



Bitter Bolete and Penny Bun

The rejected lookalike

As the mail-ant walks through the forest, almost nothing escapes her attention. So last week, over at the Penny Bun mushrooms, she heard a really funny story. Right away she told it to her friend.

"Imagine," said the mail-ant, "the Bitter Bolete was actually trying to approach a Penny Bun lady. He looks almost like a Penny Bun. His stalk is firm and has a claviform shape; his cap is beautifully upholstered, brown-grey – just like a Penny Bun. Well, the tubes under his hat are pink-grey, not greenish-yellow like that of the genuine bolete lady. And he has a dark net pattern on a light stalk, whilst it is the other way around with the Penny Bun mushroom. But if one does not pay attention, then one can sometimes mistake the Bitter Bolete for the Penny Bun. Quite some have been deceived." "And what happened then?" the curious friend wanted to know. "At dusk, the Bitter Bolete approached the Penny Bun lady with a bouquet of flowers. Of course she thought: What a great Penny Bun man! And she was happy about the flowers, and was totally entranced. Then she gave him a kiss, as a thank-you for the bouquet. But then ..." "What then?" the friend asked impatiently. "Well, then the lady noticed the scam. The guy tasted bitter as gall! He was just a Bitter Bolete, not worthy for a Penny Bun lady! The whole forest laughed about him."

"And how did the story end?" the friend wanted to know. "Well, the Bitter Bolete better never tries it again. Miss Penny Bun is totally offended now. The next admirer will certainly be better checked out by her."

Yes, the Bitter Bolete was disgraced. His great appearance did not help him. He is just bitter as gall. He will never turn into a genuine Penny Bun.

Excerpt from "The Forest Concert" by Evelyn Filep, English translation by Marina Müller, © Evelyn Filep 2019, Germany, efilep@gmx.de