

## Bonnie Kate And The Crab Patrol

By

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The little girl stepped quickly across the sand as she made her way toward the beach, trying to catch up to her older brother, mom, and dad. Bonnie Kate could hear the waves just over the next dune. She sat down, lifted her feet in the air, and brushed off the sand.

“Hurry up,” said her mom.

“The sand is hot,” replied Bonnie Kate.

“I told you to keep your sandals on,” remarked her mother as she passed her the pink clear plastic sandals. The glitter in the plastic sparked in the sun as Bonnie Kate held them up to her feet. The little girl struggled to get the sandals between her big toe and second toe. Her mother put down the chair she was carrying and helped Bonnie Kate with the sandals.

“Come on!” exclaimed her brother, Alexander. “I can see the ocean. We’re so close.”

Bonnie Kate wasn’t tall enough to see over the dune. She looked disappointed that she couldn’t see what her brother was seeing. Her father put down the cooler and chairs he was carrying and lifted Bonnie Kate onto his shoulders.

Bonnie Kate looked over the sand dune at the blue water and exclaimed, “It’s so beautiful! I want to go in! I want to go in!”

With one hand around her leg, Bonnie Kate’s dad picked up the cooler with his other hand. Mom grabbed the extra chairs and the four headed closer toward the ocean.

After they walked a few yards, Alexander declared a spot on the beach all their own. As the chairs held the towels down on the beach, keeping the wind from taking them, the family played in the water; just knee deep.

After a while, the family went back to their towels, chairs, and cooler. Mom took some of the sandwiches out of the cooler and handed a ham sandwich to dad, a cream cheese and jelly sandwich to Alexander and a peanut butter sandwich to Bonnie Kate. Mom kept a Philly cheese stake with onions, green peppers on a whole grain bun with a side Cesar salad for herself. Bonnie Kate wasn’t interested in eating her sandwich. She wanted to explore. While her brother, mom and dad ate, Bonnie Kate walked away from the water, toward the sand dunes.

“Stay close,” said her mother.

Bonnie Kate heard her mother, but continued to climb the dune. Her little legs and the soft sand made it difficult for climbing. When she reached the top she could see the tops of all the other dunes. Looking down the other side, she saw sand that had not been disturbed by anyone. She wanted to leave her footprints alone in the clean white sand. She ran down the dune, but stumbled and rolled down the hill end over end, landing in a heap. By the time she did stop she was covered in white sand. It was in her hair and down her bathing suit. She was very uncomfortable, but luckily she did not get any sand in her eyes. She walked between the dunes and suddenly came across holes, thousands of little round holes in the sand. She heard a strange sound of clicking coming from around a sand dune to her right. She quietly peered around the dune. Her eyes widened as she saw thousands upon thousands of small white crabs.

“Hurry up. You’re late,” said one of the crabs.

All of the crabs turned around and looked at Bonnie Kate. The white sand covering her body caused the crabs to mistake her for another one of them. The crabs began clicking their claws in the air. Click! Click! Click!

“Alright! Alright! Let’s get back to our meeting,” said the head crab.

“Who are you?” asked Bonnie Kate.

“We’re the crab patrol,” said the head crab. “Who did you think we were?”

“I didn’t know,” replied Bonnie Kate.

Click! Click! Click! Went all the crabs.

“As I was saying... Our plan is fool proof! Leonard is everything ready?” asked the head crab. A small crab raised his large claw and clicked it twice. Click! Click!

“Leonard has opened an online trading account. We have purchased ten-thousand shares of Big Red Shoe Company stock at two dollars a share. Now it’s up to us to get the stock price up.”

“How do we do that?” shouted one of the crabs in the back.

The head crab huffed and then continued. “We all spread out on the beaches and find everyone without shoes on their feet. Then you know what to do,” said the head crab as he clicked his claw. Click! Click! Click! Then the other crabs clicked their claws. Click! Click! Click!

“You don’t mean...” said Bonnie Kate.

“That’s right. We pinch their little toes. Then they’ll all run off and go buy shoes. This will cause our shoe stock to go up! Then we will sell our online shares at a huge profit. With our profits we can buy all the coffee and popcorn we need! Pop! Pop! Pop!” said the head crab.

“Pop! Pop! Pop!” said all the crabs.

Bonnie Kate thought this was very silly. “What will you do with all that coffee and popcorn?” she asked. The crabs looked at each other, but did not have an answer for her.

Then one of the crabs shouted to her, “We will have all the coffee and popcorn we want!”

“Pop! Pop! Pop!” responded all the crabs.

“Slurp!” said one of the crabs. All the other crabs stared at him.

“Coffee...” said the crab. The others just shook their heads and clicked their claws at him. Click! Click! Click!

“All the coffee and popcorn we want!” shouted some more crabs.

“Pop! Pop! Pop!” responded all the crabs.

“Aren’t you forgetting something?” asked Bonnie Kate.

The crabs looked at each other. “What?” asked the head crab.

“Coffee cups...” replied Bonnie Kate.

The head crabs face turned a whiter shade of white.

The other crabs started clicking their claws. Click! Click! Click!

“Drat!” said the head crab. “We have completely forgotten about coffee cups. It’s all ruined. There is no way we can continue with such a flaw in our plan. Leonard!”

“Yes,” responded Leonard.

“Close the online trading account. It’s over. All we can do now is crawl back to our holes and wait until we have a new plan,” said the head crab.

“But Sir!” shouted one of the crabs in the back. “It took us ten years of planning to come up with *this* plan. How much longer do we have to wait for coffee and popcorn?”

“Pop! Pop! Pop!” said all the crabs.

“I don’t know,” said the head crab. “But plan we will. And someday we will have our coffee and popcorn. Pop! Pop! Pop!” Click! Click! Click!

The crabs meandered back to their holes in the sand. Soon all the crabs were gone, except the large one standing there with pink sandals and covered in sand.