

The book of embers and fire

Actually, everything seems normal.

There is a forest.

5 There are stones in the forest.

And a high mountain.

There is an old man standing in the forest



Everything is normal.

10 Or is it?

The old man's name is Barbolus.

He belongs to the Grumpy people.

Grumpies are always in a bad mood.

15 Barbolus is looking for something.

He is standing on some stones.

Some of the stones roll away quickly.

Barbolus should not stand on them.

A tree moves.

20 Its roots lift up out of the ground.

Quiet annoyed, it shakes its leaves.

Then the tree moves away from Barbolus.



Maybe everything isn't normal here.

25

Barbolus is looking for rolling-stones.

These are special stones.

They can roll up mountains.

If someone stands on them, they will take carry him or her.

30

Barbolus looks up to the mountain.

He grumbles softly:

„Do mighty men always live high up in the mountains?

35 I am too old to climb - Aaaaah!“

Barbolus is startled.

The stones under his feet are moving.

Now Barbolus is pleased.

40 Finally!

He has found rumble-stones.

The stones carry him up the mountain.

Someone is waiting for Barbolus.

45 It is the Chief-Grumpy.

He is the leader of the Grumpy people.

He is also Barbolus' boss.

The Chief-Grumpy shouts:

50 „Barbolus, finally!

I was waiting for you.“

His tone is serious:

„We are in danger.

A magic creature is threatening us.

55 It is honest.

It is helpful.

It is full of light.

It is white.

It has a big heart.

60 And it has a special talent.



Barbolus shakes his head and says:

„This cannot be true.

That is what a unicorn looks like.

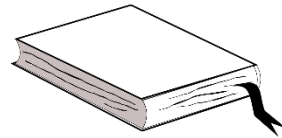
65 But we chased all of the unicorns away.”

The Chief-Grumpy shouts angrily:

„I know.

We chased the unicorns away.

70 That’s how we got the *Book of Wisdom*.



The mightiest book in the world.

The book of embers and fire.

It knows everything.

75 And the book tells me:

My secret plan is in danger.

The book says:

The unicorns are a danger to us.

The book is always right.

80 This means:

We have to fight!”

Chased

85 Marvin is a unicorn.

Maybe you can imagine a unicorn like this:

It has clean fur.

It has a straight horn.

It has sparkling eyes.

90 It brings love and peace.

Marvin the unicorn is different.

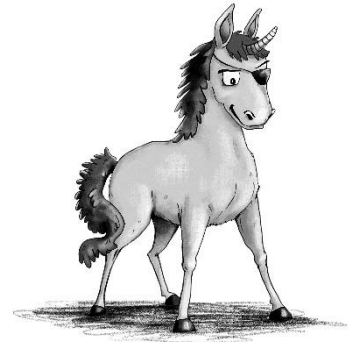
Marvin is a pirate unicorn.

It has shaggy fur.

95 It has a short, crooked horn.

It has a patch on one eye.

It seeks danger and adventures.



Marvin is standing in the woods.

100 He is happy.

He has been practicing for a long time.

Now he can finally do it:

He can cut the air with his horn.

He swings his horn quickly back and forth.

105 „Whoosh!“

Sparks fly through the forest.

That is caused by Marvin's horn.

Suddenly, he hears a strange noise.

110 He stands still.

A stone flew by very closely.

And another stone.

Marvin leaps to the side.

Who is throwing stones at him?

115 He stomps his hoof angrily.

He is being followed.

Again.

And the followers have found his hiding place.

120



Marvin asks:

„Who are you?

Come out, you cowards!”

125

More and more stones fly by now.

They are coming from every direction.

Marvin evades the stones.

But one stone hits him on the knee.

130

His knee is bleeding.

Suddenly, Marvin sees something.

It is a silver lightning bolt between the leaves.

135

He can hear screaming.

Then the stones stop flying by.

Marvin quickly runs away.



Who is following him?

140

Why is someone following him?

Marvin doesn't know.

Who helped him?

Who is as fast as a lightning bolt?

145

Marvin is totally confused.

He is in a forest.

But he doesn't know the forest.

He is being chased by someone.

But he doesn't know this someone.

150

A very fast creature saved him.

But he doesn't know this creature.

Suddenly, Marvin hears a loud scream.

Then he hears „Oomph!“.

155 The fast creature was flown against a big tree.
Marvin goes to the tree.
He wants to help the creature.
But he can't see it.

160 A mushroom with dots on it and a fern start laughing.
The fern says to the mushroom:
„Have you seen it?
She crashed into the tree! Ha, ha!“
Marvin goes to the mushroom:

165 „Hello“ Can you tell me who it was?“
Shocked, the dots fall off the mushroom's hat.
„Oh, an unicorn!“, says the mushroom.
The mushroom says:
„You can find her at the lake.



170 Like every night.“
The fern picks up the dots from the mushroom.
He sticks them onto the mushroom's hat.

Marvin says thank you and trots to the lake.

175 He sneaks up quietly.
He doesn't want to frighten the creature.
He stretches his head.
He looks between the branches.

180 There, at the lake!
There it is!
Marvin is surprised.



Unbelievable!

He didn't expect that.

185 Absolutely not.

Difficult words:

190

The people: a group of persons

Grumpy: fantasy people. Grumpies are always in a bad mood. They are often mad at other people.

Creature: a fantasy character

195

or a person

or an animal

Talent: something you can do very well

Fern: a green plant

The leaves look like feathers.

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