

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

Raven Boy had other things on his mind.

'Did you say make food?' he asked, his eyes widening.

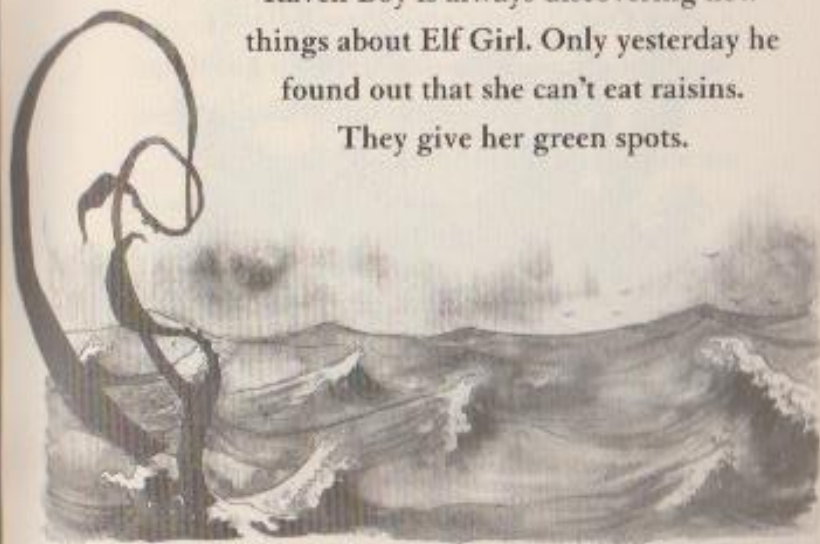
'Yes,' said Mervin. 'Would you like some?'

And Raven Boy and Elf Girl nodded so hard their heads nearly fell off.

THIRTEEN

Raven Boy is always discovering new things about Elf Girl. Only yesterday he found out that she can't eat raisins.

They give her green spots.



Not very long after, Raven Boy and Elf Girl were stuffing their faces with all sorts of food, and washing it down with anything they wanted to drink.

It seemed that Mervin the Sandman was still very good at making food, and he could make whatever they asked for, only more delicious than they thought possible.

'I get lots of practice with food magic,'



the magician explained. 'There's not much else to do here. Only make food, and avoid the pirates when they come to bury their treasure.'

'Captain Scrim?' asked Elf Girl, her mouth full of bread roll and raspberry jam.

Mervin laughed.

'Ha! Him! I'm not scared of him! He's just a nimby-pimby, namby-pamby, flimsy-wimsy, ittle-wittle . . .'

'Yes, we get the idea,' interrupted Raven Boy. 'But are you sure you mean Captain

Scrim? The captain of the *Naughty Porpoise*? He was about to sell us as slaves!'

'Ha!' cried Mervin again. 'That's nothing. Being sold as slaves would be a luxury compared to what Blackblood would do to you.'

'Blackblood?' cried Elf Girl and Raven Boy together, their eyes widening, and their mouths opening. Crumpet crumbs fell out and onto the tatty carpet, and Rat pounced on them.

'Yes!' Mervin said, 'Captain Blackblood. He's a real pirate!'

'But Captain Scrim was going to pull our toes off.'

'A picnic!' cried Mervin, 'compared with what Blackblood would do to you. A picnic, you hear?'

Raven Boy and Elf Girl stopped eating.

'So who is Captain Blackblood?' they asked, looking around nervously as if he might appear at any minute.

'He pirates the seas to the east of here. From here, all the way east to the mainland, the ocean is known as the Scream Sea.'

'I knew it!' cried Raven Boy. 'The red waves!'

Mervin nodded.

'Red waves is nothing. The sea is full of monsters too. Great beasts from the deep, with the wrong number of legs and too many eyes. Most people, most normal people, are too scared to sail on Scream Sea. And the few that do have to face up to one more thing: Captain Blackblood and the crew of the *Sea Dragon*. They're the ones to be scared of. Not Captain Scrim and his bunch of daisies!'

'But, but,' said Raven Boy, 'but, does Captain Blackblood come here? Will he be coming here soon?'

'I have no idea,' said Mervin. 'They come every now and again, and bury their treasure. And then they come back other times, when they're ready to sell whatever they have. It's like a bank, here, on the island. They put their stuff in the sand, and they dig it up again when they need it.'

'And you just avoid them? Don't they know about your little hut here?'

'Oh yes, but they think it's haunted. I make myself invisible and throw some things

around, and they keep well away.'

'Aren't you scared of sneezing?'

Mervin glared at Elf Girl.

'Enjoying your food, are you?'

'Oh yes, sorry. It's very nice, thank you.'

'You're a very good magician,' added Raven Boy. 'In fact, you're so good, why do you stay here? It can't be much fun. Can't you make a magic boat and sail away?'

Mervin made a cup of tea appear, in thin air, caught it, and took a sip.

'I don't want to.'

'But you're here all alone. Are there other people like you? Other Sandmen?'

'Yes, lots of them, and they can stay where they are, thanks very much. That's why I came here.'

'Why?' asked Elf Girl.

'To get away from them! I'm not like other Sandmen. I like peace and quiet and they . . . Oh, well, if you ever met them, you'd see! Talking all the time. It was unbearable. So I came here for a nice rest, and I liked it so much, I stayed.'

'Aren't you lonely?'

'Not at all! I like it here. Nobody bothers me. Usually,' he added, staring at the pair of them.

'We don't want to intrude,' said Elf Girl. 'We'd be very happy to leave. We have to! We're on an important quest, you see.'

'Really?' asked Mervin, taking another sip of tea. His eyes narrowed slightly.

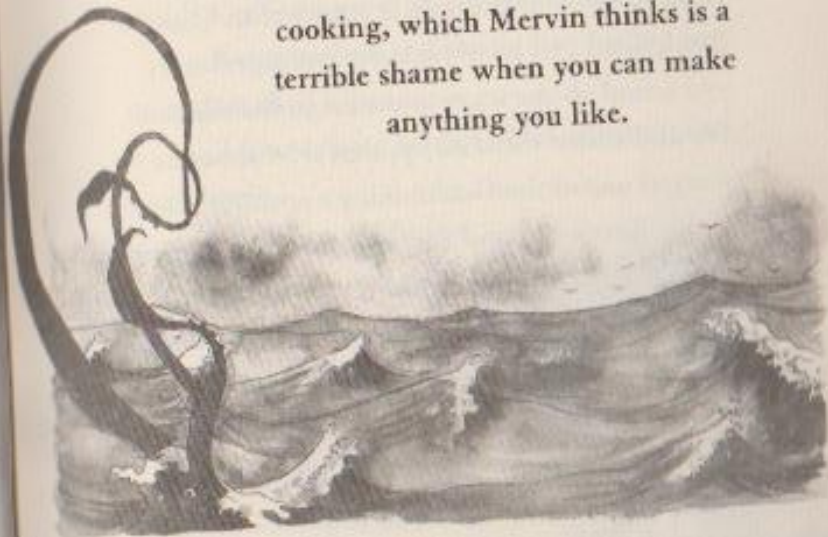
'Yes, we're going to save the world from the Goblin King!'

Mervin spluttered and sprayed tea all over Raven Boy and Elf Girl.



FOURTEEN

Most Sandmen aren't very interested in cooking, which Mervin thinks is a terrible shame when you can make anything you like.



'The Goblin King?' said Mervin again. 'You're going to fight the Goblin King?'

'Yes,' said Raven Boy. 'Have you heard of him?'

Mervin the Sandman rolled his eyes.

'You're mad!' he said. 'It was nice meeting you. I expect you'll be dead very soon so it's probably not worth me making you any more food.'

Chapter 13

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary

Infer

Predict

Explain

Retrieve

Summarise



V What does the word ‘spluttered’ mean?

I Why do you think Mervin asked, ‘Enjoying your food, are you?’ on page 115?

P What do you think will happen next?

E Find phrases to show that Captain Blackblood is to be feared more than Captain Scrim.

R Why did Captain Blackblood and his crew leave Mervin alone?

S Summarise this chapter in 3 points.

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?

interrupt

Word Class:

Word Class:

Synonyms

Antonyms

@VocabularyNinja

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



The word I
want you to
investigate is
interrupt