

*Jane Hissey*

# Little Bear Lost



*Janet Hissey*  
**Little Bear  
Lost**



"Do you think anyone will find me?" he called from underneath the heap.





**B**EFORE Old Bear could answer, Bramwell Brown, Duck and Rabbit ran into the room. Soon they were hiding too.

"We're playing hide and seek," explained Bramwell from under a cushion. "Did anyone see us hide?"

"Only me," said Old Bear. "Who's looking for you?"





“OH dear,” said Bramwell miserably, “we’ve done it again: we’ve forgotten to get anyone to look for us.”

“That’s a pity,” said Duck. “It could have been a good game.”

“Old Bear,” said Little Bear thoughtfully, “if we hide again, will you try and find us?”

“Of course,” said Old Bear. “Are you ready?”



**H**E covered his eyes and started to count.

"One,

Two,

Three," he began as Rabbit jumped into a vase.

"Four,

Five,

Six," he continued, as Duck climbed into a box.

"Seven,

Eight,

Nine," he counted as Bramwell hid behind the curtain.

"TEN!" he called; "I'm READY!"

And by then Little Bear had vanished too.



OLD Bear began to search for the others. First he found a sock that he had lost weeks ago. And then he found ten marbles that had rolled underneath things. He even found Cat, who wasn't really lost or hiding!

But he couldn't find the other toys.

"It's no good," he sighed. "I can't see any of you. Can we tidy up a bit and start again?"

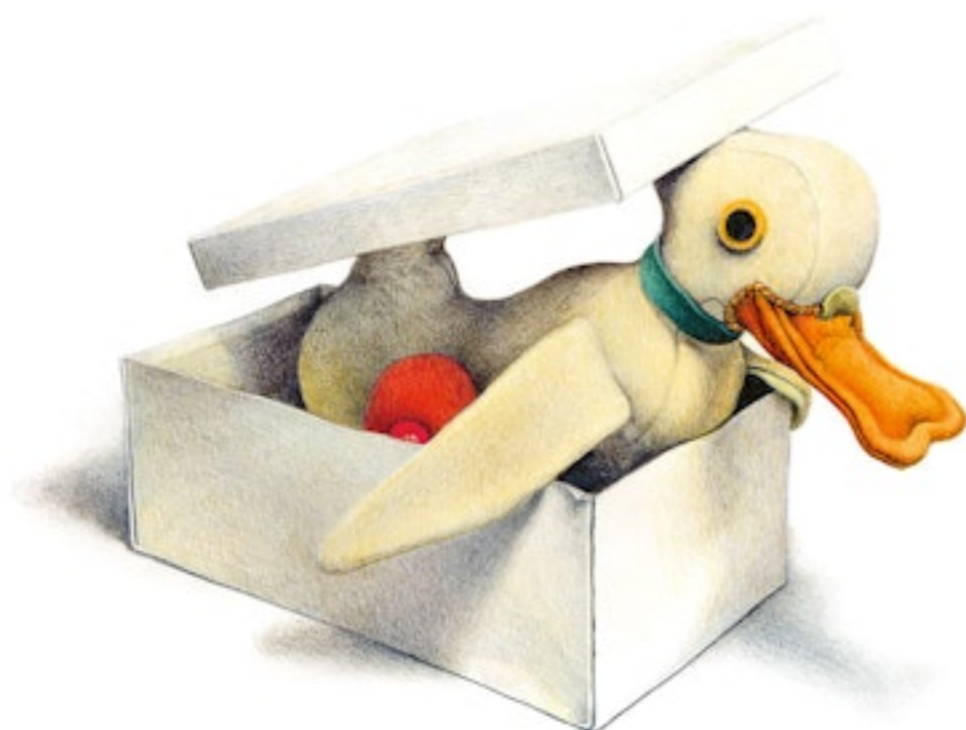


THE other toys came out of their secret hiding places, one by one. All of them, that is, except Little Bear.

"Where is he?" asked Bramwell.

"He can't be far away," said Old Bear, "Let's call him."

They climbed on a chair and shouted "LITTLE BEAR!" so loudly that they nearly fell off!





**B**RAMWELL peered under the bed. "He could be here," he said.

"I'm not going in there," said Duck. "It's all dark and dusty."

"I'll go!" cried Rabbit. "It's just like a tunnel and I love tunnels." He was just about to dash under the bed when Bramwell caught him by the tail.

"Take this string," he said, "then you can't get lost. We'll all hold the other end!"

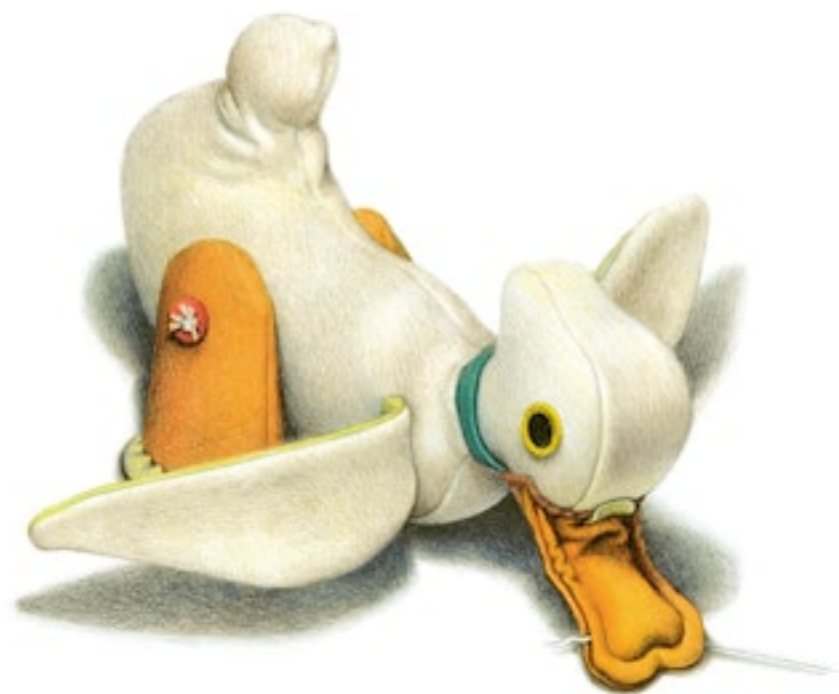


WITH the string tied round his middle, Rabbit disappeared under the bed. The others watched and waited.

Suddenly the string gave such a jerk that Duck fell on his beak.

"He's here!" called Rabbit. "I'm holding onto him. Can you pull us out?"

They all pulled hard on the string and out popped Rabbit clutching, not Little Bear, but . . .





... a fluffy slipper!

"Oh," said Duck, "I don't think that's Little Bear."

"It felt like him," said Rabbit sadly, "and it was the right size."

"Never mind, Rabbit," said Old Bear, "You did your best. I'm sure Little Bear will turn up soon."



“LET’S make a poster,” suggested Old Bear, “with a picture of Little Bear on it. Then everyone will know who we are looking for.”

Bramwell did a painting of Little Bear in his red trousers and made him look a bit sad.

“He does look lost,” said Duck. “I hope we find him soon.”





**B**RAMWELL showed his poster to all the toys.

"We need everyone to look for Little Bear," he said.

They all wanted to help and, within minutes, everyone was searching. They rolled up rugs and climbed up curtains. They peered behind plants and jumped into drawers. But still there was no sign of Little Bear.





**B**RAMWELL sat down on the floor. "I'm tired," he sighed.

"And I'm hungry," said Duck.

"Well," said Old Bear, "perhaps we need a little break. We'll have the picnic I packed this morning, then we'll carry on looking."

He led the way to the basket of food and lifted the lid. "There," he said proudly, "what do you think of that?"





THEY all peered into the basket . . .  
“Well, that IS a surprise!” gasped Bramwell.  
There, tucked under a teacloth and looking very full,  
was Little Bear.

Bramwell lifted him out of the basket and gave him  
a big hug.

“Hmm,” said Duck, staring at  
the crumbs that covered  
Little Bear, “we seem  
to have found a bear  
and lost a picnic!”

“Don’t worry,”  
said Old Bear.  
“There’s plenty left for us!  
It’s picnic time!”



THEY dragged the basket, bumpety bump, down the stairs and out into the garden.

What a wonderful feast; they finished every crumb!

"Now," said Old Bear, "it's time for a rest. It's been a very busy day."

"No!" cried Little Bear, "let's have another game of hide and seek!"

But there was no reply. Leaning against the tree and full of food, all the other toys were fast asleep.



For Ivan



A TEMPLAR BOOK

First published in the UK in 1986 by Hutchinson Children's Books

This edition published by Templar Books

an imprint of Bonnier Books UK

4th Floor, Victoria House,

Bloomsbury Square, London WC1B 4DA

Owned by Bonnier Books

Sveavägen 56, Stockholm, Sweden

[www.bonnierbooks.co.uk](http://www.bonnierbooks.co.uk)

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1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

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ISBN 978-1-80078-874-9

Printed in China

