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The Wolves Who Dreaded a Zoo

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It was wild and lonely in the dark woods where Johnnie Wolf and his family lived, but Johnnie was a homebody who liked being alone with his family. The people in the nearest village had heard that wolves lived in the forest, so naturally they stayed away. Newcomers worried that the wolves would raid the village at night, but the villagers promised it had never happened and never would.

The wolves were perfectly content in the woods, where they found plenty to eat. They had no wish to leave. Johnnie had told them how his great-aunt had once been captured by traveling men and sent to spend the rest of her life in a zoo, and the whole family dreaded the same fate. That was why they kept far away from people.

One newcomer in the village refused to believe in the wolves. Wolves living near a village and never stealing from it? Nonsense! He'd find out for himself. The villagers called him foolish, but off he went, carrying a bag of food to fling at any wolves he might meet. He didn't really expect to meet any.

He hadn't gone far when he heard frightful sounds. It was only the wolves having a little chat, but to him it sounded awful, and he wished with all his heart he'd listened to the villagers.

Then the wolves spotted him. They shaded their eyes with their paws, the better to see the intruder. The man stared back, hoping to hypnotize them the way wild animals are supposed to be hypnotized. Then he dropped his bag of food and ran all the way back to the village, shouting, "There are wolves!"



And the wolves howled to one another, "Saved from a zoo!"

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