

#76 The Two Heroes

Two very strong sister mice were split up at a young age to live in separate villages on the north and south face of a mountain. Alas, one day, severe storms ravaged the entire mountain, pelting both faces with a torrential downpour followed by the inevitable flooding. The two mouse villages were decimated. Though the

villages were not in constant contact, word spread over time that neither could help the other because they each had so many problems of their own. As it turned out, the two sister mice - each in her own village - became heroes. Independently, they led efforts to rebuild every burrow and tunnel, working tirelessly until every mouse was safe and healthy. Though neither of them knew of the lifework of the other, each was revered by her peers.

Life went on and the sisters eventually approached old age. By the by, the south face village enjoyed years of good sun and rain and therefore had sumptuous harvests. The heroin sister became a celebrated village legend. The story of how she triumphed over the year of the flood became a dramatic comedy that was told over and over. The north face village, however, experienced uncharacteristically cold winters immediately following the floods. This resulted in famine and hardship. So, although they loved and appreciated their heroine sister, the sad tale of woe of the village's decline, despite her heroic actions, became a tragedy that is told to this day.

Ultimately, the villages joined together again. As they told their stories with very different endings, not one mouse could doubt the debt that was owed the heroes.

WHETHER LIFE IS A COMEDY OR A TRAGEDY IS DECIDED

BY THE ENDING ...

WHETHER YOU ARE HEROIC IS ANOTHER STORY