

The Little Penguin Twins



Jane MEADOW

The Little Penguin Twins

Jane MEADOW



In the snowy land of Iceberg Bay, two little penguins lived with their family. Pip had a red scarf with white stripes and one tuft of feathers sticking up. Poppy wore a yellow hat with a fluffy pom-pom. They were twins, and they did everything together. Every morning they waddled out to play in the fresh white snow.



Pip and Poppy loved their snow tunnel more than anything. It was a long, winding path under the snow, just big enough for two little penguins. They would slide through it, giggling and calling to each other. "Catch me if you can!" Pip would shout. Poppy would laugh and chase after him. The tunnel was their favorite place in the whole wide world.



One day, the twins were playing in the tunnel when they heard a soft rumble. The snow above them began to shift and crack. "Pip!" Poppy cried. "I think the tunnel is falling!" Before they could move, the walls caved in with a soft, white whoosh. The tunnel collapsed, and the twins tumbled out into a heap of snow.



Pip sat up and shook the snow from his scarf. He looked at the big pile of snow where their beautiful tunnel used to be. "Oh no!" he said. "Our tunnel is gone!" Poppy stood beside him, brushing snow off her yellow hat. "It's all ruined," she whispered. For a moment, the two little penguins felt very sad.



Pip stamped his foot. "Let's dig it out right now!" He started pushing snow with his little flippers, but the pile was too big. Poppy watched him for a moment. "Pip," she said gently, "we need a plan. If we just push, we'll make a mess. Let's think about how to rebuild it better." Pip stopped and looked at the snow pile. "Okay," he said. "What's your plan?"



Poppy looked around and saw their friend Wally the walrus resting on the ice nearby. Wally was big and strong, with long white tusks and a kind face. "Wally!" Poppy called. "Our tunnel fell down! Can you help us?" Wally smiled and lumbered over. "Of course, little ones," he said. "I can push big piles of snow. Let's get to work."



Just then, Squeak the little white seal popped out of a snowbank. Her blue ribbon fluttered on her flipper. "What's happening?" she asked. "Our tunnel collapsed," said Pip. "We're going to rebuild it!" Squeak clapped her flippers. "I can help! I can pat down the snow and make it smooth." Everyone cheered. The team was ready.



Poppy looked at the big pile of snow. "Okay," she said. "We need to make a new tunnel. Wally, you push the big snow piles away. Pip, you and I will shape the walls. Squeak, you pat the snow down tight so it doesn't fall again." Everyone nodded. "That's a good plan!" said Wally. Pip tied his scarf tighter. "Let's do it!"



Wally pushed huge piles of snow with his wide flippers. His big round nose sniffed the cold air as he worked. Pip and Poppy used their little flippers to shape the tunnel walls, patting the snow into place. Squeak wiggled through the tunnel, pressing the snow smooth with her sleek body. "This is fun!" she squeaked. "We're making great progress!"



Pip tried to push a big chunk of snow, but it was too heavy. "I can't do it!" he grumbled. Poppy came over. "Let's push together," she said. They pushed side by side, and the snow moved easily. "Wow!" said Pip. "Working together is much better!" Poppy smiled. "That's what siblings are for," she said. "We make a great team."



After a while, Pip's flippers were tired. He sat down and sighed. "I don't think we can finish," he said. Squeak bounced over. "Don't give up!" she chirped. "We're almost done!" Wally nodded. "You can do it, little friend. We're all here to help." Pip looked at his friends and felt a warm glow in his heart. He stood up again.



Pip had an idea. "If we make the tunnel wider, we can all fit inside!" he said. Poppy's eyes lit up. "Yes! And we can make a little room at the end for Squeak and Wally to visit." Everyone loved the idea. They worked together, pushing and patting and shaping. The new tunnel was bigger and better than before, with a cozy space at the end.



Finally, the tunnel was finished. It curved beautifully under the snow, wide and smooth. Wally squeezed in first, his big tusks poking out. Squeak wiggled in next, her blue ribbon fluttering. Pip and Poppy slid in last, laughing. "It's perfect!" said Poppy. "And it's all because we worked as a team." Pip hugged his sister. "You're the best teammate ever!"



That evening, the four friends sat inside the new tunnel, sharing fish and stories. Wally told funny tales about the sea, and Squeak sang a little song. Pip and Poppy snuggled together, warm and happy. "We learned something today," said Poppy. "What's that?" asked Wally. "Siblings make wonderful teammates," she said. "And working with friends makes every job fun!"



From that day on, the penguin twins took care of their tunnel together. They checked the walls and patted the snow after every snowfall. And whenever a problem came along, they knew just what to do. They would make a plan, ask their friends for help, and work as a team. Because together, there was nothing they couldn't fix.



So if you ever visit Iceberg Bay, look for the snow tunnel with the two little penguins inside. One has a red striped scarf and a tuft of feathers. The other wears a yellow hat with a pom-pom. They'll be laughing and sliding, always together. And they'll tell you their secret: with teamwork and friends, every job becomes a wonderful adventure.