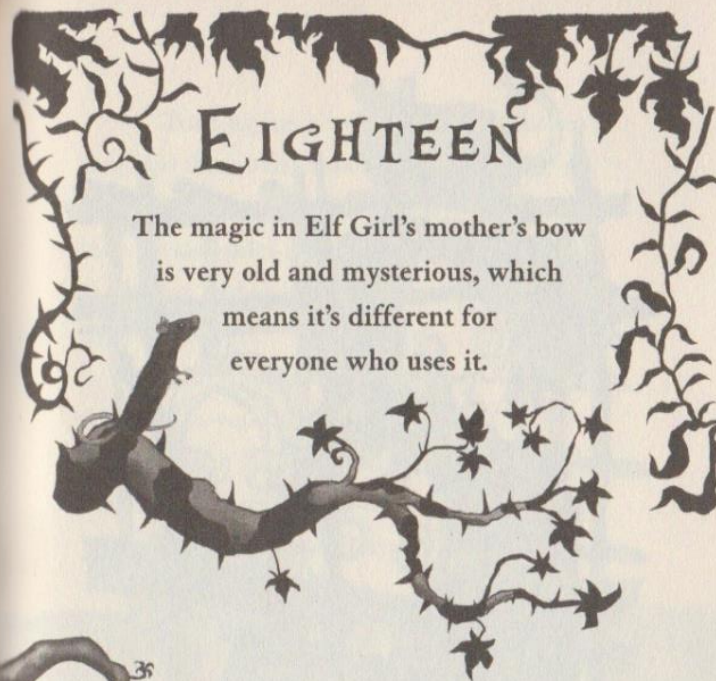




Let's read Chapter 18 and see what is happening to Elf Girl and Raven Boy.



EIGHTEEN

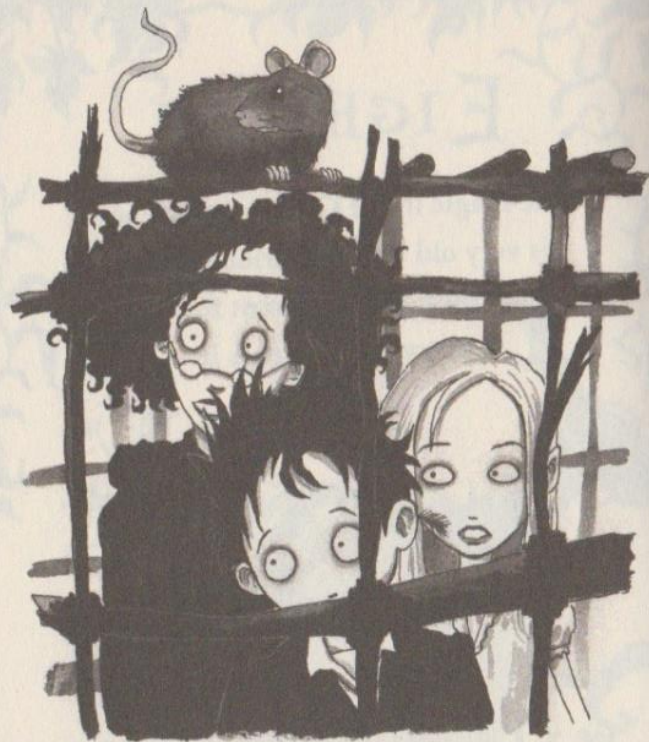
The magic in Elf Girl's mother's bow
is very old and mysterious, which
means it's different for
everyone who uses it.

When they woke up again, they found
themselves in a pretty pickle.

They were in a cage, made of branches
roughly lashed together. It was a tight squeeze,
and they could barely move.

Raven Boy twisted his head and viewed
the scene.

They were on an open piece of ground,
a valley. Then Raven Boy realised it was open



ground because the ogre had pulled up nearly every tree in sight. He twisted his head some more and saw that the cage they were crammed in was sitting on the deck of an enormous barge, floating on the lake into which they'd fallen.

Then he heard voices.

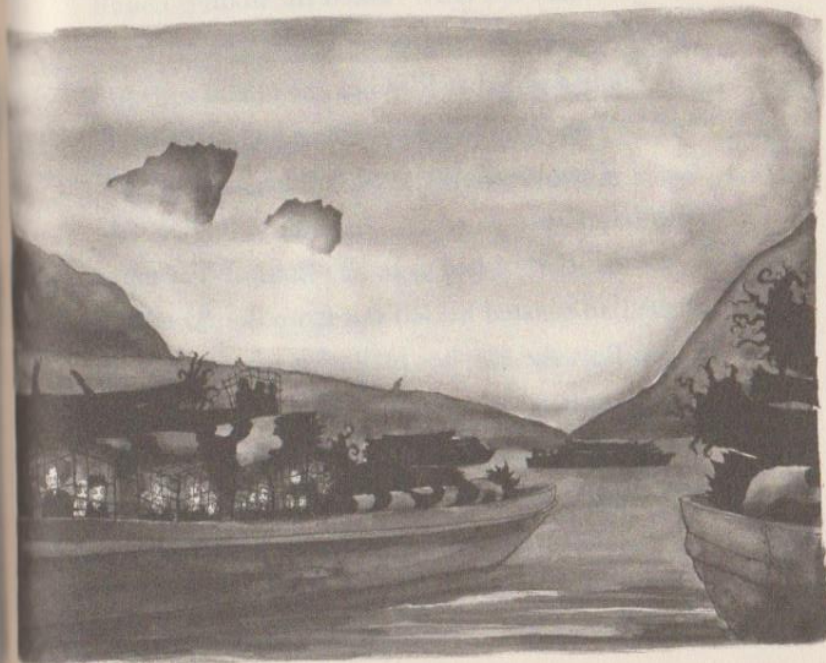
'Look! That one's moving!'

'He's alive . . . Maybe the others are too!'

Turning his head further still, Raven Boy saw that theirs was not the only cage on the deck. There were others, lots of others, and then he saw piles and piles of tree trunks on the barge, and then he saw that there was more than one barge.

'Hey!' a voice called to him. 'Hey, young fellah. Can you hear me?'

Raven Boy thought his head might fall off, he was turning it so far, but now he saw where the voice came from.



In the cage next to theirs was another group of people. There was something familiar about them, and Raven Boy knew why.

There was a thin man, and a thinner woman, and an older woman. All three were tiny and blonde.

The man spoke.

'Hey! Is that . . . ? It is! She's alive! She's alive!'

'Are you Elf Girl's parents?' Raven Boy asked.

'Who's Elf Girl?' asked the man.

'Sorry yes, I mean are you *her* parents?'

He nodded at Elf Girl.

'Yes! We thought the ogre had eaten her!'

They were overjoyed and began to weep with happiness.

Elf Girl started to come round, and as soon as she had twisted herself out from underneath Raven Boy, she saw her parents waving and smiling at her.

'Mum! Dad! Granny! Is Cicely all right? And the others?'

'Yes, dear,' said her mum. 'They're all in

other cages further along the deck.'

'What's going on? What are all these boats for? And the trees?'

'We don't know,' said Elf Girl's dad.

'The ogre has been piling up the boats for days with trees, and putting everyone he finds into cages. We think he's about to go on a long journey, but we don't know where, or why.'

'Aren't you going to introduce your friends?' asked Elf Girl's mum, in that way mums do.

'Oh, yes, well, this is . . . er . . . this is Raven Boy.'

Elf Girl's mum and dad exchanged looks, but they were both too nice to say anything.

'And this is Florence. She's a terrible witch.'

Florence came round as she heard her name.

'Hello,' she said.

'She doesn't seem that terrible,' said Elf Girl's mum.

'No, I mean she's a terrible witch. Just awful. Although, she did help us find you. But now we need to escape. We must do something!'

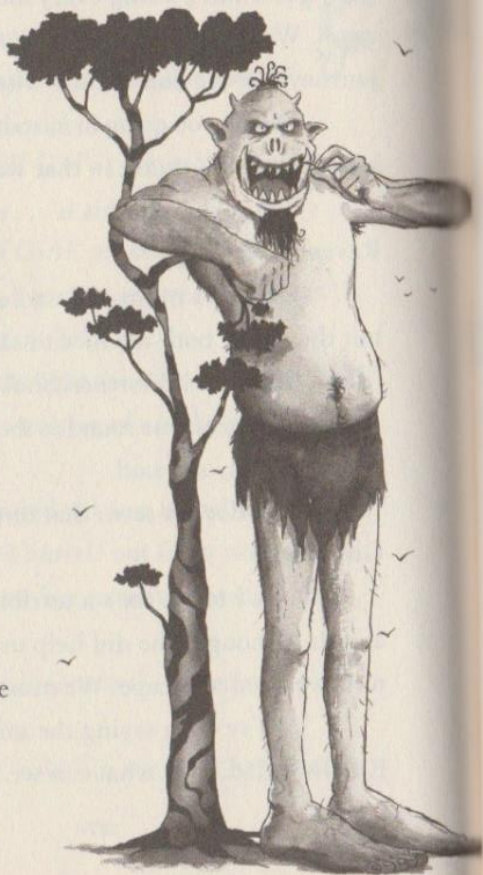
'We've been saying the same thing,' said Elf Girl's dad. 'But what can we do? We're



locked in these cages, they're too small to wriggle out of, and your mum has lost her magic bow . . .'

'It's over there,' said Elf Girl, sounding miserable and scared all at once. 'The ogre seems to be using it as a toothpick.'

It was true. The ogre sat a good way off, leaning back against one of the few tall trees he hadn't pulled up yet, and, as far as Elf Girl could see, he was using her mother's magic bow to clean the gaps between his teeth.



'What's he been eating?' whispered Florence, horrified.

'Best not to think about it,' said Raven Boy. 'Right, it's time we came up with a plan.'

'Brave talk, lad,' said Elf Girl's dad. 'But what can we do? We've tried everything we could think of already.'

'Maybe so,' said Raven Boy with a glint in his eye, 'but then you didn't have a girl with a magic bow, a witch and a sneaky sniffy little rat with you.'

Everyone in the other cage looked blank, and then Rat appeared, running along the shore, jumping onto the mooring rope of the barge, and scampering up it till he perched on top of Raven Boy's head.

'Rat, old friend, the first thing we need is these ropes chewing.'

Raven Boy nodded at their hands, and the ropes that were tying the cage door shut.

'That's a lot of chewing,' said Elf Girl doubtfully.

But Rat didn't even waste time squeaking, and within a few moments Raven Boy's hands

were free. While he set about untying his feet, Rat moved on to the ropes binding the others.

'But what will we do then?' said Elf Girl's grandmother. 'That ogre's the size of a small hill!'

'That's where our witch comes in,' said Raven Boy. 'And we're going to get the bow back, and then . . .'

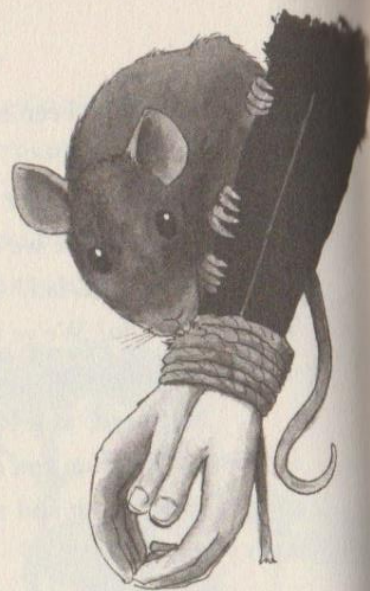
'And then . . .?'

'I haven't worked that bit out yet,' Raven Boy admitted.

'Well, whatever it is,' yelled Elf Girl, 'you'd better do it quickly! He's seen us!'

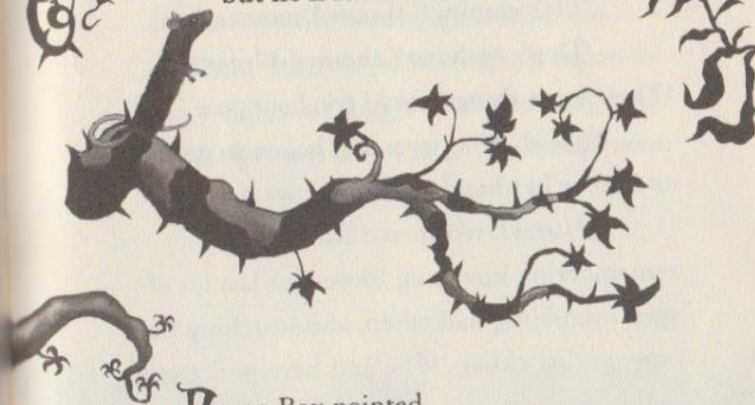
That was also true. Even as she spoke, the great big ogre lurched to his feet, and lumbered towards them.

Everyone screamed.



NINETEEN

Rat is pretty sure that Raven Boy and Elf Girl can't manage without him. They're a big responsibility, but he'll look after them.



Raven Boy pointed.

'Look! He's dropped his toothpick, I mean the bow. Florence, can't you do something? Then Elf Girl can get the bow.'

'Which my dear mother never taught me to use properly!' cried Elf Girl.

'I'm sorry,' said her mum, 'but the thing is, the bow works differently for everyone. You'll have to find out for yourself how it works

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary

Inter

Predict

Explain

Retrieve

Summarise



V What does 'they found themselves in a pretty pickle' mean?

I How do you think Raven Boy felt when he saw the other people in the cages?

P What do you think is going to happen in the next chapter?

E Explain why Elf Girl's mum is confused when Elf Girl says Florence is a 'terrible witch'.

R How was rat going to help them escape?

S Summarise this chapter in 3 sentences.

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?

twist

Word Class:

Word Class:

Synonyms

Antonyms

@VocabularyNinja

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



The word I
want you to
investigate is

twist