

Drama on a Cross-country Race

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“I would enjoy running if we could come here all the time!” I giggled to my best friend Pat as we set off on our school’s annual cross-country race. It was a beautiful autumn day with clear blue skies. We were both enjoying the scenery instead of concentrating on running, so we were soon far behind everyone else.

Suddenly, Pat fell down to the ground. “Ouch!” she yelled, clutching her leg. I could see the tears forming in her big brown eyes so I knew she was in real pain. “I can’t carry you,” I said softly. “Will you be okay if I run to find help?” I asked her.

“Yeah, Go!” she replied and nodded her head. I ran ahead to see whether there was someone around. Unfortunately there was no one. My mind went blank. When I ran back to Pat, she wasn’t there and only a shoe was left. “Hello?” I cried. “Pat, where are you?” I was desperate.

Out of the blue, I found a clue when I noticed something different about the shady tree behind me. The ‘tree’ seemed to be smoking! The bridge nearby had been washed away and I had to wade across the stream to find out what was happening. I glimpsed a figure like Pat along with another person. I stepped closer towards them. Pat was lying there with her eyes closed and a man was helping to cure Pat’s wound with smoke from his hands.

The man looked absolutely weird. He was wearing a beast’s skin as shorts and he was naked on top. He looked strong and muscular so he could carry fat Pat easily. Soon Pat woke up and said: “Fa-la-do.” The man replied, “Arh-wa”. Then she took a bow. As I wondered about what they had just said, Pat stared at me in surprise. She rushed towards me, covering my mouth with her hand. “Don’t make a sound. Keep

silent!” she whispered. She guided me back to the race.

“What’s going on? How come you...” I hesitated.

“Calm down! He’s the king of the woods nearby,” said Pat.

I was puzzled and asked her, “How did you know him?”

“This is a legend and also a secret,” she murmured.

We ran as fast as we could. We enjoyed running as well as the enchanting views.