

Ben and Boet

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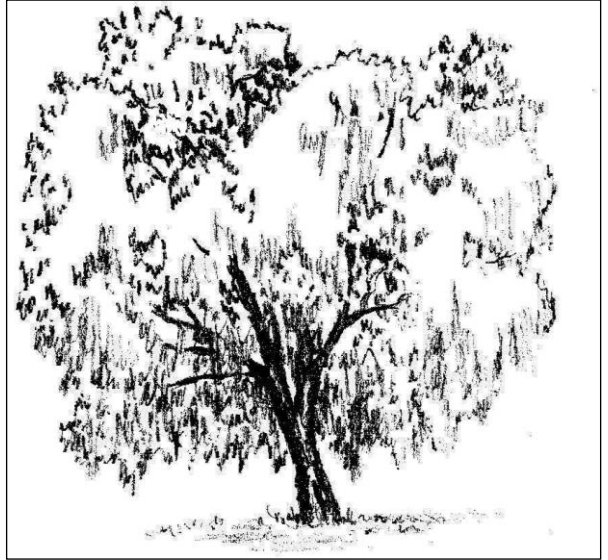
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This book belongs to.....

Willie's wire car

Ben and Boet
were busy at
Ben's house,
sitting outside,
under the tree.



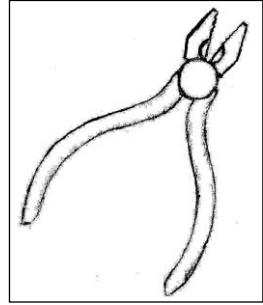
They were busy making a wire car.

The new car was for Ben's little brother,
Willie.

Willie was only five years old, but he
wanted a wire car too.

Ben and Boet were busy making one for
him.

Carefully they were bending the wire,
using a pair of pliers.



Ben had borrowed the
pliers from his father,
Hennie.

It is difficult to make a good wire car.

Ben and Boet worked slowly and carefully.

Little Willie sat and watched.

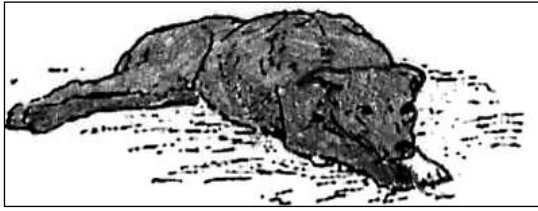
He was very excited about the wire car
that Ben and Boet were making for him.

He liked Ben and Boet very much.

He thought they were very clever.

Hennie's dog, Witvoet, was there too.

She was a nice dog, brown, with one white paw.



She lay there under the tree, watching.

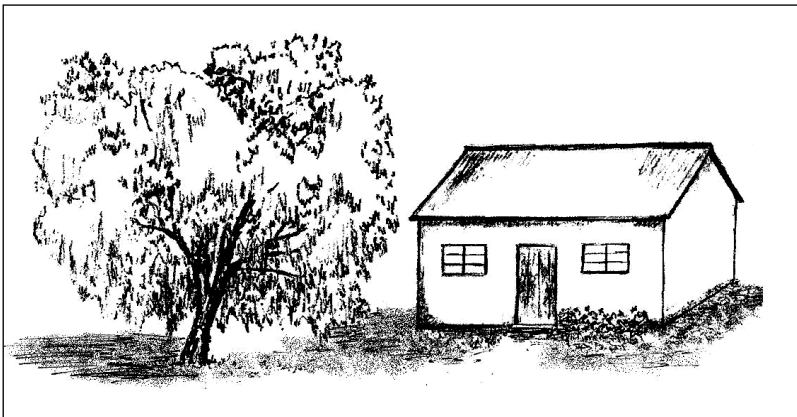
"Witvoet!" Ben said to her.

"Witvoet, do you also want a wire car?"

Willie laughed.

Witvoet wagged her tail.

Ben and Boet laughed too.



Witvoet barks

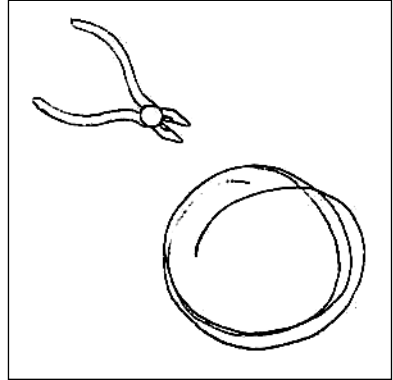
Ben and Boet worked on Willie's wire car.

Slowly and carefully they used the pliers

to bend the wire.

Slowly and carefully

they built the car.



They made the axels.

They fastened the wheels in place.

The wire car was nearly finished.

Willie felt happy, sitting and watching.

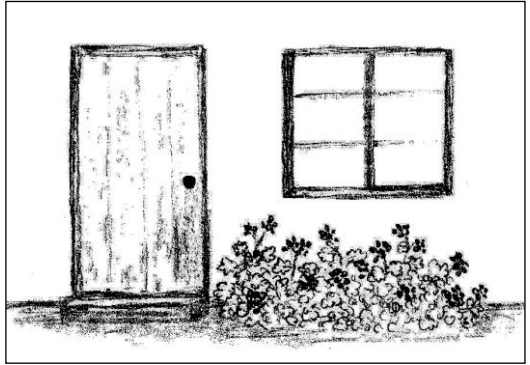
Witvoet was also there under the tree,

lying next to Willie and watching too.

Suddenly Witvoet jumped up.

The dog ran to the flowers growing next to the front door.

She stood barking at something in the garden there.



She barked and barked.

"What is it, Witvoet?" asked Ben.

He went to have a look.

Witvoet barked and barked.

It seemed that something in the flowers was frightening her.

"What can you see, Ben?" asked Boet.

"There's something here in the flowers," said Ben. "I can't see what it is, but I'll go and fetch a spade. Don't come any closer."

Ben ran off round the house.

Boet and Willie stood waiting under the tree, while Witvoet

carried on barking.

She barked and

barked at the

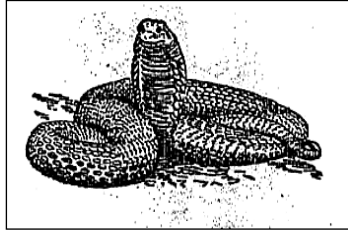
flowers.



Boet felt a bit scared.

The dog's frantic barking was making him feel afraid.

Perhaps there was a snake in the garden.



Ben soon came back.

His father came too, carrying a spade.

"Ben, go and stand there under the tree with Boet and Willie," said Hennie.

"All of you are barefoot.

Don't come any closer."

Witvoet was still barking at the flowers, barking and barking .

Ben and Boet and Willie stood watching, waiting to see what would happen.

The snake

Ben's father stood at the flower bed.

He was not afraid, because he was wearing long trousers and good strong shoes.

He lifted up the spade and brought it down hard, chopping at something behind the flowers.

Witvoet barked and barked.

Hennie chopped with the spade.

Ben and Boet and Willie stood watching.

They felt excited, but also a little bit scared.

Their feet were bare, after all.

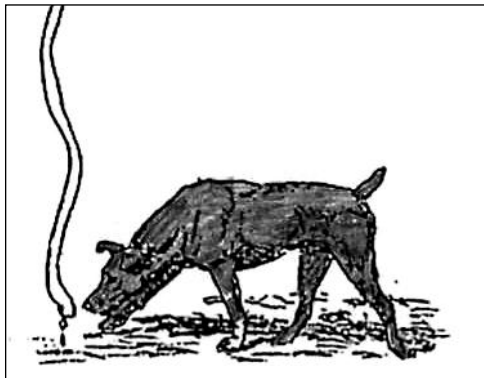
Hennie put the spade down.

He bent to pick something up.

Ben and Boet and Willie saw that it was a snake, a big yellow snake, very long.

Witvoet stopped barking and went to sniff it. Hennie held it up high, with its head hanging down to the ground.

Blood was dripping out of the snake's mouth. Witvoet sniffed at it.



"Ma!" called Ben. "Ma! Come see the snake!"

Ben's mother, Anna, came out of the front door, and was shocked and upset when she saw the huge snake.

"Never mind, Ma," said Ben.

"The snake is dead. Pa killed it."

Anna was still upset.

"It's a cobra!" she said.

"A very dangerous snake! Very poisonous!
And so near the house! And so near to all
of you too!"

Ben smiled and shook his head.

"Witvoet barked to warn us," he said.

"She is a clever dog.

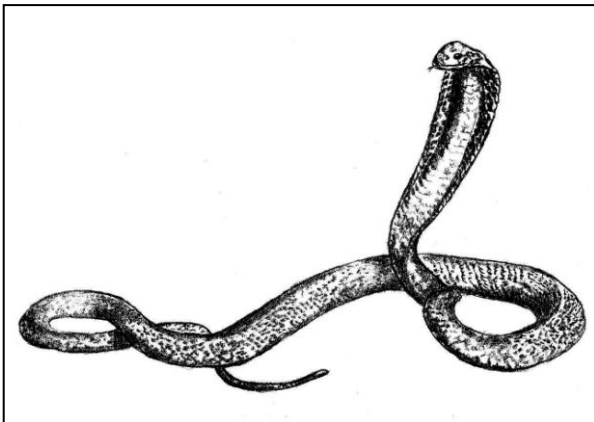
She knows that snakes are dangerous.

She warned us."

He stroked the dog's head.

Witvoet wagged her tail.

Everyone was glad that the snake was safely dead.



Witvoet's puppies

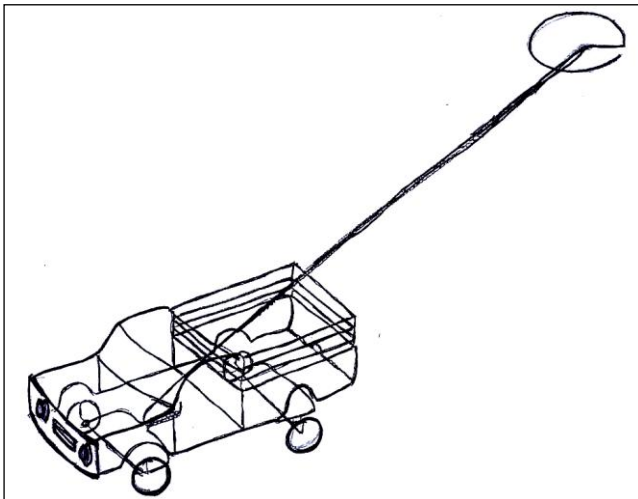
Willie's wire car was finished.

He was very happy.

He and his friends loved playing with it.

Up and down they ran in the streets of
Klipplaat.

They loved the wire car that Ben and Boet
had made for them.



One day Ben had exciting news for Boet.

"Boet, you must come to my house.

You must come and see.

We have got puppies!

Witvoet has had puppies!"

There were six puppies, very small.

Their eyes were still closed.

Witvoet lay there with them.

"Nice puppies, Witvoet!" said Boet.

The dog wagged her tail.

The puppies grew quickly.

Within a few weeks they were very playful.

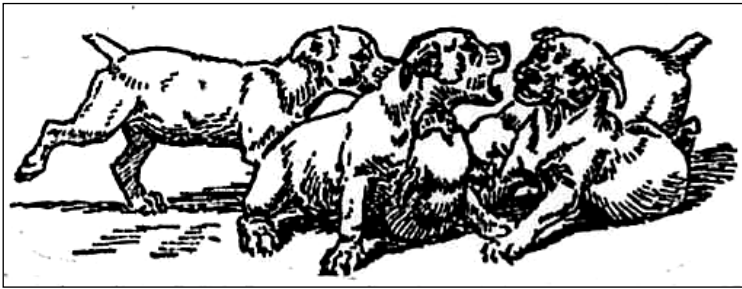
They played and fought with each other.

They made Witvoet very tired.

Boet often went to Ben's house.

He loved the puppies.

He loved to watch them playing, running after each other and biting each other.



One day Boet was there when Ben's mother brought out the puppies' food.

"Ben," she called, "Come take the puppies' food. Please put it down for me."

"Yes, Ma," said Ben, taking the food.

Ben put the big bowl of porridge down on the grass, and called the puppies.

Boet stood and watched.

Immediately all the puppies came running.



"They are hungry!" laughed Boet.

"Always hungry!" said Ben.

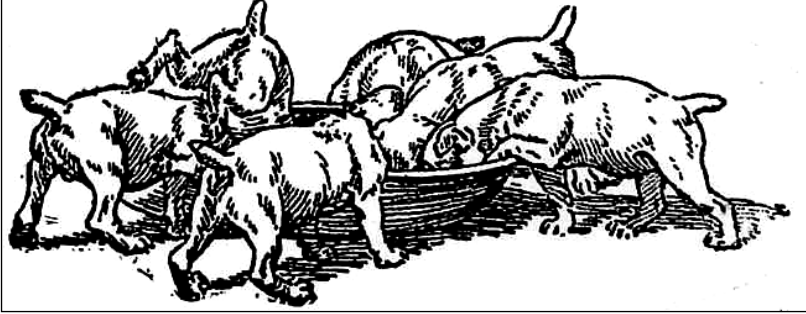
The puppies pushed and shoved each other to get to the food.

One of them tipped right in.

"Did you see that, Ben?" laughed Boet.

"That puppy fell right in.

Look, his face is full of porridge!"



The puppies ate and ate. To Boet they all looked like little fat round piglets.

He laughed again.

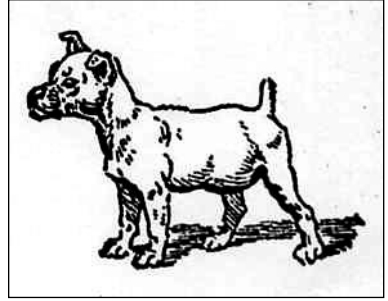
The food had made the puppies sleepy.

They lay down together on the grass in the sun and soon fell fast asleep.

Ben and Boet took their wire cars and went off to race them down the street.

Stompie and the bone

Boet was at Ben's house again, playing with Witvoet's puppies.



The puppies were very lively and playful. Boet liked them very much.

Ben's little brother, Willie, was also there. He brought out an old bone and put it down on the grass.

One of the puppies, the biggest, came and took the bone.

He began to gnaw it.



The other puppies also wanted the bone.

One of them came closer.

He was small, but brave.

The puppy with the bone began to growl.

The other puppy came still closer.

Ben and Boet and Willie sat watching.

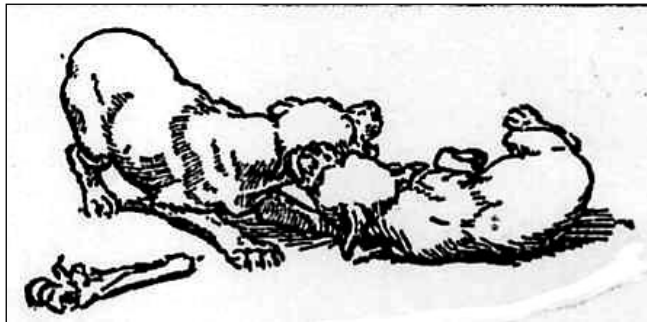
The puppy with the bone growled and growled.

Suddenly the two puppies were fighting.

They growled and squealed and made a

terrible

noise.



"Won't they get hurt?" asked Boet.

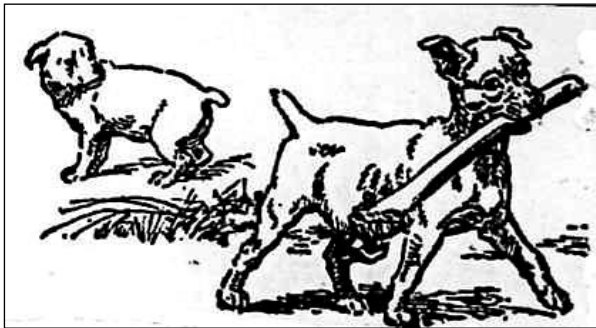
"No," said Ben. "They fight a lot."

One of the puppies won.

Boet saw that it was the smaller puppy.

The puppy took the bone and went off with it. He was going to enjoy it.

He had won it.



Willie was glad.

"That puppy is my puppy," he said.

"His name is Stompie.

He is small, but brave.

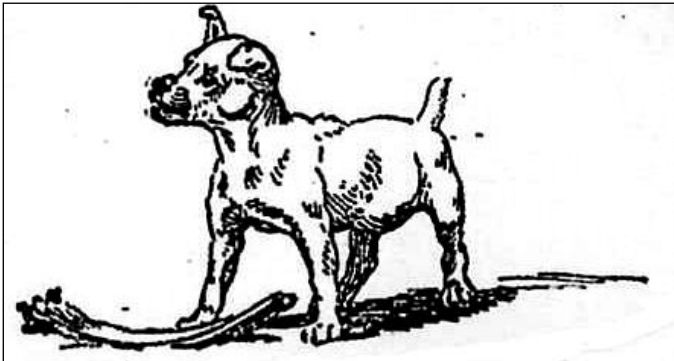
He is going to be mine."

Boet laughed.

"Small but brave!" he said. "And clever
too!"

They all laughed.

Willie felt very happy.



Good strong wire cars

Ben and Boet helped Willie make lights for his wire car.

They showed him how to fasten bottle tops onto a piece of cardboard, and then to fasten the cardboard onto the front of the wire car.

The bottle tops looked like lights.

Willie liked them.

Ben and Boet also showed him how to make the back of his wire car strong, using cardboard.

They showed him how load up tins filled

with stones onto the back of the car.

Willie was very pleased.

He and his friends took his wire car to the streets.

They ran up and down.

The tins and stones rattled and roared.

Willie and his friends had a lot of fun.

Willie's car went very fast, without breaking.

He was proud of the good strong wire car that Ben and Boet had made for him.

Ben and Boet's cars were racing about too.

Up and down in the streets of Klipplaat
they raced.

Everyone knows that it is not easy to make
a wire car.

Everyone in Klipplaat knew that Ben and
Boet were very good at making them.

