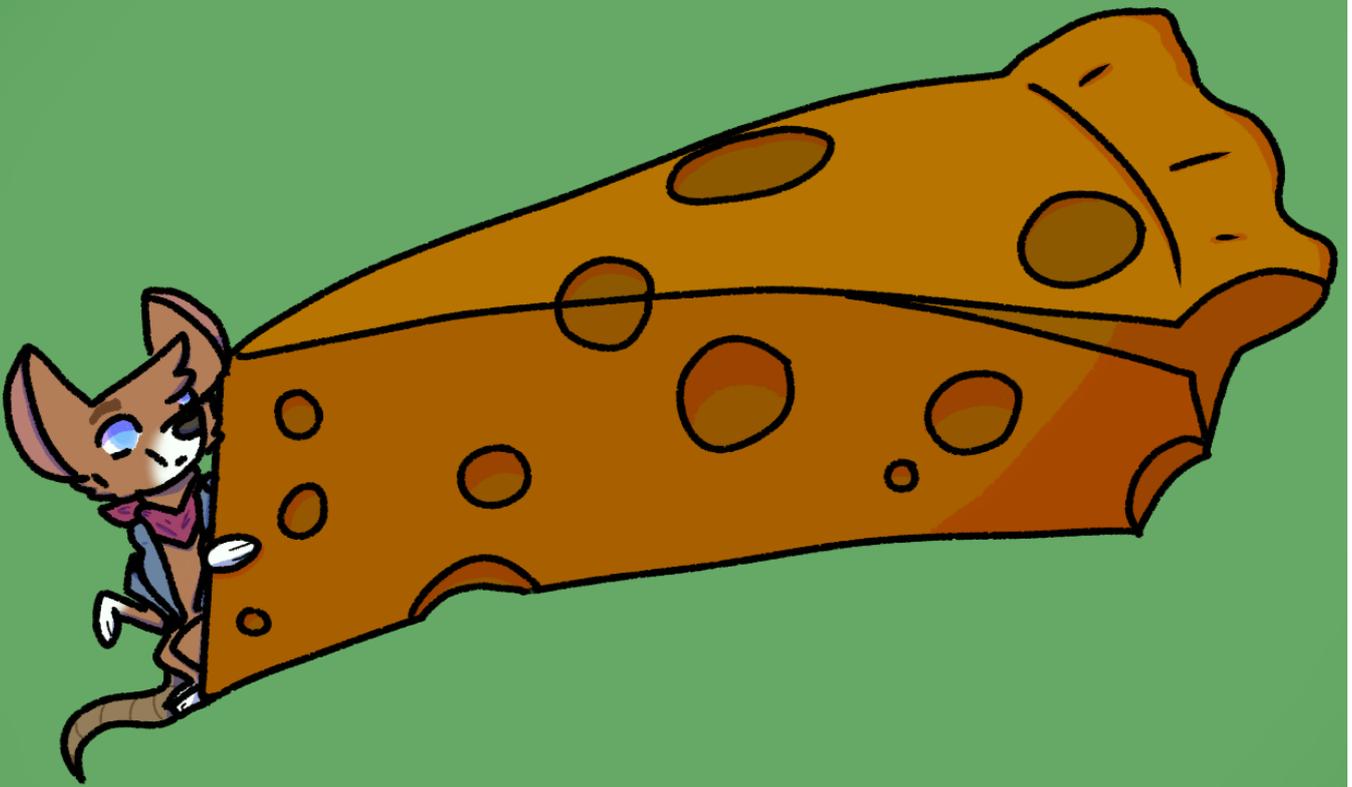


# *Swiss Pie*



**By**

***Lill Hinchliffe***

Denny was not like the other mice in the little town that her family lived in beneath the ancient oak. She was not that much of a fan of cheese, biscuits or leafy greens, no she enjoyed things like cake, fruits and especially, pie.



She always asked for pie when her parents left their small burrow to go scavenging but most of the time they said “sorry Denny, we might not be able to find some, maybe next time ok?”

One day her mom had brought back some apple pie, only a small bit but enough for Denny to share with her brother Jake. It was delicious from the crumbling buttery crust to the sweet caramelised apples, Denny wished there was more.



Denny's mom explained that she had come across a farm house that was being guarded by a big black dog who was fast asleep under the shade of a tree. The dog being asleep made it easy enough for her to sneak past and through an open door, where she found a half-eaten pie uncovered on a table.

As the months went by and Denny was getting older she could not forget the sweet, delicious tasting pie. Denny was biding her time until the day when her mom would allow her to explore and scavenge for her own food. She made a promise to herself that she would find her way to that farmhouse in the hopes of having more pie.



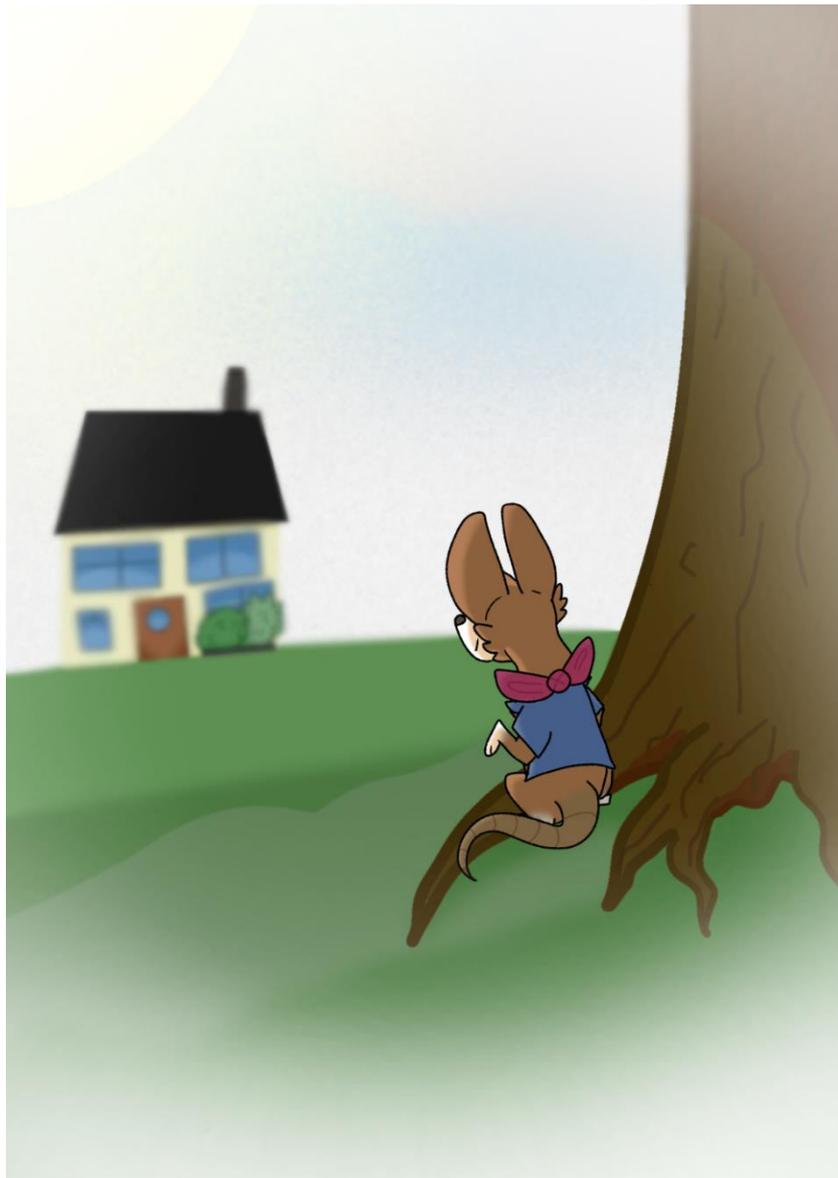
Denny daydreamed of ways to fool the big old dog just in case she was awake and alert but she was also confident that she would find a way of outsmarting the dog, how could she not she was an old dog, big but old and she was young and agile.

One morning Denny;s mom woke her and explained that it was time for Denny to explore the world outside. So at noon that day she waved goodbye to her parents as she left their small burrow and walked into the crisscrossing tunnels that lead to the main cavern.



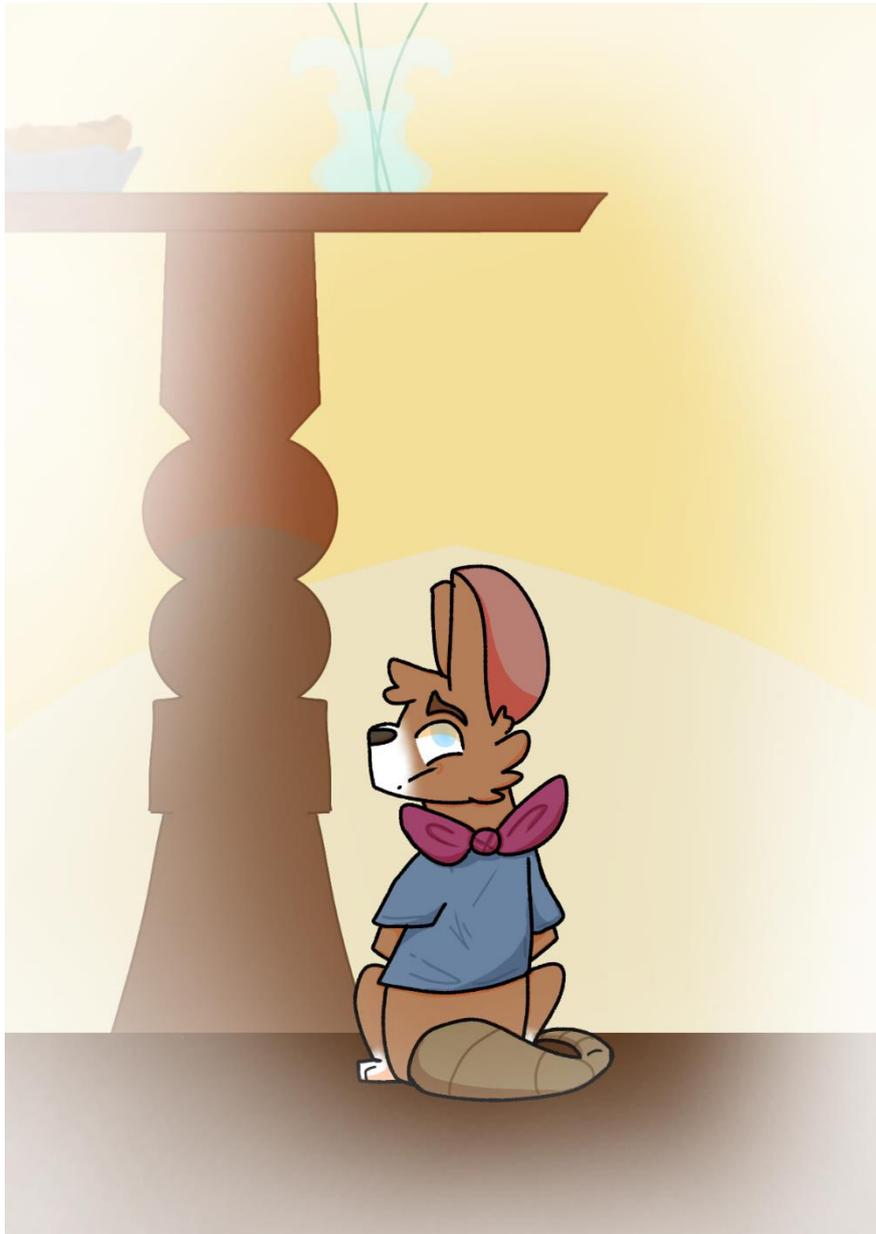
As she got closer and closer to the entrance she could smell the sweet air wafting in from outside. Peeking through Denny hesitating decided to take her first steps outside into the fresh air, she looked around in amazement at the tall trees. And quickly scurried under a bush out of sight before catching any unwanted attention.

Denny ran out further into the afternoon sunlight where the trees were shades of crimson to gold, she dug around hoping to sniff out any nuts to have as a snack as she was rather hungry, during her search she spotted the human settlement, big and ominous. Could this have been where her mom had got the piece of pie from before?



Curious, she quickly scurried towards the house wondering what she would find inside. As she reached the side door Denny noticed there was a large translucent flap at the bottom of the door that she could slip through into the warmth of the house and gazed around in wonder at the interior of the living room.

As Denny sniffed around she got a whiff of the sweet smell of apple, cinnamon and caramelised sugar floating in from the kitchen and so she scrambled towards the source of the heavenly scent, trying to stay invisible. She soon reached it and noticed a pie on a wooden table in the center of the room, steam rising from it releasing its oh so delicious aroma. Denny started to salivate, almost lost in the smells not realising she was not paying attention to her surroundings.



Scrambling towards the table legs she suddenly heard a tip tapping sound coming from the hallway, it sounded big, like large steady, heavy paws thumping over polished wood.

She froze as the large black dog, seemingly a Great Dane, trotted towards her mumbling to herself. “What are you doing here?” she growled,

“Im um, I was looking for some pie or possibly cake” Denny answered quickly,  
“Hm, I remember seeing a mouse like you around here a while ago, was she your mother?” the Great Dane grumbled,

“Yes, she came round to fetch some pie for my brother and I”  
“So you want some pie I’m guessing?” said the Great Dane,

“Um, yes, sorry for asking” Denny mumbled,  
“no no its ok, I can get some for you” she said as she leaped onto the table and took a small piece out of the pie and laid it down on the floor for Denny.

“Oh thank you so so much!” squeaked Denny as she begun hopping from one foot to the other with pure joy.  
“Your welcome, by the way what’s your name?” said the Great Dane,

“Its Denny, what’s yours?” asked Denny,  
“Its... its Rose” mumbled Rose as she shifted her paws around a bit.

“Well nice to meet you Rose, but I better get going as soon it will be sundown so see you around and have a nice day” said Denny as she begun to leave carrying the piece of pie in her arms,

“you to!” said Rose as Denny reached the flap in the door were she had first entered.



As it got darker Denny reached the burrow in time to the relief of her very worried parents. “Oh Denny, you had us so worried” said her mom as she grabbed Denny and gave her long and very tight hug. “But why worry mom you taught us all well on what dangers to look out for while scavenging, plus I think I made a new friend” Denny replied as showed them the lovely piece of pie she had managed to get for everybody to enjoy.



**The End**