

Stunt Bunny: Snake Charmer

A Stunt Bunny short story by Tamsyn Murray



You can tell a lot about a pet from their owner. Take Susie Wilson, for example. She's my eight-year-old owner and is clever and brave – a bit like me. We get along just fine but the boy next door isn't so lucky with his pets. It doesn't matter what animal George gets, he always loses them. So I had a bad feeling when Susie came into our garden after meeting his latest arrival.

"How is George's new pet?" Mrs Wilson asked, as she pegged out the washing.

Susie bent down to peer under my hutch. "I didn't get to meet it. When George opened the tank, it was empty."

Mrs Wilson let out a loud tut. "What has he lost this time – a stick insect?"

"Not exactly," Susie replied. Then she darted an anxious look through the open top of my rabbit run. "Is it true that pythons eat rabbits?"

Mrs Wilson dropped the sheet she was holding. "A snake?" she squeaked. "He's lost a snake?"

"George says it's only a baby but I'm sure my teacher said pythons eat small animals," Susie fretted.

Eek! Ears flattened against my head, I fired a nervous glance left and right. Was that a glittering pair of reptile eyes I saw over by the compost heap?

Susie's dad, EE, was rummaging around in the shed and hadn't been listening. Suddenly, there was a crash and a loud yell. Then a large green wellington boot flew out of the shed, into my rabbit run and crashed through the open door of my hutch!

For a moment, nothing moved. Then I heard a low hiss and a forked tongue flicked out of the top of the boot, followed by a small triangular head. A pair of yellow eyes fixed on me and I shivered. No wonder EE had yelled – George's missing python had been hiding in that welly and now it had me in its sights!

An ordinary bunny might have huddled in the corner of the rabbit run but I was a Stunt Bunny. Quicker than you could say 'slithering serpents', I scampered forwards. As I neared the hutch door, I launched myself into the air and spun into one of my famous triple bunny backflips. My paws slammed into the door, rattling it shut and trapping the snake inside my hutch!

"Hurrah for Harriet!" Susie cried, rushing forwards to lock the door.

Mrs Wilson smiled weakly. "Why don't I go and get George?"

George was over the moon to see his missing pet. Gently, he scooped the python's glistening coils up in his arms.

"Poor little Monty," George said. "You scared him!"

Mrs Wilson's mouth dropped open. "We scared him? I think it's the other way around!"

EE coughed and cleared his throat. "I wasn't afraid, just surprised."

Well, if you'll believe that, you'll believe anything - I'd bet my last carrot that EE had been *terrified*. But I decided to let it go. George had his snake back and the garden was safe once more. Stunt Bunny had saved the day again!

The End

