

goop  tales

JARDAD AND THE PLAIN OF JARS



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CHAPTER 1

Once upon a time there was a noisy, young Goop named Jardad. Jardad made an awful **racket** wherever he went. It seemed as if noise followed him around. Jardad was never without his handy workman apron which carried a little hammer and nails. Fixing things was his specialty and it almost always required making a great deal of noise.

Other than his loud banging and knocking around, Jardad was quite a delight to spend time with. He and his good Goop friend, Badinskool, got on like a “house on fire,” as his mother liked to say. Whenever she said that, Jardad and Badinskool would laugh and laugh and say to each other, *“What is that supposed to mean?”*

“I think it is supposed to mean that we get on well but, ‘house on fire,’ who knows how my mom



comes up with this stuff?” and then they would both roll their little Goop eyes.

One early fall day, right after school had started, Jardad and Badinskool decided to play hooky. They didn't exactly consider it hooky because they were both sent home from school. Jardad had been using his hammer to fix his desk and when his teacher Mr. Snaggleteeth walked by, he accidentally slammed his hammer right down on his toes. *“Wahhhhhhhhh!”* Mr. Snaggleteeth let out a huge **wailing** scream and everyone stopped and stared at him. His mouth was wide open and his big snaggletooth was in full view so all of the Goops began to laugh. Jardad was immediately sent home.

Badinskool was in another classroom and she heard the loud scream. She guessed what had happened, so she drew a little drawing of Mr. Snaggleteeth with one tooth and a wide open mouth on her little chalkboard and then she



passed it around for everyone to see. The chalkboard got passed right to Miss Wigglebutt who didn't think it was funny at all. She sent Badinskool home.

Badinskool and Jardad met up on the walk home. They both giggled as they discussed Mr. Snaggletooth and Miss Wigglebutt.

“Well, look we have the whole day off! I mean really it would be a shame to waste it,” said Badinskool.

“Hmmm,” said Jardad. Generally Jardad followed the rules, and he knew he was supposed to go home, but the thought of having a fun day off with Badinskool while everyone else was still in school was very tempting.

“What did you have in mind?” he asked.



“How about the zoo? It is the middle of a school day and I don’t think anyone will be there but the animals. We could even sneak in,” answered Badinskool.

Jardad thought for a minute. He hadn’t been to the zoo in a very long time and it was true that they would probably have the entire thing to themselves. After all, it wasn’t his fault he was sent home. He hit Mr. Snaggletooth’s foot accidentally. He certainly hadn’t planned this, but now that he had been sent home, he may as well make the most of it.

“Okay, let’s do it!” he called out.

Badinskool and Jardad scurried off to the zoo. Upon arrival they were met with a closed sign.

“Ugh, I forgot the zoo was closed on Mondays,” griped Jardad.



“Don’t let that stop us,” said Badinskool as she headed around to the back of the zoo.

Jardad and Badinskool walked all the way around the giant zoo, rattling and banging away, until they reached the back where there was a giant grassy field with mountains behind it. Sitting smack in the middle of the field was a group of zoo animals. There was a tiger, a lion, an elephant, a zebra, an orangutan, a koala, a gorilla, a rhinoceros, a bear and a red panda. They were all grouped together and no one was in a cage. Jardad stopped in his tracks and stared over at Badinskool with disbelief and a little bit of fear.

*“We heard you coming, so we thought we would come out to see what all the **ruckus** was about,”* said the Koala. *“It’s our day off and we were trying to take a nap and then you came along banging away. We need a break too, you know.”*

“Whoops. Sorry!” said Jardad as he looked down



at his feet.

“So, what are you two doing here? Shouldn’t you be in school?” asked the zebra.

“Well, ummm, not today,” said Badinskool as she glanced over at Jardad. *“We took a day off too.”*

“Who knew you could take a day off from school? Not me,” chimed in the red panda.

“Well, you can’t take a day off school and then come over to the zoo and disturb our peace. I’m not having it,” growled an angry orangutan. Then, without any warning at all, the orangutan reached out one of his long orange hairy arms, picked up Jardad and flung him across the sky as he called out, *“Go make noise somewhere else.”*



CHAPTER 2

Jardad flew through the air. The ground beneath him got further and further until it was just a dot. He closed his eyes and held on tightly to his tiny hammer. Eventually he had to come down. After some time, the air grew warmer and Jardad could feel himself being lowered to the ground. He landed gently on soft grass. It was just beginning to get dark and the clouds in the sky looked as if they were ready to pour down rain.

There were ruins of a giant temple and jungle trees nearby. It was hot and humid. Jardad looked around trying to figure out where he was. Nothing looked familiar. He walked over to the doorway of the temple ruins and stepped inside. It was dark and quiet and oh so hot. It was too dark to see anything, so Jardad turned around to leave and came face to face with a tiger standing in the



doorway.

The tiger was about one inch from his face and staring him straight in the eyes. His eyes were piercing yellow. He opened up his mouth and let out a huge tiger growl. Jardad couldn't stand it. He wasn't really much of a fighter and he knew he couldn't outrun the tiger, so he managed to squeak out, *"Just swallow me really fast! I will close my eyes."*

"Did I scare you?" asked the tiger.

Jardad hardly knew what to say.

"Of course you did! Aren't you going to eat me?" he asked.

"No, I'm not going to eat you, but I'm so happy I scared you. I've never done that before," replied the tiger.



“Done what? Scared someone? You’re a tiger! Everyone is scared of you,” said Jardad.

“None of the other tigers are scared of me. They think that I’m wimpy,” said the tiger sadly.

“Well, I don’t think you’re wimpy. You’re the scariest tiger I’ve ever seen!” said Jardad, and he was telling the truth.

The tiger was delighted. For the first time in his life, he had scared someone. He made a note to himself that he needed to hang around other creatures and not just tigers.

“I certainly don’t want to eat you. In fact, I can probably help you. You’re in Laos, you know, and there are jungles and landmines and endangered animals here. I don’t know where you’re from but you need some help to figure this place out.”



Jardad told the tiger all about how he landed in Laos and the tiger told Jardad that if he wanted to get back home to Goop World, he would need to find his way to the Plain of Jars and hop inside a jar.

“You will face obstacles along the way. You never know which animal will be your friend. There are landmines all over Laos that were left here by a war long, long ago. If you step on a landmine, it can blow up and you will blow up with it. You must move quietly and pay close attention to everything. The Plain of Jars was built thousands of years ago. It is a plain scattered with giant stone jars. You must hop inside one and make a wish and it will be granted.”

Jardad’s head was spinning. How was he supposed to see the landmines? How would he know which animals to trust? How long would it take to get to the Plain of Jars?



“I want you to come with me, tiger, please?”
pleaded Jardad.

“I can’t. This is your journey and you need to take it on your own. Besides, I want to go tell the other tigers how I scared you,” replied the tiger, then he turned and silently walked away.

Jardad started off towards the Plain of Jars. He had to cross the country of Laos to arrive there. He started on an open field that was long and wide. The air was hot and sticky and Jardad was tired, so he decided to sing as he passed through the field to pass the time.

*“Ten green bottles hanging on the wall
Ten green bottles hanging on the wall
And if one green bottle should accidentally fall,
There’d be nine green bottles hanging on the wall.”*

Jardad was so absorbed in his singing that he didn’t notice the land mine he was about to step on.



NOW IT'S UP TO YOU!

Finish the story and tell us how Jardad gets back to Goop World.

Make sure and submit your story ending to
GoopTales.com/Jardad
so the rest of the world can read it!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maria Calanchini lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. Goop Tales are inspired by “The Goops”, which were a childhood favorite of Maria’s.

She uses her travel experiences and grown up imagination to breathe new life into the Goops with the Goop Tales series. She loves integrating world geography, cultures, and music into the Goop Tales.

Her goal is to ignite the imagination of children while introducing them to unknown places all over the world.

To learn more about the author you can visit her at **GoopTales.com/about**

