

Servant Rupert's Trick

by Jennifer Schäfers

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Small Michelle remembers her adventure, she had with Santa's Little Helper four years ago, very well. Now that she's eight years old meanwhile, she is smart, and she has a naughty way of talking.

But she doesn't want to be naughty anymore. After all she would like to visit Servant Rupert again. But what would she have to do for this? She was already told off for her stunts regarding her homework portfolio. They can't be any reason anymore. She prefers doing her homework, instead of hiding them under a carpet or dumping them onto the bars of a basement window again. Even hiding her homework under the seat of her school bus didn't help her. Her file returned to her the very next day. So she better thinks twice, before wrapping her homework up decoratively to present it to her bus driver.

She absolutely doesn't want to play any tricks anymore for a visit to Servant Rupert. She only would like to see how he is doing. She even found out meanwhile, that Servant Rupert really loves children as much as Santa Claus.

"Oh please! Could you pick me up again?" she mumbles to herself and puts her elbows onto her window board. Dreamily she puts her face in her small hands. "I won't smack you anymore", she promises and looks into the dark sky.

"Hm", she sighs and goes to bed. A few minutes later she has fallen asleep.

Servant Rupert, however, has been seeing Michelle's wish all year long. Today, 5th December, he waits on the roof of her cuckoo window until she sleeps deeply. "What an extra-ordinary and wonderful child", he smiles to himself.

Now it is time to fulfill her wish. He slips down the chimney and tiptoes into Michelle's room. Carefully he puts her into his magic sack. Her little head peeps out and is bundled up affectionately. Then he sneaks up the chimney with the child and gets on his black sleigh. After he has put Michelle at his side and fastened her, he starts into the sky directing North Pole.

The surge of starting wakes Michelle up. She looks around amazed. She is surprised about the black sleigh and the 13 black billy goats pulling this sleigh. Then she looks near her, looking at Servant Rupert's face in disbelief. "Good morning", he jokes and grins: "Have you had a good night?" Michelle shouts with glee. He really is picking her up! But then she remembers horrified, that she has forgotten to put a pillow into her pajama bottoms to her botty. So she stammers: "Servant Rupert, I am not going to get a smacked bottom? I do all my homework now." She looks at him heartbreaking. "Don't worry", Rupert replies. "That is not relevant anymore. I have another surprise for you." - "Oh", she says and falls quiet curiously.

A few minutes later they arrive at Servant Rupert's house. Rupert helps Michelle off the sleigh, and also helps her out of his magic sack. Then he invites her for a cacao in his cozy house.

The table is set with two dessert plates and two big cups of cacao with cream topping and grated chocolate. In the middle of the table there is a very big plate of biscuits and cookies of all kind.

Happily Michelle jumps to the table and sits down. Rupert follows her and sits down facing her. They talk and laugh about a lot of things during this real treat.

After taking some refreshment Rupert takes Michelle to a forest glade, where he has set up a testing system. Michelle can't trust her eyes, when she sees a big unit, which looks like a boxing automat. However this automat does not have a speed bag, but a big fat rubber botty! Michelle rolls on the floor laughing.

After having calmed down she asks straight from the shoulder: "Which fat-assed antelope have you taken this thing off? Who is running around having only a hook, where this thing belongs?" This makes Rupert shake with laughter. He never heard anything like this!

When he, too, calms down, he gives Michelle a birch and explains: "This is a prototype of another new developed birch. And this machine is a botty for tests. So I don't need to use yours anymore. You are the lucky one to try this new birch now. Come on, smack."

Michelle doesn't need to be told twice. She hauls off, hits and ... - woops! Where is it now?? The test botty has tilt up! Michelle has only hit the air and spins around. "Hey!" she shouts out amusedly. "You haven't been quick enough, darling", Rupert grins and gets the test botty hang down again via remote control. "Come on, try again", he asks her friendly.

Again the girl hauls off and tries to smack faster. Again the botty tilts up quickly. And again Michelle doesn't hit it, spins around and falls onto her bottom. She hears Rupert laughing. Getting up again, she catches sight of a remote control unit in his hand. She goes to him and asks him indignantly: "What is this!?" - "My remote control unit for this machinery. Did you really think, I let you destroy my toys? The fat-assed antelope wants to get her botty back soon. Its hook is going to freeze", he hoaxes her. "What??" Michelle asks in disbelief laughing. At that Rupert gets the test botty hang down again and says: "Come on. One more try, please."

Michelle hauls off again laughing, smacks and... - this time she hits the botty. Except of making a loud slapping noise, the test botty also passes a wind of black powder all over the child. Now she is as black as pitch. This look makes Rupert roll on the floor laughing. Michelle looks at him dumbfounded but denies herself bad-mouthing, because she has learnt respect of adults. "Come here. You're allowed to smack again", he says.

Now Michelle hesitates and asks: "What are you going to do to me next?" - "Oh, after that you'll be taller than I am", Rupert jokes. "Please smack again", he asks.

She looks at him suspiciously, but smacks after all. She hits it again, but this time the test botty tilts up towards her picking her up. Now she jumps on the rubber-botty, as if

it would be a bouncer castle. This is a lot of fun for her. At that she nearly forgets, that she is black-powdered.

Now laughing Rupert wants to finish Michelle's adventure and holds up his magic sack: "Come here, jump in. I'm going to bring you home. Morning will break soon." The girl jumps into the sack with cheers and... – puff! Some white feathers reel out of the sack. Michelle lifts her head out of the sack sneezing and gives Rupert an evil eye. Her face is still black, and her hair is white feathered now. "You're looking sweet", grins Rupert and wants to take her onto his sleigh.

But, however, she wouldn't be Michelle, if she would take all of that!

This angry little child breaks free. Quickly she reaches into Rupert's belt bag and sack-races deftly to the edge of the forest having the remote control unit in her hand. She hides behind a bush. From there she sees Rupert standing under his test botty mumbling surprised: "This little rascal! Now she again has outflanked me and lives up to her nick name `Michel'!"

Curiously small `Michel´ presses a button. The test botty gets into its hanging position again, hitting Rupert and smacking him to the ground. He gets up bad-mouthing and walks around his test system. That moment Michelle again presses a button, and the rubber botty tilts up in the same direction again. At that it has picked Rupert up. Now he is lying onto it. As soon as Rupert gets up again, Michelle plays with the remote control again. This makes the test botty dribble poor Rupert up, as if he would be a shuttlecock. Rupert is laughing on the other side of his face now. He has only some swearing words left now.

When Michelle interrupts playing with the remote control unit, the rubber botty also stops in the horizontal position. Rupert tries to get up. Michelle presses a button again. This makes the test botty engulf Rupert with a green and bad smelling fog. He gets a cough attack, retches horribly and goes down on his knees. At that he loses his balance and falls down onto the ground.

Michelle chuckles gleefully. She hasn't noticed, that reindeer Rudolph has tiptoed to her meanwhile. Before Rupert recovers and Michelle continues playing with the remote control unit, Rudolph takes the child at the open upside of the sack and carries her out of the forest. He decides to bring her home immediately. Michelle, however, understands, that she is safe now and falls asleep peacefully.

When she wakes up in the morning of 6th December, she lies in her bed again. A white feather on her bedside table remembers her visit with Servant Rupert. As every year she finds her boot filled with candy and chocolates at her door.

Looking in the mirror in the bathroom she is in for a surprise to see her face black-powdered yet.

After getting ready for breakfast, Michelle arrives in the dining room. Much to her surprise she finds a big cup of cacao with cream topping and grated chocolate in her place. Her parents, however, have not prepared this cacao for her. Even the delicious biscuits and cookies in her lunch box are not made by her mom...

Guess who...