



## CHAPTER THREE

# A New Business

**T**he next day Tom ran home from the Duke's stables. There he found a large group of people waiting for him.

"Uncle, what's this?"

"These people want to learn to be carvers. If you teach them, they will give you half of what they make. That way, you'll have ten times as many toys to sell."

So Tom spent all winter teaching his new students how to carve toys. Tom was a very skilled woodworker and he enjoyed sharing his knowledge. The students learned quickly and produced some great toys and even pieces of furniture.

## THE FINANCIAL FAIRY TALES



In the spring, when they'd amassed a large collection of wooden goods, Tom approached his uncle. "I think we have a problem. The people in Arbor don't want to buy any more toys or furniture. They don't need it. What are we going to do?"

"We're going to hitch up my cart and go to the market in the Kingdom of Arum. They have no woodworkers of their own. They will buy your goods."



The following day, they loaded everything onto Solomon's cart and travelled across the Land of Argent. As Solomon had promised, Arum's market was full of people looking to trade.

After a long and busy day, all of the goods were sold. Tom and his uncle counted the gold.

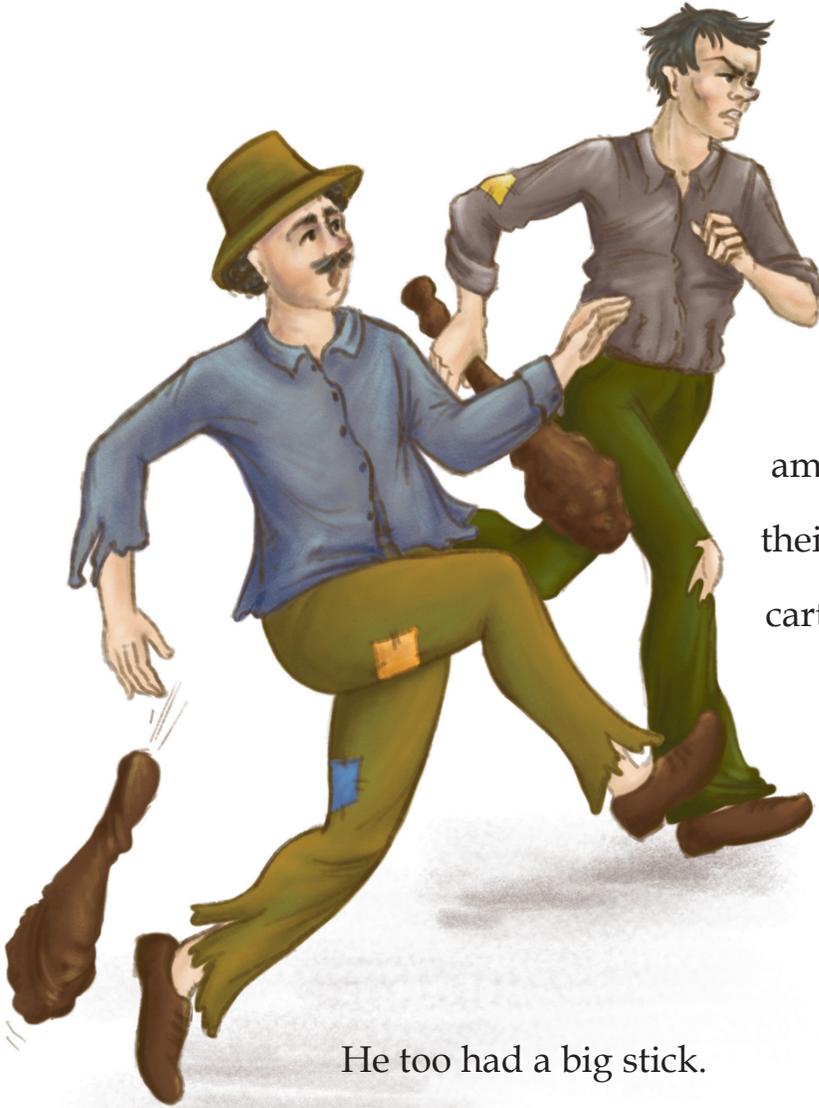
“I can’t believe it!” Tom exclaimed. “We’ve earned four and a half bags of gold here!”

“With the money you have in your piggy bank at home, that should be enough to satisfy the Duke!”

With their task complete, they triumphantly returned home. The two men were in fine spirits, singing songs, telling jokes and remembering stories about their day at the market.



## THE FINANCIAL FAIRY TALES



By the time they reached the forest where they lived it had grown dark. Tom and Solomon could barely see the road, let alone the two men waiting to ambush them. They jumped out of their hiding spot and stopped the cart.

“Give us your money,” the first robber threatened, waving a big club.

The other man moved threateningly towards the cart.

He too had a big stick.

“There is nothing we can do,” said Solomon. “We have to give it to them.”

## Dreams Can Come True

Broken-hearted, Tom agreed and handed over the bags of gold. He wanted to fight back but knew they couldn't win against the robbers.

The robbers couldn't believe their luck, getting their hands on so much gold. They were so excited that they didn't see the man approaching on his horse.

The man galloped up with a sword in his hand and charged the robbers. They dropped the money and ran off into the woods. The man chased them into the darkness before returning to the road where Tom and Solomon were waiting.

"Thank you so much, Sir Knight. We are so grateful to you!" Tom bowed.

The Knight climbed down from the horse and threw back his hood, revealing long braided hair. It was no Sir.

"Isobel!" Tom rushed forward to hug and kiss her.

"I was returning home from my evening ride. Lucky I came this way."

"Yes, it was!" Solomon smiled. "Very lucky indeed."



Tom stopped by his house to empty his piggy bank then all three went to see the Duke.

He was outside the stables, waiting for his daughter to return home. She jumped down from her horse and hugged him. Tom then presented him with the five bags of gold.

“Well Tom, it looks as though you have proven me wrong.” The Duke’s eyes locked on the gold.

Tom smiled at Isobel.

The Duke handed the five bags back to Tom. “Well, I am a man of my word. You have proven yourself worthy of my daughter, if she will have you.”

Isobel shrieked in happiness.

“Of course I will!” She embraced Tom.

Tom and Isobel were married a few weeks later. The day after their wedding, Tom used his hard-earned gold to buy a beautiful home with large stables. After all, he needed a good place to keep the magnificent white stallion the Duke had given him as a wedding present. 🌟

