

The Magic Gnome - By Adeline Thorn

Once upon a time, in a far-off land, there lived a king with three sons. And he was growing sick. The only cure that could possibly help him was the magic of the unicorn. Now unicorns used to roam the land the entire countryside, yet they didn't anymore, for all the unicorns had mysteriously gone missing. So the king remained sick without getting better.

The first prince was prideful and told his father one day "I will go out and search for the unicorns for you father and will not come back empty-handed." So the eldest prince went out down the hill and across the bend and came to the base of the mountain. The mountain was the tallest mountain in the world, and was extremely hard to cross. Now at the base of the mountain there was a gnome, a short little fellow with a tall green hat. The gnome took one look at the eldest Prince and told him "You are looking for the unicorns I see. I will help you if you would like."

But the eldest prince was still prideful and refused. "I do not need help from a silly gnome like you. I do not need help from anyone. " He told him.

"Very well," said the gnome, "Then you will not find any unicorns at all " And he very quietly cast a spell on him.

So the gnome and the eldest Prince parted ways. The trek up the tallest mountain in the world was the hardest the prince has ever traveled and the farthest. Just as he crossed the tallest of the tallest peaks, all around him were unicorns. But all the eldest prince saw were cows. No matter how far he crossed the countryside and any other landform in his kingdom, every unicorn that he spotted appeared to him to be a cow. He finally one day turned home in defeat. The King was still sick in his castle and there was still no cure. The eldest Prince told his father, "There are no unicorns left in this kingdom, only an abundance of cows."

The middle brother, seeing his chance, leapt at the occasion. "I will find a unicorn father and I will not come back empty-handed. "He told him. So the middle brother set off in search of the long-lost unicorns.

Down the hill and across the bend and over the tallest mountain in the world. Finally the middle brother came to stop at a great field. And there he saw a gnome, a short little fellow with a tall green hat.

The gnome took one look at the middle Prince and told him, "You are looking for the last unicorns, I see. I will help you if you would like."

But the middle brother was just as prideful as the eldest. "I do not need help from you." he told him "I do not need help from anyone."

"Very well," said the gnome, "Then you will not find any unicorns at all." and he very quietly cast a spell on him.

The gnome and the prince parted ways, and the prince began to cross the field. All around him were unicorns, but all he saw were sheep. After a while the prince went

home in defeat, claiming to his father, "There are no unicorns left in this kingdom, only in abundance of sheep."

Now the youngest prince had a good heart, and told his father the king, "I will find the last unicorn father and I will not come back empty-handed. "

But by now the King was tired of seeing his sons defeated so. "There are no unicorns left son," he told him, "Therefore you will not find any."

Yet the youngest Prince left anyway. He traveled down the hill and across the bend, over the tallest mountain, and across the field, and there he came to a great lake. It was there where he met a gnome, a short little fellow with a tall green hat.

The gnome took one look at him and told him, "I see you are looking for a unicorn, I can help you find one if you would like."

Not wanting to be rude and in great need of help, the youngest Prince told him "Thank you good sir, for I do not know where to find one and I need to get across this lake."

"You can ride in my boat," said the gnome. And so the youngest prince and the gnome road across the lake to the other side. There the youngest prince saw the greatest herd of unicorns in the entire world. It did not take long before he found one willing to come back to heal his father.

"You must come back with me, Mr. Gnome." the youngest prince pleaded, "I am sure my father will repay you for this great help you have shown me." So the gnome agreed to come with them. They went back across the lake, across the field, over the tallest mountain in the world, around the bend, and up the hill to the castle, where the king had become even more ill.

The unicorn, upon seeing the sick king, healed him immediately. His strength was restored and even some of his youth had come back. The brothers were immediately jealous that they were not the ones to receive the favor the king bestowed upon the youngest, and upon seeing the gnome they became furious.

"That is the gnome that gave us so much trouble!" they exclaimed. Yet the king would have none of it, as he had realized that his two eldest sons had been prideful and rude and had not accepted help when they needed it most. It was declared then that the gnome and the unicorn would always be welcome in the kingdom, and the youngest son would inherit the kingdom as opposed to his elder brothers.

So the rest of the world would know how much kindness would surpass all else.

The End.