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Drama at
The Tobago
Heritage
Festival
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Every year John and Norah took their champion goat, Billy, to race. But one year Billy ran away from the Buccoo Goat Race.

The race was about to start. "Beeeee! Beeeah!" Billy bleated because he did not want to compete. He pulled away from his jockey, headed off the course and out of Buccoo.

"Stop! Stop! Stoooooop!" Norah, John and the jockey shouted as they ran after him. But Billy continued running, bleating loudly, "Run! Run! You can't catch me. I am the fastest in the land!"

He ran all the way to Scarborough and uphill to the cannons at Fort King George. Norah, John, the jockey and some people from Buccoo village followed. They all shouted, "Stop! Stop! Stop!" but Billy shrieked back "Run, run as fast as you can! You can't catch me!"

Everyone was out of breath and tired. "That goat could really run fast!" a boy said. "Yes, he could win the race this year," someone answered. Billy heard and looked back. He tripped on a rock and went rolling, rolling, over and over down the hill.

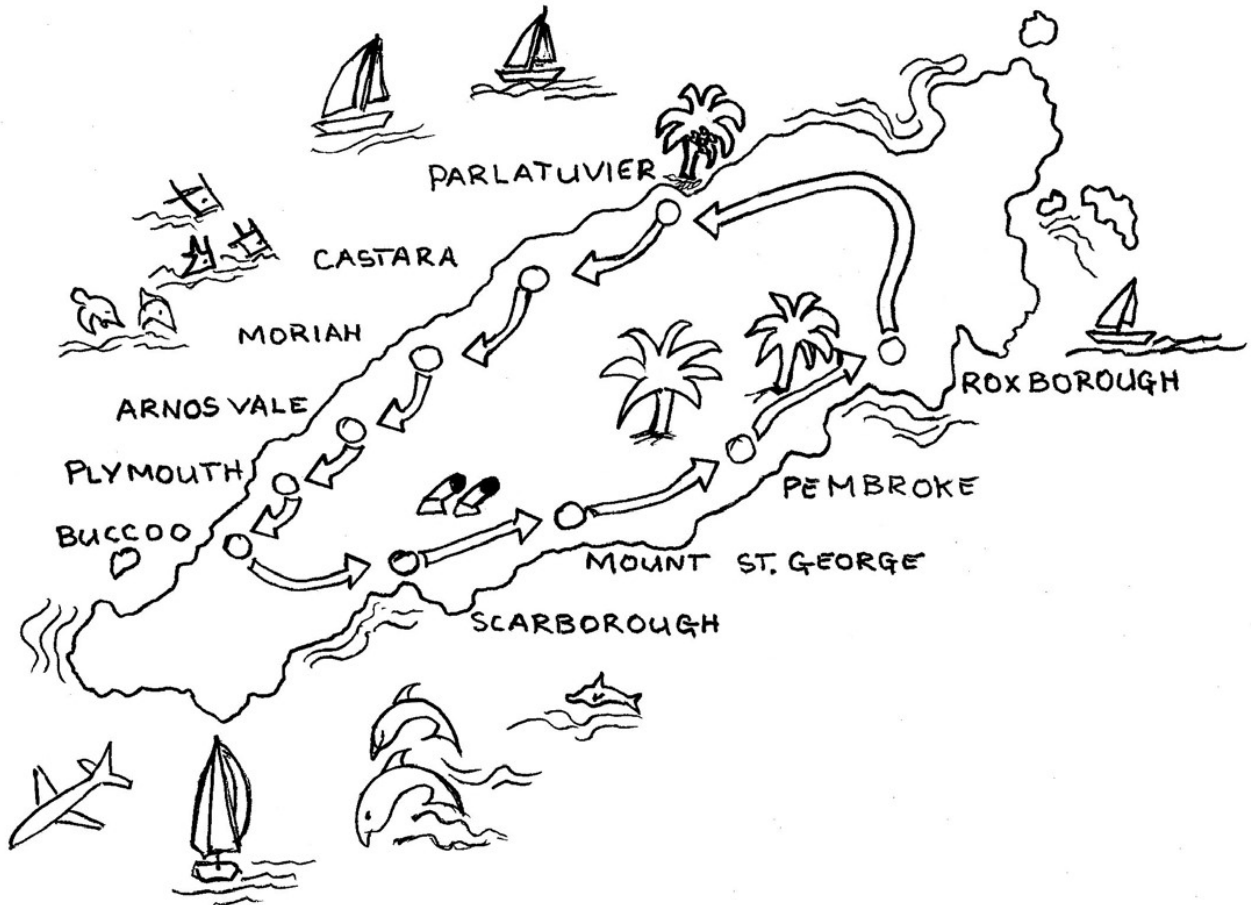
At the bottom of the hill he stood up and started to run again. He ran all the way to Mt St George and bounced into a crowd of people eating lunch.

"Stop! Come back! You're supposed to be running the Goat Race in Buccoo!" screamed John, but Billy raced through the crowd and bleated back, "Run! Run! Run! You can't catch me. I am the fastest in the land!"

Because it was a harvest celebration there was plenty of food: rabbit meat, crab and dumpling, grilled fish, jerked pork, barbequed chicken, roast duck, fried cassava, stewed peas, dasheen and curried goat.

"Curry goat!" Billy thought, and ran as fast as he could, followed by his friends.

In Pembroke, he ran onto a field where people were pressing sugar cane. "Stop! Stooooooooop! Stop!" screamed the villagers but Billy just yelled back, "Run! Run! Run! As fast as you can, you can't catch me. I am the fastest in the land!"



He ran to Roxborough, then through the Main Ridge forest, and along a riverbank until he reached the beach in Parlatuvier.

Norah and John followed, running up hills and down again until they got to Castara.

In Castara, the Buccoo posse passed two sisters heating mud ovens with burning wood and dried coconut husks. The sweet bread, coconut bread and cakes baking in the old-time way smelt good and some stopped to buy bread, and Billy kept running and running.

Soon he was in Moriah where he frightened a wedding party doing the Wedding Brush-Back Dance from the church to the reception. They jumped aside in fright when they saw Billy's horns. Billy kept running, right through the wedding party. Norah, John and the jockey, and a few villagers followed bawling, "Billlllllllly!"

They chased him to Les Coteaux Village. Under a tree in Table Piece, people were listening to old time stories about Indians and slaves as Billy sped through. "Stoop!" shouted the villagers, "You are going too fast!" But Billy just kept on running.

He passed the Arnos Vale waterwheel. Fruit bats frightened him and he ran faster through Plymouth and Blackrock, until at last he reached Buccoo. Norah, John, the jockey and the Buccoo villagers who had run all around Tobago were behind him.

Billy shouted to the group "Run!
Run! Run! As fast as you can, you
can't catch me. I am the fastest
goat on the island and
I can prove it."

He ran onto the racetrack, joining the last race of the day.

His jockey followed but they were so tired they were last over the finish line. All the same, Billy won a special prize and a trophy because he was the only goat to run across the whole island of Tobago.



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