For Annie and Darcey, who love stories - P.B.

For my good friends, the Smellies. May we never skedaddle from each other! - L.S.



First published in Great Britain in 2023 by Andersen Press Ltd.,
20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA, UK • Vijverlaan 48, 3062 HL Rotterdam, Nederland
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1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2
British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available. ISBN 978 1 83913 171 4

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SKUNK! SKEDADDLE!



Peter Bently Laurie Stansfield

Andersen Press

Sally the skunk lived alone in the wood.
She thought to herself,
“A few friends would be good.

There are nice friendly folk in the city, they say.
I know! I’ll go on a trip there today.”



She went to the bus stop
and hopped on a bus.
But the passengers all
made a heck of a fuss.

“Skedaddle! Skedaddle!” they cried in a funk.



“We don’t want to ride on a bus with a skunk!”

Then, at the station, it happened once more.
The folks cried, “Skedaddle!” and ran for the door.





When Sally arrived in the city at last
She saw lots of people skedaddling fast.

She stopped a policeman to ask him the way,
But he simply cried, “Skunk!” and skedaddled away.

She went to a café and ordered a juice.

"A skunk!" wailed the people. "Skedaddle! Vamoose!"

In the library, folks gave her horrified looks, whispered, "Skedaddle!" and fled from their books.

Whenever she cheerfully smiled and said, "Hi!" "Skedaddle! A skunk!" was the only reply.