



Two Frogs in Milk

Retold by Nicky Rafferty

A couple of frogs, from the duckpond, were playing on the farm and their game took them into a barn where they accidentally hopped into a milk churn and found they couldn't get out again. The sides were slippery and wet, and they could not touch the bottom so, with nothing firm to spring off from they couldn't jump out. Round and round they swam, hoping someone would rescue them and after a couple of hours of this both frogs were exhausted and one of them decided that there was no point carrying on. Believing that they would never manage to escape, he said goodbye to his friend then stopped swimming and sank to the bottom, drowning in the milk.

The other frog was upset but felt unable to help his friend, he didn't have enough strength to keep both of them afloat. He didn't give up though, instead he tried different ways to keep himself going. He sang his favourite songs and swam to the rhythm, he frequently changed direction and speed to add interest and he recited rhymes and poems to keep his spirits up. This frog believed that, sooner or later, something would change.

It began to get increasingly difficult to swim; he must be really tired! It felt as though the milk was getting thicker. He... must... keep... going. Round and round and...

He realised he was now in... solid milk. With all that swimming, round and round, it had slowly been churned into butter and was so firm that the little frog was able to bend his legs and jump free. He'd made it. Without his friend, but he'd made it. He was alive and he was free and he hopped back to the duckpond to tell the others what had happened. The farmer's wife had had a hectic morning, the baby wasn't well, the cat had had kittens under the kitchen table and the dog had buried one of her boots somewhere. Goodness me! She still hadn't got round to churning the butter and it was almost lunch time. She went over to the milk churn and... stared. She was puzzled, amazed and then delighted. Well, that was one less job to do that

day. But the second surprise, when she emptied the butter into a pot, wasn't quite so lovely!