

# BILLY WHISKERS

By FRANCES MONTGOMERY

You remember the officers were chasing the three animals all over the driftable. While this was going on the driftable had quietly glided into its hangar and was quickly being tied up. An aviator was brushing Stubby with a long-handled brush when a man on the outside opened a door in the side of the driftable just as Stubby was passing, and quick as a wink he took advantage of it and jumped out, much to the surprise of the man who had opened it. After him came Button and Billy, and when the chums' feet touched terra firma again they lost no time in leaving that aviation field.

### Billy Swears Off

When they had found a nice, quiet, safe place to rest and were reviewing that last adventure, Billy said: "No more driftables for me! I never want even to see one again!"

"No!" said Stubby. "I am one mass of black and blue bruises from hitting the furniture and door jams as I rolled from one end of that long saloon to the other."

"And I still feel sick from hanging with my head down so long when that driftable tumbled upside down," declared Button.

After the chums had rested and had a bath in a nearby lake they lay down in a nice shady place to plan what they would do next.

"I think the first thing I should do," said Billy, "is to send a message to Nannie that the three of us are alive and well and are on our way to the old farm, and to ask her, Billy Junior, Daisy and the Twins to start for Chicago, where we will meet them in Lincoln Park as soon as we get there. It will take them as long to come the short distance from Fond du Lac to Chicago as it will take us to travel all the way from New York state, as they will have to travel slower, having the Twins with them. Besides, Nannie is so young as she is, she will understand the hardships of a hurried trip. I don't believe there is a carrier pigeon within a hundred miles of here to take my message, so I think I shall have to entrust it to the crows. There are crows in every state, and I shall use reliable messengers and travel fast. One crow need not go all the way. One can carry it to the border of New York state, say, and there give it to another crow in Pennsylvania, and so on until it reaches my people in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. If they get to Lincoln Park before we do, it is a fine place to wait, as they can visit with the wild animals and get all the grass they want to eat in the park, and all the water they want to drink, and bathing, too, in Lake Michigan, which is on the east side of the park. Now you fellows keep your eyes open for crows."

### Stubby Doubtful

"I don't think we will see any around here," said Stubby, "as there is nothing they like to eat on the shores of this lake. We better find some cornfield, as we shall be sure to find plenty of crows there."

So the three got up and trotted along until they came to a cornfield. And sure enough, the first thing they saw was a big black crow sitting on a scarecrow, as if it had been a tree. On seeing this, Billy exclaimed:

"That is the crow for me! He has no fear and will let nothing turn him from his way. I am going to ask him to carry the message."

### Jumps Over Fence

Saying this, Billy jumped the fence that encircled the cornfield, and approached the crow.

Crows not being afraid of animals, the old fellow on the scarecrow did not stir as Billy approached, but when he was within twenty feet of him the crow cawed out:

"Well, I never! If this isn't my old friend Billy Whiskers! And how do you come to be away down east, when I met you away out west years ago?"

"You don't mean to tell me that you are Black Wings, that saucy dandy who carried a message for me once from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin?" gasped Billy.

"I surely do! I am that very crow, only no longer young or dandified."

"From your looks I should say the world has treated you fine," said Billy.

"Look who is here—Stubby and Button, the same traveling companions you had with you in the west!" exclaimed the crow in astonishment.

### A Big Surprise

"Fellows, hurry your bones and see who is here," bawled Billy to Stubby and Button.

"Don't tell me it is Black Wings!" barked Stubby, while Button meowed: "You have grown portly since I saw you last, and are much more eatable looking than you were then, though you looked very good to me that day I was starting and tried to catch you to eat." And they all laughed, for once Button had nearly caught Black Wings, but he proved too quick for the half-starved cat and flew up in a cactus plant and cawed and scolded Button.

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After which he carried the message straight to Nannie without a relay, as he was going east and said he would as soon send the old farm as anywhere else.

"I should be delighted to carry another message for you," he said. "I always like to do a friend a favor when I can. Besides, I should enjoy seeing your sweet wife and handsome son and cunning grandchildren again. I shall never forget the rousing party they gave me, and the amount of corn I ate that night. I really ate so much I thought my skin would burst. Now what is the message you wish me to take this time? And I suppose you are in a tearing hurry, as you usually are?"

### Tells of Road

"No, this time I am in no hurry at all, as there will be plenty of time for you to go there and get back before we can possibly reach Chicago. All I wish you to do is to go to the farm you went to before and tell Nannie that the three chums have returned from the war safe and sound and without losing an eye or a leg, and for her to meet us in Chicago. Ask her, too, to bring as many of the family with her as she can induce to come, and for them to meet us in Lincoln Park. As it is the safest and most comfortable place I can think of for them to wait for us. And also tell her to allow a month for us to get there, as we might be captured and shut up somewhere for a time. But it will be only for a time; no one could keep us long."

"Now, if you fellows would like, I can show you an easy road to travel that will take you to Chicago by the shortest and quickest route. Do you see that line of telegraph poles the other side of this field. Well, just follow them until you come to the first town. When you get there, leave them and follow the railroad. It will take you straight into Chicago, but be careful you don't get on a sidetrack when going through some of the cities and towns where many railroads meet. All the way along

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the frequency of the incoming current to an "audible frequency," or one that, when fed into the ear, will produce a sound that we can hear.

This conversion of the currents back into sound is the third function of our receiving apparatus. Each will be taken up in detail and discussed more fully, along with the mechanical details of construction.

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Ladies who are particular about their appearance are also particular about their toilet goods.

We would like to show you our very complete line of all kinds of toilet articles that should be on every dressing table. You will like them—and buy them.

If you have never used our lotions, creams, shampoos and powders, come in and let us explain how good they are—they are harmless to use.

Bring us your Prescriptions. Come to us FIRST.

**TORRANCE PHARMACY**  
MALONE BROS.  
Torrance, California

Phone 3-J

Awakens Early

This particular morning she awoke at sunrise, but, seeing a heavy mist hid the sun, she tried to go to sleep again, as it foretold a hot day. But just as she was dropping off to sleep she heard a crow caw directly over her head, and she thought it queer that the crows would be stirring so early.

Again she closed her eyes, but the call was repeated, and it sounded so much nearer than at first that she opened her eyes once more. Lo and behold! directly in front of her on a dead limb of a tree sat a big black crow.

"Don't you know me, Mrs. Billy Whiskers?" cawed he.

"It isn't—it can't be our old friend and messenger Black Wings!"

"That is just who it is! You have good eyes, Mrs. Whiskers, to recognize me after all these years, especially as they say I have grown stouter."

"That you surely have, but any one having seen your sharp, shrewd eyes would never forget them, or the saucy turn of your head. You can't be here to give me another message from my beloved husband, can you?"

"That is just my business—to de-

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"Oh, how happy you have made me, Mr. Black Wings, by bringing me the message that the husband I adore is safe and sound and in this country once again! I don't believe I can ever stand it to have him go away from me again. I have died a thousand deaths in imagining him wounded and left to die on the battlefield, or, worse yet, blown to atoms by a shell. Come with me while I tell Billy Junior and Daisy the good news."

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