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The Twins' Tunnel Trouble

Some twins are the best of friends, whilst others (like Susie and Patrick) were perhaps more like the worst of enemies! Susie was a lively, adventurous girl with a wild imagination, who would always be off outdoors leading adventures and misbehaving. Patrick was the complete opposite and was a quiet, shy boy, who liked to keep his imagination fixed on the books he read and the drawings he created. Often, people were amazed that they were even related! Susie's favourite pastime was to pester, annoy and criticise her brother which made them fight like cat and dog. Dad was sick of having to disentangle them. Would they ever learn to get along?

One morning during the summer holidays, Susie and Patrick were in the middle of a particularly nasty disagreement over which TV channel they wanted to watch. "Stop it at once!" roared Dad. The children stood bolt upright. Dad, who didn't know how much more of this horrendous behaviour he could tolerate, told both of them to go and play outside immediately.

Seconds later, Susie headed out of the door like an adventurer off to explore new worlds. She had been pestering to be allowed to go outside all day anyway. "Pigs might fly before we ever like each other," muttered Patrick as he reluctantly picked up his coat and trudged out into the garden.

Once outside, Patrick called out to Susie, "Where are you? Are we going to least try?" "Grrrrrrrrrrrrr!" roared Susie as she jumped out at him from behind a rubbish bin. Patrick was so engrossed in his thoughts that he hadn't even noticed Susie run off out of their backyard and, not wanting to be left alone, he knew he better follow her. When he had caught up, he found Susie peering into a dark, brick-red tunnel with no light coming from the other side.

"Let's go, scaredy cat!" called Susie before she rapidly disappeared into the tunnel. Patrick froze in horror. He wasn't scared but he definitely wasn't going to follow his stupid sister, he told himself. However, it was starting to get dark and Patrick was scared of being left alone. Resentfully, the young boy entered into the pitch-black passage way.

Inside the tunnel, Patrick felt the sides of the cold, damp stone walls to guide his way. Slowly, he led his way towards a small glimmer of light at the other end. As Patrick's eyes gradually adjusted to the brightness, he could just make out a crystal white sky with towering pine trees overhead. What was this place and how had he got here? He tiptoed into the icy wonderland and felt the crisp, white snow crunch under his feet.

His new environment was truly magical but little did Patrick know, it was all about to change.

Without warning, the sun disappeared behind a nearby mountain and an icy chill ran down Patrick's spine. Dark shadows appeared to dance in front of his eyes. Suddenly, he felt very alone and desperate. Where was his sister when he needed her? "Ahh-wooooooo!" A loud, howling noise filled the bitter air. Instantly, Patrick knew that that wasn't the sound of Susie about to jump out on him, but actually the sound of a hungry wolf about to pounce. Patrick ran for his life.

Frantically, he searched to find his twin. Out of the corner of his eye, he spotted a trail of snowy footprints, which led him to a sign that read 'The Arctic Witch's Garden'. Beyond the gate, Patrick saw a mysterious array of eerie ice sculptures. He noticed one particularly familiar-looking statue... it was Susie! What had happened? Would she be frozen like that forever?

Instinctively, he ran towards her and flung his arms around her tightly. Although they fought, he loved her really. She was his sister after all! He began to sob uncontrollably at the thought of losing her. With tears rolling down his face, Patrick suddenly began to feel warmer. It was then that he realised that the chunk of ice containing his sister had thawed and there she was in the flesh! "About time bro!" joked Susie. "Now, we must run before that ghastly witch comes back and turns us both into human icicles!"

The two children sped from the frosted land as fast as their little legs would carry them with Susie clasping Patrick's hand all the way back through the peculiar tunnel. As they finally flopped down on the living room sofa, Susie gave Patrick a hug and thanked him for saving her. From that day on, Susie didn't try to scare Patrick anymore and she learned to respect his belongings. As for Patrick, he didn't stay indoors all the time anymore and he actually enjoyed going on outdoor adventures with his sister. If they stuck together as a team, they knew that they could tackle anything. However, they never risked another trip down the tunnel to the icy world of the Arctic Witch

