

Albert goes missing

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Albert had always liked playing in the woods,
It was his favourite place to be.
He could do what he wanted and say what he liked
And mother and father couldn't see.

On one particular occasion
Albert forgot all about the time,
It was getting dark when he set off for home
And his way he could not find.

"Ah well" said Albert
As he rested under a tree,
"I'll spend the night in my secret tree house,
Mother will be cross with me."

Now mother had cooked Alberts favourite dinner
Followed by apple pie and cream
And when he didn't show up right on time
Mother said "father, Alberts lost it would seem."

"Don't worry mother" said father
"Lad'll turn up soon.
I bet you a shilling come morning
You'll find him asleep in his room."

In the dead of night father couldn't help himself
He just had to check,
If Albert never turned up
How much him and mother would get.

"Says 'ere mother" said father
"If Albert can't be found
We'll have to wait 10 years
Before they'll payout so much as a pound."

"We should cancel that insurance" said mother
"Seems whenever we have a mishap
It always turns up in small print
They won't payout on that."

Come morning lad's room was still empty
Mother said "father, Albert hasn't come home."
Father said "this is more serious than I thought
I hope he's alright on his own."

Now towns folk liked young Albert
Although a rascal he is,
He's mostly polite to adults
And kind to disabled kids.

When word got out Albert was missing
Everyone rallied around
And someone said "There's nought else to be done
Until the lad is found."

"There's a policeman" said mother
"Quick, tell him me lad's got lost."
"Don't worry yourself" said the policeman,
"We'll have him found, no matter what the cost."

"What are we looking for?" asked the policeman
"He's a lad with a cheeky little grin" said mother,
"And he wears a cap, and carries a stick with an 'orses 'ead 'andle
He's always got that with him."

"That makes it easy then" said the policeman
"Only just yesterday
I passed a lad matching that description
He was heading down 'ther way."

Now Albert had spent a cosy night
Up high in his little tree house.
Although he was hungry, he slept 'til late morning
Without mother to give him a shout.

Albert set off for home in a hurry
Not quite sure what his reception would be.
And he wondered if they'd noticed he was missing and said
"Is anyone looking for me?"

"There's our Albert" said mother
As he sauntered down the main street.
"See, he's come to no harm" said father,
"We'll have to give the lad a little treat."

Mother gave Albert a big hug
And father shook his hand,
Albert thought "so I'm not in trouble"
And he came up with a sneaky plan.

"I've spent a sleepless night in the woods" said Albert
And he pretended he could hardly speak.
"Do you think I could have a day off school
And maybe no chores for a week?"

Mother and father were so delighted to see him
They agreed to everything he said
And mother even cooked bacon and eggs
And allowed Albert to eat breakfast in bed.

"Um" said Albert quietly
"This is quite a tale to tell,
No school and no chores for a week,
Next time I'll ask for more pocket money as well!"
