

The Daring Dinklakers



The Dinklaker family, sad to say, was struggling. Dexter's job as a motorcycle airbag salesman had fallen on hard times. His wife, Deirdre, who cleaned the animatronic cutlery puppets at ForkWorld, had fallen on hard times and was temporarily incapacitated. And still the couple wanted to celebrate International Harpoon Day in style. It was, after all, the sole annual holiday that the family observed. It was traditional to stuff their lederhosen with a practical gift and this year, the kids had been clamoring for bicycles. That seemed like a reasonable request until you factored in the number of crumbsnatchers in the family: thirteen. There was simply no way Dexter and Deirdre could afford a baker's dozen two-wheelers. Fortunately, Dexter had an idea. Since the whole family – from 89-year-old patriarch Draco all the way down to infant Darth – excelled in athletics, he and Deidre could just buy a few bikes and let all of their children share them. Which they did, and they made a striking visual impression when doing so, too. Sure, their pedaling adventure on the rim of the Stromboli volcano amidst a sudden eruption resulted in tragedy, thinning their ranks to a mere trio. However, middle pedaler Desdemona, the eternal optimist, saw the outcome as a blessing for her, Darby, and Daruka, who previously had had to shoulder all that weight on top. Now, they could *really* put their mettle to the pedal!