

How Mother Nature

培生
英语阅读

大地女神

How Mother Nature Got Her Job

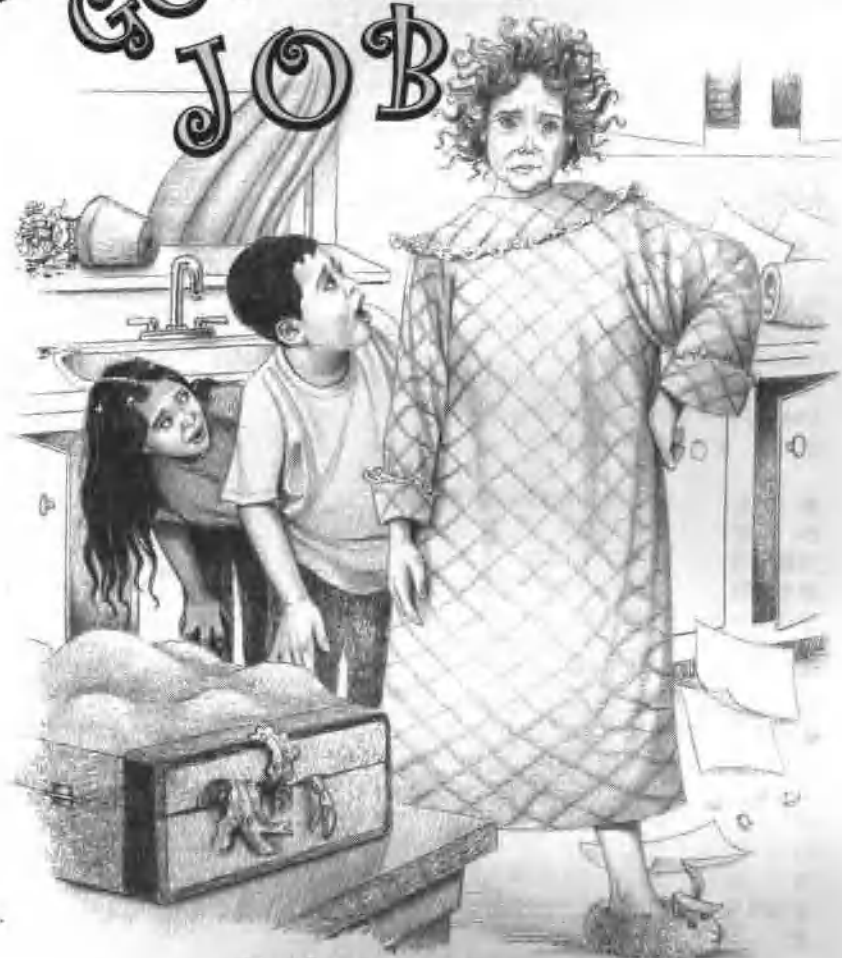
◆ 苏珊·韦恩 著

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HOW Mother Nature GOT HER JOB



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For darling, dear Rae Gonzalez

Some Excitement at Last

I didn't want to spend the summer in the country. I was used to living in the city. There were bright lights and big sounds in the city. Tall buildings were crowded together on every street, and there were people everywhere.

My name is Sam. This is the story of how a summer that might have been dull turned into the most amazing vacation I ever had.



My Aunt Susana's house is a hundred years old and stuck in the middle of **nowhere**. That's where my parents thought I would have fun, so that summer I was stuck in the middle of nowhere, too.

In the country it was quiet. Crickets and birds were all I could hear. It was strange. There weren't even any other people! The only nearby house was down the hill and across the road, and no one even lived there. It was empty.

I might have gone crazy from **boredom** if it wasn't for my cousin Rae. Rae's great. The first week I was there, we rode our bikes a lot and went exploring. I had never seen so many trees in one place before. There was a park near my **apartment** at home, but even it didn't have as many trees as Aunt Sue's big backyard.





One afternoon, Rae and I were on the **porch**. We were watching a spider make a huge web under the railing. As we watched, a car headed down the road. It was the first car I'd seen come down that road all week. I didn't count Aunt Sue's car because she lived here. This was a new person, someone I'd never seen before.

"Oh!" Rae cried. Her eyes got wide as she stared at the car. "This is great!"

Rae and I had been waiting for something exciting to happen. Still, it was just a car. "What's so great about seeing a car?" I asked.

"That's not just any car," Rae replied.

The car stopped in front of the old house across the road. I was too far away to see who got out of the car. Rae **bounded off** the porch, and moving fast, she ran down the hill.

I couldn't understand why Rae was so excited. On the other hand, I didn't have anything else to do, so I decided to follow Rae.

Rae had a head start, but I caught up to her at the bottom of the **walkway**. By now a woman had gotten out of the car.

"Hi," Rae called over to the woman. The woman waved.

Rae turned toward me, a big smile on her face. "She saw me! She waved!" she said. "Oh, I love it when she's home. She's so great. Wait until you meet her. Just wait!"

Opening the back of the car, the woman pulled out something large and flat.

I frowned, puzzled. Why was Rae so excited about this lady? "Who is she?" I asked.

bounded

A. jumped

B. flew

C. walked

Key: A

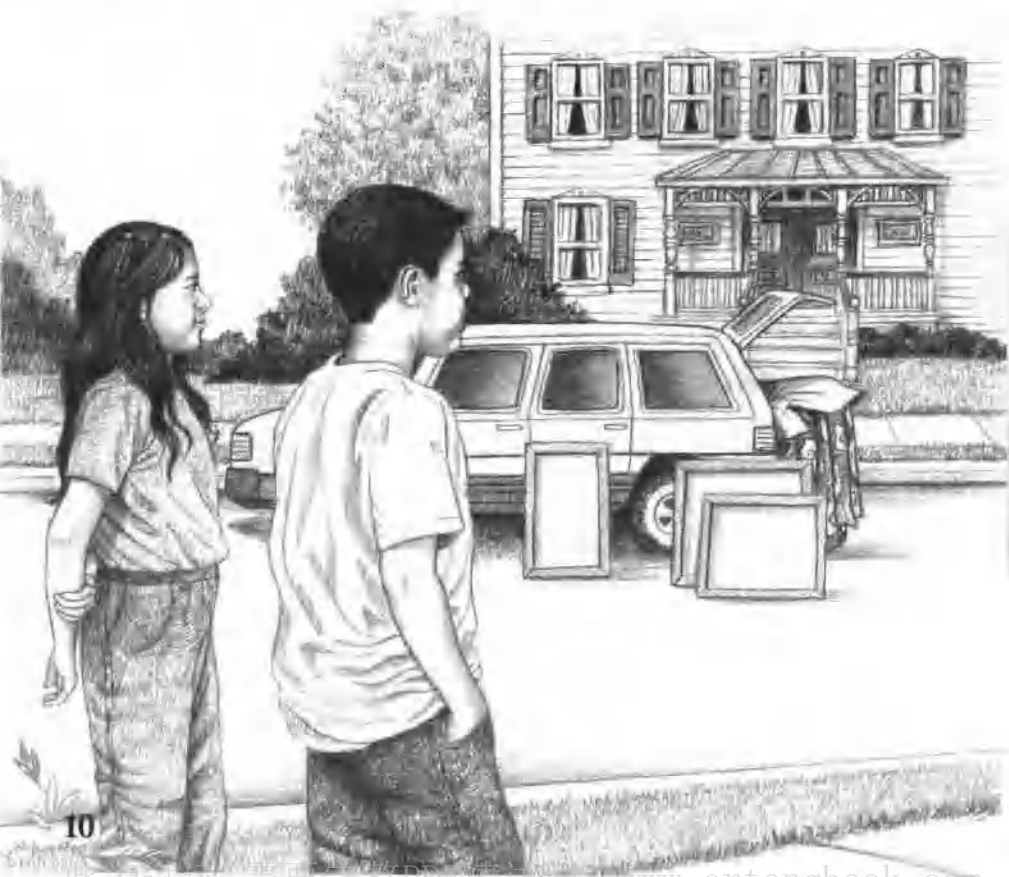


"It's Demeter Dunn," Rae told me, as if this was something everyone knew except me. "When Demeter Dunn is here, there's one thing you can always **count on**. Expect the unexpected!"

The Visit

“Who is Demeter Dunn?” I asked. I had never heard of her before.

“She’s a painter, a famous painter,” Rae explained. “Her paintings are in art **galleries** and museums all over the world. She comes here when she wants to be alone to paint. Let’s go visit her.”





"You just said she comes here to be alone," I **reminded** her.

"Oh, it's OK," Rae said as she crossed the road. "She likes me. Come on!" It was something to do, so I followed her.

Demeter Dunn took more and more flat things out of the back of her car. As I got closer, I could see that the flat things were paintings.

"Hi, Rae," she said when we reached her. "Who's your friend?"

"This is Sam," Rae told her. "He's my cousin from the city."

Demeter looked me over. "I'm from the city, too. How do you like country life so far, Sam?" she asked.

"I'm having a good time, but it's kind of quiet," I answered.

Demeter grinned. "Right now I need country quiet for painting. I have a big art show coming up in two weeks, and I have to **frame** all of these paintings and paint one more."

We helped her carry the paintings into her house. Inside Demeter leaned the paintings against the walls and furniture so we could see. The paintings were sort of strange.

"I work in a style called **abstract**," she explained. "I try to **capture** the energy of life. Look at this one," Demeter said, pointing to a painting of colorful swirls. "It's a seed starting to **burst** open. I used bright colors and bold brush strokes to show the excitement."

"They're great!" Rae **raved**.

I couldn't figure them out. These paintings didn't look like any paintings I'd ever seen before. They weren't really pictures of anything.

"The colors are nice," I said, trying to be polite to Demeter.



Demeter laughed. "I know it doesn't look like a seed," she said. "It's not supposed to. It's supposed to give you the feeling of a seed."

Hmmmm, I thought.

Rae and I left Demeter alone to finish unpacking, and we went back to our **positions** on the porch, watching the spider web.



The next morning, Rae suggested we visit Demeter again.

"She's busy," I reminded her.

"I know," Rae admitted with a sigh. "We won't stay long."

After breakfast we headed over to Demeter Dunn's house. As we neared the road, Rae suddenly stopped and turned her head **sharply**. She had heard something, and I heard it, too. Then it came swinging around the corner and we both saw it.

What did Rae and Sam see?

A Twister Blows Through

Another car we had never seen before was coming down the road. This car was a big, old-fashioned, pink **convertible** with the top down. The horn blasted as it sped toward us.

As the car passed us, we could see a woman driving. Her long white hair whipped around her face in the **breeze**.





The car came to a sudden stop in front of Demeter's house, and the driver hopped out. Her long dress flapped in a **sudden** wind.

Her hair was messy and wind-blown when she got out of the car. Then, as she moved around the car, something funny happened. Her hair smoothed down almost as if an **invisible** comb had fixed it.

The woman pulled an enormous suitcase out of the backseat. It looked heavy, but she lifted it with no problem. Then she skipped up the front steps and right into Demeter's house. She didn't even ring the doorbell!

Rae and I looked at each other. Who was this lady? What was going on?