

The Cinnamon Bear

Paddy O’Cinnamon

A first book to read all by yourself

Episode One · from the 1937 Christmas radio serial



Judy and Jimmy are twins. They live in a big old house. The house has a tall attic. It is almost Christmas.



Judy and Jimmy write letters to Santa. Jimmy wants a red velocipede. A velocipede is a bike with three wheels. Judy can not spell it. Jimmy can not spell it. Then they both laugh.



Mother comes in with two big boxes. ‘What is in the boxes?’ asks Jimmy. ‘Our Christmas tree things,’ says Mother. ‘Let us look! Let us help!’



The twins look in the boxes. They see gold balls and silver tinsel. They see a little pink Santa. Nothing is broken. ‘Good!’ says Judy.



One thing goes on top of the tree. It is the Silver Star. The star is big and bright. It has five points. ‘It is the best part of the tree,’ says Jimmy.



‘I can not find the Silver Star,’ says Mother. Judy looks in the boxes. Jimmy looks in the boxes. The star is not there. ‘Christmas will not be Christmas with no star,’ says Judy.



‘Uncle Jed took things up to the attic,’ says Mother. ‘The star may be in the attic.’ ‘Can we go and look?’ ask the twins. ‘Yes,’ says Mother. ‘But you must be careful.’



Up, up, up go the twins! The attic stairs are steep, steep, steep. ‘Last one up is a fraidy cat!’ calls Judy. They run all the way up.



The attic is big and cold. It is full of boxes and trunks. There is an old spinning wheel. There is a music box, too. ‘There is the big trunk!’ says Jimmy.



‘The star may be in the trunk,’ says Judy. The lid is very heavy. Judy lifts on one side. Jimmy lifts on the other side. Up, up goes the lid!



On top is an old crazy quilt. Under the quilt are old clothes. Judy digs and digs. No star. But here is a little gold airplane. It is made of glass, and it is not broken.



Then Judy sees something in the clothes. It is a little teddy bear! He has a green ribbon on. ‘He is so tiny!’ says Judy. ‘He is just four inches tall.’



Jimmy finds a telescope in the trunk. It was Uncle Jed’s telescope. Uncle Jed was a sailor. ‘Look through it!’ says Jimmy. ‘Things look a million times bigger!’ Judy has an idea.



They set the bear at the back of the trunk. Judy looks through the telescope. Now the bear looks big! He looks as big as the twins! And then — oh! — the bear moves!



The bear sings a song. ‘I am the Cinnamon Bear with the shoe-button eyes!’ He is happy and floppy and tough for his size. Then he growls. ‘Garo! Garo!’ The twins act very scared. It makes the little bear feel big.



‘Did I scare you?’ asks the bear. ‘My name is Paddy O’Cinnamon. I am a bit Irish. That is why I wear a green ribbon.’ ‘I am Jimmy, and this is Judy,’ says Jimmy.



The twins tell Paddy about the Silver Star. ‘A dragon took it,’ says Paddy. ‘The Crazy Quilt Dragon! He loves shiny, bright things. He ran off with the star. He ran to the Lollipop Mountains.’



‘Do not cry,’ says Paddy. ‘You can get the star back. I will help you! See the little hole in the wall? We must de-grow. We must get small, small, small — just four inches tall. I will show you how!’ What will happen next?