

Bruno's Birthday Party

Bruno was having a horrible night: He was so excited and nervous that he could not sleep at all.

But as he sometimes was quite a sensible bear, he had forced himself to go to bed early and try to sleep - although he knew that it would be hard.

He just opened and closed his eyes for the ... he had not counted ... but at least 100th time. He had to rest in order to prepare for his big day: Today, it was his birthday. It was not his first one, but Bruno would give his first birthday party in his flat. No surprise that he almost collapsed although lying in bed. He just waited for the sun to rise. Bruno did not worry about the weather: Of course, it would be great for his first party.



After spending what seemed to be ages awake in his bed, it finally became day outside. This was the sign to get up. Considering the time he had spent in bed, he was sure to be fit now.

Foxi and Knut were still sleeping. In some way, he envied them; but he was also looking forward to his party and even to the work and preparations he had to do before. Bruno had invited all of his best friends. As the baby polar bear Knut and his dearest companion Foxi lived with him, they would be around anyway. If they got up in time, they even might help him with the preparations.

His most important guests would be his favourite Uncle Alex and of course the elk Elmar.

He was so happy that they all had agreed to come.

After finishing his daily morning toilet even more carefully than usual because he had to be presentable today, Bruno started with the preparations for his party. There was so much to do. Fortunately, the flat was already tidy and clean. He had finished the housework yesterday and had been quite strict when Foxi and Knut started creating a mess again. The shopping had already been carried out as well. He had bought plenty of food and drinks. At least Bruno hoped so.

The only things Bruno had to do today were decorate the flat as nicely as possible and in addition, he had planned to bake a birthday cake. It would be the first cake he would bake on his own without any help. And it should be a really delicious cake with honey instead of sugar and a thick chocolate coating.

Bruno went to the kitchen and put out the ingredients he needed: Eggs, flour, honey, butter and chocolate. As Bruno wanted to have a large cake - in order to impress his friends - he was careful not to forget the baking powder.

Thinking of his first cake, Bruno became even more nervous than he already was. He started rushing around and put all the ingredients in a large bowl. His cake should be really really enormous. He would be the star of the party - not only because it was his birthday and his first party - but also because his cake would be so delicious.

Loosing track, Bruno started pouring the flour in the bowl. There was a big smile on his face. Suddenly, Bruno slipped and fell. As it happened so suddenly, he could not react at all. Only one thought came to his mind "The floor was too slippery because I have cleaned so much." His second thought was "my cake!!!". Then, Bruno did not think anything at all any more and was just lying on the floor without moving.

After quite a while, he rubbed his snout and found that it was not only aching but also white: What had happened? He was covered in flour. Bruno remembered that he had been preparing a cake - his first cake - for his - first - birthday party. Getting aware of this, Bruno forced himself to get up. What a mess he had created! What time was it? Bruno had a look at the clock. Now, he was in real troubles: his guests would arrive soon. There was hardly enough time any more for baking his cake. But as he wanted it so much, he did not even look into the mirror or bother with cleaning himself or the kitchen, but continued with his cake.

As he hurried so much and tried not to think about the mess in the kitchen, Bruno was soon able to put the cake into the oven. It would need about one hour, just enough time for him to get ready and welcome his friends.

Bruno went to the bathroom. When he looked into the mirror, he was shocked. He was white all over. He actually did not look like himself any more, rather like his friend Knut, the baby polar bear.

What should he do now? He could not have a proper shower as his fur would not dry so quickly and he didn't fancy a party being wet. Someone knocked at the bathroom door. It was Foxi. Finally, he had obviously woken up. When Foxi saw Bruno, he started giggling and could not stop any more. Bruno was not in the mood for jokes and laughter. But Foxi was so enthusiastic about how Bruno looked that he went back to the bedroom to wake up Knut.

Then, he dragged Bruno to the living room to take photographs. Foxi thought that the solution was ideal: Knut the polar bear had been living together with Bruno for quite a while. Now, there was a chance to take a photograph of the two of them to show that both of them were white and therefore a family.

After taking a few shots with which Foxi was quite happy, he got jealous that he did not belong to the family any more. Because he did not really fancy spoiling his great fur with flour, he decided that he just had to be on the photograph. As he was quite an intelligent and sly fox, he put the camera on the table and activated the self-timer. Then, he placed himself on the sofa with the others and they posed for their family photograph.

Bruno lost the nerves after a while: he had to put his cake out of the oven and in addition, there was no time at all any more to remove the flour from his fur. Another horrible thing was that he had hardly decorated the room.

Bruno startled and almost fainted again when the bell suddenly rang. But it had to be expected. He pressed the door opener hoping that the first guest would not be his vain friend Elmar.

When Bruno opened the door, he was very relieved: Uncle Alex had arrived. Bruno

didn't care because of his uncle's shocked look on the face: He was just happy to see him and wanted to hug him. But Uncle Alex did not lose the nerves: After putting off his shoes and his jacket, he took Bruno's paw and dragged him to the bathroom where he cleaned him as good as possible within a short time. While doing so, he got to know a few details about what had happened.

Bruno soon looked fairly presentable again. They went back to the living room. What a surprise: Foxi a had decorated the room. Everything looked great. In the kitchen, there was no flour on the floor any more. The best thing was that there was a really great looking cake on the table. Who had baked it? Was it him?

With the help of his friends and Uncle Alex, Bruno finally relaxed. Now, the other guests could come. He was happy that most of them were always late.

When Elmar and his other friends arrived, everything was o.k. again. Bruno got great presents and they had a really great party. They celebrated until the middle of the night.

Bruno decided to give a birthday party again next year. He would bake a cake again, but next time, one day before the party.

On the next day, he had a proper wash. When he finally had dried, Bruno felt back to normal. Not only this: He was overly happy with his great party.

The End