

Boudreaux's Adventure

Once upon a time there lived a crawfish named Boudreaux. One day while swimming in a swamp he heard a voice say, "Hello." Boudreaux jumped and said in a shaking voice, "Who's there?" for he thought he was all alone. It was a baby alligator. Boudreaux nearly fainted but the alligator said, "Don't be afraid. I'm looking for a friend like you."

"My name is Boudreaux," said Boudreaux still shaking from what had happened. The alligator said, "My name is Opie. Will you help me find my parents?" At first Boudreaux wasn't sure, but he finally consented.

The next morning, Boudreaux and Opie left the swamp and headed for the Mississippi River. When they finally got to the river, they started down the river. Soon Opie caught scent of his parents' trail and kept following it until dark. After dark a stupendous storm arose. Boudreaux and Opie sought refuge in a nearby cave. The next morning, Boudreaux and Opie resumed their journey.

They were still following the scent when they heard a voice say, "Come help me eat this

meal, friends.” Boudreaux and Opie looked around see who was talking, but the only thing they saw was an interesting looking creature with an alligator head and a fish’s body. When Opie saw the immense creature, he assumed that it was a cousin and swam up to it before Boudreaux could stop him. Right when Opie got to the creature, Boudreaux said, “Don’t get near the garfish!” It was too late. The garfish bit off a chunk of Opie’s tail. With all his might, Opie swam to the safe cave were Boudreaux was waiting. When the garfish couldn’t find them he left.

“Boudreaux”, Opie said, “my tail!” Boudreaux looked at the tail of his comrade and said, “I’m going to help you, but I’ve got to get some weeds.” A few minutes later Boudreaux came back with a bundle of weeds. “I think this will stop the bleeding,” said Boudreaux. The next morning the two friends set off again. Day after day they followed the scent. They passed large fish and little fish and almost all the time they were happy and joyful.

One day while following the trail, they came across a very shiny object near the surface of the

water. Boudreaux said, "I wonder what it is? Do you know Opie? I think I've seen it before, but I can't remember." "Well, I'll find out," said Boudreaux. He went over and tugged on it. Suddenly, Opie yelled, "Let go! It's a hook." Right at that moment, Boudreaux was yanked out of the water. While Boudreaux was flying through the air on the hook, he regained his senses, let go of the hook and splashed into the water. He was safe at last. Opie said, "I thought you were a goner!"

"Thanks for warning me! You're my best friend."

"You're mine too, Boudreaux."

After a good night's rest the two companions set off down the trail. When they had gone a ways, the two pals stopped to take a break. Boudreaux said, "Did you hear that?" "Hear what?" asked Opie, listening carefully. Suddenly something rustled. "It's coming from those bushes!" Boudreaux said. Then to their surprise, a newborn alligator came out from behind the bunch of weeds. He said in a weak voice, "My name is Snappy. I'm trying to find my parents." "Me too!" said Opie. "Maybe

you're my little brother." "Snappy, this is my friend Boudreaux," said Opie. "Now let's head out." Soon all three of them were heading down the trail.

After many more days of happy traveling, the scent ended in an old, peaceful swamp. Suddenly a voice said "Opie! Snappy you're home!" Then they both said Mommy, daddy we missed you so badly!" "Who do we have here? A snack?" their dad said. No way daddy! This is a special crawfish. He saved my life by warning me. What I thought was a cousin, was really a garfish. That's why I don't have much of a tail anymore." "Daddy," said Snappy "They found me behind some weeds!" "And Mr. Alligator, your son Opie saved my life. What I thought was neat and pretty turned out to be a nasty old hook." "Well thank you for helping my sons get to safety. Here in our old swamp, you're always welcome." "Thank you Mr. Alligator." Aw, just call me Al." "Boudreaux, will you wait here for just a few seconds while my wife and I have a talk?" "Sure thing, Al." A few minutes later, Al and his wife came back. "We've decided that if you want, you can stay with us here in the

swamp.” “You know I think I would like to.”
And so Boudreaux and Opie’s family lived
happily ever after.

THE END