

# Servant Rupert's Broken Birch

*A jolly story written by Jennifer and Julie Marielle Schäfers*

Small four year-old Michelle lives with her family somewhere in England. Michelle has a wish, which is not every-child's wish: she always wanted to try Servant Rupert's birch. So she wasn't a good child all over the year. She has always annoyed her sisters, has distorted their notebooks, cut her hair often, cut a sleeve off her favorite pullover and cut a pant leg of her favorite leggings up to the knee. Yes, she really has worked very hard for this.

It's 5 December now – one day before St.-Nicolas-Day. Michelle already sits at her window and looks into the sky impatiently. She wonders where Santa and his Little Helper might live.

After dinner Michelle is kissed good night by her parents. But she isn't tired at all, and she still can't sleep. So after some tries to fall asleep she gets out of her bed, takes a chair and goes to the window again. She looks right in the sky and looks left in the sky. But because of the roof she can't look up. So she doesn't sense that Servant Rupert is already sitting on the roof of her cuckoo window waiting for her fall asleep.

Some minutes later Michelle has grown tired and has fallen asleep at the window. Now Rupert jumps through the chimney and tiptoes into Michelle's room. He holds some sleep powder to her nose and puts her into his black sack, so that she won't freeze. Then he climbs with the full sack through the chimney onto the roof. Then he puts the sack with the child onto his black sleigh, which is pulled by 13 billy goats. Now he flies with Michelle to Christmas Land where he has a little house, too.

As soon as they arrive there Servant Rupert wakes the girl up and releases her out of the sack. Michelle looks around and asks: "Where am I?" Rupert replies: "You have been very naughty. So you have deserved such a spank of your botty, which your parents shouldn't better watch. I have a new birch. It's a prototype of a new development. You have worked hard enough so that your botty may be the test botty now." Michelle asks enthusiastically: "Wow, may I take a look at your birch?" - "Right after the spank of your botty", Rupert replies. Then Michelle starts to run around him so very quickly and slippy, so that she makes it to whip the birch out of the hands of this growing old man.

With this she hunts poor Servant Rupert and deals him a rough blow on his butt. Rupert screams, because his butt hurts so much. Now Michelle runs off with the birch and escapes into the reindeer forest. She hides behind a bush and waits until seeing Rupert passes her.

Suddenly Michelle hears some steps coming towards her bush. Rupert is on her track. But he doesn't find her. When he passes her bush, she jumps out of her hiding spot and hits his butt very hard again. Servant Rupert roars with pain. He isn't able to follow Michelle so quickly. His bottom swells, and he has to lean on a tree. His roar echoes through the reindeer forest so loudly, that not only his billy goats rush to him for helping, but also Santa's Reindeer. "What's happened?" Rudolph asks worriedly. "Catch this child, please!" Rupert says. "She has pinched my new birch and has already hit me twice!" he explains swearing. "Of course I'm going to bring her back to you." Rudolph promises and he begins

to look for Michelle.

He doesn't need to search long, until he finds the girl sitting behind a bush. From behind he tiptoes to the child and asks her innocuously: "Hey Michelle. Would you like to take a ride on my back?" Michelle loves Rudolph's suggestion and immediately climbs onto his back. She can't hold the birch while riding. So Rudolph carries it in his mouth. As promised Rudolph brings back the birch to Servant Rupert – and also the naughty child.

On Rudolph's back Michelle has no chance to escape. Rupert gets her, puts her into his sack, puts her over her knee and gives her a big spanking. Instead of crying frightened Michelle laughs her head off. The harder he spanks, the louder the child laughs. He has no idea that Michelle preventively has put a pillow into the pajama bottoms to her botty. At the next hard spanking the birch breaks in two. Michelle hasn't overheard that loud snap. She laughs to tears with pleasure and glee. Absolutely desperately Servant Rupert gets the laughing child out of the sack and looks at her in disbelief. His birch is broken in two and can't be used anymore. Michelle seems to be immune to penalties. He is stumped. Michelle, however, says bluntly: "This birch has had it now. Seems to be a poor quality. You need to claim it." Servant Rupert gasps for breath helplessly and gives the child to Santa Claus. It's because he doesn't want to birch the child without his magic sack. This sack is for protecting the children against injuries and serious pain, when getting spanked.

Yes, I have to say that Servant Rupert absolutely is not a harsh man. He loves all the children as much as Santa Claus does it.

Santa Claus, however, bundles this clever child up, puts her onto his reindeer sleigh and brings her home.

Growing tired of this adventure and the gentle movements of the sleigh make Michelle fall asleep peacefully.

When she wakes up next morning, she again lies in her bed and thinks that she has had a jolly dream. So she expects to find a boot filled with candy at her door – just as every year. So she goes to her door smiling, opens it and – there isn't the expected boot! There is the umbrella stand which she has put there as a joke. Servant Rupert's broken birch is in it! *'Oh my god, what a St.-Nicolas-Day!'* she thinks. Absolutely perplexed Michelle has to realize, that she hasn't dreamed last night! *'And how black and swollen would be my botty now, if I hadn't put a pillow there!'* she continues thinking. She doesn't know that the sack is a magic sack, which prevents exactly those injuries and pain. The birch only should teach the naughty children a lesson, but should not really hurt.

She doesn't want to experience such a St.-Nicolas night again! So she decides to apologize to her sisters and promises them, not to reach for their notebooks without their allowance. She won't annoy them anymore.

Fortunately Santa Clause has foreseen this and has waited for it on the roof of Michelle's house. Now she gets ready for breakfast.

Opening the door of her room she gapes, because she finds her boot filled with candy – near the umbrella stand with the broken birch.

And what about you, guys? Have you always been good kids during the year?