



“Wolf’s Friends”

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It’s Christmastime in the woods. A thick blanket of snow has covered the trees, bushes, and ground. The forest animals have already gotten their presents. Santa brought Wolf new ice skates: how fun it is to glide across the mirror-smooth ice! But suddenly, the poor animal slips and has such an unfortunate fall that he twists his ankle. Wolf calls out to his friends for help, but neither Bear nor Fox have the time to assist him. Then, Hare arrives at the shore of the lake and spots Wolf howling in pain. Hare reckons the predator is faking it and is all ready to hop on his way, but nagging doubt forces him to stay put all the same.

Awards:

2018 5 Best-Designed Estonian Children’s Books

2018 Good Children’s Book



Reading sample

“Nice ice skates,” Hare remarked, cautiously striking up a conversation.

“They are nice, yes,” Wolf agreed. “But as you can see, I came here to skate, twisted my ankle, and now, I can’t get home anymore. It hurts so much it makes me howl. No one will help me: Bear is hibernating and Fox only wants grilled chicken. And you, Hare, won’t help me anyway, because we’re not even friends.”

“Of course we’re not friends: you’re Wolf and I’m Hare,” Hare said. “But why do you think I won’t help you?”

“Well,” Wolf said, “because hares aren’t exactly fans of wolves.”

“If I’m to be completely honest, then no, we’re not especially,” Hare replied. “Still, that doesn’t mean I won’t help you when you’re in need. You just have to promise you won’t eat me.”

“I promise I won’t eat you,” Wolf said. “And if Bear or Fox should do anything to harm you, then I’ll protect you.”

Hare squatted down next to Wolf and inspected his injured leg.

“Oh-ho-ho,” Hare exclaimed. “This isn’t good at all. You haven’t just twisted your ankle: you might even have a broken leg. We’re going to have to put a splint around it.”

“Where are we to find that?” Wolf asked fretfully.

“Don’t you worry,” Hare reassured him. “I’ve got many friends in the woods.”

Hare cupped his paws around his mouth and called out: “Hey, Hedgehog, where are you? Wolf needs first aid here!”

Hedgehog, who was very wise and knew how to treat sicknesses, crawled out from under the blanket of snow somewhere near Bear’s den. She was holding a short length of board and a roll of tape.



“You were in luck I wasn’t hibernating,” Hedgehog said. “I heard Wolf had an accident; maybe these will help.” She handed Hare the items.

“That’s great,” Hare cheered. “We’ll bind up Wolf’s leg and then, we’ll be able to help him get home.”

Hare tried setting the board on Wolf’s hurt leg, but just couldn’t seem to get it right. Hedgehog watched for a little while, then instructed him: “Set it flatwise, flatwise, then it’ll stay on better.” That was good advice.

“It’s all set!” Hare said when the splint was in place. “Now stand up, Wolf – we’ll help you get home.”

Hare wrapped his arm around Wolf to support him while Hedgehog grabbed Wolf’s ice skates so he’d have an easier time limping home. And with that, the three of them made their way towards the wolf den, where everyone had already gotten very worried.

“Thank you so much for helping me when I was in trouble,” Wolf said to his new friends. “By the way, we’re having a scrumptious cabbage pastry for Christmas dinner tonight. Why don’t you come in for a spell – there’s enough to go around for everybody!”

Translated by Adam Cullen

