

The Mysterious Disappearance of Bobo the Bear



June was a 10-year-old girl who lived with her parents and two brothers in the town of Iroquois Falls. She liked to read and play computer games. Her older brother Marty did not let her use the computer very much. Most of the time, they didn't really get along. Marty was four years older than June. He thought he was too cool to be bothered with his little sister or his little brother, Ralph. So June ended up spending a lot of time in her room, reading books. However, she was never alone. Her numerous teddy bears and toys kept her company. One teddy bear, Bobo, was more precious to her than all of the others. Her grandmother had given it to her two years ago when June had a broken leg. After her grandmother died, Bobo became extra special, as he reminded June of her grandmother.

On Saturday, December 4, June woke up and noticed that Bobo was missing. The young girl found this very strange. She slept with Bobo every night. How could a stuffed animal disappear? June was determined to solve this mystery.

She got out of bed and started to investigate. She began by searching her room. June looked all over the floor and even under her bed. Bobo was nowhere to be found. All she found was Marty's watch, right by her dresser. She decided to enlist the help of her younger brother.

"Ralph, come here quickly," she yelled out.

Ralph ran into the room.

"What's wrong June?"

"Bobo has disappeared. I can't find him anywhere. I've looked all over the room," she explained.

"I can help you find him, if you want. I like Bobo," Ralph said.

They decided to search the house. Upstairs. Downstairs. Bobo was nowhere to be found. June was getting worried.

"Marty is always playing tricks on us. I'll bet he took Bobo," Ralph said.

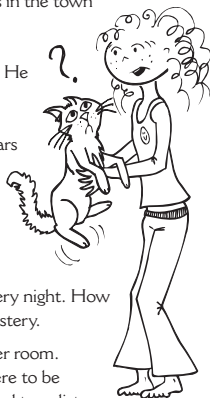
"And you know, I found his watch right by my dresser. You must be right, Ralph. Let's tell Mom."

Mom was busy cooking breakfast.

"Mom! Mom! Marty stole Bobo. Please tell him to give Bobo back!" June cried out.

"Yeah, Mom, tell him to give Bobo back," Ralph added.

"Your brother is outside. If you want to tell him something, you'll have to do it yourselves, because I'm busy with breakfast," Mom answered.



They found Marty outside. He was just coming out of the garage. They suspected that he was hiding the bear.

"Aha! What were you doing in the garage?" June asked.

"Aha!" Ralph added.

"Aha yourself. I was looking for my watch," Marty answered.

June and Ralph looked at each other and smiled. She showed him the watch as she took it out of her pocket. He reached out to grab it, but June quickly slipped the watch back into her pocket.

"I'll give you the watch when you give Bobo back," June said.

"Yeah, when you give Bobo back," Ralph added.

Confused, Marty looked at both of them and raised his eyes to the sky.

"What are you talking about?"

"You know exactly what I'm talking about. I want Bobo back. I know you took him from my room because he's not there anymore, but your watch was," June answered.

"Yeah, your watch was," Ralph added.

Ralph and June were very upset with Marty. They had his watch to prove that he had been in her room. Marty continued to claim his innocence. Ralph ran towards him, put his arms around his brother's legs, hoping to make him fall. June grabbed his shirt and started pulling at it. There was yelling and screaming coming from all three children. Their mother quickly came out to find out what was going on.

"Mommy, his watch was in my room. It proves that he kidnapped Bobo," June explained.

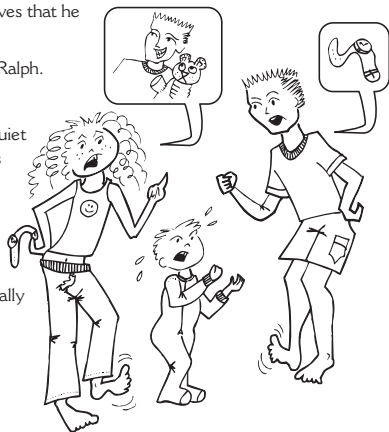
"Yeah, Mom, Marty 'napped Bobo," added Ralph.

"Mom, I did not," Marty replied.

"Enough already," Mom said. "If you guys quiet down for one minute, I can explain why Marty's watch was in June's room."

All three siblings stopped to listen.

"I found Marty's watch in the kitchen last night. I put it on top of the clean laundry until I could bring the whole load up later. When I finally went into June's room to put away her clean laundry, I must have dropped the watch on the floor."



June suddenly became very sad. She didn't know who else could have taken her teddy bear.

"Mom, it had to be Marty. It couldn't be anyone else!"

"Yeah, Mom, it couldn't be anyone else," Ralph added.

"Well, I don't care what you say, it's not me," Marty said.

Mom was losing patience with all three of them. She sent them to their rooms. June was crying. Ralph also started to cry. Marty hated going to his room, but was happy to get away from the situation. In her room, June sat on her bed and cried some more. Suddenly, she felt something strange under her pillow. She screamed at the top of her lungs. It was Bobo. He had been there the whole time. Ralph, Marty and Mom ran into her room. They saw June holding her bear.

"Well, well, well!" said Mom. "What do you know? Seems that Marty didn't take your bear after all. What do you have to say to your brother now?"

"Yeah," Ralph added. "What do you have to say to me now?"

They all had a good laugh and went down to breakfast together.

"Can I have my watch back now?" Marty asked.

"What watch? I don't have your watch." June had a big smile on her face.

"Mooommmmmmm!" Marty cried...

