Contents

1 Three Boys and a Challenge 5
2 Breakfast with Baba 15
3 Mr Big 24
4 Jim's the Biggest but Lacks a Hurrah 34
5 What? Protect a Hawk? 40
6 Jim Gains Respect 47
7 Milo Plans Anew 54
8 Planning for Mr Big 64
9 You Hawk, Me Man 69
10 Happy Riddance and a Traffic Ticket 75
11 Mr Big Returns 83
12 An Alibi for Mr Big 87
Three Boys and a Challenge

Jim Anderson had lived in the village of Kendal for a week now and still had made no friends. His family had just moved from Savanna-la-Mar; his father, a good mechanic, repaired and serviced equipment for a large sugarcane farmer. Jim hadn’t minded being new in Kendal at all, but now school was out for the Christmas holiday and he had nothing exciting to do. After breakfast he left the house and wandered off toward the village square.

It was a beautiful day, with the sun climbing ever higher. The wind ruffled the tassled arrows of the tall sugarcane bush and rushed across the land, sweeping the stuffiness away, leaving the village a cleaner place. Christmas was in the air – Christmas, and no friends!

The adults he passed as he strolled along seemed friendly enough, nodding to him and calling out to each other and laughing. But the boys were another matter; they seemed rather clannish. He had met a few of them outside of school, but they had only stared at him or goggled at his feet. He soon found out why: he had been wearing shoes. Today, though,