



CHAPTER 3

Giant Trouble!

Jn the morning, Hannah woke up to an earthquake. Everything in her room was shaking. When the quaking stopped, she heard Jacob cry out and ran to find him. But he wasn't inside the house.

"Hannah!" Jacob yelled from outside.

She ran into the living room and saw the smashed window. The treasure was gone!

Jacob screamed louder.

Hannah rushed out the door and then froze with fear. A huge scary giant had gathered up the remaining treasure. Worse, he held her brother by his ankle upside down!

"Where is the rest of my treasure?" the giant demanded.

"I'm sorry! I didn't know it was yours!" Hannah wanted to cry.

THE FINANCIAL FAIRY TALES

The giant pointed accusingly at her. “You think treasure just lies around? You didn’t stop to think it belonged to somebody? That treasure was my life savings, from years of hard work!” The giant roared and Jacob screamed.

Hannah trembled all over. She was too scared to talk. But when Jacob screamed again, she admitted that she had spent some of it.

“The giant yelled, “How dare you?”

Hannah really did start crying then.

“You owe me one hundred golden coins for the treasure you’ve already spent,” the giant said. “You have until the end of summer to pay me back, or else.”

With that, the giant stomped off up the hill, taking Jacob with him.

Hannah fell to her knees. She didn’t know what to do. She dug her hands into the soil at her feet, holding on until the earth stopped quaking from the giants’ footsteps.

When he was gone, Hannah was able to stop crying. She had to think. What could she do? How could she earn one hundred gold coins

The Magic Magpie

and save her brother? She tried really hard to think of the ways to make some money. Would she have to sell the farm? But where would they live? Could she borrow it from a friend? But then who did they know who had a hundred gold coins spare to lend them?

After a while she began to have an idea. The only way she knew how she could repay the giant and save her brother was to work in the fields, but how could she earn one hundred coins in just a few months?

All of a sudden, she remembered the watermelon contest and the seeds that she had placed in her pocket. Hannah dashed inside to search her laundry. Luckily, the packet of seeds was still there. She didn't waste any time, she grabbed her pitchfork and headed outside to turn the soil and plant the seeds.



THE FINANCIAL FAIRY TALES

Every day for the rest of the summer Hannah tended the watermelons. She made sure the soil was fresh and they had enough water. Hannah got up early and stayed up late, making sure her watermelons were the very best they could be. She'd never worked so hard for anything but she knew she had to succeed. Her efforts were rewarded.

By the last week of summer, Hannah had grown a watermelon so big that she couldn't pick it up. She didn't even know how she was going to take it into town and enter it in the contest.

She tried to lift it many different ways but to no avail. She wore herself out with her efforts. Then, just as she was about to give up, the ground began to thump and quake. The giant was coming back.

"Where is my money?" He demanded.

"I almost have it, but I need your help" Hannah explained.

"Help you? Why should I help you!" he bellowed.

"If this watermelon wins the contest in town, I'll win one hundred gold coins." Hannah dropped to her knees to beg the giant's help. "I've worked so hard all summer. I know this will win. I can't even lift it!"

The Magic Magpie



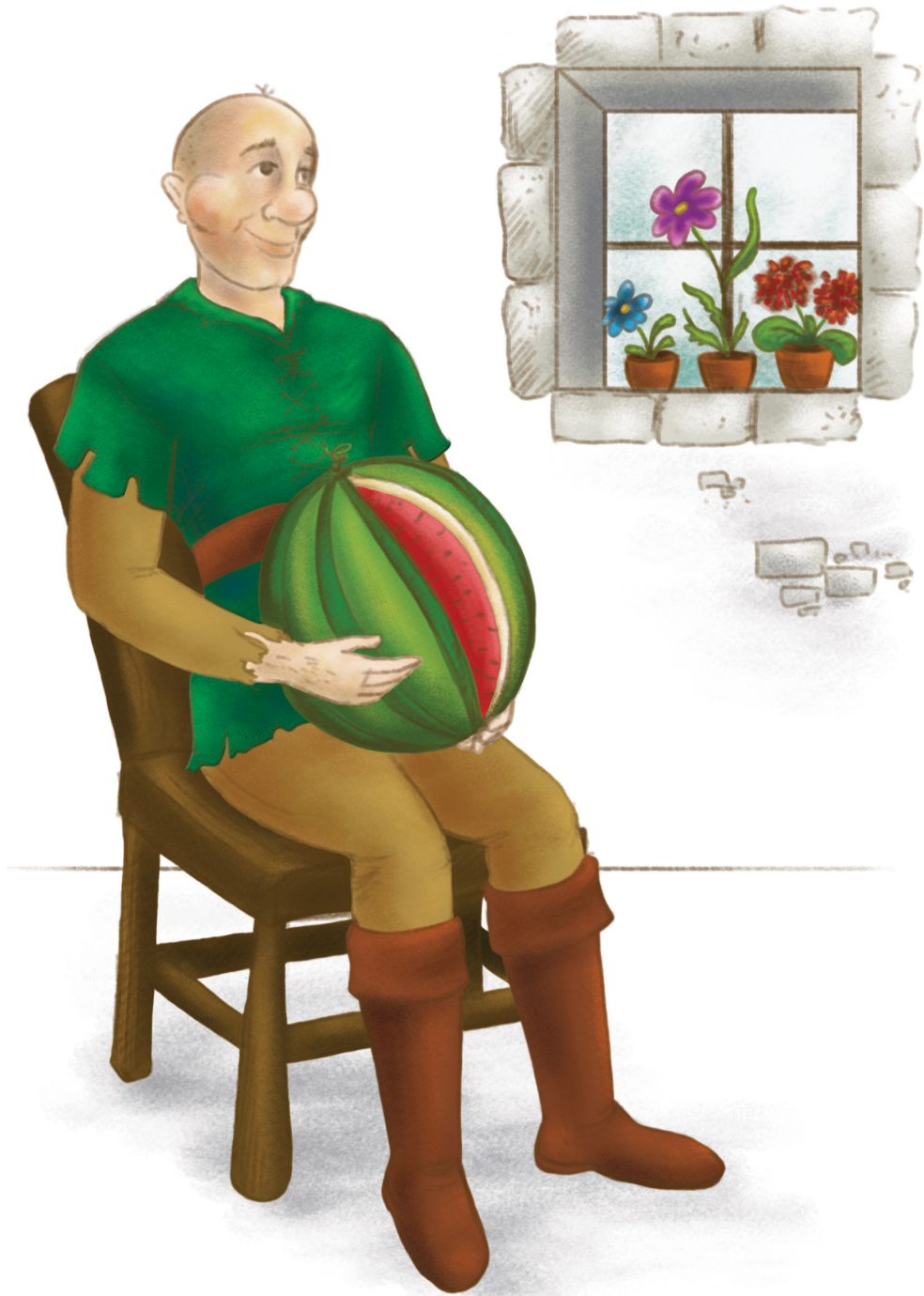
The giant examined her watermelon garden.
All of the seeds had sprouted into enormous
fruit, but the largest was bigger
than anything he'd ever seen.

The giant was impressed.

He licked his lips,
watermelons were his
favourite food.

“If you help me
take it to the market,
you can win your gold.”

The giant agreed. He effortlessly
picked up the watermelon
and walked it into town.



CHAPTER 4

The Watermelon Contest

That afternoon, at the contest, Hannah's watermelon won by a landslide. No other came close to the size of hers. The townspeople were also impressed by the size of the giant, though admittedly they were a little scared as well. When they cheered for him however, the giant smiled.

Hannah approached him cautiously. "Now you have the gold. Will you let my brother go?" The giant led Hannah to his house where Jacob ran, smiling, into her arms.

"Did he treat you cruelly?" Hannah asked.

"Of course not! Walter is really friendly," Jacob explained.

"His name is Walter?"

"Yep, and he showed me how to mine jewels! Look what I found, all on my own!" Jacob held a beautiful diamond in his hand. "It's hard work, but it pays off!" he laughed.

THE FINANCIAL FAIRY TALES

“Ahem,” Walter said, “speaking of hard work, I’m a little hungry after all the excitement in town, how much would you like for that watermelon?”

Hannah shook her head. “You can have it as a present.”

Walter smiled. “Thank you! No-one has ever given me a present before,” he said, not looking at all scary now.

Walter took his watermelon inside and the three new friends feasted on it. Hannah noticed that Martha the magic magpie was on a perch in the house, looking much happier living out of her cage.

“That magpie caused so much trouble,” she scowled.

“No,” corrected Jacob, “being greedy caused us so much trouble! But we have found a good use for her.” Jacob and Walter smiled at each other.

From that day on, Jacob, Hannah, Walter and Martha all worked together. Hannah and Martha would find the treasure, while Jacob and Walter would dig it up. While on the farm, Walter because of his size and strength was a great help with all the heavy work. Together they were a great team.

The Magic Magpie

In no time at all, they had so much money that they decided to put it to good use. With their new found wealth they paid for a new school for the town and helped lots of people who were in need.

In the evening, after enjoying their day's work, they would often relax in Hannah's beautiful flower garden and watch the sunset while eating watermelon. After all it was Walter's favourite. 🌸

