**The Rocket Book eBook**

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**THE ROCKET BOOK**

**[Illustration]**

**THE BASEMENT**

  When Fritz, the Janitor’s bad kid,  
    Went snooping in the basement,  
  He found a rocket snugly hid  
    Beneath the window casement.

  He struck a match with one fell swoop;  
    Then, on the concrete kneeling,  
  He lit the rocket and—­she—­oop!   
    It shot up through the ceiling.

[Illustration:  *The* *basement*]

**FIRST FLAT**

  The Steiners on the floor above  
    Of breakfast were partaking;  
  Crash! came the rocket, unannounced,  
    And set them all a-quaking!

  It smote a catsup bottle, fair,  
    And bang! the thing exploded!   
  And now these people all declare  
    That catsup flask was loaded.

**[Illustration:  FIRST FLAT]**

**SECOND FLAT**

  Before the fire old Grandpa Hopp  
    Dozed in his arm-chair big,  
  When from a trunk the rocket burst  
    And carried off his wig!

  It passed so near his ancient head  
    He roused up with a start,  
  And, turning to his grandsons, said,  
    “You fellows think you’re smart!”

[Illustration:  *Second* *flat*]

**THIRD FLAT**

  Algernon Bracket, somewhat rash,  
    Had blown a monster bubble,  
  When, oh! there came a blinding flash,  
    Precipitating trouble!

  But Algy turned in mild disgust,  
    And called to Mama Bracket,  
  “Say, did you hear that bubble bu’st?   
    It made an awful racket!”

**[Illustration:  THIRD FLAT]**

**FOURTH FLAT**

  Jo Budd, who’d bought a potted plant,  
    Was dousing it with water.   
  He fancied this would make it grow,  
    And Joseph loved to potter.

  Then through the pot the rocket shot  
    And made the scene look sickly!   
  “Well, now,” said Jo, “I never thought  
    That plant would shoot so quickly!”

[Illustration:  *Fourth* *flat*]

**FIFTH FLAT**

  Right here ’tis needful to remark  
    That Dick and “Little Son”  
  Were playing with a Noah’s ark  
    And having loads of fun,

  When all at once that rocket, stout,  
    Up through the ark came blazing!   
  The animals were tossed about  
    And did some stunts amazing.

**[Illustration:  FIFTH FLAT]**

**SIXTH FLAT**

  A Burglar on the next floor up  
    The sideboard was exploring.   
  (The family, with the brindled pup,  
    Were still asleep and snoring.)

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  Just then, up through the silverware  
    The rocket thundered, flaring!   
  The Burglar got a dreadful scare;  
    Then out the door went tearing.

**[Illustration:  SIXTH FLAT]**

**SEVENTH FLAT**

  Miss Mamie Briggs with no mean skill  
    Was playing “Casey’s Fling”  
  To please her cousin, Amos Gill,  
    Who liked that sort of thing,

  When suddenly the rocket, hot,  
    The old piano jumbled!   
  It stopped that rag-time like a shot,  
    Then through the ceiling rumbled.

[Illustration:  *Seventh* *flat*]

**EIGHTH FLAT**

  Up through the next floor on its way  
    That rocket, dread, went tearing  
  Where Winkle stood in bath-robe, gay,  
    A tepid bath preparing.

  The tub it punctured like a shot  
    And made a mighty splashing.   
  The man was rooted to the spot;  
    Then out the door went dashing.

[Illustration:  *Eighth* *flat*]

**NINTH FLAT**

  Bob Brooks was puffing very hard  
    His football to inflate,  
  While round him stood his faithful guard,  
    And they could hardly wait.

  Then came the rocket, fierce and bright,  
    And through the football rumbled.   
  “You’ve got a pair of lungs, all right!”  
    His staring playmates grumbled.

**[Illustration:  NINTH FLAT]**

**TENTH FLAT**

  The family dog, with frenzied mien,  
    Was chasing Fluff, the mouser,  
  When, poof! the rocket flashed between,  
    And quite astonished Towzer.

  Now, if this dog had wit enough  
    The English tongue to torture,  
  He might have growled such silly stuff  
    As, “Whew! that cat’s a scorcher!”

**[Illustration:  TENTH FLAT]**

**ELEVENTH FLAT**

  While Carrie Cook sat with a book  
    The phonograph played sweetly.   
  Then came the rocket and it smashed  
    That instrument completely.

  Fair Carrie promptly turned her head,  
    Attracted by the roar.   
  “Dear me, I never heard,” she said,  
    “That record played before!”

[Illustration:  *Eleventh* *flat*]

**TWELFTH FLAT**

  De Vere was searching for a match  
    To light a cigarette,  
  But failed to find one with despatch,  
    Which threw him in a pet.

  Just then the rocket flared up bright  
    Before his face and crackled,  
  Supplying him the needed light—­  
    “Thanks, awfully,” he cackled.

[Illustration:  *Twelfth* *flat*]

**THIRTEENTH FLAT**

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  Home from the shop came Maud’s new hat—­  
    A hat of monstrous size!   
  It almost filled the tiny flat  
    Before her ravished eyes.

  When, sch-u-u! up through the box so proud  
    The rocket flared and spluttered.   
  “I said that hat was all too loud!”  
    Her peevish husband muttered.

[Illustration:  *Thirteenth* *flat*]

**FOURTEENTH FLAT**

  Tom’s pap had helped him start his train,  
    And all would have been fine  
  Had not the rocket, raising Cain,  
    Blocked traffic on the line.

  It blew the engine into scrap,  
    As in a fit of passion.   
  “Who would have thought that toy,” said pap,  
    “Would blow up in such fashion!”

[Illustration:  *Fourteenth* *flat*]

**FIFTEENTH FLAT**

  Orlando Pease, quite at his ease,  
    The “Morning Star” was reading.   
  “My dear,” said he to Mrs. Pease,  
    “Here’s a report worth heeding.”

  The rocket then in wanton sport  
    Flashed through the printed pages.   
  The lady gasped, “A wild report!”  
    Then swooned by easy stages.

[Illustration:  *Fifteenth* *flat*]

**SIXTEENTH FLAT**

  Doc Danby was a stupid guy,  
    So, lest he sleep too late,  
  He placed a tattoo clock near by  
    To waken him at eight.

  But, ah! the rocket smote that clock  
    And smashed its way clean through it!   
  “You have a fine alarm,” said Doc,  
    “But, say, you overdo it!”

[Illustration:  *Sixteenth* *flat*]

**SEVENTEENTH FLAT**

  A penny-liner, Abram Stout,  
    Was writing a description.   
  “The flame shot up,” he pounded out—­  
    Then threw a mild conniption.

  For through his Flemington there shied  
    A rocket, hot and mystic.   
  “I didn’t mean to be,” he cried,  
    “So deuced realistic!”

[Illustration:  *Seventeenth* *flat*]

**EIGHTEENTH FLAT**

  Gus Gummer long had set his head  
    Upon some strange invention.   
  “Be careful, Gus,” his good wife said;  
    “It might explode.  I mention—­”

  Just then the pesky rocket flared  
    And wrecked that Yankee notion.   
  “I feared as much!” his wife declared;  
    Then fainted from emotion.

[Illustration:  *Eighteenth* *flat*]

**NINETEENTH FLAT**

  While Burt was on his hobby-horse  
    And riding it like mad,  
  The rocket on its fiery course  
    Upset the startled lad.

  The frightened pony plunged a lot,  
    Like Fury playing tag.   
  “Whoa, Spot!” said Burt.  “Who would have thought  
    You such a fiery nag!”

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[Illustration:  *Nineteenth* *flat*]

**TWENTIETH FLAT**

  A taxidermist plied his trade  
    Upon a walrus’ head.   
  It really made him quite afraid  
    To meet its stare so dread.

  When suddenly the rocket, bright,  
    Flared up and then was off!   
  “Oh, Minnie,” cried the man in fright,  
    “Just hear that walrus cough!”

[Illustration:  *Twentieth* *flat*]

**TOP FLAT**

  Oh, it was just a splendid flight—­  
    That rocket’s wild career!   
  But to an end it came, all right,  
    As you shall straightway hear.

  It plunged into a can of cream  
    That Billy Bunk was freezing,  
  And froze quite stiff, as it would seem,  
    And so subsided, wheezing.

**[Illustration:  TOP FLAT]**