

THE SECRET IN THE ATTIC



by Laura Mansour

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Story and Illustration

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The Secret in the Attic

One day Alex was playing with his toy cars in his room when he heard a strange noise.

Someone was running around in the attic!

Alex dashed over to his sister's room and told her about the noise.

Katie did not believe him. They went to Alex's room and heard the noise again.

"You have to go in the attic and see what is making the noise," Katie said.

“Why me?”

“You’re the one who heard it,” said Katie. “You’re the one who should go in.”

“No. I want you to.”

“What?” said Katie. “You have to go in. You’re older.”

Then Mom called them down for lunch.

At the table, Katie told Alex not to tell Mom about the noise in the attic. But Alex wanted to tell Mom, anyway. They talked about the noise while eating lunch.

They went upstairs to Alex’s room.

Alex opened the attic door. That's when Katie remembered she hid her Girl Scout cookies from Alex in there.

What a surprise. They saw a meerkat, eating the cookies!

Alex, Katie, and Mom drove to the store and bought a cage.

They captured the meerkat and let him run free outside.

The next day Alex and Katie went to the park. Alex spotted what looked like a meerkat. They took a closer look. It was the same meerkat!

The meerkat screamed like a person.

Alex and Katie were startled.

Then Alex said, "Let's say hello to him."

To their surprise the meerkat answered back, "Hello! I'm a talking meerkat."

It would be nice to have a talking pet! Alex and Katie asked the meerkat if they could keep him.

"Of course you can," he said. "Those cookies were great."

“We’ll name you Zipper, because you ran all over the attic so fast we could hardly catch you,” said Alex.

They showed him to Mom.

Zipper said “Hi!” Mom screamed like Alex and Katie did.

Alex explained, “Mom, this is Zipper, he’s the same meerkat we caught the other day. He’s a very friendly talkative meerkat.”

Mom decided to let them keep Zipper as a pet.

Alex and Katie were happy because Zipper would do their chores and clean their room.

Mom was happy because sometimes Zipper would make dinner for them.

Everyone lived a happy life.

THE END

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