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MESSY MISSY AND TIDY HEIDI

"Mithy...pwease, juth one!?" Joshua begged.

"No! I told you, NO! Grandma gave us each a bag of chocolate candy bars for Easter, and it's not my fault you ate all yours up already! So, leave me alone...their all mine!" Melissa said, holding the bag with both hands as close to her body as possible.

"Momma...Mithy won't thare dose canny barth with me!" Joshua tattled.

"Joshua, please don't whine. If your sister doesn't want to share them, then there's nothing we can say about it. It's her decision. If she wants to make herself sick by eating all of those candy bars, then we'll just have to let her. I guess she doesn't remember when you gave her some of your candy." Mrs. Gabbert said, trying to sooth Joshua, and at the same time, make Melissa feel guilty. It was a new approach to an old problem that was getting more and more difficult to handle, Missy's stinginess. She had heard about this kind of approach on one of those morning talk shows.

"OH MOM!...I'm going for a walk, and I'm taking my bag of chocolate's with me for safe keeping!" Missy sneered, as she marched away with her nose in the air. "I don't have to share

just because he shared. What kind of rule is that?" She said to herself, as she walked away from their tent at the Breezy Daze Campsite. "I think I'll go sit by the river and eat some of my candy peacefully."

As she sat down against a tree, near the water's edge, she noticed that she wasn't alone. There was a frog at the shoreline, who was busy tidying up it's territory.

"What are you doing that for?" Missy asked the frog.

"Oh, hi little girl. I'm just cleaning up my neighborhood. I can't stand when people leave messes behind. Even other frogs don't clean up after themselves, which means that us nice frogs have to do their dirty work for 'em." The frog answered, as it finished straightening up leaves and sticks.

"Yah! People should be nice like you and each do their part, and we would have a much cleaner world to live in!" Missy agreed, as she grabbed her candy wrappers up off of the grass trying to hide the mess from the nosey frog. But it was too late. This frog didn't miss much, even though it only had tiny little eyes.

"My friends call me 'Tidy Heidi'. What do other humans call you?" The frog asked, trying to be friendly.

"My name is Melissa, but everybody calls me 'Missy'."

"'Messy Missy'! That's what I'll call you, tee-hee!" The frog fell over onto her back from giggling so hard. Missy even smiled at the silly name, even though the truth must have hurt.

Suddenly, the wind began to howl through the tops of the trees, and it seemed much darker now. Just then, another frog came hopping over. This one was much bigger than Heidi, and looked very muscular. It couldn't stop jumping. It seemed very excited about something.

"What's wrong, 'Mr. Big Bucks, Chuck'?" Asked Tidy Heidi. "You look as if you'd seen a ghost!"

"I wish it had only been a ghost, but it's much worse than that, Heidi. Can't you feel it? There's a terrible storm coming...and the custom-made lily-pad I had built for me just blew away, because of this awful wind...and I have no place to stay...and no time to rebuild a place with this storm coming so quickly!" He said, still jumping. He seemed even more hysterical now.

"Calm down...relax...you can stay with me...I don't have much, but you're welcome to whatever I got...Oh! This dumb storm! It's gonna mess up all of this nice clean ground I have been working on!" Heidi said, beginning to get a little hysterical herself.

"Oh! Heidi, that's so nice of you to share your home with me! I really appreciate your kindness. I will make it up to you somehow...I know, when the storm blows over, I will help you clean this place up again." Chuck said smiling.

Missy watched as the two frogs rushed around to gather sticks and leaves to protect Heidi's home from the whirling winds. She was beginning to shiver herself. The temperature

was dropping rapidly, and she realized that she had better head back to the tent. As she got up to walk away, the two frogs stopped what they were so busily doing, and standing side by side, they said goodbye to their human friend.

Heidi said, "It was nice to meet you, Missy!"

And Chuck added, "Be sure and go somewhere safe until this storm blows over."

Missy said goodbye and started to run back towards the campsite. She was in such a hurry that she had forgotten her bag of chocolate bars. It started to rain wickedly as she stopped to decide whether to keep going and get to the tent safe and dry, or whether she should go back to get her precious chocolate's.

"I bet my brother would like a candy bar right now, 'cuz he gets pretty scared when it storms." Missy thought out loud. "I better hurry and run back to get them."

She ran even faster now, so it didn't take long for her to find her candy bag and get back to the tent.

As she rushed into the tent, dripping from head to toe, she looked for Joshua instantly.

"Joshua, where are you? Oh...there you are. Look at what I have for you." She said, handing him a wet chocolate bar. "I met some really nice frogs today, and I learned that even if you don't think you have much, it seems like a lot more when you can share it with someone else."

She looked up at her Mom, who was now holding Joshua in her arms, and saw her smiling one of her nicest smiles.