.

At five o'clock she had to yawn. Then she put on her curled pyjamas and put her cuddly socks over her huge feet. Let's not get cold feet!

At six o'clock, her eyes were almost closed. Then she quickly brushed her canines and went to the bathroom again. She didn't want to have to go out again!

At seven o'clock she could hardly keep on her feet. Then quickly - SMASH! - a goodnight kiss from the parents. Never without a goodnight kiss!

At eight o'clock sharp, she dangled from the cave ceiling and her huge wings enveloped her head in cosy darkness. Ah, sleep at last... Slowly she rocked herself to sleep.

"One, two, four, nope ... three, five, six, seven, nine, ten," it hummed under its wings. The little bat fell fast asleep.

Goway finds a girlfriend

You must have a good boyfriend or girlfriend, right? Goway also wanted someone to play with. During the day, when the other bats were sleeping in the cave. Together everything is always twice as much fun.

Today, Goway thought as he got up, I'll find a girlfriend! A light morning wind blew and, oops, the little bat let itself be carried away by it.

"go away, go away, go away!" she cried and sailed criss-cross between the treetops. Wham! A branch scraped her left wing. "Sorry!" shouted Goway to a

group of geese she almost collided with. But nothing could dampen her spirits.

What a glorious day. And surely she would ...

KAWUMM!

When Goway opened her eyes, slightly dazed, she was lying on the forest floor.

Everything was spinning. And hovering above her was a head with a beak, a huge pair of eyes and such strange feathery ears. Oh dear, who was that?

"Boy, did you scare me," the strange little animal babbled. "Are you a bat? But that can't be. Bats are asleep now, aren't they? Aren't they?"

Goway sat up, her head throbbing a little. The animal standing in front of her was quite big, fat and feathered. It had small wings, pointed claws, and it looked familiar to her.

"Darn bat, an owl!" cried Goway in amazement.

"Mmh," the owl made and nodded. "That's my name. And who are you?"

"Goway!"

The owl looked at her in confusion.

Goway explained: "That's what everyone calls me. Because that's what I always call when I'm out and about. I'm a bit clumsy."

Owl straightened her ruffled feathers. "Well, I noticed that," she said, "but it's not bad."

Both were silent. Then Goway chuckled: "If you're an owl and I'm a bat, we'd both have to sleep now and..."

"... wouldn't actually be there," Owl finished the sentence and grinned.

"How exciting," Goway rejoiced. "This is going to be a real adventure."

And do you know what feeling rose up in Goway? A real feeling of happiness.

Because she had finally, finally found someone with whom she could experience something.

"Are you playing hide and seek with me?" asked Goway.

"With the greatest pleasure. You start!" replied Owl, covering his eyes and beginning to count.

GOWAY, THE BAT

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It was great fun and Goway knew immediately that she would never be alone again during the day.

A loud chattering could be heard from the lake. Owl and Goway decided to go and have a look. Of course, the geese that Goway had almost collided with earlier were having a big race.

"Oh, that looks fun," said the little bat and plopped down on a lily pad. Owl landed elegantly on the lakeshore. "Shall we try this too?" asked Goway.

The little bat hopped off the lily pad, shot upwards and did a few loops. "Come on, owl," she called from the air. "Join in!".

Owl flew after her new friend. That was funny!

Just as they were about to rest, Goway saw the geese flying very close over the water. She wanted to be able to do that too!

Owl, who had taken a seat at the lakeside, saw Goway floating elegantly over the water. "Great!" exclaimed Owl and waved at her.

That made the little bat get cocky. A little deeper and a little more and ...

PLATCH. The little bat fell into the water. One of its huge wings had slowed it down.