

The Moon In Mill Pond Retold
By Ellen Baumwoll

One evening Rabbit and Turtle sat down by the roadside to talk about the old days. Rabbit loved having fun and Turtle was always ready to carry out a joke.

On this evening, they asked Fox, Bear and Wolf to go fishing in the Mill Pond the next evening. Fox had asked Squirrel, Skunk and some others to go, too. And they all met at the Mill Pond after sundown.

Bear and Wolf had a hook and line. Fox had a dip-net, and Turtle had the bait. Squirrel, Skunk and the others excitedly watched nearby.

When they were ready to begin fishing, Rabbit went close to the pond and looked into the water. "Wow!" he exclaimed with surprise. "What's wrong, Rabbit?" asked Squirrel, Skunk and the other animals questioningly.

But Rabbit looked more and more surprised. "Shhh," he called as he nodded his head. "We cannot fish today." Turtle looked into the water and shook his head. "Rabbit is right, we cannot fish today," he said, falling backwards as if he were scared.

The Moon In Mill Pond Retold - cont'd.

"Something strange has happened," said Rabbit. "The moon has fallen into the Mill Pond." They all quietly crept over to the water to see.

"We see it," whispered Squirrel, Skunk and the other animals. Sure enough, there was the moon at the bottom of the pond. Fox looked in and said, "Well, well, well!" Wolf looked in and said, "Too bad, too bad!" Bear looked in and said, "Tum, tum, tum!" Squirrel, Skunk and the others looked in again and squealed, "Oh dear! oh dear!" Then Rabbit said, "We cannot catch any fish until we get the moon out of the water. "That's right," said Turtle. "How do we do that, Rabbit?" asked Wolf.

"Let me think about it," said Rabbit who shut his eyes to look like he was thinking. "We must use the dip-net to draw the moon out." "That's right," said Turtle. "I've heard there is a pot of gold on the moon."

As Rabbit began to wade in the water, Fox, Bear, and Wolf couldn't stand the thought that Rabbit would get all the gold. "Look at Rabbit," whispered Wolf. "If he goes in without us, he's going to get all the gold." "That's right," whispered Fox. "We cannot let him do it." So Fox, Wolf, and Bear said, "Listen, Rabbit, you're too little to go in the water. Let us go in first."

The Moon In Mill Pond Retold - cont'd.

"Are you sure?" called Rabbit. "We're sure," they called. So, Rabbit, Turtle and the others stood on the bank while Fox, Wolf, and Bear waded into the pond to place the dip-net under the moon.

"Dip over here," called Bear. "Dip over here," called Wolf. They dipped and dipped and dipped, again and again and again, but each time they brought the net out there was no moon. "You have to go in deeper," called Rabbit.

So Fox, Wolf, and Bear went deeper. Soon, the water ran into Fox's ears and he shook his head. Soon, the water ran into Wolf's ears and he shook his head. And soon, the water ran into Bear's ears and he shook his head. "You have to go deeper," called Turtle.

So Fox, Wolf, and Bear went deeper. And before you could say 'Cock Robin', they disappeared under the water. The water splashed and thrashed about making waves all over the pond. Everyone looked on.

When they finally came ashore, without the moon, everyone was laughing. "How could we be so foolish?" said Fox. "How could we be so silly?" said Wolf. "How could we lack our good sense?" said Bear.

The Moon In Mill Pond Retold - cont'd.

"Go home and put on some dry clothes," called Rabbit. "We'll have to go fishing another day."

The End.