

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES

THE GARDEN DRAGONS
By DADDY

"Peggy, Billy and Nanette, made by falling through a magnifying glass, are talking to the growing fairies in Nanette's garden, when something begins to come up through the ground."
CHAPTER II
Billy's Battle
SOMETHING was pushing its way up through the earth. The dirt rose into a hump, and the hump shook as if about to burst.
Peggy, Billy and Nanette gazed at the creature with wonder. What kind of a creature was coming from the ground? The green growing fairies trembled. Perhaps they hadn't been planted firmly in the soil of the garden. As it was they tugged so hard to get free that they grew almost half an inch in height.
"Oh, I hope it's not old Dragon Cut-worm," whispered the green corn fairy.

"Scout!" he shouted to them, but they were too much afraid to scout. The creature wriggled toward them. Billy sprang to meet it. He seemed very small to fight that huge snake, but he wasn't going to let it harm Peggy or Nanette.
Bang! Billy hit the snake a crack with his stick. But the blow didn't seem to do much harm, for the snake wriggled on toward Peggy and Nanette. Then Billy used the sharp stick like a sword; he jabbed with all his might into the reddish brown body.
The snake felt that jab. It stopped short and began to squirm and thrash about. Billy expected to see its head come darting toward him. But while the head floundered to right and left it wriggled out of the ground like a long long snake.
"What is it?" gasped Nanette, who had never seen a snake except in pictures.
"It looks like a boa-constrictor," cried Peggy, and indeed to their tiny eyes the creature looked as big as the biggest of all serpents.
Billy snatched up a sharp stick and jumped ahead of Peggy and Billy to protect them.

that Billy gave it a second sharp jab, and then a third jab.
Those jabs hurt. The snake quit the fight right there. It began to run away. And it was so anxious to escape from this fighter with the shining sword that it didn't wait to turn around—it went right backward even faster than it had wriggled forward.
Down into its hole it wriggled, struggling to get out of sight.
The green fairies had taken down their hands to watch Billy battle with the snake.
"Brave Billy! He has saved us!" they now cried. "Brave, brave Billy!"
Billy wiped his forehead, for it was pretty hot work fighting the creature.
"Aww, that was a snake at all. It was only a big angleworm. It looked like a snake because we are so small!"
And that was true.
(Tomorrow will be told how Billy has a very narrow escape.)

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