

Story 1: Cat and Mouse

Once upon a time, a cat and a mouse were good friends and they lived together. They bought a pot of fat and stored it safely in the church.

One day, the cat said to the mouse, "My cousin has brought a little son into the world, and she has asked me to be his godfather. Let me go out today, and you look after the house."

"Yes, sure," answered the mouse.

However, the cat was lying. When he left the house, he went to the church, found the pot of fat and licked off the top of the fat. He returned home when it was evening.

"Well," said the mouse. "You must have had a happy day."

"Everything went well," answered the cat.

"What name did they give the child?" asked the mouse.

"Top-Off," said the cat quite coolly.

"Top-Off?" cried the mouse. "That is a very strange name."

Weeks later, the cat couldn't forget the taste of the fat so he said to the mouse, "I have been asked again to be godfather, I cannot refuse."

The cat went to the church again and found the pot of fat. "Nothing tastes better," he said with his mouth full of the fat.

When he arrived home the mouse asked, "What name was this child given?"

"Half-Gone," answered the cat.

"Half-Gone? This one is even stranger," the mouse said.

The cat once missed the delicious fat again. He said to the mouse, "I have been asked to be godfather again."

The greedy cat ate all the rest of the fat. "I am so happy as I am full," he said to himself. He returned home at midnight.

The mouse immediately asked what name had been given to the third child.

"His name is All-Gone," said the cat.

When the winter came, the mouse was so hungry and he thought of the fat, and said, "Come cat, we will get our pot of fat. It will taste good now."

"Yes," answered the cat. "You will surely enjoy it."

When they arrived at the church, the pot of fat was still in its place, but it was empty. "Oh my god," said the mouse, "How dare you ate all the fat alone. I can't believe you said you were my friend. You ate everything. First top off, then half done, then ..."

"Be quiet!" cried the cat. "One more word, and I will eat you too. I haven't eaten for days and I am now very hungry."