

Winter Wilderness

A short story by Ava Solrise

One chilly morning two boys, Henley and Alister Curious, put on the hats, their coats and their wellies and set off with their mummy on an adventure to 'the Wilderness' in Skipton. Wrap up warm and join them as they explore the magic of nature!

As Henley and Alister wandered through the frosty Wilderness, they could hear the crunch of snow beneath their boots and the cheerful chirping of the birds up in the trees.

"Look over there!" Shouted Henley, pointing to a little robin sat on the bridge over the beck. The boys raced over but the robin flew away. Standing on the bridge mummy said, "Boys listen, what can you hear?" Alister said "I can hear the water mummy" Henley said "I can hear the birds."

On the other side, the boys discovered some stepping stones, perfect for hopping from one to another! "Let's see who can jump the furthest!" Henley said, and soon they were giggling and splashing as mummy helped them leap from stone to stone.

As they continued their journey, they spotted busy squirrels darting up, down and around the trees, gathering acorns for their winter feast.

"What are they doing?" Asked Henley, his eyes wide with wonder. "They're preparing for winter; squirrels are nature's little helpers!" Said mummy.

Soon they stumbled upon a bug hotel, made from twigs, leaves and many other things. "Wow! Look at all the little homes for bugs!" exclaimed Henley. "It's like a tiny hotel for them". The boys knelt down, using their senses to see what bugs have found their way into the hotel.

Feeling a bit hungry from all of their exploring, the boys decided it was time to have a picnic. They found a cosy spot, some benches around the table lightly dusted with snow. They spread out their colourful blankets and shared sandwiches, hot chocolate and some treats, while chatting about their favourite discoveries.

As they enjoyed their picnic, they noticed grown-ups nearby, tending to 'the Wilderness'. Some were planting new bulbs, whilst others were cleaning up the area to keep it looking beautiful.

"Look how they care for our 'Wilderness'", mummy said. "We can help too!" The boys suggested, inspired to learn more about protecting their environment.

With their tummies full, and hearts happy, Henley and Alister asked if they could return to 'the Wilderness', ready to explore, learn and play.

They knew that every visit would bring new adventures and discoveries, all while enjoying the beauty of nature with their family.

So dear reader, when winter comes to Skipton, remember to wrap up, explore 'the Wilderness', use your senses to appreciate the wonders around you.

Who knows what magical adventures are waiting for you when you visit.

