

Ane Barmen  
Melody!  
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Melody!

1

Melody and her older brother are dancing. Daniel is a goof. When he and Melody sing and dance boogie-boogie, he really shakes his bum. This makes Melody laugh until her tummy hurts.

2

They build a tree house in the garden as well.  
And play with Melody's dolls.  
And Daniel shows Melody how to make a sound with the cornet (you have to blow as hard as you can with a small, pursed mouth).  
Summer is all dance and music and Melody and Daniel.

3

But then Ingeborg arrives, and Daniel doesn't have time to play with Melody anymore. Ingeborg has long hair like a princess, but a sour-looking face. The two of them are practicing the cornet together. Without Melody. "But I also know how to play the cornet", Melody says.

"I can't be bothered to hang out with babies," Ingeborg says. Melody doesn't think that's a nice thing to say, and besides, she's not a baby. She's actually five years old. But Daniel doesn't say anything. He only goes to his room with Ingeborg.

4

Melody follows them. She beats pots and pans. She too knows how to make music! "Stick out your bum!" she hollers. She blows the cornet as hard as she can, but then Daniel pushes her out of the room. "Go away, you're disturbing us," he says.

5

Melody goes to her room.  
Ingeborg is stupid.  
Everything is stupid.  
Even Daniel is stupid.

After a while, she hears that Ingeborg and Daniel are getting ready to leave. She tries to follow them, but Daniel just says:

"You can't join us, Melody. We're on our way to marching band practice. You're too small."

NOT FAIR!

6

"Dad, I want to join Daniel at the marching band practice," Melody says.

"You'll have to wait for a while, you have to be a little older to join the marching band.

"But I want to!" says Melody.

"Daniel is going to practice," says Dad. "You'll need to leave him to it and not disturb."

What a stupid thing to say! Melody isn't going to disturb. She just wants to join in.

7

But when it is time for the next marching band practice, Melody gets to join after all! Dad and Pa have a meeting to attend, so Melody has to stay with Daniel.

Melody is excited.

"You have to be totally quiet at the practice," Daniel says.

"Yes, sure," Melody says.

"You have to sit quietly at the back of the room and not talk," Daniel says.

"Yes, sure," Melody says.

"You CAN'T touch anything," Daniel says.

"I SAID, SURE!" Melody shouts.

Then Daniel doesn't say any more.

8

At the practice, Daniel walks straight over to Ingeborg.

Melody has to sit at the back and not touch anything.

But sitting still is so hard! And it is super-duper difficult not to touch anything. Melody's hands are twitching.

All the shiny, lovely instruments strewn across the floor. It's like they call for her.

"Come and play us!" they call.

10

A beautiful, shiny tuba lays by itself right next to Melody. It looks very lonely. She just HAS to try, just a tiny bit!

Melody blows and blows until she's dizzy.

But oops! Only fart sounds come out?

Everyone's laughing.

"Melody! Put the tuba down!" Daniel shouts. His face is red.

Oh, ok. Melody goes back to her chair.

12

Melody tries her very best to sit still. She sits on her hands, she clenches her mouth shut and tries to be as quiet as the smallest mouse in the world.  
But even the tiniest mice must squeak every now and then.  
And Melody just HAS to squeak a teeny, tiny bit.

She tries a drum, but it is too big.  
She tries a tenor horn, but no oompah comes out.  
She tries a flugelhorn, a baritone horn, a trombone.  
But everything just goes fart and blah and squeak and plonk.

13

Daniel grabs her arm tightly and drags her away.  
"Sit down and shut up!" he hisses.  
Melody's belly stings.

She sits on the bench. Her arms and legs tingle. Like small ants crawling around. Daniel sits together with Ingeborg Plingyborg, talking and laughing.

He was supposed to have fun together with Melody!

14

The marching band begins to play.  
Listening is boring. Instead, Melody goes out into the hallway.  
In the hallway, a big red button is blinking.  
It's the button you press if there's a fire and you want the fire fighters to come.  
It is strictly forbidden to press the button if there's no fire. But after all, this is a crisis.