# BILLY BUNTER

## THE FATTEST SCHOOLBOY ON EARTH

1. A Greyfriars boy was strolling across Courtfield Common on his way back to the famous school, when he heard a cry for help. As he turned he saw a runaway horse with a young girl rider. "Help! Help!" cried the girl. "I can't hold him." The Greyfriars boy didn't hesitate. He sprinted across the common to stop the bolting horse.

2. "Hold on, miss. Keep your nerve!" yelled the boy, as he made a dive to stop the runaway. But he was unlucky. The frightened, plunging horse kicked him as he grabbed at the reins, and for a moment he thought his ankle was broken. The horse plunged on only a little way further, for there was a river in the way. The boy struggled to his feet.

3. Meanwhile the girl on the horse was facing worse trouble. The frightened beast went plunging on until it reached the river, and there it pulled up with a jerk that sent its young rider flying clean over its head. The Greyfriars boy forgot his damaged leg. He leapt into the river and struck out towards the drowning girl. His hurt ankle made it very difficult for him, but at last he got the girl ashore.

4. Having played the hero, the brave youngster hurried on his way with the result that the girl did not even find out his name. But her father, Sir Hilton Popper, meant to reward the plucky boy who had saved his daughter's life. He wrote to the headmaster at the school, who read the note that evening in Hall. Everybody wondered who the hero could be —but nobody really seemed to know.

5. And here Billy Bunter saw his chance. He knew the real hero would not come forward. Thought he: "What a pity to let the reward go begging! It might be grub—or money to buy some. And come to think of it, I do feel a bit peckish." So he bandaged his ankle and began to limp. Old Quelch was quite sympathetic about Bunter's ankle, and gave him permission to cut classes.

6. Off went the wily William Bunter to call on Sir Hilton. "My brave boy! You saved my daughter's life!" he cried. "Please accept this brand new cycle as a token of my thanks to you." Said Billy Bunter: "Oh, thank you, Sir Hilton! Of course it was very noble of me." Actually Bunter was a bit worried, 'cos when he couldn't see the bandage, he didn't know which ankle was supposed to be sprained!

7. So off went Billy Bunter back to Greyfriars with his spiffing new bicycle. Several of the boys met him at the gate. They thought Billy had all the luck. Fatty's nose was well in the air. "The school ought to be proud of me," he said, "for saving Sir Hilton's daughter." By this time William G. Bunter was really beginning to think that he was a real hero! But there was someone who knew different.

8. And it seemed that the school was proud of Billy Bunter. Alonzo Todd came along and patted Billy's broad shoulder. "We're so proud of you that we're standing you a special feed to-night, Fatty," he said. "Of course I deserve it," answered Bunter, tucking his thumbs into his waistcoat, and trying to look as if rescuing Sir Hilton's daughter was the most ordinary thing in the world.

9. What a joyful moment it was for the fattest schoolboy on earth when he drifted into the dormitory that night and clapped eyes on the biggest pie he had ever seen. "It's all yours, Billy," cried Toddy, cheerily. "Away you go and stow it away in that walking grub store of yours." Bunter didn't need telling twice—this was the sort of pie he'd always dreamed of!

10. Billy Bunter dashed off and grabbed a knife and fork. "I'm glad you didn't make the pie too small, Toddy," he said. "After all, saving a drowning girl does take it out of a fellow." So with gleaming eyes and watering mouth, Billy Bunter advanced on a giant feed all to himself. That pie had been made in an old bath-rub, but Billy Bunter was quite sure he could finish it.

11. But Billy was due for a nasty shock. As he bent over the giant pie to take his first stab at it, Alonzo Todd gave him a push in the pants that sent him staggering. With a yell of distress Billy plunged head-first through the pastry and quickly discovered that this pie was not the kind he liked. It was made of ink and glue, and ink and glue are two of the few things Bunter doesn't like eating!

12. You see, Alonzo Todd was the plucky lad who had saved Sir Hilton's daughter, so he knew from the first that the wily Bunter was a fake hero, and had planned to teach him a lesson. "Ooch! Yaroooh! Wow! Lemme go!" wailed the unhappy Billy, as he fled through the dorm, and knotted towel ends descended on the biggest target in Greyfriars. That taught Bunter a lesson! He'll keep out of mischief—till next Wednesday!