

## PAPA BOIS SAVES A DEER

One day, deep in the forest, Papa Bois was cooking his dinner in front of his joup. All around him was the dark green forest. All kinds of birds and insects and animals were playing, flying and frisking about him. They were whistling, chirping, bleating and making all the sounds that animals make.

They were happy with one another and with Papa Bois who had trained them to love every living thing. He was their protector.

He was interesting to look at with two short horns on his head, a kind face with piercing eyes and a gentle manner. His hair and beard were long indeed. His feet were like the cloven hoofs of the deer and he wore deer-skin over his body. He was strong, light-footed and could run very fast. A flute was hanging from his neck and he carried a long piece of wood in his hand and a large knife in his belt.

Now, suddenly, all the animals stopped their noise for, in the distance, a gun shot was heard. Then trip-trip-trip-trip through the bushes rushed little feet.

Papa Bois realized that a hunter was in the forest and signalled the animals to hide themselves among the branches, lianes and holes. He blew his horn to warn the other animals far away to hide themselves also.

In another moment, a young deer rushed limping and panting into the clearing where the joup stood. The barking of a dog could be heard in the distance.

Papa Bois hid the deer in a thick bush and ran out in the direction of the barking dog.

At a point where the deer had crossed a small canal with water, Papa Bois laid a trail in a different direction and went off deeper into the woods to mislead the hunter and his dog.

The dog picked up the false scent and followed it with his master, the hunter, close behind urging him on. They went on and on deep into the forest where they both got lost.

Meanwhile, Papa Bois had returned home smiling happily. He prepared a nice dinner for all his animal friends who welcomed the young deer to their gathering. He lived happily with them for years and years.

Now, the people of the village had gone to search for the hunter and after three days and three nights they found him wandering in the forest hungry and tired. They all realized that Papa Bois had saved the deer and caused the hunter and his dog to get lost in the forest.

