



Frog

by

Vixyy Fox

True story – I remember my little brother, all of three years old, sporting his whiffle cut hair style and wearing a badly striped too large hand me down shirt. He was also wearing a huge smile as he chased us around with a frog clutched a little too tightly in a handkerchief that our mother had given him for the occasion. She did this, as country raised mothers will, to teach him how to be a boy. Boys are not afraid to catch things like frogs and snakes and such; but for now he still didn't like the feel of them on his skin. In a few days time, however, he would be catching them barehanded.

Times were simple and good then... but not so for the poor little frog; who expired somewhere along the line.

That's a snap shot from my past.

Now we will enjoy a story together.

"Eweeeeeee....." exclaimed Tashi Fox as she looked at the little green creature on the flagstone foyer of the school. "That's disgusting!"

“It’s a frog,” Penny Pig told her softly.

Her arms were folded in front of her small bosom in a defensive manner; trying to hide the largeness of her dress. It had been her sister’s a few years earlier. Tashi, who was as small as Penny was large, could be quite intimidating in her mannerisms. She was the prettiest girl in the school... everyone said so. Penny was not so looked upon, especially because of her size.

“I can see that Piggy,” Tashi said with a sneer. “And I think it’s disgusting.”

Bobby Bobcat stopped next to them. Most of the children were still out in the schoolyard playing, but being that Bobby had a huge crush on Tashi, he’d made it a point to stick his nose into whatever it was the girls were up to.

“W’atsss happ’n pretty vixennnn?” he drawled, never taking his eyes off of the Fox. Penny was just so much baggage to Her Prettyness’ radiance.

“There’s a frog on the steps,” Tashi told him flatly. She was used to having boys ask her stupid questions while trying to win her favor. Having a sudden inspiration, she said, “Why don’t you squish it for me with your bare paws?”

“I could do that,” he told her with an easy smile, “But it’d be kind of messy... what would I get in return?”

“Typical boy,” Tashi grumbled to Penny with a wink. “They always want something from you... well... maybe not you; but from me all the time.”

“I don’t think you should squish it,” Penny said with a note of concern in her voice.

“Why not?” the Fox asked raising one eyebrow, “Don’t tell me you got a soft spot for frogs.”

“I just don’t think you should,” she replied softly, not meeting Tashi’s eyes. “It’s cruel to harm helpless things like that.”

“I’ve killed lots of frogs,” Bobby lied. “We eat the legs... all fried up...”

“That’s disgusting!” Tashi almost yelled. She leaned on the wall while bending double and made fake retching noises. In reality she was showing off her flexibility. Her face was almost in the folds of her skirt, and her bushy red tail stood out in the opposite direction. The dress and her matching bonnet fit perfectly, having been made new by a vain and loving mother.

“Really... you should try it,” the Bobcat persisted. “You have no idea what you’re missing.”

Standing upright again, Little Miss Beautiful winked at her Sunday friend and then placed one finger in her open mouth as if to gag herself. "Sure, sure; so you eat frog's legs. I've heard of it... I'm just teasing. Now squish the frog and we'll talk about how I can thank you. Make the blood go all over the steps so the other kids will get grossed out when they come in."

Bobby grinned at her, he hadn't thought about that aspect of the squishing. "Cooooool," he drawled, raising up one foot and taking aim.

Before he could accomplish the dirty deed, however, he was slammed up against the brick wall by a very large body wearing a pink polka dot dress. Penny's shoulder caught him square in the ribs and he lost every ounce of breath in his body. Though he didn't fall when their bodies separated, he bent double and had to struggle to breath.

"I said 'no'," Penny told him in a voice three times too small for her size.

Bending, she picked up the Frog and held it out towards Tashi Fox. "Kiss it and apologize," she said without a hint of humor in her voice. When Tashi hesitated, she pressed in on her, cornering her in the alcove. "Do it," she said calmly, "And later we'll talk about what I won't do to you."

There was the sound of running water as the Fox soiled herself. She quickly leaned out and kissed the Frog and then ran off towards the outhouse crying.

Turning to the Bobcat, the Pig asked him, "How's it feel to get squished?"

Bobby was still bent double, but he was beginning to breathe again. "Bad," he finally managed.

"Tell anyone what just happened," she told him levelly, "And bad will seem a whole lot better than what you'll get."

Seeing the teacher and her Bo coming up the path from their romantic picnic lunch, she took the frog and walked out to the edge of the school yard. Moving a distance back into the bushes, she gently placed him on the ground.

"I gotta get back," she whispered. "We do math after lunch, and I'm not real good at it so I have to pay attention. Stay away from here in the future, OK?"

As she turned to head back to the little brick schoolhouse, she thought she heard a small voice say, "Thank you."

Turning back to where she'd set the frog down, she found he'd hopped off. "You're welcome," she called out... and then smiled, knowing frogs couldn't talk.

When she turned around again, she found Percival Pig looking at her in a strange way. His clothes were tattered as always and his knees showed through the holes in his pant's legs. He'd apparently come up from the playground just a bit early and maybe saw something he shouldn't have.

"What are you looking at," she asked in a flat voice.

"Probably the best looking girl in school," he told her. There was truth in the way he spoke the words, and honesty in his features.

Penny actually blushed. She's never so much as looked at 'plain old' Percival before now.

Suddenly he looked a whole lot different than he had before.

She smiled and he smiled back.