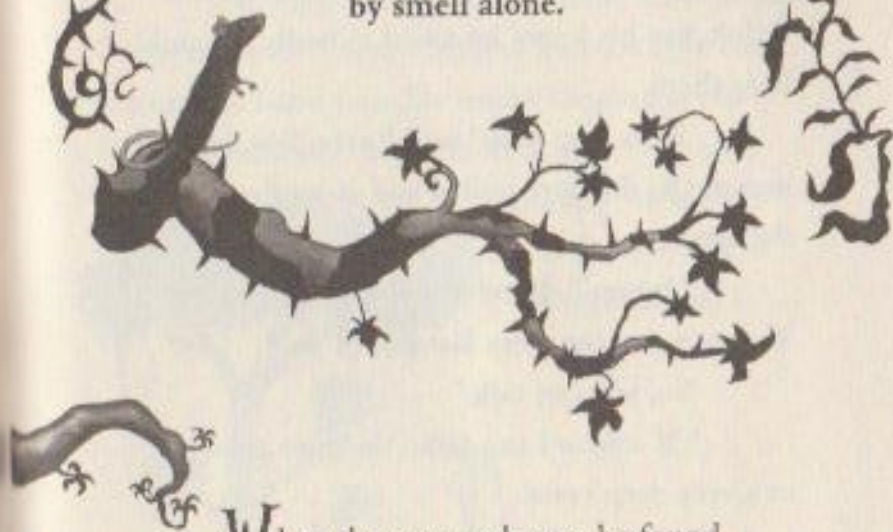




Let's see what happens in the FINAL chapter.

TWENTY

Trolls are very whiffy indeed, and
can sometimes capture their victims
by smell alone.



When the ogre woke up, he found
himself not only trussed up with a couple of
hundred ropes, he found himself tied to the tree
he'd been leaning against earlier.

He also found himself confronted by the
several dozen people he'd taken prisoner as he'd
uprooted the trees in their forest.

They weren't happy.

'Can you talk?' said Raven Boy, folding

his arms and trying to look very fierce, though in fact his knees were shaking.

Suddenly, the ogre roared at them all. 'RAAAH.'

A couple of people fainted. Raven Boy didn't, but his knees knocked so badly he could hear them.

'Now stop that!' said Raven Boy, looking nervous as the ogre pulled and struggled against the ropes.

'Or you'll do what?' snarled the ogre. 'I'm going to eat every last one of you!'

'So, you can talk.'

'Of course I can talk,' the ogre growled, in a very deep voice.

'Hah!' said Raven Boy. Then he couldn't think of anything smarter to say, so he let Elf Girl take over.

'We were just trying to decide what to do with you! But letting you go was not on our list. So far we have drowning, beheading, locking you up for ever, and throwing away the key. You've ruined our forest, and you've eaten people, and we're very angry with you.'

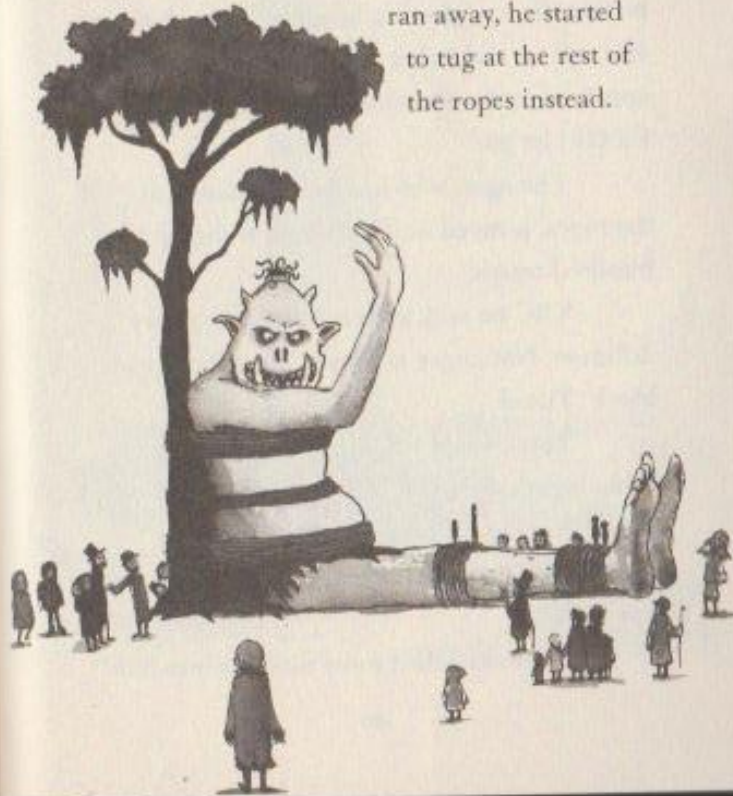
The ogre just roared again. 'RAAAH.'

And a few more people fainted.

'I'm going to eat you so hard it's going to really hurt!' he cried.

He tugged and strained some more at the ropes. One of them snapped, and the ogre had a mighty hand free. He began swiping at the people standing closest to him, and when they

ran away, he started to tug at the rest of the ropes instead.



'Right!' said Elf Girl. 'I've had about enough of this.'

She grabbed her bow.

'What are you going to do?' asked Raven Boy.

'Just watch!'

She aimed her bow at the ogre's nose and Raven Boy noticed that her arrow-shaped birthmark was glowing brightly. Though there was still no real string to the bow, a glowing line appeared in the air, which suddenly twanged as Elf Girl let go.

The ogre, who had been straining at the ropes, jumped as if he'd been stung by a hundred wasps.

'Oh,' he said, suddenly sounding very different. Not angry at all any more, but quiet. Meek. Timid.

'Now,' cried Elf Girl, 'just you start behaving nicely.'

'Yes,' said the ogre. 'All right. Sorry.'

'Elf Girl!' cried Raven Boy. 'What have you done?'

'I have knocked some niceness into him.'



'Hah! You did it! You knew what you were doing!'

'Yes,' said Elf Girl. 'I think so . . .'

But Raven Boy wasn't listening. He'd walked right up to the ogre and was staring into his face.



'You are a very bad ogre. You've eaten lots of people and pulled up lots of trees.'

'I haven't eaten anyone for days,' the ogre said.

'We saw you! Just now, when you were sitting here!'

'That was a badger,' the ogre said. 'I don't eat people. Often.'

'Well, all right, but what about the trees?' cried Florence. 'Half the forest is missing!'

The ogre looked sorry.

'Well, I did do that,' he said. 'But it's not my fault.'

'Not your fault?' cried Raven Boy. 'You pulled them up with your bare hands.'

'I mean,' said the ogre, 'I know I did it, but I was told to do it.'

'You! Made to do something! I don't believe it!'

Raven Boy scratched his head.

'Who made you do it?'

Now the ogre looked scared. They couldn't believe it, but he was trembling.

'I don't want to say his name out loud,'

he said finally.

'Who?'

'The one who made me do it. He told me to come here and tear the forest down, and take everyone as slaves and send them and the trees back to him.'

Everyone began muttering at once. Raven Boy whispered to the ogre.

'But who?'

And, looking around him nervously, as if checking to see who was listening, the ogre whispered back.

'The Goblin King.'

'Who's the Goblin King?' asked Elf Girl.

'Shh!' cried the ogre. 'Not so loud! If he hears you, you'll be in trouble.'

'But who is he?'

'If you've never heard of him, you'll wish you never had.'

'That doesn't make sense,' said Raven Boy.

'Well, I mean once you've heard of him, you'll wish you never had. He's the most evil, terrifying creature that ever lived. He rules a land far away from here, but he wants to take

over everything, destroy everything. And he mean to everyone.'

'But why?' asked Elf Girl.

'I don't know. He just does,' said the ogre, 'and he made me start on the forest here. He wants the trees for firewood, and the people for slaves. And he's not going to stop until he's taken over the whole world.'

There was a lot of shaking of heads and muttering.

'Well, that's terrible,' said Elf Girl after a while.

'Agreed,' said Raven Boy. 'We have to do something about it. We have to stop him.'

Now everyone began muttering at once.

'You can't defeat the Goblin King!'

someone said. 'He's pure evil.'

'You hadn't even heard of him a minute ago!' said Raven Boy. 'And five minutes before that, you wouldn't have said we could defeat this chap either, would you? But we did! And someone has to stop this Goblin King. Ogre, I'll make you a deal.'

The ogre looked up.

'What?' he said.
'If we let you go, you have to promise to come and help us defeat the Goblin King.'

'If you let me go,' said the ogre, 'I'm running away as far as I can. Sorry, but you don't know how vicious and mean and evil and ...'

'Yes! Okay!' cried Raven Boy. 'We get the idea. Okay, look, I'll do you another deal. If we let you go, you have to promise not to eat anyone, to stop tearing up the forest, and you have to promise to help replant trees and rebuild people's houses. Then you can run away. Okay?'

The ogre thought about this for a long time, then he nodded.

'Okay,' he said.

'Raven Boy,' said Elf Girl, 'are you sure that's a good idea?'



The ogre heard her.

'Oh, don't worry. Ogres always tell the truth. We might be big and mean but we never lie. I'll help rebuild everyone's homes, and then I'm running. If I were you, I'd do the same thing.'

Raven Boy looked at the ogre fiercely.

'Never! We're going to go and give that Goblin King what for. Right?'

With a flourish of his coat tails he turned to the crowd, waiting for a cheer that didn't come.

People stared at their toes and some began to shuffle away.

'Right?' cried Raven Boy again.

No one looked him in the eye.

'The thing is,' someone said, 'it sounds a bit dangerous. And I'm really busy at the moment. Got lots on.'

'Yes, me too,' said another voice. 'Busy weekend.'

The shuffling continued.

'Isn't there anyone who cares enough about the world to come with me?' asked Raven Boy, but he didn't sound dramatic any more, he sounded defeated.

Then, there was a squeak, and Rat jumped onto his head. He squeaked again. 'Thanks, Rat,' said Raven Boy, smiling. He looked at Elf Girl.

'Elf Girl?' he said. 'How about you? We make quite a team.'

Elf Girl looked worried. Then she looked at her parents, and her family, and then back at Raven Boy.

She grinned.

'Of course I'll come with you!'

'No!' cried her parents. 'No, you can't. It's too dangerous.'

'But someone has to do something,' she said. 'And you have to stay and look after Granny and Cicely. But me and my bow have to save the world, with Raven Boy!'

Raven Boy laughed.

'We're going to save the world, so remember our names. Raven Boy and Elf Girl.'

'Elf Girl and Raven Boy,' said Elf Girl.

'No, Raven Boy and Elf Girl.'

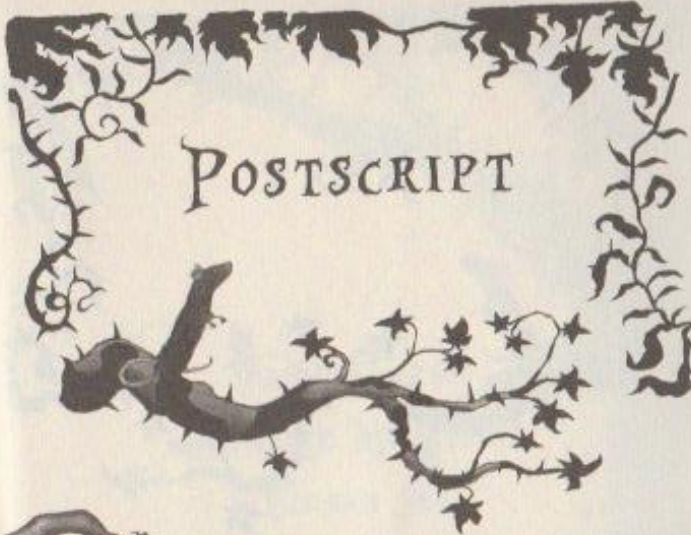
'Elf Girl and Raven Boy.'

'Maybe if you're going to save the world,


you should save your breath first,' said Florence.

Rat squeaked, and everyone laughed.





POSTSCRIPT



Yes, everyone laughed, even the ogre, and even the three men standing at the back of the group, a little way away from everyone else.

And as Raven Boy and Elf Girl made their preparations to go in search of the evil Goblin King, and said their goodbyes, the three men watched them; the small one, the middle-sized one, and the big one.

'We're not going to let our dinner get away just like that, are we lads?' said the small one.

The other two grinned.

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary

Infer

Predict

Explain

Retrieve

Summarise



V What does 'trussed-up' mean?

I Find three pieces of evidence to show that the ogre was scared. (p.193/194)

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

E Explain what it means when it says Raven Boy felt defeated. (p.197)

R What was Raven Boy hoping would happen when 'with a flourish of his coat-tails he turned to the crowd?

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?

wild

Word Class:

Word Class:

Synonyms

Antonyms

@VocabularyNinja

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



The word I
want you to
investigate is

wild