

# Santa and the Zabbazara Bus

BY LUCRECE BEALE

Synopsis; The Princess says the Voodoo man has no power over real life people. When the Voodoo man comes to Zabbazara, Mr. D suggests he and the boy save the others by pretending to be Santa and the Princess.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Santa and the princess rushed into the palace with Mr. D and the little boy.

Mr. D put on Santa's long red coat and his red britches and his black boots. He stuffed two fat pillows in the front of his trousers and one behind. Santa got out the Princess's paint box and painted Mr. D's cheeks bright red. He put an extra bright dab on the tip of Mr. D's nose.

The little boy dug in his pockets and handed Mr. D two balls of bubble gum. Mr. D put one ball in each cheek and his face was as plump and rosy as Santa's.

The Princess got out her best white feather hat and snipped away at the feathers until they were shaped just right. Mr. D fastened the hat under his chin with an elastic band. When he was done not even Santa could tell which one was who or who was which one.

Then it was the little boy's turn. The Princess gave him her most elegant gown—white and gold with a red velvet train. He put it on backwards and sideways and even upside down before he got it on right.



*"You won't laugh long for I have you in my power."*

Every step he took he tripped over the velvet train until the Princess showed him how he could carry it over his arm if he absolutely must.

Finally she put a wig of golden curls on his head. "You look beautiful!" exclaimed the Princess. "I only wish I looked so!" She looked down at herself in dismay, for she was wearing the little boy's discarded clothing.

"You're still the Princess," said the boy shyly. "You're still--

He was interrupted by Mr. D, who was standing guard at the window. "Here he comes! He is just walking through the gates!"

Santa and the Princess fled from the room. The little boy climbed on the Princess's throne. He arranged the velvet train around his feet. Mr. D sat on a stool at the side of the throne. Quaking inside, they waited for the Voodoo man to appear.

A feather from his whiskers tickled Mr. D's nose. He tried

to blow it away. It only tickled more. Finally he just had to sneeze and he did — an enormous "Kerchoo!"—so enormous that both balls of bubble gum shot out of his mouth and clear across the room.

At this very moment the Voodoo man appeared in the door and was struck twice in the eye by the flying gum.

He looked so funny and so surprised the little boy couldn't help laughing, though he was shaking with fright. The Voodoo man was furious. He scowled.

"Laugh now. But you won't laugh long, for I have you in my power."

Mr. D cleared his throat and said in a quivering squeak, "You aren't so big! Your spell didn't work on me in Santa Land!"

"It worked on all your workers. Now I'll take care of you and the Princess together, and Santa Land will be no more."

The little boy was shaking all over but he thought he ought to say something so he said, "Phooey!" in a very loud voice.

The Voodoo man's face turned white with rage. He rubbed his brows and muttered to himself. He brushed one foot hard against the other and turned around three times in one spot.

Then he pointed at Mr. D and the boy and said, "Marshmallows!"

**NEXT: The Spell That Failed**