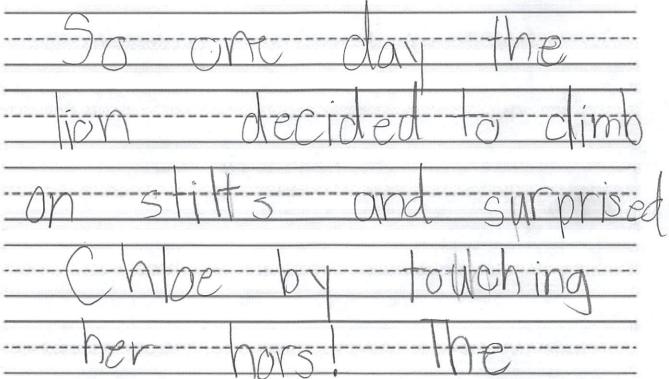


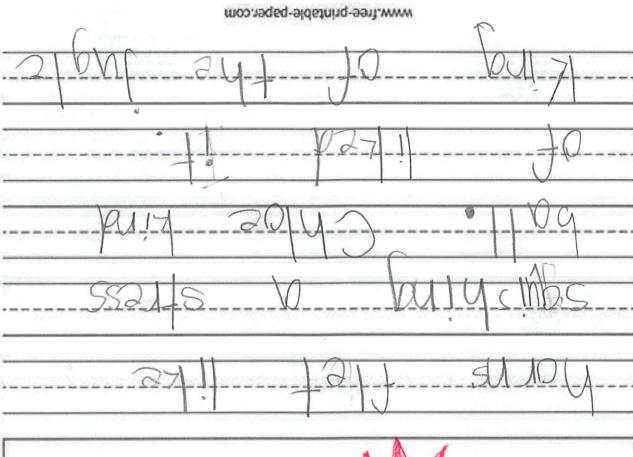
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# How the Raccoon lost its tail... By Iker R-G

Once upon a time, a raccoon named Whiskers lived in a treehouse, and he was 20 years old. Whiskers lived in Madrid, Spain, and he had lived there his whole life. But one day, Whiskers woke up in the morning with no tail! It was a very big deal to not have a tail because Whiskers would lose his balance and smack his face on the floor. Last night, there was a magical flying shark who bit off the tail because he thought it looked like a delicious hairy Spanish fish.

In his treehouse, Whiskers found a banana and he tried to replace his tail, but the banana was so old that it peeled right off. Then, a monkey smashed through the window and took the banana, because he was hungry for a banana and had none left, so he took Whiskers' new banana tail and he said, "Thank you for the banana!" and smashed right out of the other window. But Whiskers was not even sad, because the banana did not fit.

Whiskers said "I still need to find myself a new tail." But then, Whiskers' friend, the flying ostrich, flew in through the smallest hole in the top of the treehouse, but only his long head and neck fit through. The ostrich offered Whiskers a ride down the tree, since Whiskers was having a hard time balancing without his tail, and Whiskers said "Okay! Please bring me all the way down to the coconut tree." Then the ostrich picked Whiskers up by the shoulders and his chubby belly was shaking from side to side. Then, after flying down from the treehouse, they made it to the bottom of the coconut tree.

After an hour of looking, Whiskers finally found a leaf. It was a big, green leaf from a palm tree. Whiskers tried it on, and he thought that the leaf could be a very good tail. But, it was very fragile, so it broke into pieces when he tried to wag it and the tail didn't work. Whiskers was still trying to find a good tail, and all of a sudden he saw a coconut hanging from the palm tree.

Whiskers threw his shoe to knock down the coconut on the palm tree, and it worked! But, there was another coconut which was wiggling a lot, and it looked like it could fall. Whiskers tried the coconut for his tail, but as soon as he got it on, the wiggling coconut fell off of the tree and landed on Whiskers' new tail and it cracked. After that, Whiskers felt disappointed and started to give up hope, so he crawled back to his tree house and up the ladder, but it took all the way until the sun went down.

Once he was back home, Whiskers found a feather duster that he used to clean his old tail. Whiskers thought that maybe the duster would make a good tail because it was fluffy and puffy like his old tail, so he tried it on. It worked!

"Finally, I found a brand new tail!" said Whiskers, and he lived happily for raccoon eternity.

#### THE END

## The Diaries of Count Olaf

(based on Lemony Snicket's books A Series of Unfortunate Events)

## By Elizabeth B.

#### Tuesday, December 13, 2017

I woke up all alone in a cold, dark room. I yelled "Mom! Mom!" but no one answered. Then I remembered that she was dead. I missed my family. Growing up, I was kind of an outcast but I didn't like to think about it. I was four years old when my family left me, and I remember the echoes of my cries in the tunnel below the lively city. I always wanted to be a part of a family ever since I was abandoned. Everyone always thinks that I follow the Baudelaires because of their money. They have it all wrong. I want the Baudelaires because they are my cousins, the only family I have.

When I first found out about the Baudelaires, I realized, this is my second chance at a family! If I had them, I would never be lonely again. Never wake up in a cold dark room, and never think about my missing family because I would have one with me. When this chance came into view, it was the happiest moment of my life! I told myself, I will never let anything like this go. The feeling of the Baudelaires being with me brings me the thought of family, but when they run away, that amazing feeling runs away too.

### Friday, December 16, 2017

I finally found a way for the Baudelaires to stay with me forever! If I married Violet Baudelaire I would become a part of the family. I just need to show her that she will be lost without me. Yes, I am much older, but I can teach her things and do things that she can't. I plan to propose this plan to her over dinner tonight. Hopefully she will say yes, and we will be a happy family.

## Saturday, December 17, 2017

Last night at dinner as we were about to order, the most beautiful thing I had ever seen walked up to our table and asked, "what would you like to eat?" She had a black mole on her nose, yellow teeth, and thin hair! I know right! Then she made a comment to Violet saying, "Are you having fun with grandpa?" As she was talking, I thought I was going to be sick. I had felt something that I had never felt before. My face felt very warm and my hands were sweating and I think there was something moving in my stomach. After dinner was over, I called my doctor immediately. I told him how I was feeling and then he said it sounded like I was in love.

#### Monday, December 19, 2017

Last night, I went back to see you know who and when I looked at her, I swear I saw her hair blow in the wind. She showed me to my seat and told me her name. Bertha was her beautiful name. "Bertha and Olaf forever" I repeated in my head. Until I realized that this would ruin my whole plan, my chance of family. I went home very confused and couldn't fall asleep.

Since I couldn't fall asleep, I went on a midnight walk. I was wandering the streets and found myself smelling the most amazing smell of homemade ratatouille. I remember my mother making it and only giving it to my older siblings, leaving me to starve. Until one day I stole some scraps from the floor and tried it. It automatically tasted like home. And then, that moment I realized that Bertha was my chance to have a family! I could finally fall asleep now!

#### Friday, December 16, 2017

After a good night's sleep, I went back to my Bertha's restaurant and told her how I felt. She said she had the *hots* for me the moment I walked in. That

made me blush. We immediately went on a date (she was still on her shift but shhhh!) and had a great time. I brought her to my house after and we told the Baudelaires the amazing news. Violet looked so relieved, but I swear I heard her whisper "She must be blind". But that doesn't bother me because I am glad I have my own women and don't have to be illegal.

#### Tuesday, March 12, 2017

After a few months we are still dating, and we decided that we want to adopt the Baudelaires! The "family" knows how I feel and they want to help me to succeed in my goal. After all these misunderstandings and feeling sad, I finally feel loved! Thanks sweet Bertha!!!