

Let's read Chapter 11 and see what is happening to Raven Boy and Elf Girl!

to concentrate. At the same time, she pulled her bow back to its fullest draw, and was trying to think of something magical to make it work properly.

Rat was watching her, and was particularly interested in the way that the arrow mark on her arm was glowing faintly.

'Pleasepleaseplease,' Elf Girl was whispering under her breath, and then she let fly, while her eyes were still shut.

'Oops,' she said, her eyes wide, as she watched a bright blue bolt of light shoot from her bow. The whole wood seemed to shine in the blue light, and it was hard to see anything for a moment.

'Oh!' she cried. 'Raven Boy?'

The light disappeared to reveal three large blue blocks of ice standing around a fourth block of ice, that hung from a tree.

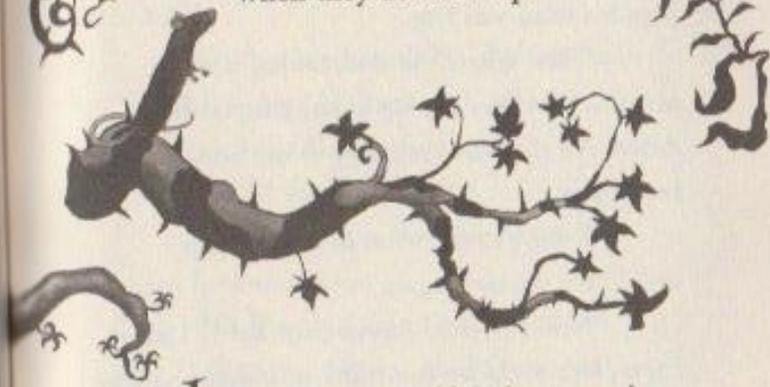
Inside the blocks of ice were the trolls, and, still spinning on the rope, a very surprised-looking Raven Boy.

'Oh no!' cried Elf Girl. 'Rat, I think we ought to get that fire lit as fast as we can.'



ELEVEN

No one's seen an ogre in Raven Boy and Elf Girl's part of the forest for years. But they can cause big problems when they do show up!



It turned out that Elf Girl was much better with matches than the trolls, and she soon had some nice jolly flames underneath the block of ice that contained Raven Boy.

'I hope he can breathe,' she said to Rat.

Rat squeaked, sniffed about a lot, then squeaked again.

Not long after that, the ice around Raven Boy's head began to melt, drip by drip, and then

like a tap running. Elf Girl did her best to stop the water splashing onto the fire, but by the time Raven Boy's head was almost free, the fire hissed and went out.

Elf Girl pulled and poked at the last bits of ice around Raven Boy's face, and then, with a pop, his head was free.

'Now what?' he said, taking deep breaths. 'I'm very fed up of hanging upside down. All the blood is going to my head and it feels funny.'

'I don't know what to do. Perhaps I should try the bow again . . . ?'

'No!' shrieked Raven Boy. **Eep!** I mean, no, er, let's see if we can think of something else. First, I need to get down from here.'

'Yes,' said Elf Girl, 'but I don't see . . . oh.'

Raven Boy looked where she was looking, up at his toes. He saw Rat had climbed along the branch from which Raven Boy was hanging, towards the rope.

Rat gave a squeak and began to chew.

'Rat! Wait! I'll fall on my head!'

Raven Boy looked desperately at Elf Girl,

but there was nothing she could do but try to grab the slippery block of ice just as Rat chewed through the last strand of rope.

She did at least manage to stop Raven Boy from landing on his head, and Rat bounded over to them, whiskers quivering, expecting thanks.

'Rat, that was a bit silly,' Elf Girl said,

Rat turned his back and sulked.

'Ow,' said Raven Boy.

Elf Girl started giggling.

'What's so funny?' asked Raven Boy, though he could guess.

'You. You look kind of stupid.'

'Hilarious. Get me out of here, will you?'

'I would,' she said, 'but how?'

'Well, we have to do something.

When the sun comes up those three are going to melt too and we need to be long gone. They'll become human again I suppose, but nevertheless . . .'

Elf Girl went up to the nearest troll.

The small one. She lit a match and peered into the block of ice. His eyes were open inside the



ice, and he seemed to be looking straight at her.
'Do you think they're alive?' she asked.
'I wouldn't like to find out,' Raven Boy said.
'They look nasty. And ugly.'
'Elf Girl,' Raven Boy said, 'They might be able to hear you.'

'No, don't be silly,' she said. 'In there? I don't think so.'

But after another look at the small one she decided not to say anything more.

'Anyway, we need to get going,' she said.

'You're going to have to pull me,' Raven Boy said.

'What?'

'Get the rope. It's tied round my ankles still, isn't it? So you're going to have to pull me through the woods until the sun comes up and then I can thaw out.'

'No way!' cried Elf Girl.



But she did. She just about managed to pull Raven Boy a short way from the trolls, along a mostly flat path through the trees.

Raven Boy had been complaining non-stop, and Rat was sitting on the ice, getting a free ride, though he lifted his feet in turn to let them warm up again.

'Ow! Watch it there, that's a rough bit. Ow! Careful with me! I'm precious goods.'

'Ow!'

That kind of thing. Elf Girl was getting crosser and crosser.

'Look out for that root!' cried Raven Boy.

'Ow!'

Elf Girl dropped the rope.

'That's it! You can wait for the trolls for all I care! I've had enough! You are the bossiest, fussiest, stupidest Raven Boy I have ever met!'

'Well, can I help it if the ground's rough and you're too stupid to pull me carefully? It's not exactly cosy in here you know.'

'At least you're lying down! I'm exhausted.'

'And I'm freezing to death. Slowly! I feel like a fish in a fish shop.'

'Hah!' cried Elf Girl. 'You look like one too!'

With that she kicked the lump of ice.

'Ow!' she cried, but what she hadn't realised in the dark is that they were near the top of a long, and rather steep slope.

The ice began to slide.

'Er . . .' said Raven Boy.

'Er what?' snapped Elf Girl.

'I think I'm moving.'



Elf Girl stood with her arms folded, and her nose in the air, doing her best to look furious. When she looked down again, Raven Boy wasn't where she'd left him.

'Help!' Raven Boy warbled, and now he was hurtling as fast as a greased kangaroo down what seemed to be a very steep slope indeed.

'Help!'

'Oh!' Elf Girl squealed and began to run after him, but he was picking up speed all the time.

Now Raven Boy shot like a bullet down the slope, faster and faster.

'EEEEEEEEP!' he wailed as he went, and then there was an almighty crash as he hit a tree.

The block of ice shattered into a thousand tiny ice cubes, and Raven Boy lay on the ground in a chilly daze.



Elf Girl caught up with him, followed closely by Rat.



'Oh! I'm so sorry, Raven Boy,' she sobbed. 'Are you all right? I'm so sorry!'

Raven Boy smiled.

'Well, that worked,' he said,

'I'm sorry. I didn't mean to . . .'

'No, I mean it. I'm free. Only I'm cold. I'm so frozen I can't move!'

'You'll be able to move soon, I'm sure. When the sun comes up.'

'And when the sun comes up, those trolls will be after us again.'

'Yes, but you slid a long way. We'll have a head start. And they'll be men, not trolls. Maybe they won't want to eat us so much.'

'I think I can feel my toes again,' Raven Boy said. 'Maybe.'

'Good! Only . . .'

'Only what?'

'Only, we have to find the Witch Who Knows Everything and get some answers. Before . . .'

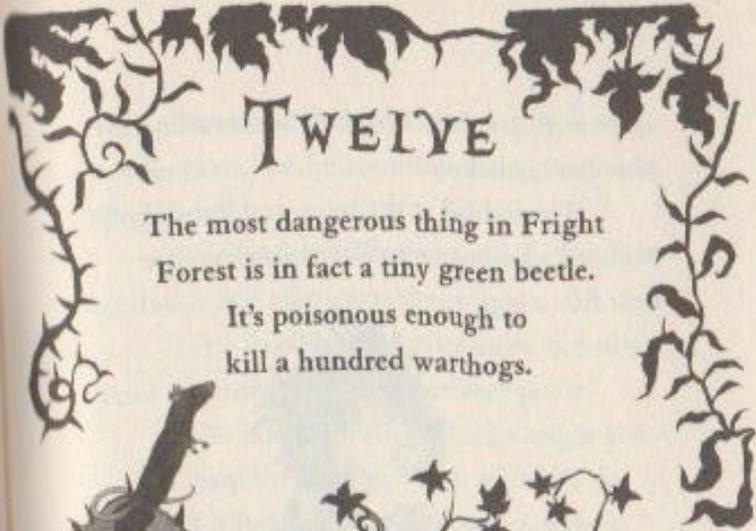
'Before what?'

But he already knew what Elf Girl was going to say.

'Before it's too late.'

Raven Boy nodded.

'MEEP,' he said quietly. And didn't say what he was also thinking, that it might already be too late.



TWELVE

The most dangerous thing in Fright Forest is in fact a tiny green beetle.

It's poisonous enough to kill a hundred warthogs.



'Raven Boy,' said Elf Girl.

'What?' said Raven Boy, who was trying to stretch and get some blood flowing in his veins again. Rat sat on his head, like a furry warm hat, trying to help. And help he did, though what Raven Boy could really have used was a couple of hot water bottles.

'We need to go.'

'Well,' said Raven Boy. 'As it happens I

Chapter 11

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary

Infer

Predict

Explain

Retrieve

Summarise



V What does the word 'thaw' mean?

I How is Elf Girl feeling about pulling Raven Boy? Write some phrases from the book that support your answer.

P What do you think will happen next?

E What does 'shot like a bullet' mean?

R How did Raven Boy finally escape the ice?

S Write the 3 main things that have happened in this chapter.

VOCABULARY LABORATORY

Explain meaning / Definition:

Use in a sentence (add picture too):

Modifications:

Modify to past tense, present, plural singular, add prefix or suffix etc.
How many forms can you think of?

bossy

Word Class:

Word Class:

Synonyms

Antonyms

bossiest

adjective

@VocabularyNinja



'Words unlock the doors to a world of understanding...'

The word I
want you to
investigate is
bossy