## Chapter 8 (Part 1)

Bud is still asleep under the Christmas trees at the library when he hears the sound of
someone stepping on a Someone is sneaking up on him. Bud
thinks that he can feel two staring real hard at him, and he knows
they're not critter eyes. They're the kind of eyes that can make the hair on the back
of his neck raise up the way only "human bean eyes" can do. He pulls his jack knife out
carefully with the intention of pulling the blanket back and stabbing whoever is above
him. Suddenly, the intruder jumps on top of him. He hears a voice saying, "If you ain't
a kid called Bud from the Home I'm really sorry about jumping on you like this." Bud
knows it's Bugs explains that everyone at the Home knew about
Bud's knife and how well he could use it, so he jumped on him to make sure he could
stop the knife until he could identify himself. Bud also realizes then that Bugs is on
the as well. Bugs explains that he's going back to riding the
, and when the Home heard that Bud had beaten up the son of his
foster family, he figured his friend would be somewhere near the
and came looking for him to go along. Bugs answers all of Bud's many questions about
riding the rails, and then, they each on their hands and rub their
palms together to seal the deal as brothers. Then, they go to the
to get information about the running of the trains. The two boys
find out that they'll have to go to a city called Hooperville, outside of Flint. It takes



them until after midnight to find the right trail through the They
eventually can hear the sound of a mouth organ and smell cooking.
However, they are surprised that the town of Hooperville is no more than a
"cardboard jungle," a collection of huts and shacks thrown together from pieces of
, and There are at least 100 people
milling about, with one man stirring clothes in a large pot while another hangs them or
a line while three other pots hold some kind of food. The two boys flip a
to determine who will ask for help. Bud loses and steps forward to
ask where the city of Hooperville is. The man playing the mouth
advises him that it's not Hooperville, but Hooverville after the former President of
the United States, and that there are hundreds of them all over the country. When
Bud asks if he is in the right one, the man asks him three questions: Is he hungry? Is
he tired? and Is he scared? When Bud answers all three with a yes, the man tells him
this is exactly the one he is looking for. He offers Bud and Bugs food, but they have
to do KP afterwards. A woman hands them their "china" - flat, square tin
, which they fill with muskrat stew twice! The woman even offers to
keep watch over Bud's suitcase while they wash up all the cooking utensils and the
"dishes." The two boys are led to the by a young girl who has lived
there a long time and knows the ropes about KP.

