

UNTEARABLE LINEN

# TOM THUMB



Father Tuck's  
"PLAY & PLEASURE"  
Series.



## TOM THUMB.

MANY, many years ago, in a little cottage, lived a ploughman and his wife.

One day an old man came wandering through the village, he knocked at the ploughman's door and asked if he might rest a little while. The ploughman placed a chair for him, and the good wife fetched a bowl of milk and a slice of bread. When the old man was refreshed he thanked the worthy couple and asked them what they most desired. "Oh," said they, "we have no children, if we only had a son, even as small as a thumb,

we should be happy." The guest, when he left, called a fairy to his aid, and not long after a little baby boy was given to the ploughman and his wife, a little tiny



*Tom is eaten by a Cow.*



*He is imprisoned in a Mousetrap.*



boy only as long as his Father's thumb, and he was named by the fairy, Tom Thumb. His parents were very fond of him, but, as he never grew any bigger, they were anxious lest any harm should happen to him.

One day his Mother was making a batter pudding, when her little son clambered up the basin and tumbled in head foremost, she did not notice this accident and put the pudding on to boil. But Tom began to kick and struggle, and his Mother hearing the commotion thought the pudding must be bewitched and gave it to a travelling tinker who happened to pass by. He carried it for some little time but Tom again began to kick and call out, and the tinker was so much frightened that he threw away the pudding and ran. The fall broke the basin, so Tom crept out and went home. Another day Tom's Mother tied him to a thistle, and a cow gobbled up thistle, Tom and all. He began to jump about in her mouth, and she quickly put him out. Tom sometimes took a straw and went



*Tom tumbles into a bowl of Soup.*



*He is carried by a Raven across the Sea.*



with his Father to help him drive the plough. One day he fell into a furrow and a raven picked him up with a grain of corn. He was carried over the sea and dropped near a big Castle.



The Giant Grumbo, who lived there, was asleep on the terrace, and Tom hid himself up his sleeve; this tickled the Giant and he gave such a jump, that Tom was thrown far out to sea, where

a fish swallowed him. This fish was caught by a man, and it, being a fine one, was taken to the King's Palace. As the cook cut it open, Tom Thumb popped out his head and, seeing what a



pretty little fellow he was, the cook took him to the King who kept him and became very fond of him. He was allowed to visit his parents and take as much money with him as he could. The poor little man could only carry a threepenny bit, and that made him very tired and ill, but his Mother nursed him up and then took him back to the King's Court. There he was made a great deal of, and he got so much excited that he was again ill, and this time the Queen of the Fairies took him to her country till he was quite strong.

then she blew him gently back to the Palace, but, unhappily, just as the cook







*Tom takes a drive with the Fairy Queen.*



*The King and Tom.*



was coming along with a bowl of soup for the King, poor Tom went splash into that, and so suddenly that the splendid bowl fell and smashed. Then the poor little fellow was punished, he had nothing to eat and drink but bread and water and was imprisoned in a mousetrap, but after a while the King forgave him and

one day when Tom had been amusing him he told him to kneel on his hand. Then he gave him a little pat with his sword and said "Rise up, Sir Tom Thumb." So after that, Tom was always called *Sir* Tom, and he was very proud and happy, for the King gave him too, a white mouse to ride. Once he was out riding, when a big cat attacked the mouse, and Tom fought till some one came and drove the fierce animal away. Another day when the Queen was very angry with Tom, he hid in







*Tom fights the Cat.*



*He hides in a Snail-shell.*

a snail shell.

Presently he  
peeped out and  
seeing a butterfly,  
he mounted on its  
back, but, having no  
saddle nor bridle, fell off  
and was again put in  
prison. This time a cat  
let him out. A short  
while afterwards a dread-  
ful spider caught hold of



Tom, and though he got free and fought bravely he was poisoned  
by the spider's breath and was so ill, that the Queen of the Fairies  
again took him away to her beautiful country where there were  
no angry Queens, nor heavy money and no cruel spiders.  
And the fairies all loved him and took care of him, so  
Sir Tom made up his mind to stay with them, and no mortal  
ever saw him again. And thus ended the strange adventures  
of Tom Thumb.

*Grace C. Floyd.*

*Gift of Herbert H. Hammer Sept. 1978*



11/92  
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No. 1574

Designed at the Studios in England.

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