

Lazy Peter and Scrawny Bony Bertha

Once upon a time there was a big, fat bear known as lazy Peter. He always sat around all day counting his money and drinking wine. He lived a leisure life. His sister, on the other hand, was called Scrawny Bony Bertha, because she was always on the move and worked herself to the bone.

Peter always had a clock in front of him so he always knew when it was time for Berta to come home from work. The moment he would see her come through the door he always shouted **“Did you bring my food?”** Bertha always had to buy his food, sometimes when she forgot, Peter became very angry. He made her go right back no matter how tired she was. He let her have only two pieces of stale bread when she usually got three.

Bertha earned money scrubbing and cleaning houses all day in Beary Village. All the animals in Beary Village loved her unselfishness and pitied her because of her greedy and self-centered brother.

Lazy Peter always expected to get a good share of that money, and gave Bertha only enough to buy his expensive meals of meat, wine and many kinds of desserts. None of that, he shared with poor Bertha. Three pieces of stale bread and a glass of milk daily was all she got

One day, Bertha forgot Peter’s dinner. He became very enraged, and gave her only two pieces of stale bread and scolded her. She was feeling very tired and wanted to rest, Peter only scolded her more and told her she had to get his dinner this instant.

Just then the door flew open. Her friend Mrs. Beaver from Beary Village burst through, gasping for air. “Bertha, come quickly, my guests are to arrive any minute now and my house is a wreck!” “Please, come and help me.” So Bertha ignored Peter’s scolding and made her way to her friend’s house.

She finished when Mrs. Beaver’s guests arrived. It was getting dark when Bertha started on her way home. She trudged her way into the woods and lost her way. Feeling weary and faint, her skinny body collapsed the ground.

The bright morning sunlight woke Peter from his sleep. Soon he realized how hungry he was, and called to Bertha for his breakfast. When he came to the realization that Bertha wasn’t there, he shouted and grumbled. Desperate and hungry, he dragged himself out of bed to look for something to eat, but found nothing except for one slice of Bertha’s stale bread. He gobbled it down and went back to sleep, without a second thought of Bertha.

Meanwhile, in the woods, one of Bertha’s friends found her, more dead than alive, and quickly ran for help. Her friends gently carried her home and made Peter to buy her food and do everything Bertha did including her job and eating food Bertha was used to.

Weeks passed, Peter grew more angry and tired of doing everything. He soon learned that it doesn’t help to let anger build up inside of him, and came to the understanding that this was probably how Bertha felt all the time while he was sleeping and eating the day away. Peter couldn’t help but think of the words: **“In everything, Do onto others as you'd have them do onto you. ”**

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