Billy Bogglesworth and the Road to Muffinville
And Other Stories

By David Whitney
Billy Bogglesworth

One fine morning, at a quarter to two
The sun came up on Kalamazoo
All the Kings horses were prancing about
When suddenly Billy Bogglesworth came out

He came out of his house on Farnwiggle Street
And he looked so proud as he marched on his feet
He marched up the street just as fast as he could
And he walked all the way to the castle of Wood
Now the castle of Wood was made of wood and some jade
Where the Queen and her maid liked to make marmalade
But then Billy Bogglesworth knocked on the door
He knock-knock-knocked, then he knocked once more

So the Queen let him in, but she was afraid
Because Billy Bogglesworth liked marmalade
And she knew he would eat just as much as he could
He would eat all he could in the castle of Wood
Well he took a big plate and put it right on his head
He piled on biscuits and he piled on bread
He grabbed a big cup full of marmalade jam
He took a big bite and he said, "Thank you ma’am."

But he didn’t stop there, for Billy was starvin’
He knew he could eat much more than his pal Marvin
So he gobbled up jellies and briskets and puffins
Which make very good late-night gooseberry stuffins
He ate salads and carrots and broccoli and peas
He ate strawberry bric-a-brac hoot-toot with ease
He ate pizzas and pumpkins and banana zucchini
He made them all disappear just like Houdini

And then the good Queen finally got mad
For Billy Bogglesworth was being quite bad
For he was never invited and he never said please
And he never had asked for the marmalade cheese

And to her surprise Billy held out a can
He had the very last marmalade can in his hand
Then the Queen had enough of this terrible feast
She didn’t like it one bit, not in the least
But to her surprise Billy stopped and he stared
He stopped and he stared while the Queen and maid glared
He looked at the can and he started to frown
And without making a sound he put the can down

"I think I'm too full", Billy said with a peep
And he looked at the dishes sitting high in a heap
"I think that I'm done now," and he started to seep
He seeped to the floor, and he fell fast asleep
Then the King and the Queen and the maid and the men
Rolled Billy all the way down the street to his friend
Billy’s friend Marvin was happy to see
That Billy could never eat as much marmalade as he
Cats and Dogs and Frogs

Scat was a cat who didn’t like dogs
He’d rather sit around having lunch with the frogs
For frogs were good talkers, they’d ribbit and hum
They’d talk all day long, but doggies were dumb
Dogs don’t hop up and down like these frogs
And they aren’t very good at staying on logs
They can’t fling their tongues and catch flies with a flick
The best they can do is bark and chase a stick

Frogs are green and spotted and yellow
My friend mister Toad is a real handsome fellow
Dogs are all hairy, they’re practically rugs
While frogs are all slimy and gooey like slugs

But Scat had to go, because the moon was arising
And things that jump out at night can be a little surprising
So he ran through the bushes and leaped through the trees
But when he got home he’d forgotten his keys

So he bat at the door but no one was home
How could they leave him here outside all alone?
When suddenly Oscar the dog let him in
And he scampered inside and he said with a grin
“Dogs aren’t so bad, and they’re not really too hairy,
And they’re good to have near
when things are getting too scary.
They can bark nice and loud so that no one comes near
While frogs’ only hide like a moose or a deer”

That’s right,” said Oscar, “And don’t you forget,
a dog that is faithful is the bestest dog yet.”
So off to the kitchen went the dog and the cat
And they stayed up all night talking about this thing and that
Rudy Tooty

Once upon a time in the land of McTooty
Lived a little old man three feet tall name of Rudy
Who owned a poor donkey who was as slow as molasses
And bumped into things so he got him some glasses

Now Rudy was happy but he wondered out loud
If there was a reason he was sort of shortish and proud
Proud of the way he could make certain things
Like shoes without buttons, or kites without strings
He could take a small stick and make a small spoon
He could take a big tree branch and make it a broom
He could take wire and wood and make a toy train
Any left over paper would make a nice plane

But people were mean and they said he was weird
That he looked like an elf with a funny white beard
The children would laugh and they’d gather and fidget
They teased him whenever he made a new widget

The week before Christmas Rudy had enough joking
He filled up his fireplace and started it smoking
He got on his donkey and climbed on the roof
If he was an elf then he would give them all proof
He pulled out his flute and played “Rooty toot toot”
He played “Rooty toot toot” right on his flute
He played several songs hoping Santa would hear
He played “Silent Night”, “The First Noel” and
“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Then all of a sudden, from out of the sky
He saw nine little reindeer and one jolly guy
The sleigh was all sparkly and covered with candy
For when Santa was hungry it was really quite handy

He landed real smooth on the top of the house
And the nine little reindeer were as quiet as a mouse
He said, “Well Rudy, my friend, are you ready to go?
I’m one elf short and I want you to know,
"That you've always been special, you've always been kind,
You've helped out your neighbor, and never did mind,
You're the finest of helpers, and I'm real pleased to say
That you are coming with me to the North Pole to stay."

Now Rudy was glad, he knew just what to do
He hitched up his donkey with some tape and some glue
And Santa called out, "Onward Cupid, onward Blitzen,
Onward little donkey, there are toys that need fixin'!"
Rumple Smilkscreen

Rumple Smilkscreen could never be seen
His feet and his hair were invisible it seems
And everything in-between

---

He used to walk down at the beach
and makes footprints in the sand
Sometimes he'd put his feet in the air and walk on his hands
Leaving hand prints instead of footprints upon the land

He liked to play jokes on bullies and meanies
He'd trip them and he'd trick them
and pelt them with beanies
He liked to cook dinner using mostly bun-length weenies
One day he was fishing with his invisible pole fisher
When a really big fish jumped out of the swisher
And it almost hit a lady but it barely just missed her

At last he was painting at Birkinstock out back
When the paint can went falling off of the rack
And Rumple became see-able in orange and black
At first he tried running but he slipped and he fell
And he was surrounded by one hundred or more
I couldn’t really tell
And some kid got excited and started to yell

The boy shouted out loud that all should come near
The invisible man was standing right here
So they came and they stared and it filled him with fear
But a funny thing happened, they started to cheer
They smiled and they laughed and grinned ear to ear
For they loved Rumple Smilksscreen and made it quite clear

They gave him a hat and a coat and a key to the city
They thanked him for making their town very pretty
And Miss Smurtle gave him an invisible kitty
On a sea of blue near the island of Nots
Commander Mic Flubbadub wore his pajamas with spots
And he sailed on his boat that he named Miss Mandy
And he drank purple fizzes with straws made of candy

To his surprise he saw a tiny ship sail
It was maybe no bigger than a baby squirrel’s tail
So he slowed down his boat to get a closer peek
And that’s when he heard the funniest squeak

Somebody tiny down there on the deck
Was singing a song like a singing song speck
And he barely could hear what the little speck sang
So he leaned even closer and the tiny voice rang
“I’m a little sailor on the Sea of Sandaree
And I’ve got me a sea horse and a tail colored three
I’m as happy as a Miff-Mitt that’s just escaped from a clam
I’m a brave little soldier yes that’s what I am!”
So Commander Mic Flubbadub was delighted to find them
And wondered how many miles had travelled behind them
So he said to the little man down on the deck
“Where are you going my little friend speck?”
The tiny sailor was startled but shouting he said
"We've got many leagues to go mister Elephant Head
The trip will take years and some months I'm afraid
All the way to the coast of Bim-Scatter-Ba-Raid"

"Bim-Scatter-Ba-Raid is not far for me at all
I can get you there faster than someone so small"
So he picked up the boat and placed it right on his shoulder
And he turned to the west never hitting a boulder

In a few short hours he had sailed the whole way
And the whole group of miniature people shouted "Hooray!"
But no gift they could give was large enough to be seen
So they gave him their boat which was purple and green

So now the Commander sails with the boat on his hat
And when other sailors see him they say,
'Would you look at that?"
Pink Pepperoni

There once was a girl named Heather Spumoni
Who worked for her dad at the Parlor of Tony
But she got tired of making pizza without any feeling
So she stayed up one night and made something appealing

She added and stirred and she cooked and she baked
She used every ingredient a chef ever maked
She chopped it and sliced it and served it up fine
She was quite sure that her dad wouldn’t mind

At lunch the next day the orders came in
For pizza with sausage and cheese nice and thin
But finally an order for pepperoni came through
Heather Spumoni knew just what she’d do

She took out her special new original treat
And she placed it right on the top nice and neat
She hit the bell and the order went out
She knew that the people would like it no doubt
Minutes went by and she waited with a smile. When bang through the door came the waiter looking riled. “You can’t have a pizza with pink pepperoni! This isn’t a pizza, this is a phony!”
And in walked the people and in walked her dad
And they all looked at Heather who was looking quite sad
"Try it you'll like it," said Heather, "If only
you'll try just a bit of the pink pepperoni"

Slowly they all took a slice of the pink pepperoni
Made by non-other than Heather Spumoni
And opened their mouths and chewed it like mad
And soon the whole restaurant was feeling real glad

For pink pepperoni is a wonderful treat
And if you ever get a chance you really should eat
Because it tastes like bubble gum and looks like baloney
And now you know the tale of Heather Spumoni
The Road to Muffinville

We had to climb Krazy Legs hill
And jump the river of Nill
And drink from a fountain that tended to spill
On the road to Muffinville

We carried star fruit in our sacks
And purple canaries on our backs
While running down the railroad tracks
On the road to Muffinville
We swam across Lake Labrador
And saw a thing we'd never seen before
And passed a giraffe that was two foot four
On the road to Muffinville

We got a little weak in the knees
And the butter flies made us sneeze
And we got tripped up by the sick-a-more trees
On the road to Muffinville

On the fifty third day
Of the twenty second month
Of the thirteenth year
We were half way there
So we all sat down on the orange grass
And drank cherry pisters and took a nap
On the road to Muffinville
We borrowed pogo sticks from a guy named Nick
We rode in triple-file until we got sick
Then we mailed the pogos to his cousin Vick
On the road to Muffinville

We climbed the ladder that looks like a chain
Above the cloud where they make rain
Then they made us climb down but we didn’t complain
On the road to Muffinville
We rode a goat who rode a bear
Who rode a car from here to there
We took a bus from Festus Cove
To the gossamer pools in which we dove
We found five-leaf clovers at pumpkin valley
And clover-leaf fives in plimpkins alley
We ate rainbow colored carrots at Careful Corner
We fed striped and dotted parrots at little Jack Horner’s

Finally the sign said there was one mile to go
So we ran like mad and I stubbed my little toe
We finally made it to Muffinville but wouldn’t you know
That Muffinville for the first time ever was closed
At first we all screamed at the top of our lungs
Then we started to cry, we’d really been stung
Then we started to laugh for there was nothing else to do
Until the wind started in and we were glad that it blew

For it blew away a part of the sign
And after we read it we were feeling fine
For Muffinville was closed next week not tonight
And that made everything all right
The Flying Zucchini
of Bim-Scatter-Ba-Raid

Out in the forest of Bim-Scatter-Ba-Raid
The Zucchini brothers grew up
in the trees where they played
They would swing from vines
from the tallest of trees
They would fly through the air
with the greatest of ease

And children would come from miles around
To watch the Zucchini’s flip without touching the ground

For years they did all their tricks for free
Until a man from the Circus Bircus dropped in to see
He was convinced that the Zucchini were great
And could earn him big money he’d collect at the gate
So they dressed all in green and went to the tent
And dazzled the crowds for the money they spent
But one night at the show a child could not pay
And he sat outside of the tent the whole day

Then Bernie Zucchini saw the kid and cried,
"Why does this one have to sit outside?"

Then the man at the gate got very upset
For if this child could not pay then he would have to get
Then Beanie Zucchini looked down at the lad
"This doesn't seem fair - he is looking so sad"
"I used to watch you swing in the trees,
But now I can't watch you on the trapeze"
So Bartie Zucchini tried to explain
Just why it was that they had changed

"We had to get jobs so we could buy houses
and cheese and small hats for our tiny pet mouses
So since you don't have enough money to pay
Why don't you come swing as a Zucchini today?

So he scrambled inside and dressed all in green
And compared to the others was looking quite lean
But since he didn't know how or what he could do
He mostly rode on their shoulders and shouted "Whoo-hoo!"
They threw him around
like a football and then
They spun him in circles
and did it again
The crowd cheered him on
as he climbed in the cannon
And good thing for him
there was a soft place to land in
What was I thinking?

What was I thinking all the way to the bus?  
When I wore my pajamas instead of my tux  
We went on a field trip which was sure to be cool  
But I’d left my lunch way back at the school

What was I thinking that night in December?  
When it was snowing outside and I didn’t wear my sweater  
And my mom told me to be careful of the weather  
I almost froze solid but I’m getting much better

What was I thinking when I went to the races  
I wore my new shoes but forgot to wear laces  
You should have seen the look on my friends faces  
They looked like someone who had just gotten braces

What was I thinking when I made Sandy dinner  
I’d used too much candy and not enough liver  
And the brownmashed potatoes made everyone quiver  
I ended up washing the plates in the river
What was I thinking when I fed that old raccoon?  
Who liked to steal things from our garbage at noon  
He smiled really nice but then chased me with a spoon  
I think maybe I woke up that day an hour too soon

What was I thinking when I dyed my hair green  
So green in fact that my mother made a scene  
And she made me take a bath so I would get clean  
But the hair on my head stayed green for a week or so it seemed
LOST IN THE COUCH

On Sarah Bibbity Drive near Parker and Clive
Stands a house that has been there since 1955
And in the middle of the home sitting there all alone
Is the puffiest couch that ever was sown

For when people come in to check out the house
They always have a seat right there on the couch
But they never can escape for the pillows are too puffy
And then after awhile they no longer feel stuffy

There’s the Turstons from Texas and the Kipers from Melloy
And their twin boys Frank and Fred with their popper-gun toys
There’s Miss McFlurry who was in such a hurry
Just how she got sucked in is still a little blurry

There’s a cat they call Long-Tail, who is white and black
And a policeman named Jack who says he has to get back
The painter who came to paint the house is named Mike
And somehow he managed to bring in his bike
Peter and Paul look for coins on the floor
But after so many years they can’t find any more
The baker bakes pies made out of the stuffing
And believe it or not they taste good I’m not bluffing

There’s a Zarsur and a Markle bean and a thing that can scream
There are Miff-Mitts and apricot pits and bowls of ice cream
There’s a tank full of worms that are all gooey and sticky
There’s an annoying young mule that’s all angry and kicky
And no one ever
can leave from the couch
Even though we wish
at least Mister Grouch
Could crawl out the top
and go back to his pad
Maybe he needs to spend
more time with his Dad

Then all of a sudden a strange package came down
And it made a noise like a clock winding down
The baker shouted that everyone better duck
For the package would explode and hit like a truck
When the dust was all gone everything was just fine
We all stood in the couch and we waited in line
For the baker made cookies that were jasper and clear
So if you ever need to find us we are still here

If you ever want to chat better call on the phone
And don’t sit on the couch or you’ll join our strange home
But don’t call us on Sundays ’cause that’s when we sing
We don’t answer the phone we just let it ring
Sea Shell Suzie

Suzie collected sea shells on the shore
She had lots of shells but she wanted some more
She rented a boat and sailed all around the isle
She collected quite many and she made a huge pile

After so long they called her Sea Shell Suzie
She had so many shells she even filled her jacuzzi
"Sea shells are pretty," Suzie said as she carried,
I’m happy with my shells and I’ll never get married"
There were pink shells and white shells and shells that were blue
There was one shell that looked a lot like a shoe
There was a trumpet type shell that made a nice tune
So she blew it in the morning and the evening and at noon

But the shellfish were sad Suzie did what she'd done
And they all got together one day in the sun
They crawled back into the shells and walked back to the ocean
Making sure not to wake Suzie with any loud motion

When Suzie woke up she was surprised to find
That all of the shells were gone and left her behind
But she found the small footprints of the shellfish and said,
"Maybe I'll take up painting instead."
Miss Mandy's Candy

Miss Mandy is handy
at making fine candy
Everyone from all over
the world finds it dandy
They want to know her secret
to everything yummy
But she never tells them
she just rubs her tummy

"Is it sugar or cinnamon or spice?"
Miss Mandy says, "No"
and just smiles really nice
"What about oatmeal or flour or rice?"
Miss Mandy says, "Nope"
and gives them this advice

"Just be happy that
you can have sweets
That don’t taste like cardboard
or liverwurst beets
Or make you grow hair
On the bottoms of your feets

I can make anything taste better
than when it started out
And the fruitcake I make
won’t make anyone pout
I can make vegetables
taste just like honey
And my blueberry syrup
is never too runny
At Thanksgiving time
I use my pumpkin pie ovens
To make perfect pies
now that’s what I call lovin’
At Christmas time
I make cookies by the ton
And wrap them in
edible paper for fun

I send forty cakes
to the Bogglesworth house
To feed Billy’s family
and his pet mouse
I send marmalade
to the Queen in the Castle
Who can make it herself
but it’s really a hassle

To the pet shops I send pet food that pets really like
Like strawberry dog bones and raspberry dice
To the sailors I send purple fizzies with straws
That are made of ice candy until it all thaws
Yes eating my candy will make you get stronger
And giraffes with short necks will even grow longer
My Snappy-Do’s will make you stay awake for hours
Unless you need some sleep so try the pink flowers

And after a full day of sweet candy making
I lie down in my bed not long after baking
It’s made out of cream puffs I eat while I’m sleeping
And snuggle my bear who looks worn but I’m keeping”
Pencil-Neck Steve

Now would you believe there once was a man named Pencil-Neck Steve
Whose collar was even longer
than his shirt sleeve
And he was nearly fifteen feet taller
than a Bengal Ba-Reeve
And a Bengal Ba-Reeve
was fifteen feet shorter
than Pencil-Neck Steve

He always wore bright colors so he could be seen
And people would not think he was scary or mean
But one night he wore black when he went to the Fair
And it looked like his head was floating in mid air
So he found some string and tied it under his chin
So it looked like a balloon with a really real grin
And everyone laughed and gave him their candy
Which they bought at the Candytown store
from Miss Mandy

Miss Smyrtle gave Pencil-Neck Steve a new coat
That had words stitched on the back that she wrote;
"Thanks for saving my invisible kitty
I've given it to the invisible man in the city"
Children's Books Should Be Fun