

# *Penny a Bump*

by

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“That’s it... you have to throw a penny over your left shoulder. Bad luck if you don’t.”

They were standing at Flower’s locker in the busy school hallway between classes. Cherry Fox, her cousin, had bumped into her and immediately fished out a penny, tossing it without so much as a care for where it went. Flower, thinking she was playing some sort of stupid game, bumped her back. Cherry, after making her announcement, simply smiled sweetly as if she actually knew what she was talking about.

Flower looked back at her and frowned. Her cousin was a known trickster so she knew better. She wasn’t so sure of the implied superstition, however, that she didn’t do as instructed just to make sure. Bad luck, after all, was bad luck. Besides, Cherry had said it only after first throwing a penny over her own left shoulder.

Fishing through her purse, she took out a penny, spread her legs slightly, and prepared to toss the coin. “Over my left shoulder?” she asked, looking at the other Fox.

“That’s what I said,” Cherry replied with an upwards swing to her voice. Flower hated when she did that, but didn’t say so. In stead, she tossed the coin and then started to turn to see where it had gone. Her cousin stopped her. “Nope... ya can’t look or you’ll have to toss another one.”

“Can I at least make a wish on it?” she whined.

Ahhhh... sure...” Cherry told her as inspiration struck. “Why waste a perfectly good penny on nothing but a luck superstition.”

“Yeah, right, and like you didn’t just make that up!”

“Didn’t!”

“Did so!”

Randy Skunk came up and asked them what they were doing in his slow drawl. He wasn’t the most intelligent specimen of Skunk kind, but he could really chuck the shot put.

“Cherry said that since I bumped into her I have to throw a penny over my left shoulder so my luck won’t change to bad,” Flower explained to him.

He rubbed his head with a free paw. "Hmmm... I don't think I ever heard that one before."

"Sure you have," chimed in Cherry, "That superstition's as old as the hills." She winked at her cousin. "But there's a good thing about it too."

"Really? What's that?"

"You get to make a wish on the penny... oh... and you can't look to see where it lands or you have to toss another one."

Randy shifted to scratching his chin, and then stopped short of scratching lower when he remembered who he was talking to... girls. A sudden thought occurred to him. He had a History test coming up in the next period, and he could certainly use a wish about now since he hadn't studied. Closing his eyes, he walked forward and bumped into Flower.

"Oops... guess I have to toss a penny."

Pulling one out of his pocket, he took a glance over his shoulder.

"Wait! You can't look," reminded Cherry, "Now you have to toss two of them."

"Do I get two wishes?"

"Yeah, sure," both vixens said at the same time and then giggled.

Randy pulled out another penny. Closing his eyes again, his lips moved as he wished for the History test to be canceled and for his Math test to be easy. He then tossed the pennies.

At that moment, Deloris Hare, head in her History book, bumped into all three of them. The little Rabbit was really really worried about the test that she hadn't studied for either.

"You have to toss a penny over your left shoulder," Randy announced loudly.

"Why?" she asked.

"Three pennies," Cherry corrected, "Cuz ya bumped into three of us at the same time. Otherwise you'll have bad luck... but you get to make wishes on all three."

Deloris did as she was bid, because everyone knew Cherry had Gypsy blood running in her veins. More to the point, she most always did what the other kids were doing in any case, without question. She wished for the History test to go away... her Math test to be easy, and for that new Rabbit buck to walk her home.

The warning bell rang and they all hurried to their classes without another thought to superstitions.

The History class was canceled for the day when the teacher suddenly became sick and puked coffee all over her desk.

The Math test was a simple true or false pop quiz and the teacher was actually called from the room for five whole minutes by the Principal.

Deloris Rabbit did indeed walk home with the new Rabbit buck. It turned out he lived on her very block. The next morning she was wearing his school sport's sweater. Word was he would be the school's new star running back. Deloris also let slip that he was pretty good at other things as well.

By the end of the day pennies were flying through the air like rain on a spring day.

By the end of the week, all of the parents of all of the children were raiding coin jars, cups, and even their children's piggy banks in order to keep a good supply of pennies on hand at all times.

By the end of the year, a prominent Senator, who had been invited to attend the school's end of year ceremony as guest of honor, paused before making his speech to the school assembly; just to throw a penny over his left shoulder. He did this because he had accidentally bumped into Cherry Fox; who was standing at the podium waiting for him.

He then mumbled something about a certain bill passing without a Presidential veto.

As the recently elected Prom Queen, Cherry had been asked to introduce this esteemed old Badger. He in turn was to officially place the crown upon her head, making her rein official.

Cherry Fox, you see, had always wanted to be Prom Queen. In fact, she had wanted it so bad that it was the very thing she had wished for... at the toss of the first penny.