

PATAKIS PUBLISHERS

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The Spell of Smell

Picture book, ages 3+, illustrated by Despina Karapanou

Badger woke up in a bad mood that morning. He stood in front of the mirror and shook his head.

“Hello Anestis”, he muttered to himself. “Yet another day having to play all by myself” he said sighing and went to the kitchen to make breakfast. But just as he was having his cereal, he got an idea.

“Since no one likes my company because I’m a badger I’ll disguise myself as another kind of animal.” He looked out of the window and saw Charikleia, the fox, passing by.

“I’ll disguise myself as a fox and I’ll invite Charikleia over for a cup of tea”, said Anestis merrily and started browsing through his trunk. He found an old orange pullover.

“Good, I’ll put it on so my fur doesn’t show” he said looking at his reflection in the mirror.

“I just need a bushy tail.”

He rubbed his head thinking what to do and suddenly his face lit up.

“That’s it! Even Charikleia herself would be envious of such a tail,” he said as he was sewing the feather duster on his orange pullover. Overjoyed, he ran off to catch up with the fox.

“Charikleia, wait!” he shouted at her panting. On turning around to face him, Charikleia was taken aback.

“What do you think you are doing there, Anestis? It’s not Halloween time yet!” she told him and started to walk off.

“How did you know it was me?” asked Anestis in disappointment.

“No one can fool a fox” she replied with contempt. She shook her orange tail and disappeared behind some bushes.

“I’ve got to find another animal that’s not as clever as the fox,” thought Anestis.

“That’s it! I’ll disguise myself as a boar and I’ll go find Spyros.

He ran back to his place and started searching in his trunk. After a while he looked in the mirror. He had put a loose dark grey shirt on, one that he had stuffed full of old rags so that he would look as large as a boar. He had tried to fasten two knives on his face, one on either side of his mouth, so that they would look like a boar’s tusks. He went up to Spyros’s house and rang the doorbell. The boar answered the door.

“Hello Thpyroth” said Anestis lisping because he was speaking and trying to hold the two knives in their right place in his mouth at the same time.

“What happened to you, Anestis? You look terrible” said the boar and cracked up laughing.