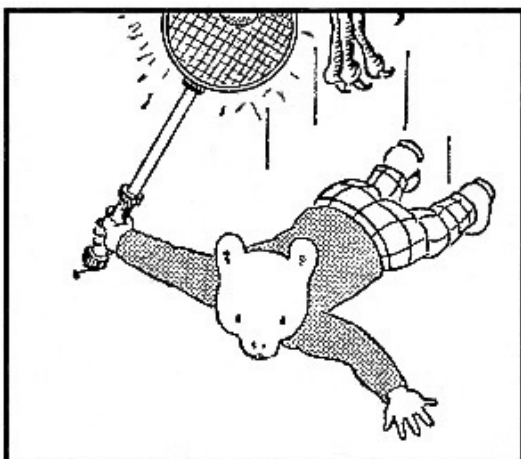


RUPERT

in the

Daily Express

Rupert and the Seal People



Rupert and the Super Racket

Story numbering relates to the listing of stories in The Rupert Index
Stories selected and laid out by Pamela Stones
Story images for Seal People cleaned by Mike Ward
with special thanks to Rod Prescott for supplying the original newspaper images
Story images for Super Racket cleaned by John Kobylecky

Contents

Page 3 – Original artwork by Mark Manley.

Page 4 – Rupert and the Seal People (P107)

Lucy Matthews is credited with the authorship of this story and also provided the illustrations. It appeared in the newspaper from 12th August 1980 to 23rd September 1980. It has never been reprinted in the newspaper, so this is its first airing since 1980.

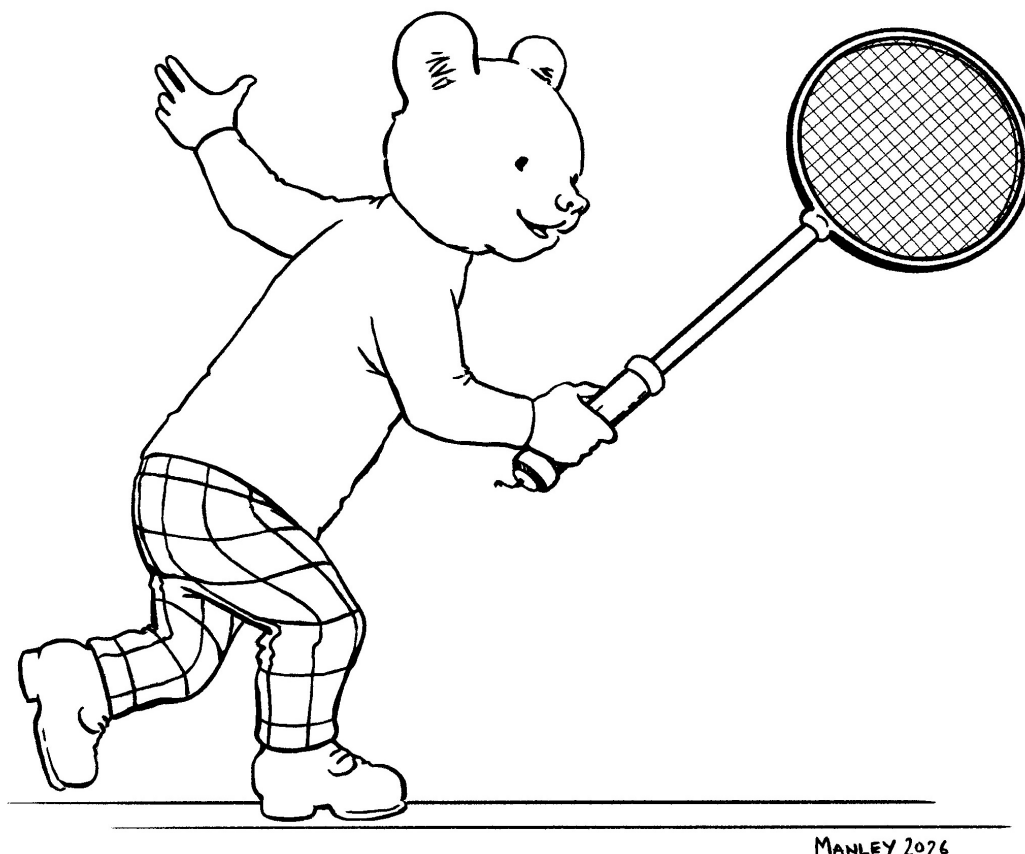
Story: Rupert and Bill are on holiday at Gullhaven. They have problems with the Seal People, and, with the help of the Merboy, get to go and meet the Seal King. Misunderstandings are resolved and both the chums then return safely to a worried Mrs Bear.

Page 14 – Rupert and the Super Racket (P122)

Another story illustrated by Lucy Matthews, this time written by James Henderson. A short story, it appeared in the newspaper from 5th to 30th November 1983, and has not been reprinted.

Story: Again, it's Rupert and Bill, this time meddling with the Inventor's special tennis racket which leads to trouble with a very large bird – until Rupert's quick thinking saves the day.

Page 19 – When Animals Work: Mary Tourtel images from the 1919 Daily Express.



Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 1

Packing for the summer holidays! This is one job that Rupert really likes. Almost as good as being on holiday. Happily he dashes around the house fetching things he is sure he is going to need at the seaside and then bringing them to where Mummy is laying everything out neatly before Mr Bear packs them into suitcases. "Isn't it exciting!" cries Rupert, bouncing on the bed. Mrs Bear laughs. "I have something even more exciting for you," she says. "Your pal Bill Badger is coming with us. I asked his Mummy if he could come and she said, Yes."

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 2

On the evening before they leave for the seaside Rupert calls on Bill who is packing. "I'm so glad you're coming with us," Rupert laughs. "Especially as we haven't been to Gullhaven before. All I know is that it's a fishing village and we shall be staying in a fisherman's cottage." Bill and Rupert are still excited next day even though it is raining and quite stormy as a taxi takes them from Gullhaven station to their holiday cottage. "Oo, look at the boats" cries Bill as they pass the harbour which is full of fishing craft.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 3

Gullhaven is an old fishing village of white painted cottages and narrow lanes. The lanes are too narrow for the taxi and so the pals and Rupert's Mummy and Daddy have to walk the last few yards through wind and rain to Old Jan the fisherman's house where they are staying. Old Jan is waiting for them by the gate, and soon they are in the cosy kitchen where Mrs Jan is preparing tea. Rupert is just thinking how snug it is when he hears a strange little barking sound. It seems to come from the next room. Old Jan laughs: "Come and meet a little stranger!"

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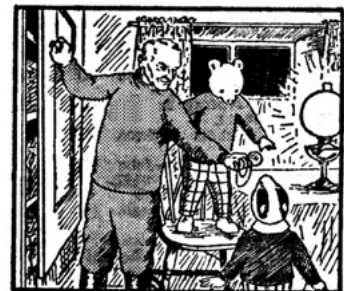
RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 4

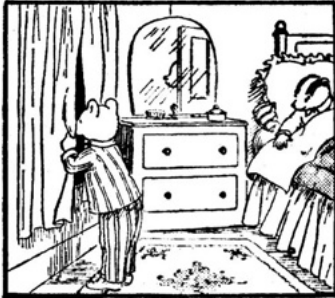
Old Jan leads the way into the next room. "That's who's making the noise," he says, pointing. And there on an old blanket is a little seal pup. "Poor little chap was washed up by this storm," Jan tells Rupert and Bill. And as he feeds the little seal from a baby's bottle he explains that it will have to be taken to a seal sanctuary to be cared for properly. "But I can't help thinking he's no ordinary seal," adds Jan. "Look at this," he says and takes from a cupboard a gold medallion on a chain. "He was wearing this round his neck!"

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Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 5

At bedtime the pals are still talking about the little seal who has been tucked up for the night downstairs. "I wonder how it came to be wearing that medallion?" Rupert says. "Perhaps it's from some sunken treasure ship," Bill laughs. "I say," cries Rupert who is looking out at the night, "the storm has gone and the sky's quite clear. Tomorrow should be fine!" And next morning the sun is shining as the pals go down to the shore to explore. Rupert is searching for shells when Bill, from behind a nearby rock, shouts: "See what I've found!"

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 6

Rupert hurries round the rocks to where Bill is standing. His pal is holding something that looks rather like a pointed bag. But it is a very strange sort of bag for it is made of shiny gold-coloured scales. "What on earth is it?" cries Rupert. "I don't know," says Bill. Then he laughs: "Perhaps it's from that sunken treasure we joked about last night." The pals examine it closely then Bill grins. "I know it's a cap," he says and pulls it on his head. But Rupert does not laugh. For behind Bill he sees something frightening in the sea!

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



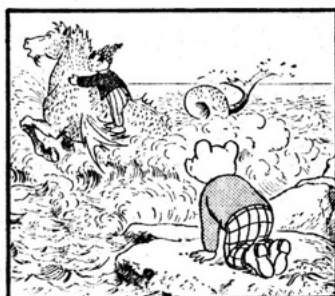
EPISODE 7

"What's the matter?" Bill asks. "Th-ther-!" is all that Rupert can gasp out as he points to the sea behind Bill. Puzzled, Bill turns to look then lets out a cry of alarm, "Oh, no!" For storming through the waves towards the pals is a weird and fearsome creature, part horse and part fish. Rupert and Bill are so astounded that for a moment they can't move. In that short time the creature is upon them. As Rupert slips and tumbles backwards in alarm the fish-horse grabs Bill by his jacket and with a flick of its head throws him on to his back.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 8

By the time Rupert can scramble to his knees the strange creature has turned and with Bill clinging grimly to its back is heading out to sea. Poor Bill is still wearing the curious golden scale cap he has found. Dismayed, Rupert looks on as his pal is borne away. "I must get help!" he gasps and scrambles back over the rocks towards Gullhaven village. He dashes along the beach and up the steep path towards the road. Near the top he spies Old Jan the fisherman. "Please! Help!" he pants. "Something awful . . . Bill . . . a horse from the sea!"

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Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE

EPISODE 9



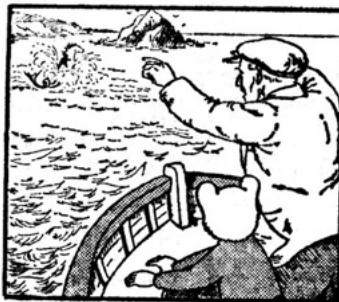
Rupert's words tumble over each other as he tries to tell Old Jan what has happened to Bill. "Now just stop for a second and catch your breath," says the fisherman. Rupert takes a deep breath and begins again: "We were searching for sea-shells and Bill found an odd sort of golden cap. He put it on and a thing like a horse with a fish tail came out of the sea and snatched Bill away!" Old Jan says grimly: "Quick to my boat. We must catch them!" A minute later Rupert is being lifted on to Jan's boat. "That creature was a Kelpie," Jan says.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE

EPISODE 10



"A Kelpie?" Rupert asks. Old Jan doesn't stop scanning the sea as he replies: "A lot of folk say there's no such things, but us old 'uns have always believed a creature part fish, part horse, lived in the deep sea. Sometimes they're good, sometimes. . . ." He stops. "There they are ahead of us!" he cries. And Rupert can just make out the Kelpie with Bill clinging to its back about to disappear behind an island. But when Jan and Rupert reach the far side of the island there is no sign of the Kelpie or Bill and seemingly no place they could hide.

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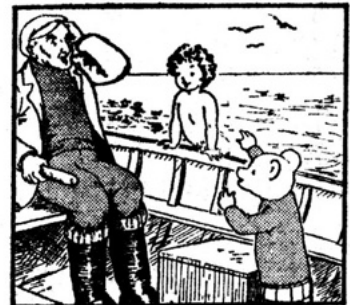
RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE

EPISODE 11



Old Jan and Rupert sail up and down behind the island where they saw the Kelpie disappear with Bill. But there is not a trace of them. "There must be some sort of cave or something," cries Rupert. "They can't just have vanished into thin air!" But Jan shakes his head. "I know these waters well and there's no cave this side of the island," he says. "We mustn't give up," Rupert is about to say when he hears his name called from the sea and there beside the boat is his old friend the Merboy. Old Jan gapes as the Merboy climbs onto the boat.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE

EPISODE 12



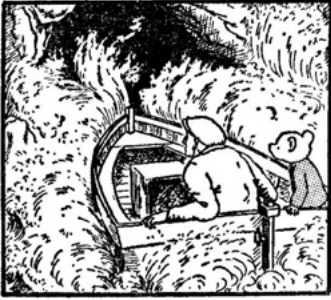
"Thank goodness you've turned up!" Rupert exclaims to the Merboy, and he pours out the story of Bill and the Kelpie. "Now they've just vanished," he ends. The Merboy's face grows serious. "I know that Kelpie and some of his tricks," he says. "Can you help us then?" cries Rupert. "I think so," the Merboy replies. "But you must follow me exactly no matter what you may think. Agreed?" Old Jan and Rupert nod. "Then off we go," cries the Merboy and, heading straight for the rocks, disappears among the wild waves. Jan steers the boat after him.

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Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 13

Rupert has to force himself to keep his eyes open as Old Jan's boat follows the Merboy into the waves thundering against the rocks. "I just hope your friend knows what he's doing," mutters Jan. And Rupert hopes so too as the wild waves close around them and buffet the little craft. Then he hears a booming echo and ahead of them the waves seem to vanish into a cave. It is the only way the Merboy can have come. The noise and rush of water is frightening. "Hold tight!" yells Jan and next moment the boat is plunging down a roaring water chute.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



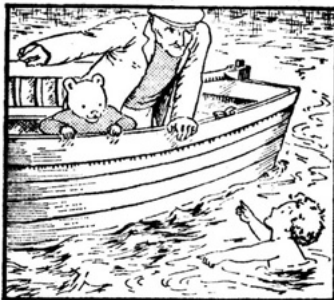
EPISODE 14

Down shoots Jan's boat with Rupert and the old fisherman hanging on as hard as they can. Then ahead of them they spy what looks like daylight and at the same time the water chute begins to flatten out. The light gets brighter and all at once they are out in the open. What a strange, lovely place it is. A wide river flows between low hills under a bright sea-green sky. Then up pops the Merboy laughing at Rupert's and Old Jan's amazement. "This is where the Kelpie must have brought Bill," he declares. "The undersea kingdom of the Seal People!"

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



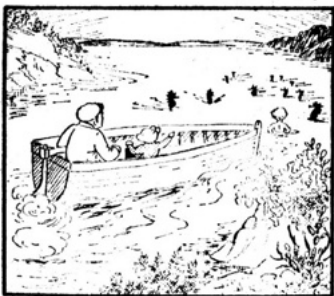
EPISODE 15

"It is here the Kelpie will have brought Bill," says the Merboy. "He will have taken him up this river," he adds, pointing. "Then if you tell us the way we'll be after them," says Old Jan. "I shall do better than that," replies the Merboy. "I'll lead the way." And off he sets up the river with the boat following. Every so often he pauses to answer questions about the strange sea plants that are the trees and bushes of this country. "It's just like a huge bubble," he explains. "And that's the sea up there," he adds pointing to the green sky.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 16

After a time the river flows into a lake and the Merboy stops. "Is this the place?" Rupert calls. "Yes, I'm sure this is where the Kelpie will have brought Bill," the Merboy says. Just then the shoal of little creatures comes racing through the water toward the Merboy, and Rupert sees they are small seahorses. They dart and jump around the Merboy making curious little noises. The Merboy turns to Rupert and Jan. "They're terrible gossips," he says, "and they love to know everything that's going on. They want to know why we are here."

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Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 17

"If the seahorses are gossips who like to know everything that is going on they may know where the Kelpie has taken Bill," Rupert suggests. The Merboy pulls himself up on to the edge of the boat and starts talking to the little creatures in their own chirrupy sort of language. When he has finished the seahorses chirrup back at him. The Merboy turns to Rupert and Jan: "The Kelpie has taken Bill to the Seal King himself. His palace is on the far side of the lake. I'll lead the way!" And he sets off for the distant shore with Rupert and Jan following closely.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 18

On the far side of the undersea lake the Merboy turns towards the shore. At first Rupert can see nothing there except dense seaweed trees and bushes. Then he sees that the Merboy is leading Jan and him into a strange narrow creek. "Is this where the Seal King lives?" Rupert asks quietly. "Yes," replies the Merboy, "his palace is in the caves at the end of this creek—and look, there they are!" Just ahead Rupert sees a big cave at the foot of coral cliffs. Old Jan stops the boat and peers at the caves. "We have to go in there, eh?" he asks the Merboy.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 19

The cave leading to the Seal King's palace looks dark and the Merboy sees that Rupert and Old Jan are not happy about taking the boat into it. "It's quite safe," he smiles. "I shall lead the way, come on!" And with a flick of his tail he glides into the cave. As their boat follows him Rupert and Jan gasp with amazement. For the cave glows with reflected light from the water, blues and greens and pinks. They have just reached the Merboy when Rupert spies someone coming towards them and carrying a fearsome-looking spear.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 20

"Oh, it's you!" exclaims the newcomer when he spots the Merboy. "But who is this with you?" Before he answers, the Merboy turns to Rupert and Jan. "This is one of the Seal King's palace guards," he explains. "And here's another," he adds as a second figure joins them. Both wear caps like the one Bill found. But although both carry spears they seem quite friendly. Then just as the Merboy is about to explain what Rupert and Jan want there is a great splashing and a voice cries, "Ah! That's the other thief!" And there is—the Kelpie!

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Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 21

At the Kelpie's cry the two guards immediately point their spears at Old Jan. "No, not him!" cries the Kelpie. "The little bear is the other thief! He was with the one I captured!" Rupert gasps with dismay. "Ooh, we did not steal..." he begins. And the Merboy joins in: "Of course they didn't! The Kelpie's got it all wrong as usual!" The strange horse-fish rears angrily at this and churns the water with its hooves. "I saw them with the Prince's cap!" it squeals. The guards look stern. "The king must hear of this," says one grimly.

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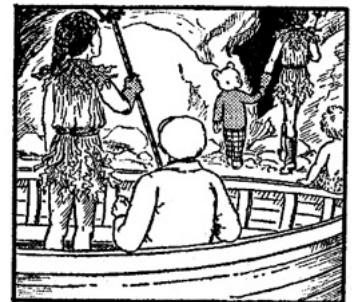
RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 22

"Out you get!" one of the palace guards orders Rupert and points his fearsome three-pronged spear at the little bear. "Oh, please!" begs Rupert, "you are making a mistake!" "Of course you are!" cries the Merboy angrily and goes on to tell how he has known Rupert for a long time and is sure that he and his pals would not steal or tell lies. But the guard pays no attention. "Stay and guard the fisherman," he tells the other guard. "I shall take this small bear to the King." And, taking Rupert's hand, he marches him further into the cave.

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● The new bumper-sized Rupert Annual is now on sale, price £1.60

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 23

"Oh dear," thinks Rupert as he is taken deeper into the cave. "If they won't believe one of their own ocean people like the Merboy they're not going to believe me." The Seal King's guard does not speak as he escorts Rupert along passages and up steps cut into the rock. At last at the head of a steep winding stairway Rupert sees a glow and hears the murmur of voices. Then before he knows what is happening he is being led into a brightly lit hall where a stern-looking man is sitting on a sea-shell throne.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 24

Rupert knows at once that the figure on the throne is the King of the Seal People. He beckons the guard who approaches the throne alone. Rupert cannot hear what the guard says to the King but when the King looks up he is very stern. "Come here!" he orders. Timidly Rupert approaches. "Why did you and your friend steal the Prince's cap? And where is the Prince?" Rupert is speechless. Prince? What Prince? "So you refuse to answer," declares the King. "Very well, you shall stay in prison until you do!"

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Rupert and the Seal People

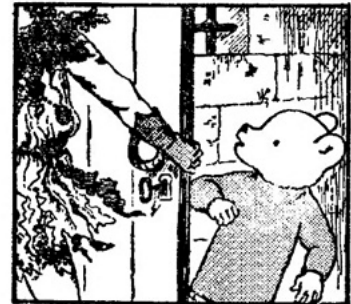
RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 25

Still speechless with surprise Rupert is marched roughly out of the throne room. "This is awful," he thinks. "It was bad enough when they thought we had stolen that cap. Now they seem to think we know where some Prince or other is!" The guard pushes Rupert ahead of him until they stop before a big door which the guard unlocks. "You shall stay here until you tell where the Prince is!" he says and pushes Rupert into a cell. But as he slams the door Rupert spies something familiar on a chain around his neck.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 26

There was something very familiar about the decoration the guard was wearing around his neck, thinks Rupert. He is still trying to think what it was when the cell door is opened and the guard brings in bread and water for Rupert's supper. "Oh, please," Rupert pleads, "that medal you're wearing—what is it?" Looking surprised, the guard holds it up for him to see. "All the Seal People at the King's court wear these," he says. "That's it!" cries Rupert. "The baby seal Old Jan rescued was wearing one just like it!"

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 27

"What's this?" the guard snaps. "Baby seal? What baby seal? Wearing a medallion like this, you say?" "Yes," says Rupert, "exactly like your one." The guard thinks hard. "Then it seems to me, little bear," he says, "that you know more about the missing Prince than you said you did." "But I didn't know until now..." Rupert begins. "You'd better come and see the King again," says the guard. And a few minutes later Rupert finds himself outside the throne room with the guard pulling aside a seaweed curtain to let him enter.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 28

The guard whispers to the King then Rupert is ordered forward. "Tell me about this baby seal," commands the King. But Rupert is so nervous he cannot speak. "Don't be afraid," the King says kindly. "Tell me slowly." So Rupert tries again and tells how Old Jan rescued the baby seal from the storm and about the medallion around its neck and how Bill found the seal cap. Then the King laughs aloud and lifts Rupert onto his throne. "Thanks to this little bear," he proclaims, "we have found the Prince!"

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Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 29

When the courtiers have stopped cheering Rupert the King orders a delicious meal for him and sits talking to him. "Above the sea," the King says, "my people and I take the form of seals. But we always have our seal caps with us for without them we cannot change to our real shape again. That must have happened to my son, the Prince. He lost his cap in a storm, the fisherman rescued him and later his cap was found by your friend." And at that moment who should come into the room but that very friend.

"Oh, Bill!" laughs Rupert.
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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 30

When the King has said he is sorry for thinking Rupert and Bill stole the Prince's cap he asks them to lead him to Gullhaven. So with the King and his followers the two pals make their way back to the cave entrance where Jan and the Merboy are waiting, still closely guarded. Old Jan gasps when he hears what has been happening: "So that baby seal is really a Prince. Well I never!" Suddenly Rupert and Bill stop laughing and stare! The Kelpie has reappeared. But strangely it is no longer fierce as it bows and kisses the King's hand.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 31

The King explains to Rupert and Bill that the Kelpie has been told that they did not steal the seal cap and that Old Jan has rescued the young Seal Prince. "Now," he says, "we shall go to your world above the waves and bring back the Prince. And the Kelpie will pull your boat just to show it really is sorry." And so the Kelpie that seemed so fierce and angry before, now lets itself be harnessed to Jan's boat. Then with the King and his followers riding on dolphins they all set off across the lake to the undersea river.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 32

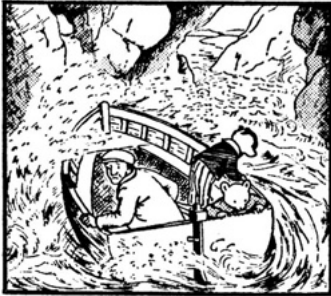
The Seal People on their dolphins dash on ahead and are nowhere to be seen when at last the Kelpie stops. "I recognise this place," says Rupert looking around. "It is where we came down the water chute from the outside world when we arrived." So it is! exclaims Old Jan. "But how do we get back to the outside world again?" he asks the Kelpie. "Just wait here," whinnies the strange creature. "And hold tight!" Then it turns and races back towards the palace. Just then the boat drifts into a cave.

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Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



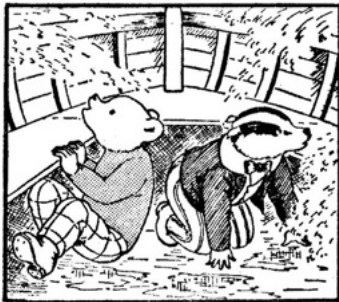
EPISODE 33

As the boat drifts into the cave with Old Jan and the pals on board they feel the water begin to stir as if it was swirling gently under them. "Hold tight!" cries Rupert. "I think something's going to happen!" Faster and faster the water swirls. But instead of spinning the boat round it forces it up and up the way a jack lifts a motorcar. Old Jan and the chums cling tightly to the boat as it rises through a great funnel in the rock. "Look!" cries Bill. "There's daylight just above us!"

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 34

Now there is a great roaring and frothing of water, and waves break into the boat. "What's happening?" cries Rupert. "I think we're coming up into the real sea again," Bill gasps. And at that moment Old Jan's boat breaks into the bright sunlight of the outside world. The chums peer over the side of the boat to be met with the welcoming bark of frisking seals and a cheery shout from the Merboy: "The Seal People and I have been waiting for you! What a slowcoach that Kelpie is!"

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 35

Old Jan can hardly believe his eyes as the seals and the Merboy frisk eagerly in the sunlit sea. He keeps saying over and over, "Well, I never!" until Rupert and Bill burst out laughing. "Now," cries the Merboy, "lead the way to Gullhaven!" "Aye aye!" says Old Jan and sets course for the distant coast. At the entrance to the harbour a deep voice suddenly barks, "Far enough!" and a great seal pops up in front of the boat. "The King!" breathes Rupert. The big seal smiles. "Now, listen carefully," it commands.

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Rupert and the Seal People

RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 36

A few minutes later the seals and the Merboy are swimming back out to sea as Old Jan and the chums head for the jetty. "Now, let's be sure we know what the Seal King wants us to do," says Rupert. "He said that he and the others will wait just outside the harbour until dusk and that we must bring the baby seal to the shore at that time. Is that right?" "Right!" agree Old Jan and Bill. While Old Jan finishes mooring the boat the pals run ahead. "Wait till Mummy and Daddy hear about this!" cries Rupert.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 37

Rupert's Mummy and Daddy are delighted to see the chums. "Where on earth have you been?" asks Mr Bear. "We were beginning to worry!" "Just wait till we tell you!" cries Rupert, and he and Bill pour out their story while Mrs Jan bustles about getting their tea. Later, as the sun sets, Mr Bear and Old Jan gently carry the little seal down the steep path to the shore. Jan has once more put the medallion round the little creature's neck and they have all told it that it is going home to its people again.

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RUPERT AND THE SEAL PEOPLE



EPISODE 38

The sun has almost set as Old Jan lays the little seal on the sand where waves are breaking gently. "Your folks will be here for you any time now," he tells it, and the tiny creature makes happy little barking sounds in reply. Then Rupert spots dark shapes moving smoothly through the waves. "Here they come!" he cries as the seals led by the King come close to the land. Old Jan helps the little seal into the water where it swims off joyfully with the others. "Good luck, Prince!" shout Rupert and Bill.

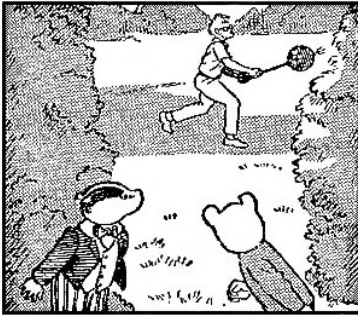
THE END

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Another Adventure Tomorrow



Rupert and the Super-Racket

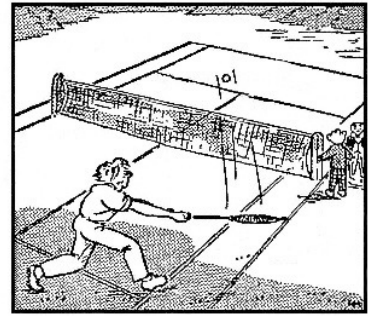
RUPERT AND THE SUPER - RACKET



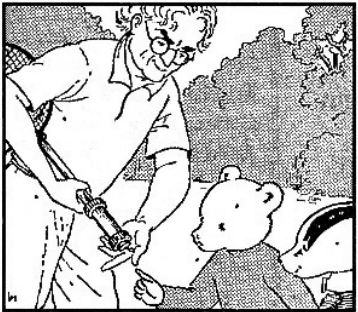
EPISODE 1

Plock! Plock! The sound of tennis coming from the Inventor's garden. Rupert and Bill look at each other. It's warm for the time of year—enough for Rupert to have left off his scarf—but it seems an odd time for tennis. They look into the garden and, sure enough, there is the Inventor dashing about with a racket which he is using two-handed to hit an unusual-looking ball. Stranger still, when the pals enter the garden they see that the inventor is alone. Yet the ball is being played back to him as if there were someone on the other side of the net.

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER - RACKET



EPISODE 2

At the pals' gasp of surprise the Inventor stops. For a moment he blinks at them in an absent-minded way then he smiles: "Aha, you are puzzled. Let me show you." He holds out the racket to Rupert and Bill. Now they can see that it has a switch and knobs on the handle and a thing like an aerial on the head. "I made it," says the Inventor. "It's like an ordinary racket. . . ." He hits the ball over the net. "Until I switch it on and point the aerial. . . ." He does, and the chums jump as the ball zings from beyond the net to land between them.

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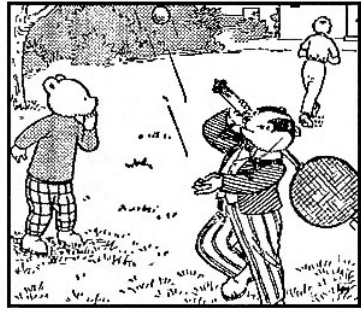
RUPERT AND THE SUPER - RACKET



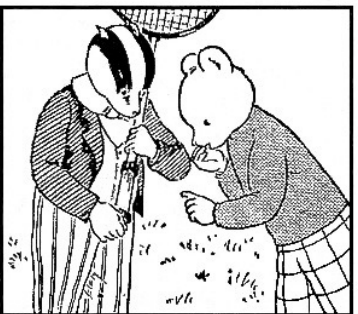
EPISODE 3

"Doesn't that also mean you always lose?" Rupert ventures. The Inventor is saved from having to find an answer by the telephone ringing indoors. He puts down the racket and its ball and goes off to answer it. "I say, let's have a go," Bill grins, picking up the racket and the ball which is not like an ordinary tennis ball but smooth as an egg. "I don't. . . ." Rupert begins, but Bill is already swiping at the ball.

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER - RACKET



EPISODE 4

To Rupert's relief Bill's wild swipe with the Inventor's super-racket misses and the egg-smooth ball drops harmlessly near the two pals. But Bill isn't finished. "I wonder how this thing works," he murmurs as he examines the handle of the racket. "Oh, do be careful," says Rupert. But on the handle there are knobs that Bill can't resist twiddling and a switch which he should know better than to work. So, being Bill, he both twiddles and switches. . . . there is a humming, a tingling in his hand and the ball whooshes up into the trees.

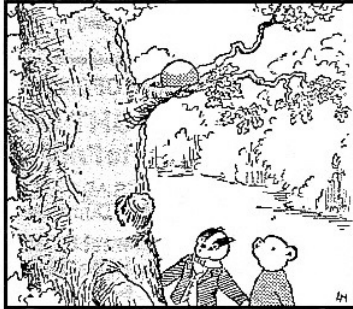
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Rupert and the Super-Racket

RUPERT AND THE SUPER - RACKET

EPISODE 5



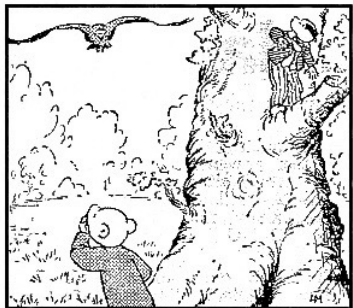
"Switch it off!" yells Rupert, and at once the humming from the racket stops as Bill obeys. Too late: The ball has already disappeared. "We better find it before the Inventor comes back," Rupert begins, but Bill is already on his way to the trees where the ball vanished. It is because the ball is shiny and glints in the sun that the chums spot it trapped in a forked branch. Rupert offers to fetch it but Bill says it was his fault so he must get it. Bill is on a branch reaching for the ball when Rupert spots something that makes him catch his breath.

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER - RACKET

EPISODE 6



A huge bird, much, much bigger than any of the Nutwood birds is flying low over the trees. Bill sees the bird at the same time and stops reaching for the trapped ball. "What on earth is it?" Rupert whispers . . . then, "Look out, Bill! It's heading straight for us!" He ducks and Bill cowers behind the trunk. The great bird circles the tree. The trembling pals can see that its beak is hooked and sharp and its talons fearsome. Then it swoops. . . . But not at the two chums. With surprising gentleness it eases the ball from the forked branch.

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER - RACKET

EPISODE 7



Rupert and Bill hold their breath as the bird eases the ball from the branch. But if it does notice them it shows no sign of it. Then with a flap of its great wings it takes off with the ball held gently in its talons. "It thinks the ball's an egg!" Rupert gasps. "Well we can't let it get away with it!" cries Bill. "Quick, switch on the racket so that it brings back the ball." Rupert twists a knob to "Return" and switches on. For a moment nothing seems to happen. Then the bird stops in mid-flight and is dragged struggling back towards Rupert.

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER - RACKET

EPISODE 8



Oh, my! This isn't at all what Rupert expected. The ball is being brought back by the Inventor's super-racket, just as Bill said it would. But it is bringing the bird with it. And an angry-looking bird at that. Rupert cowers on the ground as the bird looms over him. The racket buzzes on. Rupert shuts his eyes. Then he feels himself grabbed by the jersey and lifted. He opens his eyes. Oh, no! The bird is holding him and the ball. The ball is attached to the racket. He is holding the racket—and just passing over the Inventor's roof.

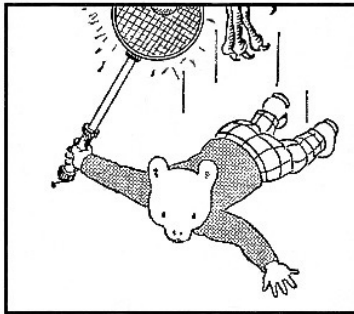
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Rupert and the Super-Racket

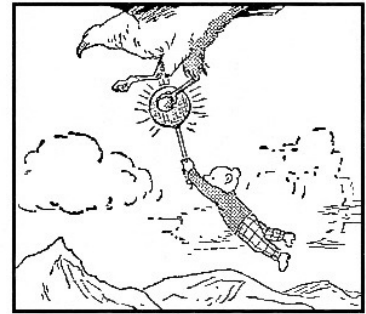
RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 9



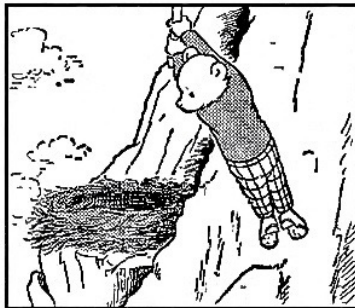
When at last poor Rupert's mind stops whirling he thinks, "Should I switch off the racket?" Then he thinks, "No, perhaps not." And just as well. For a moment later it is only the fact that the racket is switched on and keeping the ball fixed to it that stops Rupert from falling to the ground which is a long, long, way below. The bird has let go its hold on his jersey. As he hangs in desperately to the racket Rupert just hopes that the racket keeps on working and that the bird soon reaches wherever its destination happens to be.

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 10



Rupert is beginning to wonder how much longer he can hang on when the bird flies straight at a steep cliff. It circles just short of the cliff and now Rupert can see why. On a ledge is a big, rough, empty nest. They have arrived. Now what? "The bird is not going to want me in the nest with it," Rupert thinks. "Somehow I must. . . ." And it is then he spots a broad and grassy ledge near the nest. In a moment they will be over it. Ready . . . steady . . . now! Rupert switches off the racket which comes unfixed from the ball. He drops. . . .

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 11



Swish! Bump! Rupert lands on the grassy ledge and goes sprawling. As he grabs at a tuft of grass to stop himself going over the edge he lets go of the super-racket. Luckily it lands close to him. He picks it up. Now, what about the bird? But the great creature seems not to be bothered about him, and, crouching on his ledge, Rupert watches it place the shiny ball in the nest then settle on it as if it were an egg. Rupert still feels it would be better not to draw attention to himself and stays very still wondering what to do next.

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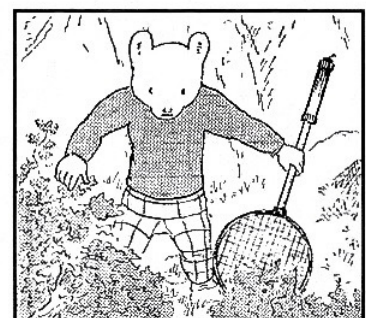
RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 12



"First thing," decides Rupert, "is to get down from this ledge." He peers over the edge. Good, not too hard a scramble for a climber like himself. He looks towards the bird on its nest. It seems to be asleep but Rupert feels that it would not take much to disturb it and that it would not like being disturbed while it was sitting on what it thought was its egg. So it is not until the sun has set that Rupert starts to climb down. He has just reached the bottom of the cliff when a sudden noise makes him swing round towards a clump of bushes.

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Rupert and the Super-Racket

RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 13



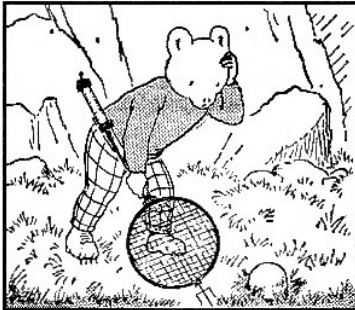
"Cheep-cheep!" Rupert peers under the bushes. There, breaking out of its shell, is a fluffy chick. Now Rupert sees it all. The egg must have fallen from the nest above to land safely among the bushes. The mother-bird, thinking it had been stolen, must have gone in search of it, found the ball for the inventor's super-racket and mistaken it for the egg. As Rupert stands up he sees with a start that he has knocked the racket switch on. In the same instant from above comes a sound which can only be of a ball being pulled from a nest.

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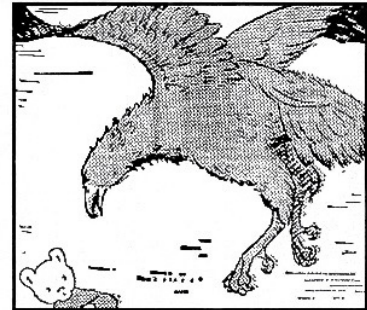
RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 14



The chick is cheeping. The super-racket is buzzing and from above comes the sound of the ball being pulled out of the nest and down the cliff by the racket. "Oh, no!" Rupert gasps. He can imagine only too well how the big bird is going to feel about losing what it thinks is its egg for a second time. He switches off the racket. But it is already too late. With a thud the shiny ball lands at his feet. At the same moment comes an angry screech, a flurry of mighty wings and Rupert looks up to see the great bird swooping on him.

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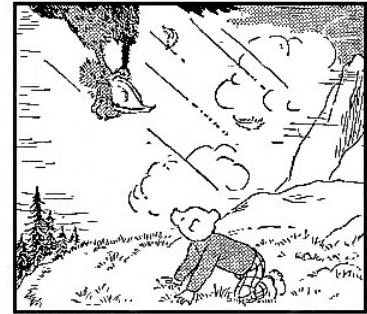
RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 15



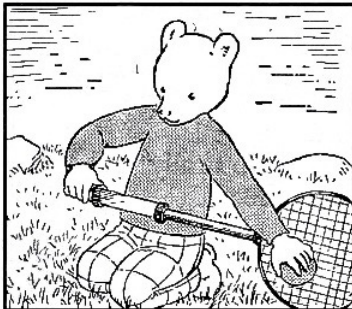
The fierce beak is open. The great talons are within inches of Rupert . . . "Cheep-cheep!" From under the bushes comes the cry of the newly-hatched chick. The great bird stops. It swings towards the cheeping, alights on a branch and stares. Rupert uses the moment to jump for cover behind a rock. The bird looks from the chick to the ball then back to the chick. For a moment it seems to be thinking then very, very gently it scoops up the chick and soars away. Rupert lets out a great, long sigh of relief.

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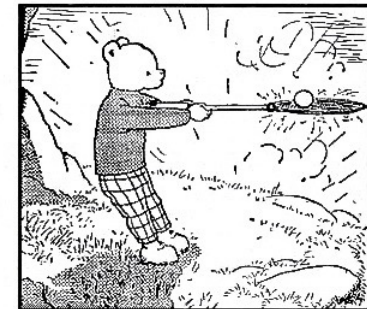
RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 16



The great bird has disappeared back to its nest with the chick and Rupert is left safe but wondering where he is and how he is going to get back to Nutwood. While he is thinking he catches sight of the ball for the super-racket. "H'm, now I've got it again I better keep it safe" he murmurs. Since it won't fit into his pockets he decides to keep it fixed to the racket and switches on the power. But now a very odd thing happens. The racket buzzes even louder than usual and begins to pull away from Rupert, tugging him to his feet.

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Rupert and the Super-Racket

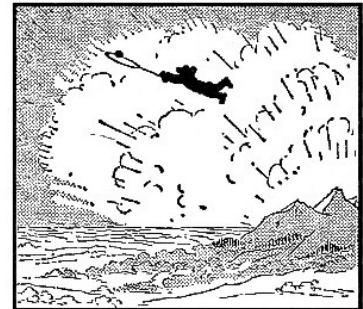
RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 17



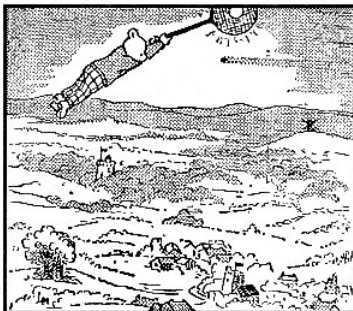
No matter how hard Rupert tugs, the super-racket pulls harder. "I-I can't let it go!" he gasps. "The Inventor will be awfully cross." And all the time the racket is pulling Rupert nearer to the edge of the cliff. His feet are almost leaving the ground . . . this is the last chance to let go . . . too late the racket plucks him into the air. Now Rupert can't pull. It is as much as he can do to cling to the racket as it drags him across the darkening sky. The mountains slip by below and soon the little bear is high over dark rolling countryside.

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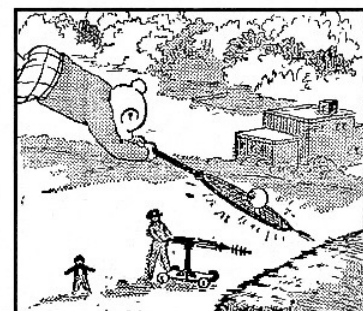
RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 18



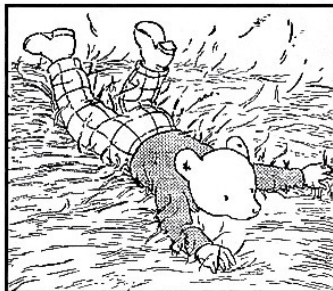
On and on the super-racket pulls Rupert. For what seems a long time the countryside below is strange to him. Then on a distant hilltop he spies something he recognises — the windmill outside Nutwood. Yes, and there's the tower where the Old Professor lives. It is just as he sees Nutwood village below him that he feels the super-racket dip and finds himself diving at the ground. Then beneath him he sees Bill and the Inventor with a strange machine which he seems to be pointing at a haystack. Bill is shouting something. But what?

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 19



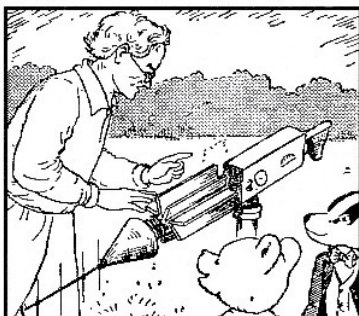
"Let go, Rupert!" is what Bill is yelling and he is pointing at the haystack which is almost under the little bear. Now! the Inventor shouts. Rupert shuts his eyes, lets go of the racket and drops—ooph!—face down onto the soft top of the haystack. "There, I knew it would work," he hears the Inventor say in a smug sort of way. Then Bill calls. "I'm putting up a ladder for you!" As Rupert climbs down he points at the strange machine the Inventor was using. "What's that thing?" he asks. "It's what brought you safely home," is the reply.

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RUPERT AND THE SUPER-RACKET

EPISODE 20



"I knew you'd hang on to the racket and ball," the Inventor tells Rupert. "Since the ball can be directed from a long way I decided to try to bring it, the racket and you back with the long-distance director I've invented. Of course it worked." Later, over tea, the Inventor says to Rupert, "You are none the worse for your adventure. Bill's learned not to meddle with things he doesn't understand and it has made me think about super-racket travel for people . . ."

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THE END

Another Adventure Begins Tomorrow.



When Animals Work

When Animals Work.

No. 7.—The Frog Sweeps Chimneys.



Mrs. Purr has a hatred that's wholesome and deep
Of dirt in all forms. She has sent for the sweep.
And she watches him work with a will and a rush.
As he adds piece to piece of his long jointed brush.
Mr. Frog finds the soot is as dense as a thicket.
But he says with a smile—"Ma'am, my motto is 'Stick it!'"

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The next drawing in this series will appear in Wednesday's "Daily Express."



. . AND SO TO BED.



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