

Calvin **got it into his head** that he would become the next Houdini

never mind that he had no idea what it **involved**

and how much **practice** it would **likely take**

one day he simply **had** Hobbes **tie** him to a chair

the tighter the better, he said, let me do it **the hard way**

Calvin was very **confident** that he could **pull it off**

so he didn't want Hobbes to **go easy on** him

he specifically **asked** for the ropes to be **properly** tightened

so no one could **accuse** him **of cheating**

Hobbes didn't **even bother to** try to **talk Calvin out of it**

he knew **there was no point**, he'd **been there done that**

once he was tied up, Calvin **set about loosening** the ropes

mainly by shaking wildly from side to side

just as he **got going**, his mother called to tell him dinner was ready

this was something Calvin **failed to factor in the equation**

as he struggled to **get loose**, his mom **kept calling** from downstairs

Hobbes **offered to** untie him but Calvin **wouldn't let** him

in fact, he told him **not to** touch the ropes **at all**

Calvin thought that **all it takes** to **set yourself free** is rock the chair

so he did **just that** but he **ended up falling** backwards

and hitting **the back of his head** on the floor **painfully**

Hobbes **took this opportunity to remind** him **about an** earlier plan

which **had Calvin doing** this underwater

he **would have been** dead **by now for sure**

Calvin finally **admitted defeat** and **asked to be untied**

his **attempt at becoming** the next Houdini **had failed**

but he was going to find that his trouble **wasn't over** yet

it turned out that Hobbes **did such a good job tightening** the ropes

that **not even he** could **figure out** how to help Calvin **out**

Calvin **couldn't believe** what **mess** he'd **gotten himself into**

pulling the ropes didn't **work**, **in fact it made things worse**

and Calvin's parents **seemed to be growing very impatient**

Hobbes **suggested that** he could **go get** a Boy Scout manual

and **read up on ways to** untie these crazy knots

Hobbles actually **got quite emotional while leafing** through the manual

remarking that he **too had wanted** to be a Boy Scout

what **put him off, however**, were the meetings he'd had to attend

Calvin **had no time for** Hobbles' reminiscing and **urged** him to **knock it off**

but Hobbles was **too involved in reading** the manual to notice, or **even care**

he **found** himself **overwhelmed** by pleasant memories

and everything **that he though was cute about being** a Boy Scout

besides, he **had** just **come across** a motto that he'd never heard of

and **figured** that **having** a motto must be **lots of fun**

Calvin didn't **share** his **enthusiasm** and he **resented being ignored**, too

meanwhile, as if to add insult to injury, Hobbles had begun **quizzing** him

on ways to treat and **handle** various injuries mentioned in the book

at this Calvin **snapped**, yelling and **calling** Hobbles an idiot

causing Hobbles **to point out** that if he **were** in Calvin's **shoes**

he certainly wouldn't be **calling** his only possible savior **names**

Calvin **went on to threaten** to **take revenge once** he **was** free

but **realizing** that **you don't** bite the hand that could untie you

he **changed his tune** and **set to work trying** to win Hobbles' sympathy

by reminding him **about** the dinner that he **was supposed to be having**

going as far as to apologize **for having been** rude

and **wishing** he **hadn't called** his friend names

not that Hobbes, **preoccupied with** Morse Code, was **paying** any attention

in the meantime, the parents **were wondering** what Calvin **was up to**

the sounds coming **from above** were a little suspicious and **unnerving**

the mother **remarked** that Calvin's dinner was stone cold **by now**

prompting her husband to **take action**, to go **check out** what was going on

he stood up and **headed** upstairs, **determined to dish out** fair punishment

he came in **only to see** his son tied to a chair in an **otherwise** empty room

the father **appeared to be fumbling for** words as well as explanations

Calvin **blamed** Hobbes, **saying** the tiger **put him up to** this

stressing that Hobbes **was going to exchange** him for ransom money

the father **was having none of it**, **brushing aside** this **lame excuse**

Calvin **kept laying it on thick** but his dad **was never going to buy it**

a stuffed tiger was the **mastermind** here? **yeah, right**

a little later on, Calvin was back in his room, **frowning** and **sulking**

while Hobbes was **smugly recapping** the **events** of the day

and **mocking** Calvin's **attempts to talk his way out of trouble**

even now, Calvin can't **bring himself to** admit he **brought this on himself**