

BUTTON SOUP

On a beautiful Fall day Donald and Daisy took Huey, Dewy, and Louie to the farm of Scrooge McDuck. Scrooge, never happy to have anyone on his property, especially his nephews, was his usual grumpy self.

It wasn't long before the rambunctious boys began to feel pains in their stomachs. "We're hungry," the cried. "We want something to eat!"

"There is no food on this farm!" Replied Scrooge. "You'll find nothing at all to eat here!"

"Not even an apple in the orchard," asked Donald. "Surely you have some apples from all those trees?"

"Not a single apple," said Scrooge as he backed up against the cellar doors with outstretched arms preventing even a glimpse into the dark, damp space underneath the ground.

"How about I make some Button Soup for all of us?" asked Daisy as she headed toward the farmhouse kitchen door.

Abandoning his guard of the cellar, Scrooge scrambled to block the kitchen door keeping Daisy standing but still smiling on the steps. "There's no food in that kitchen," quacked Scrooge at the top of his lungs, "Nothing at all to make soup with!"

With her long eyelashes blinking, Daisy brushed by him saying, "But I don't need any food to make button soup; I just need a large pot, some water from the water pump and I brought a button with me." And with a grin she reached into her pocket and pulled out a large red button and headed into the kitchen to find a pot.

Daisy filled a large pot half full of water and placed the pot on the stove to heat. Once it came to a boil she dropped in the large red button and turned to smile at a bewildered Scrooge as he watched the button bob up and down in the boiling water.

After several seconds, a now intrigued Scrooge said, "That's all it takes to make Button Soup?"

"That's all!" replied Daisy, and then after a slight pause she continued. "But it would sure taste a lot better if we had something to add flavor to the water. A little pinch of salt and pepper will certainly make it more flavorful." "I don't have ANY food," said Scrooge with the scowl returning to his face.

"Oh, but salt and pepper aren't really food are they?" said Daisy, closing her eyes and smiling.

"Oh, I guess not if you say so," said Scrooge as he stamped over to the pantry and pulled out the salt and pepper shakers.

After adding just the right amount of salt and pepper Daisy leaned over the pot of boiling water and took a long sniff. "Oh," she exclaimed, "It is beginning to smell so good. If we added some onion quarters or even a garlic slice and maybe even some slices of carrot, celery or sweet peppers it would even smell so much better."

"Those are foods"; screamed Donald, "And remember that I don't have any food."

"That's right!" said Daisy. "For a moment I did forget, but wouldn't it be nice to see how much better they would make our Button Soup smell?"

"Welllllllllllll," said Scrooge, "Perhaps I can just take a peek in the cellar and maybe, just maybe I can find something to make it smell better."

Off to the cellar Scrooge ran. He looked around sheepishly to see if Donald or the boys were watching before he unlocked the lock and flung open the door. As quick as he could he grabbed an onion and garlic bulb along with some nice long carrots, a celery head and some newly dug potatoes. Stepping out of the cellar he looked around again for prying eyes then securely locked the lock and dashed back to the kitchen where Daisy was still standing sniffing the soup.

Seeing Scrooge's hands full of vegetable, Daisy threw her arms in the air exclaiming how much better the soup was now going to taste. Quickly she washed and cut off a large chunk of the onion, peeled a garlic clove and one of the carrots and took a celery rib then cut them all into small pieces.

She thanked Scrooge several times for finding her such treasures. Explaining to Scrooge that she would use the other vegetables later, she placed the small vegetables pieces into the pot of boiling water and waited for it to return to a boil. Then Daisy turned down the heat and put a lid on the pot.

“What,” said Scrooge stamping his feet? “You’re going to cover up the smell?”

“No, No!!” Said Daisy. “It will still smell good; I just want to keep the flavors inside the pot. Just wait until it’s done. Not only will it smell good, but it will taste good too.”

After several minutes of smelling the aroma of the vegetables in the boiling water, Daisy again batted her eyelashes and looking out the window toward the smoke house. She then posed a question to Scrooge. “I don’t suppose you’d have any meat out in that old smoke house do you? You know meat in Button Soup is so very, very tasty. But then, I know you don’t have any food on the farm do you?”

This time without any hesitation, and not even caring if Donald and the boys saw him, Scrooge scurried to the smoke house where he picked out one of chickens he had plucked only the day before. He raced it back to the kitchen where Daisy marveled at its plump shape and kissed Scrooge on his balding head before cutting into pieces and adding it to the soup.

“How long before the Button Soup will be done?” Asked Scrooge.

“Oh, it will be done in awhile,” replied Daisy. “The chicken needs to cook until it is tender. But I know you will love this soup. While you wait, why don’t you go see what Donald and the boys are up to?”

While the chicken cooked, Daisy cut up more onions, carrots, celery, and potatoes. As soon as the chicken was cooked, she removed it from the soup stock and set it aside to cool slightly. With a slotted spoon she lifted out the now wilted, mushy, tasteless vegetables and discarded them. To the flavored soup stock she added the fresh vegetables she had cut and placed the soup back on the stove to continue cooking while she stripped the chicken from the bones and cut it into small pieces before adding them back to the soup.

Tasting the stock, Daisy decided it needed a bit more salt and pepper. Then she remembered that just outside the kitchen door she had seen a small herb garden. Knowing that Scrooge wouldn't miss a few leaves here and there, she snipped some fresh basil, rosemary and thyme leaves to add to the soup. While the vegetables cooked and the herbs leant their flavors she set the table before calling out the kitchen door to Donald, the boys, and Scrooge to come wash up for dinner.

It didn't take them long to come scrambling through the door. The aroma of the soup had streamed out the kitchen window and into the yard where it had been teasing their noses for quite some time. They could hardly wait to eat.

Scrooge was the first to ask for seconds and to tell Daisy how wonderful the soup tasted, to which Daisy demurely replied, "And to think we made it all with just a button!"