

THE ADVENTURES OF SWAMP DOG SAM III

DOGGY DAY IN THE SWAMP

Chapter One

THE CONFESSION

“H-O-O-R-A-Y! H-O-O... R-O-O-O-O-O-O-O!”

Swamp Dog Sam’s howls echo through the Okefenokee Swamp!

“Cut it out!” Husk snaps. He sticks his head out of his shell. “Sam, I was sleeping here on the edge of your porch just fine ‘til you woke me!”

“Sorry, Husk, but Boss is gettin’ dog-hitched today and I’m excited for my big brother!”

“Can’t a tortoise get some sleep around here?”

“Not today, Husk. Wake up and celebrate in the noon sun.”

“Maybe I’ll *wake up* on your Doggy Day.”

“That’s not gonna happen.”

“What do you mean, Sammy? I’m sure you’ll find a nice young canine.”

“I don’t want a canine.”

“Give it time, Sam. Your hormones will kick in.”

“It’s not that, Husk.” Sam turns away, pawing the ground.

“Hey now... what’s going on with you?”

“I don’t wanna say.”

“What’s the problem, little fella?”

“Problem is Husk, I don’t want a dog. I want a doe.”

“Well now... that’s a problem. Hmm... maybe not. Have you told Misty Sue?”

“I can’t do that Husk. She doesn’t like me like that. We’re just friends.”

“Are you sure about that? I would bet anything Misty Sue has a crush on you too.”

“Leave it alone, Husk.”

“Okay, Sammy.”

“I shouldn’t have said a thing. Here comes Boss. Don’t say a word.”

“Your confession’s safe with me, little buddy.”

OKEFENOKEE SWAMP

FUN FACTS

(Small sampling of the real animals in the story)

What kind of animals are Misty Sue and Duke? WHITE-TAILED DEER! They are the smallest of the North American deer family. Did you know that 'white-tailed' refers to the white underside of the deer's tail, which is displayed when it is on alert? (In the story, Misty Sue and Duke are dwarf, white-tailed deer. Almost all species can have a dwarfed animal, but it is rare and can have many causes just like in humans). Baby deer are called fawns and grow into does, males grow into bucks. Bucks develop buttons in their first year which later turn into antlers. They shed their antlers once a year and regrow them. White-tailed deer live in fields and meadows in summer and prefer coniferous forests in the winter to protect them from the harsh weather. They eat a varied herbivore (plant) diet, including leaves, twigs, fruits, nuts, grass, corn, alfalfa, even lichens and fungi. Did you know white-tailed deer can run up to speeds of forty miles per hour and can swim at speeds of up to thirteen miles per hour. They can jump up to twenty-five feet while running.

What is the "Land of the Trembling Earth?" OKEFENOKEE! Derived from an Indigenous word with much debate as to which Indigenous Nation it is, but from the spelling above, the origin of this word is likely from the Choctaw Nation. The

Okefenokee Swamp is located in the southeastern corner of Georgia and is a shallow, saucer-shaped depression.

Did you know the swamp covers more than 600 square miles? It is the largest intact blackwater swamp in North America and is considered one of Georgia's natural wonders.

Did you know the swamp has islands of peat floating on top of the water? When it is walked on, the land will tremble. The peat can be five-to-ten feet deep in places. There is still water underneath, which is why the earth shakes.