

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!”

I whirl across my porch, landing on Husk!

“Cut it out with the twirly-dirty, Sam!” Husk pokes his head out of his shell. “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 sooo excited for my big brother!”

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

“Not today, Husk. Wake up and celebrate.”

“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 girl dog.”

“I don’t want a girl dog.”

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

“It’s not that, Husk.” My belly turns red.

“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. I want Misty Sue.”

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

“Ding-da-a-a-n-ng! I can’t do that. 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 the way you have a crush on her.”

“No, not possible. Leave it alone, Husk.”

“Okay, Sammy, okay.”

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

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

OKEFENOKEE SWAMP

FUN FACTS (SAMPLE)

What kind of animals are Misty Sue and Duke? WHITE-TAILED DEER!

They are the smallest of the North American deer family. Baby deer are called fawns and grow into does, males grow into bucks. When a white-tailed deer is on alert, it will raise its tail in the air, showing its white underside? That's how it got its name.

White-tailed deer live in fields and meadows in summer. When winter comes, they prefer coniferous forests to protect them from harsh weather. They eat a varied herbivore (plant) diet including grasses, leaves, twigs, saplings, shrubs, Spanish moss, acorns and nuts, corn, alfalfa, even lichens and fungi. They also love fruits.

Did you know bucks will develop buttons on their heads in the first year of life? These buttons will turn into antlers. Bucks shed their antlers once a year and regrow them.

Did you know white-tailed deer can run up to 40 miles per hour? White-tailed deer can spring almost 8 feet high and jump 25 feet while running. Wow!

Did you know in the story, Misty Sue and Duke are pygmy, white-tailed deer? In real life, almost all species can have a pygmy or dwarfed animal, but it is rare and can have many causes just like in humans.