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Post No. 11

FISH UP A TREE

I know that this blog post has a strange title, but sometimes I feel that it is best to get straight to the point, and this blog post is about fish up a tree. I know that it is unlikely that you have looked up into the branches of a tree and seen a fish, or indeed seen a fish going up a tree, but it can happen. Fish can get up trees. If you want to know how, just carry on reading.

I had completely and utterly recovered from that horrible cold that had made me rather unwell and very grumpy, and was in a sunny mood when I got back from visiting Grandpa and Grandma Hamster. Well, I was in a sunny mood until I went to see my friend Jelly Bean.

Jelly Bean asked me if I could do her a little favour. Now, Jelly Bean is my friend, so of course I was only too happy to say that I would help her. What she said to me next was a very strange request (especially bearing in mind that Jelly Bean is a fish). She said, "Harrison, please will you help me climb that tree which I can see through the window?"

I said, "Jelly Bean, I would love to help you, but you don't ever leave your bowl. How on earth are you going to get up a tree?"

Jelly Bean replied, "Well, I go for walks, don't I? You could hoist my bowl up the tree using your dental floss, you silly hamster!"

"Well, I could do that, I suppose, but why on earth do you want to go up a tree, Jelly Bean?" I asked.

"If I knew you were going to be so difficult about it, I could have asked one of the gerbils to help me!" huffed Jelly Bean.

Of course, I could not possibly allow Jelly Bean to ask a gerbil to help instead of me, so I asked no more questions and hoisted Jelly Bean's bowl up the tree using my dental floss.

It was hard work to hoist up her bowl, and I'm not quite sure how I finally managed it, but here is a picture of me in action, hoisting Jelly Bean up the tree in her bowl.



I went back inside to sit down after all that hard work, and you will not believe what I saw. I am sure you will never guess, so I will tell you. I saw a fish bowl. I thought it was a bit strange that a fish bowl was right there, in the same place where Jelly Bean's bowl usually sat, considering that I had just hoisted Jelly Bean's bowl up a tree. I looked through the window and checked. Sure enough, there was Jelly Bean, swimming around in her bowl up in the branches of the tree. I went up to the other fish bowl and peered inside. I could see a fish swimming around, but it was not Jelly Bean. This fish was yellow, with orange fins and green eyes. I pressed my face up to

the edge of his bowl to see him better, and a few seconds later, he pressed his face to the inside of his bowl and was staring back at me.



"Why are you staring at me?" asked the fish.

I continued to stare at him, saying, "You are not Jelly Bean!"

He said, "I should hope not! I am Hercules. What might your name be, little gerbil?"

"I AM NOT A GERBIL! I am Harrison Hamster I, and I am a hamster!" I exclaimed.

With a very sorry expression on his face, Hercules said, "I'm sorry for making that mistake, Harrison. You look a bit like a gerbil I know."

"Well," I said indignantly, "I am not a gerbil."

"I am truly sorry for my mistake, Harrison. Now, would you like to be friends with me?" asked Hercules.

I was feeling a little sad, because I was missing Jelly Bean already. "Yes," I said, "I would love to be friends with you. I have had some great adventures with my friend Jelly Bean, who is also a fish, but now that she lives in a tree, I don't suppose I'll see her as much as I used to, except when I look out of the window."

"May I ask how Jelly Bean got up a tree? I never leave my bowl, you see, but I am a very adventurous fish, and I would certainly love to go up a tree."

"Say no more, Hercules! I helped Jelly Bean to get up that tree, and I would be very pleased to help you too, if you really would like to go up a tree."

"Oh, Harrison, I would love to do that! What an adventure! We are going to be great friends!"

Here is a picture of me hoisting Hercules up the tree in his bowl.



Here is a picture of Jelly Bean and Hercules in their bowls, up in the tree together. As you can see, they are staring at each other through their bowls.



"What are you doing here?" Jelly Bean asked Hercules.

Hercules explained, "I wanted to see how you got up a tree, so Harrison very kindly showed me."

"Well, I came up this tree to get away from you and here you are!" exclaimed Jelly Bean.

"I don't understand. You don't even know me. Why did you want to get away from me?" asked Hercules.

"I heard they were going to put another fish into my bowl and I was afraid it would be an unfriendly fish who would chase me around in circles all day, and not speak to me or play with me."

"Well, why don't you get to know me? You might find that I would make a good friend."

"Yes, I have to admit that you are a very nice fish, and perhaps we do have something in common. Do you like being up here in this tree, Hercules?"

"No, Jelly Bean. The wind is blowing and my bowl is rocking from side to side and water keeps dripping out. I don't like being up in this tree at all."

"Neither do I, Hercules. I think we should call Harrison and ask him to bring us down. You seem to be a nice fish, and we might enjoy living together."

Here is a picture of me bringing Jelly Bean and Hercules down from the tree in their bowls using my dental floss.



I said, "You fish have put me to an awful lot of trouble for what seems to be a very silly reason. In fact, there was really no sensible reason at all for either of you to go up that tree."

Jelly Bean and Hercules looked at each other through their bowls and laughed, saying, "We have upset the little gerbil!"



I said, "You know that I am a hamster and not a gerbil. You have upset the little hamster!"

"Honestly, Harrison, give that whole 'NOT A GERBIL' thing a rest! Of course we know that you are a hamster. It is just funny to see you get so worked up when we call you a gerbil. Thanks for bringing us down from that tree. Now we can all be friends down here on the ground."

Of course, I did want to be friends with Jelly Bean and Hercules, but I was still a bit miffed that after all I had done for them, they had the nerve to call me a gerbil.

The moral of this blog post is that sometimes you do friends favours for no sensible reason at all, and they make fun of you and call you a gerbil anyway. If you are a good



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sport like me, you will get over it, even if you are a bit miffed. That's just how life is sometimes.

Bye for now!

Harrison Hamster I
19th October 2011