



Barnabus and Hank the Armadillo

Ivan B

Published: 2010

Categorie(s): Fiction, Juvenile, Animals, Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs, etc., Bedtime & Dreams

Tag(s): "Childrens Story" "Bedtime Story" "Barnabus" "Sunday School"

This eBook is copyright material and must not be copied, reproduced, transferred, distributed, leased, licensed or publically performed or used in any way except as specifically permitted in writing by the publishers as allowed under the terms and conditions under which it was obtained of as strictly applicable copyright law. Any unauthorised distribution or use of this text may be a direct infringement of the author's and publisher's rights and those responsible may be liable in law accordingly. Permission need not be sought from the author for use in Sunday worship or a Sunday School where one copy of the material may be printed and the material may be publically read and discussed free of charge providing the material is not reproduced for distribution.

Published by barlebooks.net©2010

Barnabus drawing courtesy of Jacki Charsley

Spring had come, but somehow it was still quite cold and wet. Barnabas the church mouse was checking the church and its inhabitants before settling down to a nice biscuit and a mug of hot cocoa. Even though it was spring there were still a fair number of animals sheltering in the church, mainly from the pouring rain, but also because it was the end of the football season and soon the annual match between the church mice XI and the Pub mice X1 would take place. So Barnabus wandered around the church talking to the various mice and talking about the forthcoming football match. Finally he visited Hank in the church organ. Hank was a red-fairy armadillo from Texas, who had come to visit England in a container full of peanuts and was waiting for a chance to get home, meanwhile he was living inside the organ. Armadillos are just like mice, except they have a very thick leathery skin, and can roll up into a ball just like hedgehogs.

“Howdy partner” said Hank, “All well in your little ol' church?”

Barnabas sometimes had trouble understanding Hank; he spoke a sort of mouse like language, but it wasn't exactly the same.

Barnabas answered that all was well and asked Hank to join him for a cup of hot cocoa.

“Sure” drawled Hank in his deep south accent “But I'd prefer coffee, don't like cocoa much, can't stand your tea either”

To be honest Hank got on Barnabas' nerves; he preferred everything that wasn't English, and was always boasting about his adventures in the great American west where everything was larger and somehow better than gloomy old England. Barnabas sometimes wondered why he'd come to visit at all.

But, Barnabas was determined to offer the best hospitality he could, so the pair of them left the office and scuttled to Barnabas' home in the boiler house.

As Barnabas made the drinks Hank looked around and shook his head,

“Kinda crowded in here isn't it partner”.

Barnabas sighed “Well it wasn't at first but the churchwardens have put shelves in beside the boiler to store all their screws and tools. Everything is labelled, and they are very careful never to put anything in here that could catch fire”.

All of a sudden Hank stopped looking around, and pricked up his little red ears

“Waat's that funny sound” he asked.

"Oh that's just the boiler" said Barnabas, "it has good days and bad days"

"No", drawled Hank, "Not the gurgling noise, it sounds like old coffee grinders trying to mangle stones"

"Oh that's Cyril" laughed Barnabas. "He's an old tortoise, at least two hundred years old, and he's asleep, and snoring. You'd find Cyril interesting to talk to, he used to be a ships tortoise and he'd tell you many stories of the sailing ships going to America, and of the American civil war, but he probably won't wake up until Tuesday."

"Gee" said Hank, "you may be a small island , but you sure have some history".

Just then the boiler gave a very loud gurgle, spluttered and went BANG very loudly.

Barnabas and Hank both looked at the boiler, it continued to make funny gurgling sounds.

Then it went BANG! again twice.

After the second bang it began to shake, banging itself against the wall. And everything on the church warden's shelves began to tremble as well. Every time the boiler banged against the wall, the shelves shook and something would drop off onto the floor. Barnabas' home had suddenly become a very dangerous place with falling jam-jars filled with screws, or nuts, or boxes of plaster could easily squash a mouse.

"We've got to turn the boiler off" shouted Barnabas above the din, "There's a red button beside the boiler, it needs to be pushed", but Barnabas knew getting there amid the falling jam-jars would be a hazardous business.

"I see it" said Hank "I'll go"

And with that he rushed off across the room. His thick armour protecting him from the hail of small tins and bits and pieces falling from the shelves.

Meanwhile the boiler was going berserk, banging itself against the wall, gurgling, blowing off steam and making a funny bonging noises.

Hank reached the other side of the room, but when he got there he found he was too small to reach up and press the button.

"LOOK OUT" shouted Barnabas as a large spanner fell off the shelf directly above hank.

Quick as a flash Hank Rolled into a ball, and the spanner just missed him.

“Wats all this noise then?” said a slow nasal voice as Cyril ambled round the corner from his sleeping quarters and looked at the chaos in the boiler room.

“We need to turn the boiler off”, shouted Barnabas, “but Hank can't reach”.

Cyril surveyed the situation, and began to walk towards the boiler, well crawl really as tortoise don't walk very fast.

As he meandered his way to the boiler, bits and pieces continued to fall from the shelves, Cyril didn't seem to care, they just bounced off his hard shell. Even a box of paint brushes bounced off.

Eventually Cyril reached the side of the boiler where Hank was curled up. He rolled Hank aside, but Cyril was also was just too short to reach the button.

“You lad” he barked “you with the suit of armour, get on my back”.

Hank unrolled himself and scuttled onto Cyril's back. It wasn't easy as Cyril's super shiny shell had had the Turtle Wax Treatment for the winter. Eventually after much scrambling and sliding Hank made it onto the top of Cyril's super slippery back, reached up and pressed the button.

Silence descended on the boiler house as the banging stopped. A last tin fell off of the shelves, the boiler gave a quite gurgle, and stopped.

In the quiet they all looked at the mess on the floor; broken glass lay everywhere, nuts, bolts, screws and various other fragments lay all around.

Cyril looked at Hank, who had climbed off his back, and rasped “Well done lad”, and then peered closely at Hank (old tortoises don't see very well). “An armadillo, well I haven't seen one of you chaps since I was in New England in 1903 - but your very small”

Hank seemed somewhat embarrassed, and said weakly,

“I'm big for a red-fairy armadillo” standing as tall as he could.

“Hmmm” grunted Cyril “but red-fairies are the smallest armadillos aren't they? Your New England cousins are at least ten times your size.”

Hank then lost his composure and stamped his foot on the floor shouting, “but I hate being the smallest I want to be BIG!”

“Temper temper” chuckled Cyril and he slowly lumbered off, back into his bedroom to finish his sleep

“Thanks Cyril” Barnabas called.

"That's all right" he replied, "but I couldn't have done it without our American cousin".

"Thanks Hank" he said, "I don't care if you are the smallest of your family, you were just right for here and very brave, you may have a thick skin, but a jam-jar would have squashed you flat all the same"

"Aw gee it was nothing" he drawled, but looked proud all the same.

The funny thing is from then on Hank stopped boasting about how big everything was in America. He realised he didn't have to boast to get the others to like him, he just had to be himself.

From then on Hank and Barnabas were firm friends, and Barnabas was quite sad when the time came for Hank to leave.

"Look after yourself" said Barnabas, "and don't get too sunburned in the wild west when you get home"

"I'll be alright" drawled Hank, "So long and thanks for having me, and thank you for putting up with me when I kept telling you how big everything was in America, it's not that big, just different".

"Thanks OK" Barnabas replied, "I guess we all learned a lesson, we just need to be as God made us, and not try to pretend to be something else".

Hank gave a wave of his oversize hat and scuttled to the waiting taxi "I'll send you an E-mail when I arrive home, but it will only be a small one" and he laughed, climbed inside the taxi, and rode off into the sunset.

From the same author on Feedbacks

Felburgh (2010)

Felburgh is the story of a vicar (Peter) and his life in a new parish; one that he has not chosen and that has not chosen him. The parish is set in seemingly idyllic Suffolk seaside town of Felburgh somewhere between Felixstowe and Aldeburgh. The parish, like most parishes, is only normal on the surface and has underlying tensions and vast social differences. The church itself has a third of a million pounds in the bank, some of the congregation are downright antagonistic and quite a few have interesting pasts. The church has previously seen a rapid succession of vicars, who have been driven out, escaped or just disappeared, this has left a legacy of distrust and discontent. Finally, like the Parish, the vicarage itself also has an interesting history, one which soon impinges on Peter's life and not necessarily for the better. All in all it's a mixture most vicars would run from, but Peter has no choice but to stay as he has nowhere else to go, so can he make a success of it or will history repeat itself once again?

Barnabus Makes Someone Smile (2010)

Barnabus notices a small child who does not seem to smile, ever. However, with a little lesson from a peculiar cat Barnabus learns how to make him smile.

Vignette (2010)

Brian is a vicar on the edge, the edge of suicide that is. He has a number of rural parishes and they all contain farmers who are on the edge, or over the edge, of bankruptcy. It is all out of his control and try as he might he cannot deal with all the pain and angst and it has finally got to him. But he is not allowed to find relief in the comfort of a cold bullet via circumstances that are again out of control. However, as his life spirals downwards there is one chink of light, perhaps, just perhaps it will provide him with a way out.

Barnabus Prepares for Bonfire Night (2010)

Fireworks can be pretty and bonfires can be warming, but to hedgehogs they can be deadly. Barnabus works out a plan to keep the hedgehogs safe, but it is not that simple.

Barnabus and the Lost Spider (2010)

Barnabus, the church mouse, believes that everything in his church is in exactly the right place. Then he opens the boiler room door and finds...

Barnabus and Loadza Mice (2010)

Barnabus is bored, in fact Barnabus is very bored. So he decides to invite a few friends over for a video party, unfortunately ...

Barnabus Trusts a Cat (2010)

Barnabus, the church mouse, doesn't like cats very much and certainly wouldn't normally trust one with his life, but one Christmas...

Barnabus and the Inheritance (2010)

A Barnabus Church Mouse Story.

Barnabus gets a surprise letter telling him he's got an inheritance. What can it be? His mind runs wild, is it money? A Mansion? Perhaps it's a ...

Barnabus and the New Year (2010)

It's New Year's Eve and Barnabus is all alone in his church basement home. Have all his friends gone out and left him? he feels really miserable, and then...

Barnabus and the Winter Supply (2010)

Barnabus has been a diligent Church Mouse, he has stored enough food to feed all the mice in his church for the whole of the winter, but then it starts to rain up North and other mice are in trouble, what should he do?

Alien Gel (2010)

Henry is a perfectly normal person in a perfectly normal world, then he is forced by circumstances to buy a weird hair gel. From then on his life begins to change as the hair gel starts to interfere in its own peculiar way. The question is: can Henry keep it under control?

Barnabus Meets Ratatouee (2010)

It's Christmas Eve and all is well in Barbabus' church, that is until there is a scratch on the door and the appearance of a very hungry Romanian rat. Should they say there is no room, or let him and his companions in?

Wilfred's Heavenly Journey (2010)

Wilfred, the churchyard rat, is feeling off-colour and down-hearted, so he decides to go on holiday. He chooses a cruse, but it turns out to be not quite what he expected.

Spike and Mother's Day (2010)

Spike the hedgehog has a problem, a real problem. It's two days before Mother's day and he hasn't got her a present, and even worse has no idea what to get. Can his friends help him or not?

Spike Learns to say Sorry (2010)

Spike the hedgehog absolutely loves cycling, but his father has given him two basic rules to obey and one day Spike forgets them, it leads him into all sorts of trouble.

Spike Plays Hedgehog Rugby (2010)

Spike the hedgehog has been made captain of the local hedgehog rugby team, but will his first decision at his first match be a big mistake?

Barnabus needs an Albatross (2010)

The church needs money to repair the church tower and Barnabus and his friends hatch a plan that they hope will give the church the money it needs. Trouble is it all depends on finding a rare and special bird.

Boris the Dancing Beaver (2010)

Boris is a beaver like no other. Forget swimming, forget chopping down trees; Boris loves to dance. But, just what future is there for a dancing beaver? His brothers think he's a nuisance, but Boris is sure dancing, somehow, is his future.

Barnabus and Risk Management (2010)

Barnabus, the church mouse, has to entertain his friend's Aunt. She is a bit of a snob and loves to find fault with the state of

Barnabus' church. She discovers a box of soft toys in the wrong place and has a good moan, but Barnabus has an unusual answer; one involving sky-diving!

Sarah has a problem (2010)

Sarah the skunk has a couple of problems; one being her temper. She just can't keep it and when she gets angry those around her get squirted with her special smell liquid. It's not a recipe for keeping friends, so she hasn't any. Then one day...

Arboreal Love (2010)

Can trees feel for human beings as human beings feel for trees? Not everybody thinks so, but one old lady holds a secret: a secret of a love and passion for a tree that knew no bounds. But could this love be infectious?

The Last Assignment (2010)

They are highly trained operatives. They have been specially prepared for any mission. They are kept under tight reign. But there is this special assignment, could it be their last?

Cold (2010)

Jim Tarrent is an ex-army sergeant turned private investigator following his untimely departure from the army. On solving his first case he gains a partner and together they look like they will make a go of his business. However, Jim has a traumatic past that he cannot seem to leave behind and his partner is probably no better off. Then two cases hit them that could change their lives, and their detective agency, for ever.

The Rectory (2010)

Stephen Holmes is the type of person for whom every silver cloud has a black lining. Up to now he has led a fairly uneventful life. Uneventful that is if you forget that everything he touches has a knack of turning to dust or biting back. So much so that after nearly a decade as a bank clerk he has not progressed more than one tiny step up the promotion ladder; so much so that he's really given up on living and thinks of himself as just existing; so much so that you'd hardly call him a good catch or for that matter any sort of catch. However, a surprise letter offers him the chance to

change all that and to begin a new life, nay a new wealthy life. But he knows that every time someone fills up his glass with beer it has a habit of leaking out through unnoticed cracks, so can it all be true, and are there really new horizons ahead?

Lumen in Let Your Little Light Shine (2010)

Lumen is a glow worm with attitude. Currently he's fed up with being a glow worm and lurned his lights off. But there is a problem, if his light doesn't shine, just where does his energy go?

Book Woman (2010)

Mary is the Manager of a private lending library in the sleepy Suffolk coastal town of Eastburgh. She originally wanted to be a journalist, but following a dreadful accident that she was forced to realign her career aspirations. Mary has a reputation of being rather short with people and fending off chances of friendship, not that she has much chance of friendships as she works full time and cares for her elderly mother.

However, Mary's nicely ordered world of books and home is slowly turned round thanks to an unexpected discovery, a young girl and Mary's changing inner needs.

The Soulmate Agency (2010)

The Soulmate Agency is a dating agency with a difference. Instead of pairing people up they invite groups of people away for a week and run them through a series of exercises to help them get to know one another. However, that is not to say the owner doesn't have a hidden plan of possible matings. But one assorted group, as soon as it arrives, starts to defy the odds...

Trembine Halt (2010)

Trembine Halt is a tiny Cambridgeshire village. Like most small villages the dozen inhabitants have their various foibles, but they have learnt to live together and support one another when necessary, even coping with the odd transitory interloper. However, lurking underneath are emotional hang-ups, hidden relationships, suicides and selfishness. All would remain as it was, except on one snowy day a freight train gets stuck in the village and the addition of the extra person starts off a train of events that will have long term repercussions.

Nocturnus (2010)

John Smith and Jane Doe (yes that's their real names) are ordinary people living separate lives. He as a peripatetic lecturer and she as a night-time cleaning manager. In the normal course of events their paths would probably never cross. However, some events are far from normal and the two get thrown together to dispose of a corpse.

The question is can they get away with it? Especially as it's not just the police after them.

But the story is more than just a simple tale of misdeed and misdemeanor. Jane leads her nocturnal life for very good reasons (well good to her) and John prefers to travel rather than stay at home for equally valid reasons (well valid to him.) So as their lives are forcibly intertwined are their reasons still valid or are they redundant?

The Face (2010)

Brian is the type of guy who likes to have everything cut and dried and his life on a well-ordered track. He's been in the same teaching job since leaving university and spends every summer holiday house-sitting for his cousin George. However, this summer, after seeing a woman's face in a supermarket, his life starts to change in ways he would never have contemplated. However, there is more to come and his well ordered life starts to spiral way out of control, the problem is that he rather begins to like it that way.

Botanago (2010)

Botanago refers to a mathematical formula, which is invented within a robotics company by an eccentric and irascible middle aged research engineer called Albert, who is not all he seems. All would be well if they left him alone to think his mathematical thoughts, but in Jeddle Robotics lie people with ambition and downright managerial ruthlessness that Albert detests. So while he strives to perfect his cherished formula, he must also deal with the rest of his life, and that is nowhere near as easy.

Ruth (2010)

Ruth is a runner with a unique sexual chemistry that combines in almost near perfection with the story-teller; but she says little and wants nothing else. However, as far as he is concerned this is enough, then the unexpected happens and life gets turned on it's head...

Bitter (2010)

Jim Tarrent and Jenn Tarrent are settling down to a new routine in their detective agency following their marriage.

They have the usual mix of cases, but also pick up a case for military intelligence involving two dead service personnel discovered in unusual circumstances while Jim (who still dreams of his army past) plugs away at solving a child hit and run mystery no matter what it costs.

However, both cases lead them into murky territory where simple objectives have morphed into potential scandals that no-one on high wants revealed.

Jims unusual evidence gathering skills and Jenn's organisation lead them further on than anyone else, but perhaps the outcome is not worth the trouble involved.

(Bitter is a sequel to 'Cold')

Sydney takes a stand (2011)

Sydney the frog only has a small muddy puddle as a home and now the council want to take it away - there comes a time when every frog has to make a stand. Unfortunately this time the stand is against a giant digger; can he survive?

Barnabus can Fly! (2011)

Barnabus the church mouse has got himself into a pickle again! He's been teaching the mouslets all about bats, but now he can't find one and his class are beginning to disbelieve him - can there be a solution?

Barnabus and the 'Swerve' (2011)

Barnabus has a lot on his mind; the church want to sell off their ancient pipe organ and he needs to find a way to beat the Red

Rodents at Mouse Volley ball. The answer could lie in something very different...



www.feedbooks.com
Food for the mind