

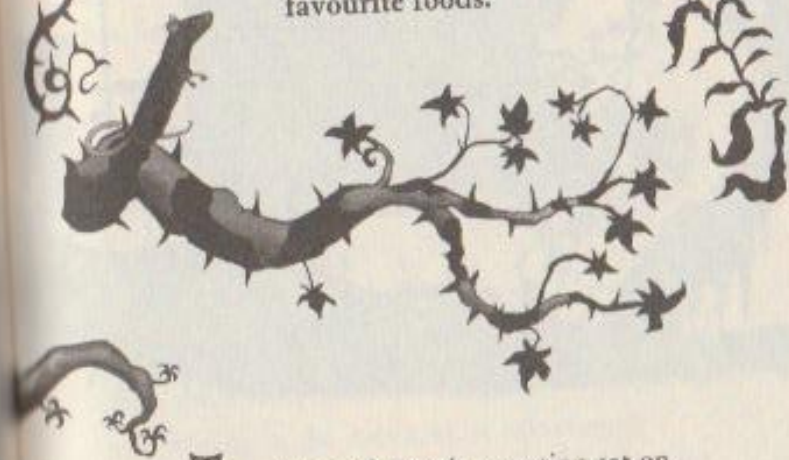


Let's read Chapter
13 and see what is
happening to
Raven Boy and Elf
Girl!



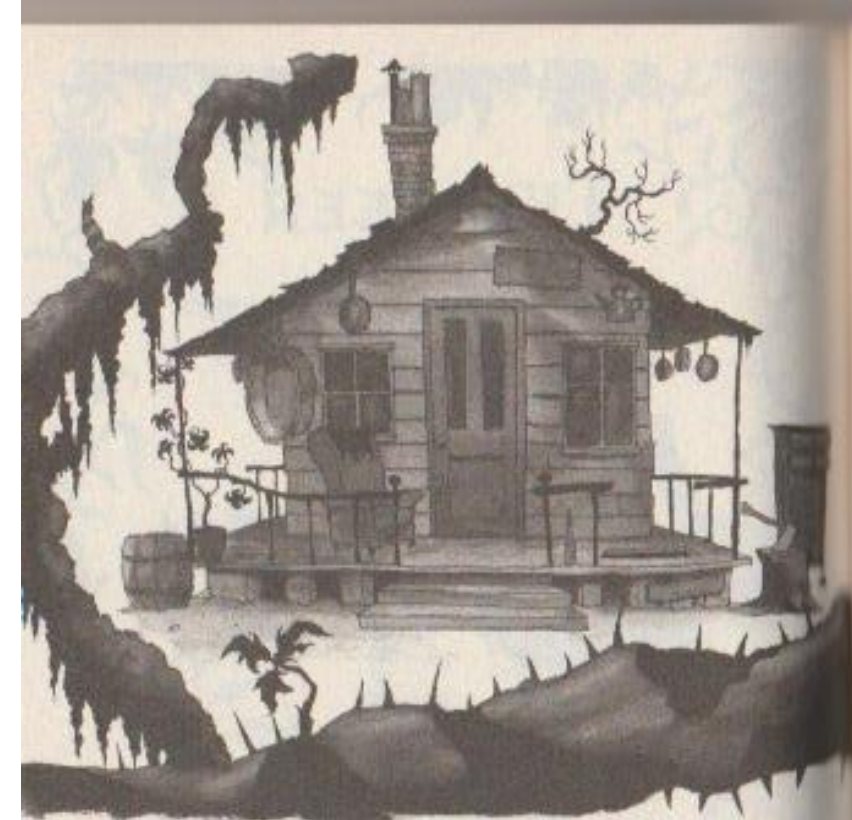
THIRTEEN

Ogres eat anything; but whole ponies
and wriggling children are their
favourite foods.



The clump of trees in question sat on
a rise in the ground. They got down on their
hands and knees and crawled underneath the
lowest branches of the trees, more of the strange
twisted ones with moss. They poked their noses
out and looked down into a hollow, hardly
daring to breathe.

There was the witch's hut.
It looked exactly like a witch's hut should.



Old, and falling to pieces, with a battered roof, and crumbling chimney stack. Outside was a veranda which had also seen better days. It had a handrail in places, but missing in others, and there were holes in the planks of the porch. Hanging from hooks in the eaves of the hut were all sorts of pots and pans, a tin bathtub, and lots of things that they didn't recognise, and didn't want to either.

'I don't see any monster,' whispered Raven Boy, very quietly.

'Can't you ask one of your ...'

'No one about. Not a single creature, I guess they all stay away from the witch. And her little pet.'

'But where is it?' Elf Girl asked.

'Maybe it's gone for a walk. Maybe we can go right down there and ...'

'No! Wait! Look underneath the hut! Something's coming!'

It was true. They could see underneath the hut, which sat on blocks of wood, through to the other side. And on the other side, something was moving in the darkness. It was coming round the hut, towards the front.

Rat squeaked.

Raven Boy squeaked.

Elf Girl squeaked, and went a funny shade of green.

The monster appeared.

It made a tiny mewling sound.

It was a small white kitten.



'It's a small white kitten,' said Raven Boy.
He stood up and started towards it.



'Wait!' cried Elf Girl, pulling him back.
'Supposing it's not the monster? Supposing
it's the monster's lunch? Or supposing it is
the monster and it's just disguised as a kitten?
Maybe it can change into other animals.'

Raven Boy shook himself free and
marched down the slope.

'Hey, Kitty! Is your mummy at home?
We want a word with . . .'

That was as far as he got, as suddenly the
kitten leapt for him; clawing, biting, scratching,
hissing . . .



Raven Boy yelled and howled.

'Noooo! Get it off! Ow! Nooooo!'

The kitten was deadly, and very soon it had Raven Boy pinned to the ground and in big trouble.

'Rat! Stay here! I have to do something!' cried Elf Girl and ran down the slope yelling. 'Get off! Get off him!'

That was enough to distract the killer kitten, and Raven Boy slithered free and was up a tall tree faster than a jet-pack monkey. The kitten tried to follow, but couldn't quite manage it. It kept trying and Raven Boy looked down at it, scared and shocked.

Suddenly the door to the hut flew open, and a tattily dressed figure rushed towards Elf Girl.

She only had time to realise that the mess of rags and hair was the witch, before the nasty old hag bopped her on the head with a heavy stick and dragged her back into the hut, with surprising strength, leaving Raven Boy up the tree, still trapped by the small fluffy kitten. Elf Girl's bow lay on the ground where she'd fallen.



There was a scurrying sound beside him, and Raven Boy saw that Rat had joined him.

'EEP!' cried Raven Boy. 'Now what do we do?'

The kitten continued to leap and claw at the tree trunk, which, though tall, was not sturdy.

'We can't stay up here for ever, Rat,' said Raven Boy. 'And Elf Girl! The witch could have ...'

He stopped, and swallowed hard. He didn't want to think what the witch might already have done to Elf Girl. Raven Boy realised that he had started to like Elf Girl, quite a lot.

'Rat, do you think you can get away from here if I distract the kitten for five seconds?'

Rat squeaked.

'Good! Then go into the forest, and find the biggest wolf you can. Something that can give this stroppy feline a run for its milk, yes?'

Rat squeaked again, and Raven Boy started to climb down from the tree, gingerly dangling one foot closer to the white beast.

That was enough to send the kitten into

a frenzy, and it lunged, sinking all four razor-sharp claws into Raven Boy's backside.

'EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP!' he wailed, but by then Rat was long gone.



Chapter 13

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary
Infer
Predict
Explain
Retrieve
Summarise



V What does the word 'veranda' mean?

I How do we know that Raven Boy is not feeling scared when he sees that the 'monster' is a kitten?

P What do you think will happen next?

E Find words and phrases that describe the witch's hut?

R What happened to Elf Girl?

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?

sudden

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
sudden