

# *The Giggling Otter*



# The Giggling Otter

Written & illustrated by

Chloe Debnam

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**5 wonderful chapters**

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## Setting the Scene (prologue)

It was a warm summer day and the beaming sun was slowly rising up into the deep blue sky, coming into view. The pearl-coloured clouds were slowly trailing along beneath, with a tint of slightly golden as it emerged into the morning sun's light. Butterflies with brightly-patterned wings flew high, almost as if they were aiming to go up to space before gracefully flapping their wings downwards heading towards the wood's covered floor. Once the butterflies were so close to the floor, their wings would gently scrape the twigs, almost hidden under the piles and piles of grassy green leaves. You would not see the floor in Muffin Wood because of the shadows and leaves covering it like a nature blanket.

Just around the corner from all the trees you would come to a small clearing, maybe a meadow. Sat in the middle you would see a circular clear-blue pond with a little red hut and a few neatly-shaped hedges around it. If you looked close enough beyond the leaves of the bushes there you would find some roses the colour of blood.

Now, as you would stride up to this beautiful pond, it would become clear that two little otters lived there. They were usually found resting in the shade or having a paddle in the cool crystal-blue water. One of the otters was called Milly, a big, fat otter with silky-smooth fur and emerald green eyes. The other one was called Matilda, a small slim one with chocolate brown fur and longing hazel eyes. She was the most mischievous one of them all and never took things seriously. Matilda had something peculiar about her too, barely anyone knew, and that was shiny bubbles would float out of her giggling mouth and after that something strange would happen. An example was that one day she laughed at Milly struggling to get her chubby body into such a small hole and then everyone was soon struggling within an hour!

If you trudged further up the meadow, you would spot a small lodge made from what would seem to be wooden planks. You may not need to spot it though, as the warm waft of freshly made bread would fill your lungs and make you dribble from a mile away. The Cupcake family (Leah and her mum, Lily) loved to bake!

If you were extra curious, you would walk along the cobblestone path you just discovered and approach a wooden door with a rotten handle covered in ivy.

## Inside Leah's Life

Leah usually lived a quiet, peaceful life so when she heard an argument, this was extremely rare, so rare that Leah had never heard a fight before in her life because no-one visited.

What was odder than the argument was that Leah's mum could not hear any of the commotion, even though it could probably burst anyone's eardrums (making them deaf) to hear just one word close up! Leah did not know what to do but wait until her mum was distracted by putting the bread in the rather large oven they had before going to investigate what was going on. In the meantime, Leah went to help her mum bake the loaf. She kneaded the dough that she had made earlier and before she knew it her mum had gone up to the oven and placed a stripy oven glove on one of her bony hands. Just as Leah was about to creep out, her mum called,  
"Pass me the butter please!"  
"OK!" Leah called reluctantly and passed her mum the butter that was slipping and sliding in her hands leaving a moist goo on them.

Watching her mum rub the butter on a tin, Leah made up her mind that it was now or never and she could not take never as an option, so she slipped through the gap in the door without her mum noticing.

## Laughing Otter

Running until her legs felt like jelly, Leah stopped at the pond and saw a giant of an otter. Opposite the otter was a slimy-green, speckled frog that was sat on a mouldy-coloured lily pad that was bobbing up and down, struggling to hold the frog's weight. Making sure her ears were telling her the truth, she stared down in disbelief. The animals were talking and she could hear them!

After a while of listening to the fighting, she found out that they were fighting over the pond.

Over the deafening sound of arguing, Leah realised that another sound came into her ear, laughter. Peering around, Leah spotted another otter laughing under an old tree stump. Asking why the otter was laughing, she giggled,

“I am laughing because everyone is acting like babies! Oh, yeah and my name is Matilda!”

**“Can you please help me, they’re-”**

**Leah was cut off by the sound of screeching and now the miniature otter was laughing hysterically. All of a sudden everyone was fighting over land. Butterflies and bees both wanted one particularly nice daisy, birds and squirrels all wanted the same blossom tree and a rabbit wanted the badger’s burrow for herself. It was complete chaos!**

## **Help, Help, Help Me**

**“Help me please, Matilda!” bellowed Leah over the screeching, laughter and arguments.**

**“Ok, Ok I will. Let me watch a bit more first!” Matilda replied as she continued to laugh, intrigued.**

**“NO NOW!” screamed Leah stubbornly, her ears now bursting.**

**“Fine, have it your way,” Matilda replied, lazily getting onto her webbed feet.**

**The pair headed over to a quieter spot. Around them was a big rock shaped like a dinosaur’s head and was a silvery-grey colour. This rock looked quite old as some ivy was tangled in a heap at the bottom and roses were growing on it. Around the rock were a number of trees circled quite far around it like the rock had a putrid smell or something.**

**Leah sat on the colossal rock and pondered on what they should do next about the catastrophic turn of events.**

**“I thought you needed me?” questioned Matilda who was sitting under the rock looking up as she was too micro to clamber up. It was even hard for Leah to, never mind a small hiccupping otter.**

**“I do, I do, please I really want the meadow to be nice and peaceful again.” Leah said desperately hoping Matilda would use her small brain and stay.**

**“If you say so!” Matilda scoffed sarcastically and wandered around.**

**Still sitting on the rock, Leah had an idea. She pulled a funny face which set Matilda into fits and fits of giggles and Leah’s theory worked. Suddenly, the animals were pulling faces copying what Leah had done in that nearby area. It was Matilda who did this and she did not even know it!**

**When Matilda stopped laughing Leah had an idea,**

**“I know how you can help!” Leah called out with excitement to Matilda who was just about to abandon Leah.**

**“Huh?” Matilda said and hurried back to Leah, hoping she was not caught trying to escape.**

**“Laugh at us sharing, then those bubbles that come out of your mouth will go and pop on all the animals and then they will share!” Leah said now more enthusiastically than before.**

**“But sharing is caring, not laughable material!” Matilda said in a matter-of-fact way, but with a bit of glumness in her voice as she was hoping she would not have to do any work.**

**“Oh, come onnnnn,” Leah moaned at the little otter, “You will be a hero!”**

**“I like the sound of that!” Matilda said, now jumping up.**

**“Great, let’s go!”**



## Drama Drama and more Drama

They hurried back to all the drama which had got worse than ever. Animals were hurt and others had lost their homes. Leah hurried over to the situation, in desperate need to help.

“Ok then, ready?” Leah asked seriously.

“Hehehehehe!” laughed Matilda.

“Good...Ok let’s share uhh.. let’s share, sharing is kin- huh?” Everyone turned into trees that had no leaves.

“Why has everyone turned into trees? YOU LAUGHED AT THAT TREE! YOU ARE USELESS GO AWAY!” cried Leah as she stomped off.

“It's naked- oh Leah I am sorry I really am, come back please!”

For the first time ever Matilda cried, big sad otter tears. Her eyes became large, sorrowful and depressed. Suddenly, as if nothing happened, everyone was back to arguing! Gasping, Matilda hurried over to Leah who was sobbing beside the big rock and nudged her leg.

“What do you want?!” grumbled Leah furiously.

“Look!” replied Matilda, wiping away her salty, clear tears with one of her brown, tiny arms.

“Of course! There was an opposite outcome with an opposite mood, amazing!”

Gasping for breath and wheezing from crying so hard, they tried again but this time no bubbles came floating out of Matilda’s mouth as usual. Leah figured that she was not as happy as she used to be.

## Upset Otter

"I cannot be truly happy because now I have experienced sadness. I feel bad from laughing at you and making you sad like I was. I realise that it's mean to make fun of others..."

"That is true but you will save everyone and they will forgive you, besides I promise I will not be sad, Ok?" Leah replied impatiently.

By now the wood was almost destroyed and they were running out of time. They only had one more shot to fix the wood or it would forever be ruined. It had to be now or never and at that point Leah could not take never for an option!

"OK!" replied Matilda after some convincing.

They tried for the very last time and holographic bubbles flew wide and far beyond the wood. Little popping noises could be heard from a distance and soon everything stopped.

## What could go wrong?

Exchanging nervous glances and looking around Leah asked,

"Are you sure you laughed at me?"

"Positive!" replied Matilda gulping.

"And you definitely were happy this time?"

"Yes 100%."

"OK then..." Leah told herself, trying to calm herself down.

"Nothing should go wrong then, right?"

"Right..." Matilda said unsure, trying to be cool.

They waited, and waited, and waited until finally everything was back to how it should be.

"We did it!" they exclaimed as they jumped for joy.

*That day everyone learnt a valuable lesson to share and not to laugh at others. Everyone forgave Matilda and thought of her as a hero. The forest was restored to its usual peaceful way and everyone enjoyed things together, especially Leah. She also talked to all the animals*

*about their worries and helped them fix it with her new power. Leah also learnt something else - not to keep her mother waiting!*

“Where have you been?” asked her mother angrily

“Uh Oh...”

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Leah loves her wood and would do anything to protect it so of course she comes to the rescue when the creatures are arguing. The only thing was, she can't do it on her own and the only animal that is not arguing is a giggling otter called Matilda. However, Matilda will not take this seriously and keeps making mischief. Will the wood ever be the same?