



At the graveyard



"I can see ghosts, real ghosts!" said Huck. "They're coming here! I'm really scared, Tom."

"Oh, no!" said Tom. "Can they see us?"

"Ghosts can see everything and everyone," said Huck.

"Why did I come here?"

"Let's be very quiet," said Tom. "Don't be scared, Huck. We're here together."

The two boys quickly hid behind a big tree. The three ghosts moved around the graveyard and didn't make any noise. They came close to Tom and Huck.

Suddenly Huck exclaimed, "They're not ghosts – they're people! One of them is Muff Potter."



"You're right," said Tom, looking at the three men. "I can see Doctor Robinson and Injun¹ Joe. But what are they doing here at night?"

"Those men are grave robbers," said Huck. "They want to steal a dead body from a grave."

"But why?" asked Tom, who didn't understand.

"The doctor wants a dead body," said Huck. "He cuts the bodies and studies them. My father told me about Doctor Robinson."

The three men were standing by Hoss Williams's grave. Muff Potter and Injun Joe started to dig and soon the grave was open. They found the dead body and pulled it out of the ground. Tom and Huck watched them from behind the big tree.

"Well, Dr Robinson, do you want us to take the body to your house?" asked Muff.

"Yes, of course," said Doctor Robinson.

¹ Injun : a Native American Indian. Injun was the local pronunciation of Indian.

"Yes, I understand," said the prince. "You know, I have two sisters: Lady Elizabeth and Lady Mary. Lady Elizabeth is 14 and I like her because she's friendly. She's kinder than Lady Mary, who's already 31. I really don't like Lady Mary because she never laughs or smiles.

"And I have a cousin called Lady Jane Grey. She's my age and she plays with me sometimes. But I don't know any boys. Do you play with other boys?"

"Of course I do," said Tom, happily. "We have lots of fun together."

"I never play with other boys," said the prince sadly. "Where do you play?"

"We play in the streets and by the river," said Tom.

"What do you do?" asked the prince.

"We like swimming in the river and jumping in the mud,"¹ said Tom.

"Of course, our clothes get dirty but it's great fun! We play ball, too, and sometimes we dance and sing and make lots of noise."

"How wonderful!" exclaimed the prince. "I want to swim in the river and jump in the mud, and get dirty once in my life. I want to run in the streets with other boys and make lots of noise. But I can't."

"Why can't you?" asked Tom.

"I can't because I'm a prince. I must stay in the palace... And I'm terribly bored with life at the palace."

Edward and Tom looked at each other and laughed. Then Edward suddenly said, "Wait! I have an idea – a great idea. Come here and look in the mirror."

Tom walked to the other side of the beautiful room, where there was a big mirror.

1. mud : a mix of water and earth.



"Look in the mirror, Tom," said Edward. "You and I are the same."

Tom looked in the mirror and said, "You're right! You're like me and I'm like you." They both laughed.

"You're thin and I'm thin," said Edward, smiling.

"And you've got brown hair and brown eyes, just like me," said Tom.

"Look at our noses and mouths," said Edward. "They're the same."

"And we're the same height!" said Tom, excitedly.

"We can play a wonderful game!" exclaimed Edward. "Let's change clothes and you can be the prince and I can be the pauper for a short time."

"That sounds like great fun!" said Tom laughing.

"Take off your clothes and put on my clothes and shoes," said Edward.

Tom washed his face and hands, and put on the prince's clothes and shoes. Then Edward put on Tom's old trousers and dirty shirt.

They looked at each other in the mirror and laughed loudly. Now Tom was Edward and Edward was Tom.



"Tom, you can stay here until I come back," said the prince. "Now I'm a pauper and I can play in the streets and swim in the river with the other boys. I can jump in the mud and get dirty. And I want to make lots of noise. I'm very happy!"

Before leaving the room the prince took something big and round from the table. He went to a corner of the room and put it inside an old suit of armor. Tom watched him carefully. Then the prince ran out of the door.

Tom was alone in the beautiful room. He looked around and thought, "What can I do now that I'm a prince?"