

Lacey's Book Report

Miraculous "A Whale of a Tale"

By Walter Rouzer

Born mute and dreaming of a normal life, Hailee Tupper finds herself on an amazing life adventure that she will never forget. When she first was born, her mother used to always eat mushrooms, day and night, and she came out covered in them. That is how she got her nickname as "The Mushroom Monster".

Hailee had come to live at the zoo in her own "cave" since her parents didn't want her and the doctor agreed to bring her to a nice and cozy home. In a cage between a gorilla named Igor and a tiger named Zebu, she had her own exhibit where visitors came but unfortunately made fun of her. On the positive side, she had been getting education from her friend, Higgins, who taught her prayers and songs to make her feel better.

One evening, Hailee was reciting a prayer when she saw a miracle happen. A shooting star raced across the sky and landed by her cave. An angel appeared and told her that she heard Hailee's prayer. "If your pain becomes so great that you think you cannot bear it, you will have unspeakable joy, if you endure the trials, have faith, and live a life in love and kindness for others," she quoted.

A few days later, Hailee was looking at herself in the mirror and saw a wretched face, that appeared to be crumbling! After washing her face in the moat in her cave, she found a smooth, beautiful, and attractive face staring back at her.

Miss Finch, one of the workers at the zoo, found her in the Mushroom Monster exhibit and brought her to court. She agreed to adopt Hailee until there were any further signs of her parents because they didn't recognize her.

If Hailee was staying in her house, Miss Finch only allowed her to clean and cook meals all day. She wasn't allowed into one room with a red door, which seemed suspicious to her. On Fridays, Miss Finch always took a trip to the zoo, entering a locked room and exiting with something behind her back. Thenceforward, Hailee found out that Miss Finch, behind her back, held meat, and that she was trying to take the animals' food so they would starve!

Hailee took a trip at night to bring Zebu to an abandoned barn house so he would stay alive. She continued to steal the meat that was hidden in the room with the red door, replacing each one with a block of wood underneath. Zebu got stronger and stronger each day because of Hailee's help.

One day, she went on her walk to the barn house to feed the tiger, until she noticed a light proceeding closer and closer. Finding Miss Finch standing right behind her, Hailee ran away and onto a ship called "The Lucky Whaler". She made friends with a pit bull, Brutus, while the captain ordered everyone to search for a specific whale to kill.

Hailee tried to stop the crew from throwing harpoons at the whale, ending up in the ship's jail. Further on, the ship was about to sink but she was trapped in the cell next to Brutus and could not reach the keys on the other side. Hailee finally caught the keys when the ship tilted to the side even more, dropping them from one end.

She finally left the ship, getting pulled to shore by the whale. Hailee soon discovered her voice when she wandered off into the woods where she found a bear's cottage. She screamed so loud that she found out that she, surprisingly, wasn't actually mute.

Three women saw Hailee and offered her a job by working for them. They used her as their maid and got ready for a singing contest with a reward of getting married to the prince. A man delivering the pastries encouraged Hailee to join the singing contest and that she was surely to win if she wore his daughter's beautiful emerald green dress. Hailee agreed and snuck to the singing contest, though the sisters wanted her to stay home and clean.

Eventually, the three women found out about Hailee sneaking out the door to the singing contest and tried to make her loose. Singing one of the songs Higgins taught her, Hailee sang the best she could while the sisters tripped her and tried to explain that she cheated.

Hailee won the prince and lived royal as a princess in the Kingdom of Bore (which got its nickname because there was not much to do there and was boring) but she still had a few wishes. The first of her wishes was to start a few organizations, such as the "Bore Public Library", "Nod School for Deaf and Mute", "Sisters of Bore Charity", "Bore House of Refuge", and many more. She also wished to find her parents and dear friend Higgins, find out if her tiger friend, Zebu, was alive, and finally, she requested a special decree be put forth across the land to look for a very special dog, Brutus.

Finally, Hailee's parents found Hailee at the door and figured out that it was actually her daughter because she looked so beautiful and different from her old self as a baby. In the end, they lived together in the palace with Brutus and left a message to live a life with compassion and forgiveness for a better and happier world for us all.

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I really enjoyed this book because it teaches the reader to be kind and loving, and that everything will turn out just fine. This was a great story and it kept my attention the entire time. I would really recommend this book to anyone and everyone. Thank you grandma, for lending these amazing books to us! *Miraculous* is now one of my favorites. Again, thank you!