

# BILLY WHISKERS

By FRANCES MONTGOMERY

Last time, Stubby chased the cat who was acting with him for the motion picture.

In the meantime Button and the white cat Daisy, who were chained and tied to invisible upright wires to make them look as if they were standing on their hind legs and, incidentally, to keep them from running away, were having a cat fight all by themselves, but for the woman no one was paying any attention to them.

I began this way: Daisy, feeling most uncomfortable in a blue dress with white stockings and little black slippers, to say nothing of a cute little yellow straw hat trimmed with tiny pink roses which was tied under her chin, began to wriggle and squirm out of her clothes. In so doing she happened to throw out her paw with her nails sticking out, and they struck Button across the nose giving him a deep scratch. She could not see what she was doing, as in her struggles to get loose she had pushed her hat over her eyes. But Button did not notice this. He was busy trying to get out of his own clothes. Feeling a stinging pain on his nose and hearing Daisy spluttering and growling, he thought she was angry at him and had done it on purpose. Now in most cases Button was a very gallant cat and would not have struck a lady cat for all the world. But this was an unusual occasion. He was not only hot, but furious, too, at being tied. Consequently, before he thought, he struck at her with both forepaws. On dragged the hat from her face; the other ripped her dress from neck to hem. She gave a howl of pain and raked back at him. Then the fight was on. They bit, scratched, clawed each other. And had not Nick come in just then and heard them spluttering and growling, and picked up Daisy's finery and carried it away, I am afraid there would have been nothing left of the two cats but the buttons off their clothes and a few bunches of fur to tell the story.

### She Is Shy

It really was a shame, for Button looked too cute in a black suit, white vest, high stovepipe hat, boutonniere, and a monocle stuck in one eye. And Daisy was very funny when she turned her head to look at him, just as if she was a shy young lady.

Why in the world did Stubby start all this trouble by barking and chasing the old cat? It was because as he passed, her she hunched her back and struck at him with her forepaw. The lurch burst all the buttons off the back of her dress, and when she stepped on the front of the skirt it fell off, and she gave a bound, landing on Stubby's back, and then she began to claw him.

Button and Daisy were released from their frames, and two more disconcerted cats you never saw as they shook themselves and ran out of the studio.

"Now, Mr. Billy Whiskers, it is your turn to perform," said Mr. Dates, and in the twinkling of an eye Nick and Snub came up and strapped a regular circus saddle on his back and led him to a circus ring they had fixed where he and some other animals were to perform.

Billy was supposed to trot around the ring while Maggie, the middle-sized monkey, performed on his back and jumped through paper drums and hoops. Now this was an old stunt that Billy had done many, many times before. So at first he trotted around the ring like an old tried circus horse, and all the men exclaimed: "That is the smartest goat we ever saw! One would think he was brought up in a circus!"

### She Draws Blood

Right here Maggie dug her hands

## FUR APPEARS ON MANY NEW GOWNS



Evening frock of black charmeuse satin with full skirt and heavy banding of fur. The satin girdle is finished by a large rhinestone buckle.

into his neck so deep that they drew blood, but no one saw it. Billy hunched his back like a bucking pony and tried to throw her, but she gave him another dig and jumped up between his horns, where it would not bother her no matter how much he butted.

The man who was taking the part of the ringmaster gave Billy a cut with his long whip. When Billy found the long lash cutting his legs he pumped straight up in the air, then made a bee line for the man, and before the fellow knew what Billy was after he found himself going up toward the roof of the studio with a terrible pain in his back where Billy had hit him.

Billy did not tarry to see what became of his victim. He chased around and around the circus ring, trying to dislodge Maggie, who, being a vicious, disagreeable monkey, was enjoying all this and taking delight in pulling Billy's hair and digging her hands into him under the edge of the saddle where it would not show if she did draw blood.

### Can't Shake Her

Billy tried to shake her off; but no, she had a good, safe seat between his horns. "When he butted she ran along his back and sat on his tail. When he shook himself she sat on the saddle and held on to its edges. At last, in despair of ever being able to shake her off, Billy decided to settle it by rolling on her. So he lay down and rolled, but Maggie was too quick for him. As he went over on one side she hopped off, and when he came up she hopped on his back again.

Then he tried turning one somersault after another, but to no use. Whatever he did, Maggie foiled him and still stuck to his back.

Billy bethought himself of the big lake only a few blocks away. "I'll run down there and drown her!"

To think this thought was to carry it out, and Billy made a dash for the outside door. It chanced to be open. And it is a good thing it was open, for otherwise he would have butted it down. Even as it was, he knocked over a Chinaman bringing in a basket of laundry on his head, collided with a grocer boy, and so frightened a horse that he ran away and spilled his owner's load of oranges, lemons and apples all over the street, much to the delight of some small boys just going home from school.

Rush Down Street  
On, on down the street went Billy, across car tracks, boulevard and crowded thoroughfare, straight for the lake. And securely on his back rode Maggie, as if enjoying herself. People stood and wondered where the goat and monkey came from. At last Billy scented water and he increased his speed, which brought him in a very short time out on the beach where hundreds of people were bathing. Maggie, not suspecting what he was planning, was up to her neck in water before she had time to think. Hating water worse than a cat, she began to whine and cry like a baby. But still she clung to the saddle, though by this time Billy was swimming in deep water.

"Will that monkey ever get off my back, I wonder? I'll dive and drown her, so I will!" And under the water he went. But just as his back disappeared under the water Maggie gave a jump and landed on the back of a fat man who was swimming toward the

shore. When he felt her sharp claws stick into him he screamed for help, thinking a shark was after him, though everybody knows there are no sharks in Lake Michigan. All the other bathers thought it was funny to see a monkey perched on a frightened man's back, so they only laughed and did not go to his help.

When Billy's head came above the water after diving he was relieved to find that Maggie had at last left his back, and he began to look around to see if he could discover her. He fully expected to find her gasping in the water somewhere near. But no. What he saw was his tormentor calmly riding toward shore on a fat man's back.

### Meets His Pals

Billy took good care not to come out of the water until he had seen Maggie disappear in the life-saving station on the shore, where she ran the minute the man reached the shore. As soon as Billy saw her disappear inside the door he swam to shore as fast as he could, and then legged it back to the studio with all the speed that was his. On his way he met Snub and Nick running toward him from the studio, inquiring of everyone they passed if they had seen a big white goat with a monkey on his back. Some had and some had not, but all those who had, said the goat was running toward the lake.

[Billy has not had a very good time, so far, while trying to be a motion picture actor, has he?]

## The Voice Of the People

[Contributions to this column are welcome, subject to the following conditions and rules: Letters should be plainly written on one side of the paper. The Editor reserves the usual right of editing. Letters on matters of religious controversy, personal attacks, or containing libelous material, will not be published. Letters in this department do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this paper. Short contributions are better than long ones. Keep contributions within 400 words.—Editor.]

October 12, 1924.

### Editor:

The Torrance post of the American Legion would appreciate your publishing the following notice: Our town has been overrun by men selling war veteran papers and other articles. In a few instances these vendors have been worthy of support, but the majority of them are not. These magazines can be bought for seven cents a copy and are in turn sold for twenty-five cents. The purchaser buys them not for their literary value, in most cases, but to help out a poor ex-service man. Some of these vendors arrive in town in

an auto; they pin on a Victory medal, put on an overseas cap, and make the rounds of our business houses. One man admitted that he had made as much as fourteen dollars a day.

The American Legion officers are authorized to O. K. credentials in Torrance. We have no objections to anyone buying anything they wish, providing they get their money's worth, but if you are approached by someone passing as a wounded veteran, and he can not show proper credentials, do not buy for sympathy's sake.

JAMES H. SCOTT, Commander, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, American Legion.

It is more healthful to wear light underwear the year round, changing the top clothing in accordance with the weather.

With the prevailing system of heating human habitations, it is more difficult to keep cool in the winter than in the summer.

Spending public funds to eradicate hookworm, malaria and typhoid fever is a sound investment. Funds expended in the treatment of these diseases is extravagant waste.

Nope! Gotta go to the Torrance theatre Wednesday night. It's Pay Day and I'm going to get paid off. All right, come along with me.—Adv.

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