

RUPERT

in the

Daily Express

Rupert and the West Wind



Rupert and the Peggiwogs

Contents

Included in this supplement are two stories that appeared after Bestall retired from drawing Rupert. They are the work of two different Rupert artists, Lucy Matthews and Jenny Kisler who were both illustrating Rupert in the Daily Express when the editorship was in the hands of Freddie Chaplain.

The “This Book Belongs To” and “Follow Rupert” pages are taken from the artist originals without the later colouring that was provided when used for Rupert Annual production.

Page 3 This is an original piece of Alfred Bestall pen and ink artwork for a “This Book Belongs To” page for a Rupert Annual, which was never used. As you can see there is an artist pencil note “P.T.O.” but unfortunately we do not know what he wrote on the reverse side.

Page 4 Rupert and the West Wind (P99) – This never reprinted story appeared in the Daily Express in 1979 from the 17th January to 16th February. It was illustrated by Lucy Matthews’ who also supplied the story idea and captions according to the official records. Nutwood stalwarts including the Old Professor and Wise Old Goat are featured, as is the Clerk of the Weather and the early panels provide a pleasing insight into the Bear’s domestic life. Lucy stated when interviewed, (see NN33), that St Michael’s Mount in Cornwall was the inspiration for the island featured in episode 23. It is also interesting to see the panel layout changes made during the story’s run.

Page 10 Rupert and the Peggiwegs (P70) – This story is illustrated by Jenny Kisler who was probably the artist who, along with Lucy Matthews, came the nearest to achieving the classic Bestall style in the early post-Bestall period. It is an interesting adventure featuring a couple of chums, Bingo and Billy Goat, who only ever made occasional appearances in stories. Official records note that the story idea and artist’s script were by Freddie Chaplain, and Muriel Willa supplied the captions. The story ran from 31st December 1974 to 29th January 1975. Panel 22 was the last one in the painting competition series running at that time, and it is also recorded that Rupert was removed from the Express leader page from No 12 onwards

Page 19 “Follow Rupert in the Nutwood Newsletter” – This delightful John Harrold pen and ink image was originally produced for the 1989 Rupert Annual.

It is unlikely that these stories will ever be reprinted elsewhere and we would expect that many of you are reading them for the first time. We believe that this supplement neatly complements the current policy of the reprinting of Bestall classics in the Daily Express and the recycling of earlier Rupert Annual stories in the current Annuals.

Second Edition March 2014

Note: Story numbering relates to the listing of stories in **The New Rupert Index**.



Rupert and the West Wind

by Lucy Matthews

17th January 1979 to 16th February 1979
(P99)

Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 1

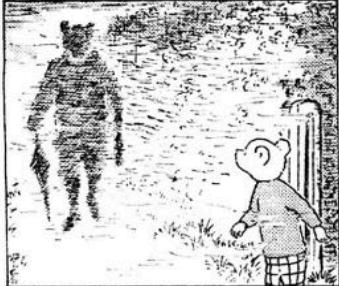
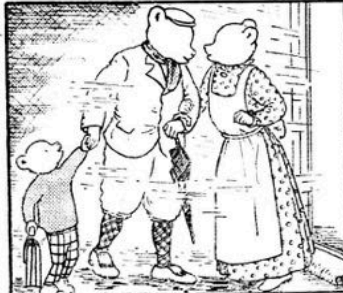



Spring should be coming to Nutwood but for days the village has been shrouded in fog. Rupert is kneeling by the window one evening peering into the swirling mist when he hears the front door open. "Has Daddy come home?" he shouts as he runs into the hall. "No," Mrs Bear replies. "I am looking for him. He's very late and tea is all ready." "The fog must have made his train late," Rupert begins. Then suddenly he stops. "Listen!" he whispers. "Someone is coming. It sounds like Daddy. But his footsteps are coming from the wrong direction!"

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Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 2






Rupert hurries out into the fog. "It is terribly thick," he thinks. "I can't see the gate!" Carefully feeling his way, Rupert finds the gate and steps out into the lane. As he does so a dark figure looms up through the fog. "Daddy, is that you?" he calls. "Yes, it's me," comes Mr Bear's voice. Rupert is delighted to see his Daddy safely home and Mrs Bear hurries out to greet him. "We are glad to see you," she smiles. "But why were you coming the wrong way?" Rupert asks. "Let me get in," replies Mr Bear, "and I shall tell you all about it."

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Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 3





Rupert is very curious but he tries hard to be patient while Mr Bear has his tea. But at last he bursts out with, "Oh, please tell me where you have been!" Mr Bear settles into his chair before he answers. "Well, as I was coming home I met old Mr Ant-eater. He was quite lost. So I had to help him home. And on the way he told me something very odd. He said that the last time there was a winter fog so late in the year was when he was very young. Then the West Wind had to be found to blow away the fog. So what do you make of that, eh?"

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Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 4

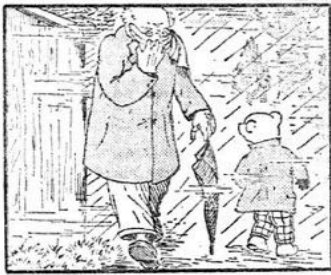



"How very strange," says Rupert. "But how can we find the West Wind to blow away the fog?" And all that evening Rupert puzzles about it. He gets out his encyclopedia to look up "West Wind" but although it says a lot about "west" and "wind" it does not tell where the West Wind lives. "I wonder how I can find out," Rupert thinks. Still puzzling he goes to bed. Next day the fog is as thick as ever, but after breakfast Rupert gets his Mummy's permission to go out. "I must try to find the West Wind!" he says.

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Rupert and the West Wind

Rupert and the West Wind



Episode 5

Rupert carefully makes his way through the fog towards the village. As he turns a corner he bumps into a big figure. "I am sorry," he begins, peering at the person whose face is hidden by a scarf. Then as the man unwinds the scarf Rupert recognises his friend the old Professor. "Hello and what are you doing out in such awful fog?" he asks kindly. Rupert explains about looking for the West Wind, but the Professor shakes his head. "I'm afraid I can't help you. But why not try our friend the Chinese Conjurer, eh?"

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Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 6

Rupert decides to take the Professor's advice and starts off on what he hopes is the way to the Conjurer's house. Soon he sees a light gleaming dimly through the fog and in a little while he is knocking on the door of the strange Chinese house. The door is opened by Tigerlily, the Conjurer's daughter. Rupert tells her of his quest for the West Wind. At once she says, "Maybe my Daddy can help. But him not velly well because of fog." Then she leads Rupert to a door and knocks. "Come," says a voice and they enter, both remembering to bow respectfully.

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Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 7

"So you seek West Wind?" says the Conjurer. "This velly interesting." He starts to rummage among his books and scrolls. "Yes, velly interesting! You return in one week and I give you answer." "Oh, but I want to find the West Wind now!" says Rupert. But the Chinese Conjurer is no longer attending to him. "Come away now," whispers the little girl. "My Daddy happy with something to study. Me glad you come." Tigerlily sees Rupert to the door and out on to the common. "Oh, I did so hope he would tell me how to find the West Wind," sighs Rupert as waves goodbye.

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Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 8

"I can't think of anyone else to ask," Rupert says to himself. Then a sound in the fog makes him stop. "That sounded like a cough," he thinks. "I'm not the only one out on the common then." Peering through the fog, the little bear makes out a dim figure on a rise in the ground just ahead of him. "Why," he exclaims. "I do believe it is the Wise Old Goat. What can he be doing up here?" As Rupert comes up to him the Wise Old Goat turns. "Ah, little bear," he smiles, "I am seeking the West Wind. But what are you doing up here in this fog?"

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 9

"Oh, but I'm looking for the West Wind too!" cries Rupert. He pours out the story of what his Daddy was told by Mr Anteater and of his own quest. "The West Wind must be found and soon," says the Wise Old Goat gravely. "All this fog is very bad for Nutwood. But are you brave enough to help me?" Rupert nods. "Then," says the Wise Old Goat, "you must come to my house." Together they set off through the fog and soon they are making their way up the rough path that leads to the Wise Old Goat's mountain home. Ahead they see a light. "Good. We are very nearly there," he says.

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 10

Rupert is glad to leave the fog behind and enter the Wise Old Goat's warm home. When they have had a rest the Wise Old Goat takes from a cupboard a carved wooden box. "In this box," he says, "is a very special whistle." "Why, what will it do?" Rupert asks in an awed voice. "When it is blown a messenger bird always appears," is the answer. "And you will need the help of such a bird in your search for the West Wind!" Then the Wise Old Goat goes to the window and puts the whistle to his lips. Agog, Rupert climbs on a stool and looks eagerly out of the window.

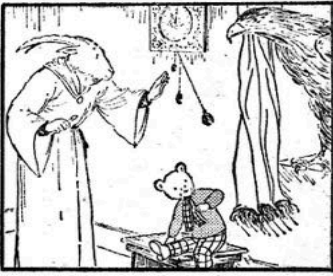
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Rupert and the West Wind

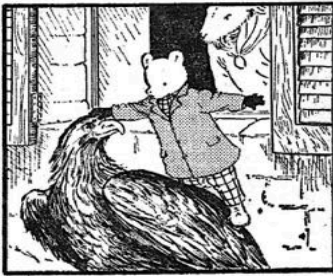
RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 11



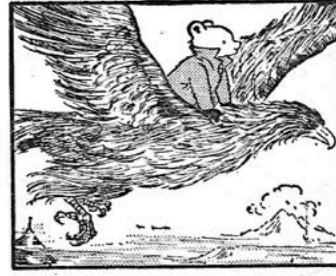
The Wise Old Goat blows the whistle. There is a moment's silence then a great rush of wings and the light is glotted out as a huge bird like an eagle settles on the window ledge. "What are your wishes, master?" it croaks. "You shall take this little bear to the Palace of the Four Winds at once!" says the Wise Old Goat. "A messenger, eh?" squawks the bird. "Right up you get!" It nods at Rupert who, with great care, mounts his strange creature. The Wise Old Goat gives the little bear last-minute instructions. "Tell the West Wind it is vital that he comes at once!"

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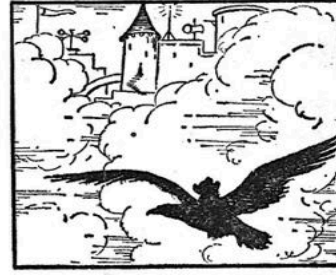
RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 12



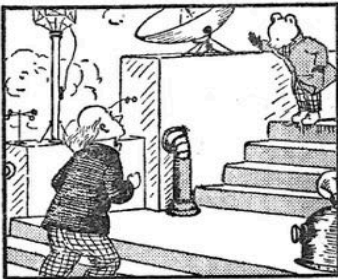
"Hold tight and please don't pinch!" the bird cries. "Now off we go!" And away he soars with Rupert, up through the fog, higher and higher, until suddenly they leave the murk behind and break through into the sunshine. "Which way now, little bear?" asks the bird. "But don't you know?" cries a startled Rupert. "Well," says the bird, "as a matter of fact, no I don't. But I didn't tell the Wise Old Goat. He can be a bit crusty." "Oh dear me," quavers Rupert, "what are we to do?" Just then a strange building appears through the clouds.

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 13



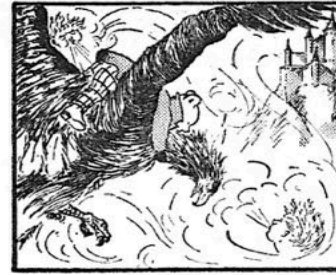
"It's the Clerk of the Weather's house!" cries Rupert. "Why, he is sure to know!" The great bird swoops and alights on a balcony of the strange-looking house. As Rupert climbs down he sees the Clerk of the Weather, a fussy sort of man, puffing up stairs towards them. "Not my fault, the fog!" he cries. "So don't come complaining. I can't do anything. It's the West Wind's job and he's missing!" "But that is what we've come about," Rupert exclaims, and he asks the way to the Four Winds' palace. The Clerk explains and he urges Rupert, "You must find that West Wind!"

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 14



Following the directions given by the Clerk of the Weather the big bird flies steadily on until in the distance Rupert sees high mountains. "I'm sure that must be it!" he cries. "I can see a castle on top of one of the peaks." But as they draw near, the wind gets stronger and the bird is forced to fly slower and slower. "I can't go on!" he gasps. "The wind is too strong and we are losing height." Just at that moment Rupert feels a breath of warmer air and sees a figure flying towards them. "Catch my hand!" she calls. "I can take you to the Palace of the Four Winds!"

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Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 15



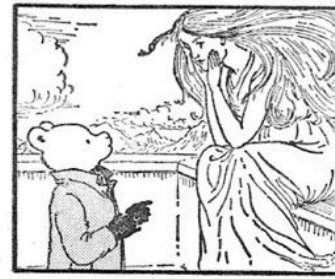
Greatly wondering, Rupert does as he is told and they are carried upwards and clear of the winds. "Those are the Guardian Winds," smiles the lady. "They guard the palace. But I am sure you mean no harm." "No, indeed!" Rupert replies. "But who are you?" "I am the South Wind," he is told. Soon they reach a high terrace and the great bird alights. "What a strange place," Rupert says. "We must be a long way from anywhere." The South Wind smiles. "This is the House of All the Winds," she says. "Here your tired bird can rest while you tell me why you have come here."

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Rupert and the West Wind

Episode 16



The South Wind sits down and listens intently to Rupert's account of the fog in Nutwood. "We need the West Wind to come and blow it away because spring should be showing and we still seem to be in the depth of winter," he finishes. All the time he has been talking the South Wind has been looking more and more puzzled. "This is very strange," she says. "The West Wind left us some time ago. What can have happened?" She jumps up and taking Rupert's hand walks quickly up a broad flight of steps. "Come, we must consult the North Wind at once!" she says.

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Rupert and the West Wind

RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 17

Rupert is led by the South Wind through the light and airy palace. At last they come to a high porch with a view over the mountains. Standing there is a rather stern-looking figure Rupert is sure must be the North Wind. In urgent tones the South Wind explains

why Rupert is there. "We must call a council at once!" the North Wind exclaims. He strikes a bell then strides away into a hall where the other winds are starting to assemble. A stool is provided for Rupert who takes off his coat and sits quietly looking on.

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 18

Rupert sits in silence while the winds argue backwards and forwards, but he soon sees that none of them really has any idea what can have become of the West Wind. He is beginning to think they are never going to decide on anything when he feels a

light touch on his arm. Turning, he sees a very young wind beside him. "Hello," he says. "Who are you?" The little newcomer whispers shyly, "I am the zephyr South South West." Then he points at the other winds: "They don't know where the West Wind has got to. But I do!"

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 19

"You know where the West Wind is?" gasps Rupert. "Yes," replies the small zephyr. "He has gone to his country home in the West." "Why on earth have you not told the other winds then?" asks Rupert. "I am too shy," says the zephyr with a blush. "Then I'll tell

them for you!" exclaims Rupert. Leading the shy zephyr by the hand, he approaches the council and tells them what he has learned. At once the South Wind cries, "Come, little bear, put on your coat," and almost before he knows what is going on, Rupert finds himself swept up into the sky by the South Wind.

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

Episode 20

After the first shock of being whisked up by the South Wind the little bear begins to enjoy the journey. "This is lovely! But where are we going?" he cries. The South Wind smiles. "We are going as fast as we can down your country and into the far West. I am afraid that

the West Wind loses all count of time when he is at his home there. We must remind him of his duties!" Below them is only a wintry landscape, but after a while, bit by bit, Rupert notices the fields are greener, the trees are showing buds, and at last sees they are approaching the sea.

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Rupert and the West Wind

RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND

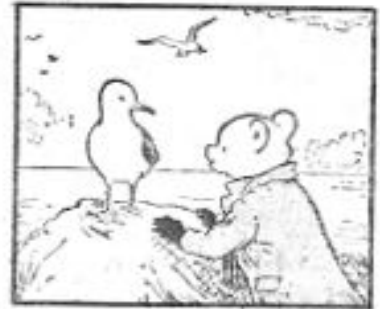


Episode 21

On the very edge of the sea cliffs Rupert and the South Wind come to earth gently. Near them, perched on a rock, is a big seagull. "Morning, my hearties!" squawks the gull. "Nice day, and where have you dropped from?" "We're searching for the West Wind,"

Rupert says. "Have you seen him?" The gull chuckles. "I should think I have. He's been at work on those gardens of his. Full of spring flowers they are now." "Oh, do tell us where the gardens are!" Rupert exclaims. The gull jerks its head towards the sea: "On that island," it answers.

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND



Episode 22

Kneeling beside Rupert the South Wind points out to sea. "Over there is an island and on it the West Wind has his home," she says. "And now that we have met this seagull there is no need for me to go further. The gull can show you where the West Wind is, and I can return to my work."

"But how do I cross the sea?" Rupert asks. The South Wind smiles. "Don't worry. I shall wait for you across quite safely. Are you ready? Right! Away!" And once more Rupert is gently lifted into the air and blown smoothly over the sea. Behind him the South Wind waves goodbye then turns away.

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND



Episode 23

Peering ahead Rupert can see a rocky island with tree-covered slopes. On its highest point is a castle-like house. "Is that it?" he calls to the gull who is leading the way. "Aye!" squawks the bird. "Soon be there, my hearty!" They alight

gently on a lower slope and Rupert gazes around. "Handsome, ain't it?" the gull says. "Why, it is lovely!" gasps Rupert. "Look! There are violets and daffodils and primroses, all out! And it's so warm!" Slowly Rupert takes off his scarf and coat. "Now," he says, "we had better find the West Wind right away!"

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND



Episode 24

With the gull flying on ahead, Rupert begins to climb a path. "Oh, I do hope the West Wind is at home after all this," he pants. And as he plods onwards he looks about him for any signs. Then suddenly the gull comes flying back. "I've found them!" R

squawks. "They are over there, beyond those trees." But what can the gull mean by "they," Rupert wonders as he plunges off into the bushes following the direction of the gull. Suddenly he hears voices and in the next instant comes face to face with the West Wind.

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Rupert and the West Wind

RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND



Episode 25

The West Wind looks up. "It's a little bear," he says with a smile. Rupert comes forward. "Please," he says, "but are you the West Wind?" With a bow the Wind replies. "At your service." Rupert is encouraged and goes on. "Well, I think that you must have forgotten

the date. Shouldn't you be blowing winter away?" The Wind leaps up. "Oh, I clean forgot! What is the date?" Rupert tells him what day it is and about the fog at home. "Quick, not a moment to lose!" exclaims the West Wind, and yet once more Rupert is bundled into his coat and whisked up into the skies.

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND



Episode 26

Rupert's flight with the West Wind is much more boisterous than the one with the gentle South Wind. Shouting and singing the West Wind races up the country, blowing the cold and fog before him. "Now, little bear," he cries, "for that bit of

mist around Nutwood!" They swoop and Rupert finds himself back on the common again. As he watches, the fog rolls away before the breath of the West Wind. "Thank you, oh, thank you!" cries Rupert in delight, but hardly waiting to say goodbye the West Wind roars off through the Nutwood Forest.

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RUPERT AND THE WEST WIND



Episode 27

Rupert runs happily home across the common with the sun shining and the birds singing. "Spring is on the way," he thinks. His Mummy is waiting in their garden. "Hello, my dear," she says. "Wasn't that a sudden gale. Still it has got rid of the fog. And just look at what I have found!"

She points to a clump of snowdrops. "Why," laughs Rupert, "they must have been there all the time hidden by the fog!" He tells his Mummy how he found the West Wind and that spring is on the way. "And now I must go and tell Mr Anteater all about it!" he says.

THE END

*Another adventure tomorrow.
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Rupert and the Peggiwogs

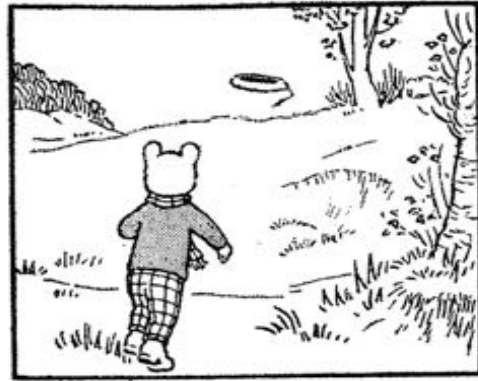
by Jenny Kisler

31st December 1974 to 29th January 1975
(P70)

Rupert and the Peggiwogs—1



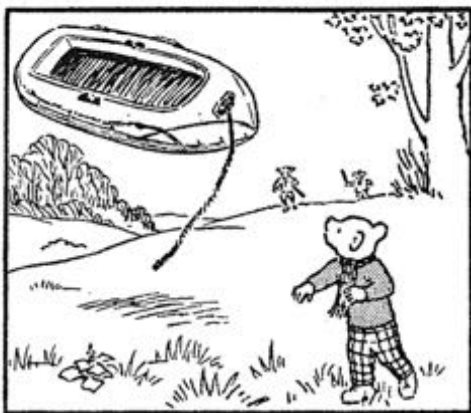
"What a lot of steam, Mummy!" exclaims Rupert, while Mrs. Bear is busy at the sink one washday. "Where does it go when it disappears?" "I've no time to answer that difficult question," smiles Mummy. "But you've reminded me—my sheets will blow away and disappear if I don't get more clothes pegs. I've mislaid some. Do run to



the village stores and buy me two dozen." "Of course, Mummy," says Rupert. As he takes a short cut across the fields he pauses, staring in amazement at a strange object floating towards him, a few feet from the ground. "Is it a sort of airship?" he gasps. "No, it's something else!"

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Rupert and the Peggiwogs—2



The strange object floats nearer. "It's a rubber boat!" cries Rupert. "The sort you blow up with a pump. Where has it come from? I wonder if there's anything—" At that moment he hears shouts and sees two of his chums racing towards him. They wave to him to stop the boat, calling out: "Catch the rope!"

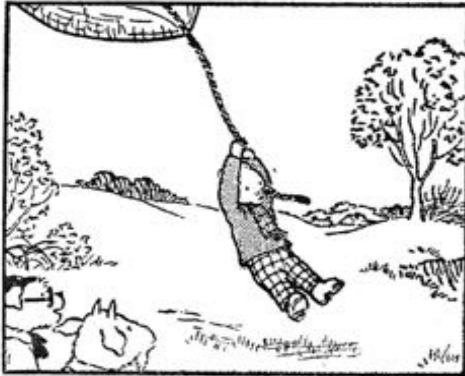


Quick! Catch it!" Rupert starts to run, his arms outstretched to grasp the mooring rope dangling just above him. "I can't quite reach it!" he puffs. Then a gust of wind whisks the rubber boat higher than ever and the rope whirrs away from Rupert's hands.

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Rupert and the Peggiweps

Rupert and the Peggiweps—3



With a flying leap Rupert manages to grasp the mooring-rope. "Whew, caught it at last!" he pants. He clings on, but his weight is not enough to bring the rubber boat down, and he finds himself dragged along, his feet trailing on the ground. "Ooo, I can't stop!" cries the startled little bear. By this time his chums have reached the spot. One is Bingo



and the other Billy Goat, each carrying a paddle. "That's the idea, Rupert! Hang on!" shouts Bingo. Just then the wind drops and Rupert lands on the grass, almost turning a somersault. Quick as a flash, Bingo and Billy run forward and seize the rope. "Thanks, you're a good pal, Rupert!" says Billy.

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Rupert and the Peggiweps—4



Using their full weight, the three friends haul the rubber boat to the ground, then Billy lets out some of the air to keep it from floating away again. "It's Billy's boat," explains Bingo. "It was one of his birthday presents. But he pumped too much air into it and in this wind it floated away like a balloon. What a good thing you were around, Rupert."



Laughing merrily, Rupert helps his chums carry their boat by the side ropes. "I wish I could stay with you," he says, when they pause to rest their arms, "but I must go on to the village. That boat looks great fun. What are you planning to do with it?"

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Rupert and the Peggiweps—5



"We haven't told anyone else, but we'll let you into our secret, Rupert," smiles Billy. "We're going for our first voyage in this boat. The river's just the place to try it out. Why not join us? There's plenty of room for three." Rupert is delighted. "I'd love to!" he says. "But I must buy Mummy's clothes pegs first. She's waiting for them." Then



meet us afterwards," suggests Bingo, while Billy lets more air out of the rubber boat for easier carrying. "We'll be on the landing-stage beside the river." Rupert is already hurrying away. "Right-ho!" he calls. "Mind you don't lose the boat again when you pump it up. See you later. I'll be as quick as I can."

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs

Rupert and the Peggiwegs—6



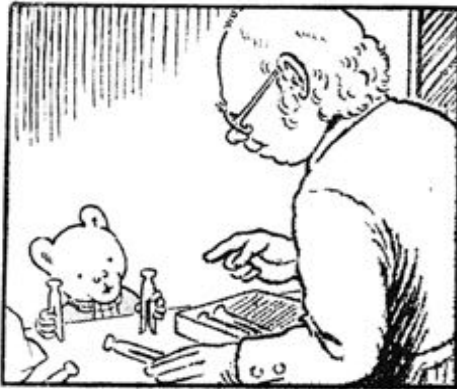
Rupert darts away to finish his errand and, arriving at the village stores, he bursts in breathlessly. "Please could I have two dozen clothes pegs?" he asks. "Certainly, Master Rupert!" The shopman beams and reaches under his counter. "Which kind? The spring ones or the old-fashioned wooden sort?" "Mummy uses the spring ones," says



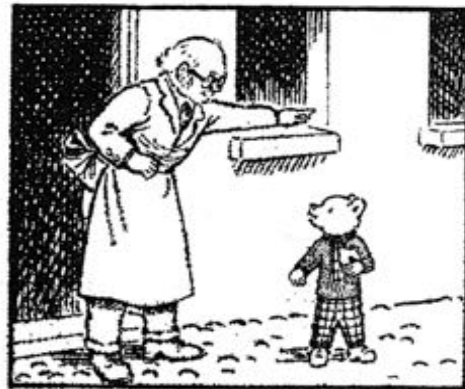
Rupert. "I'll have those, please." The shopman serves him and, holding up one of the old-fashioned pegs, he says: "Not many people use these nowadays." He is about to put them away when the little bear exclaims: "Just a moment! May I look at them?"

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—7



Rupert stands two of the pegs on the counter. "Aren't they funny!" he chuckles. "They look like little people." The shopman gives a sigh. "I can't get rid of them," he says. "They've been in stock for ages. They were carved by an old charcoal burner who once lived in the forest. He moved on long ago, but his hut is



still there, though it's falling to pieces now." Rupert is about to hurry away with his spring pegs. "One day I shall go into the forest and look for that hut," he declares. "Well, it's not hard to find," the shopman tells him. "Keep to the bridle path."

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—8



Rupert scampers homeward, longing to be free to join Billy and Bingo. As he crosses high ground he glimpses the river and the far-off figures of his two chums. "They've already launched the rubber boat for a trial," he murmurs. Arriving at the cottage, he gives Mrs. Bear the spring pegs and quickly tells the shopman's story of the old-fashioned



pegs. "They looked just like little people," says Rupert. "When I was young I used to wrap them in hankies," smiles Mummy, "and make them into tiny dolls. I haven't seen any for years, but I dare say I have some tucked away in an old peg-bag."

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs

Rupert and the Peggiwegs—9



"Now you've brought the extra pegs I can hang out my washing," says Mummy. "Thank you for running the errand." As she carries out her basket Rupert tells how he stopped his chums' rubber boat from blowing away. "Then Billy Goat and Bingo invited me for a trip on the river," he says. "Please may I go?" After some questions, Mrs. Bear



agrees. "Very well, but be careful on the river," she says. Rupert races away to join his chums, but when he reaches the landing-stage he stops short, staring in disappointment. "They aren't here!" he whispers. "Where have they gone? They promised to wait for me!"

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—10



Rupert waits and looks about, but there is no sign of his chums or their rubber boat. He calls up and down the river, "Billy! Bingo! Coo-eee!" The only sound is the soft rushing of water. "Perhaps they were tired of waiting," sighs the little bear, "or forgot to meet me." At last he gives up and, filled



with disappointment, he wanders away. Presently he finds himself near the edge of the forest. "I know," he says. "I'll look for the charcoal burner's hut instead. The shopman said I'd find it if I followed the bridle path."

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—11



Following some horses' hoofprints Rupert discovers the bridle path and makes his way along it, looking out for the charcoal burner's hut. Soon he is deep in the forest. The way is dim and the silence is broken by the twitterings of a few birds. "There's no sign of the hut so far," murmurs Rupert. Then

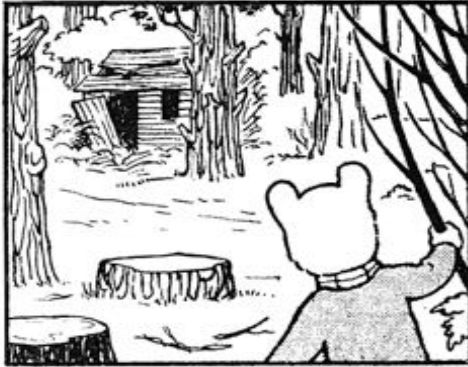


he sees a lighter patch ahead and soon reaches a clearing where logs and branches are scattered about. "Hello," he whispers. "Woodcutters have been at work here. They've left a big saw, so they must be coming back. I'll sit and rest on one of these tree stumps."

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs

Rupert and the Peggiwegs—12



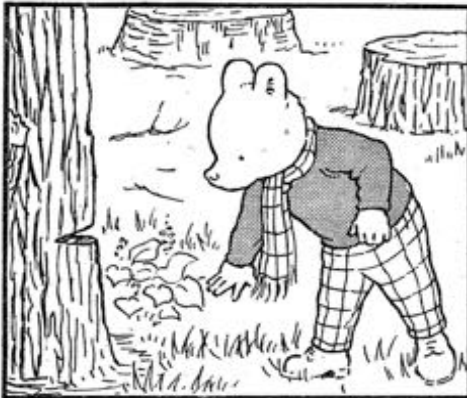
Rupert is about to sit on a tree stump when, glancing round, he spies a rough, broken-down hut on the far side of the clearing. "That must be the charcoal burner's old home!" he exclaims. Rupert moves excitedly towards the deserted dwelling, intent on exploring it, but suddenly he hesitates, frowning as faint sighs and wails float from



above. "They're like tiny voices," he breathes. "They seemed to come from this big tree. Or was it just the wind in the branches?" Still uncertain, he listens tensely, and again he hears the sighing and wailing. "Yes, I'm sure now!" he says. "They are voices!"

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—13



Rupert listens in anxiety to the wails and sighs coming from the tree near the charcoal burner's hut. "Yes, there seems to be more than one little voice," he whispers. Moving closer, he notices a deep cut freshly made in the trunk, as if work had begun on felling the



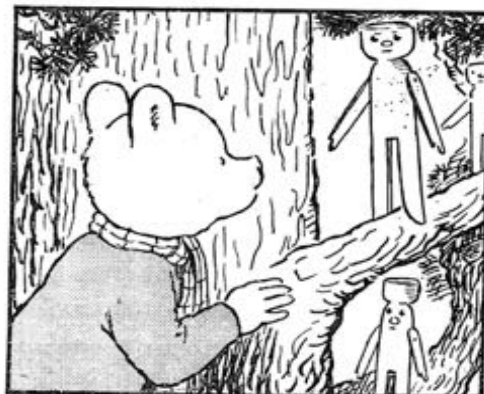
tree. The mournful sounds suddenly stop and Rupert gazes upwards, but all he can see is thick foliage. "I simply must know who is there," he says. And he decides to climb the tree to find the cause of the tiny voices.

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—14



The sighs and wails begin again as Rupert cautiously climbs the tree. Then, reaching the shade of the foliage, he is astonished to see some small figures shaped like wooden pegs, but with faces and stiff wooden arms. They are pegged to the spread-out branches and all look very sad. "Why, you're like the shop-



man's old-fashioned pegs!" gasps Rupert. "But you're much larger! What ever is wrong?" "We are the Peggiwegs," sobs one of the strange little folk. "Our tree home is in danger! It is going to be cut down when the woodmen return this afternoon."

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Rupert and the Peggiwews

Rupert and the Peggiwews—15



The unhappy Peggiwews move closer to Rupert. "We've lived in this tree ever since the charcoal burner carved us and put us here," says one. "But the tree is very old, and this afternoon it is going to be cut down. The woodmen have already made a start on it. Please, oh, please find us a tree where we can be safe!" After hearing the sad story,



Rupert clambers farther up. "The higher I climb, the older they look," he thinks. "And some of them have beards!" "We are the wisest of the Peggiwews," he is told by the topmost pair. "But even we cannot solve our troubles."

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Rupert and the Peggiwews—16



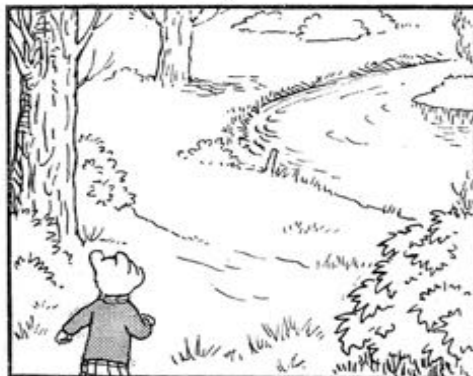
Rupert continues his climb, wondering how he can help the sad little Peggiwews, whose tree is to be cut down that day. Perched on a high branch he can see round a bend in the river. "There's an island where the river divides," he says. And shading his eyes he makes out two figures at the edge of the island. "Surely it's Billy Goat and Bingo!"



he exclaims. "But where is their rubber boat? I believe they're stranded!" Hastily Rupert makes his way down the tree. "I'll come back later on," he promises the little folk. "I must see what has happened to my chums, but I won't forget you."

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Rupert and the Peggiwews—17



In concern for his two chums Rupert dashes back along the bridge path, coming out by the river. As he leaves the shelter of the forest he finds the wind has become more blustery. "That island was farther downstream," he thinks, turning in the direction of the current. He presses on, soon reaching a bend in the river and there, sure enough, is the narrow

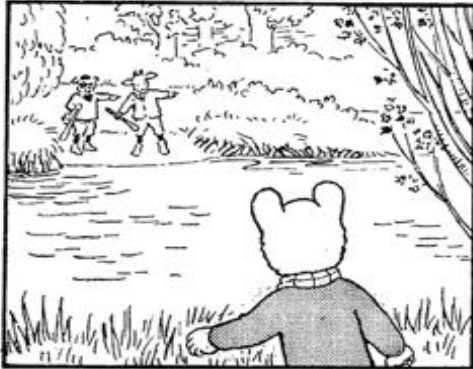


island in midstream. Billy and Bingo are standing at the water's edge, waving their paddles. They greet Rupert with signs of relief and Billy tries to shout a message to the little bear, but his voice is carried away on the wind.

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs

Rupert and the Peggiwegs—18



"If only I could hear what Billy is trying to tell me," sighs Rupert. "This wind is so strong it's no use trying to shout back." Stranded on the island, Billy and Bingo throw their arms open wide, then point urgently down the river. "They're showing me they've lost their rubber boat," murmurs the little bear, "And they want me to find it."



He waves to show that he has understood, then sets off downstream. "It could have floated for miles," he says anxiously. "No, there it is! It was caught by that jutting piece of bank. I must save it before it drifts away again!"

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—19



In a few moments Rupert is towing the rubber boat back by the rope. "Now to rescue Billy and Bingo from the island," he says. "I'll—oh my! They've got the paddles! I can't get across!" The little bear remembers the long branches he had seen in the forest clearing. "I'll fetch one to punt with," he decides. Rupert ties up the boat, watched by



Billy and Bingo, who are not sure what he plans to do. They see him turn to the forest, then he glances back and waves to them. "That island tree would be just the home for the Peggiwegs," says Rupert thoughtfully. "It's well away from the forest."

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—20



While Billy and Bingo wait to be rescued from the island, Rupert races back to the old tree and climbs up to the Peggiwegs. "I've found you a new tree! It's on an island!" he cries. The Peggiwegs hop to the ground and gather round Rupert, saying: "We're all ready to go. Lead the way to our new tree." Rupert sets off carrying a branch and the little folk



follow, chattering excitedly as they bob along on their stiff peg-legs. "Our very own home on an island!" says one. "It will be perfect!" "But how can we get across the water?" another asks. "You'll see when we reach the river," laughs Rupert.

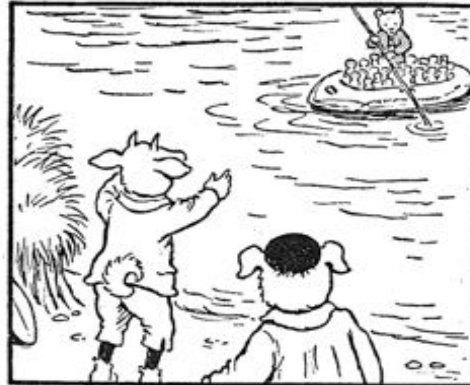
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Rupert and the Peggiwegs

Rupert and the Peggiwegs—21



At the edge of the river the Peggiwegs draw back in dismay. "It's very wide and wet!" one gasps. But Rupert shows them the rubber boat. "It floats," he tells them. "I'll punt you across to the island." He helps them in, then he unties the rope and steps aboard. The Peggiwegs make a space for him and,



using the branch as a pole, the little bear pushes out from the bank. "Off we go," he smiles. As Rupert punts the little folk across the river, he is eagerly watched by Billy and Bingo. "Rupert! Thank goodness you've come!" calls out Bingo.

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—22

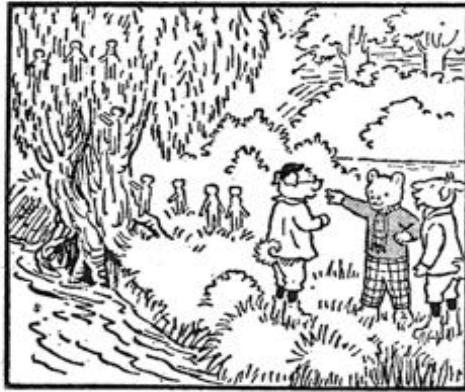


The rubber boat touches sand and Billy and Bingo stare in amazement as the little wooden folk stream ashore with shrill cries of delight. "Wh—who are they?" falters Bingo. "They're like the old clothes pegs my Granny uses!" gasps Billy. "Yes, meet the Peggiwegs," laughs Rupert. "Help the elderly ones up the bank and I'll tell you all about them."

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs

Rupert and the Peggiwegs—23



Leaving the Peggiwegs to settle on the branches of the island tree, Rupert takes his chums aside and tells them the whole story. "Their old tree in the forest is to be cut down by woodmen this afternoon," he says. "That's why I had to find them another home." Then Rupert notices that some of the elderly



Peggiwegs are unable to follow the others. "They are rather frail," he says, swinging himself on to a low branch. "Pass them up to me, Bingo." And with a helping hand from Rupert, the aged Peggiwegs are soon in their places of honour at the top of the tree.

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—24



"Do you like your new home?" asks Rupert, when the Peggiwegs have spread themselves out on the branches. "Yes, it's the nicest and safest tree we could wish for," he is told. "We shall be happy here." Amidst a chorus of thanks from the little wooden folk, Rupert returns to his chums. "Now they're settled, let's go back to the rubber boat," he says.



"But what happened to you both?" "We went to the island for a short trip while we were waiting for you," explains Billy. "But we didn't fasten the boat properly." "And it drifted away, leaving us stranded," chimes in Bingo. "My, weren't we glad to see you!"

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Rupert and the Peggiwegs—25



The three chums launch their boat in readiness to leave the island. "It's too late for a long trip, Rupert," says Billy. "We'll take you to Nutwood instead." So they all clamber aboard, and while his chums paddle against the current Rupert waves to the Peggiwegs in their island tree. "I'm so glad I was able to find them a new home," he



smiles. "When the weather is warmer, let's come for a proper trip and visit them." "A jolly good idea, Rupert!" says Bingo. "We'll bring a picnic, and next time we won't get stranded!"

THE END
(Another Adventure Tomorrow)
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