

The shoemaker of Seville



CHAPTER 1

Once upon a time, there was a stubborn shoemaker in the famous city of Seville. He lived and worked in the city center opposite the "Tower of Gold".

His neighbour, the tailor, owed him 1€, but the tailor owed a lot of money and he could not pay. There were a lot of people waiting to collect their money every day, the milkman, the butcher, the baker, etc.

Then the tailor and his wife had an idea and he pretended to be dead. Next day, when the baker asked for his money, the tailor's wife started to cry. He's dead!! All people went to offer their condolences to the widow and forgave the tailor's debt, except the stubborn shoemaker.



I want my money, said the shoemaker

So, the milkman gave the shoemaker an idea. "You can spend the night with the body and repair several shoes, so you will save money in candles". After the night you will have your money back.

You are right "said the shoemaker" and he did it.

At midnight the shoemaker took his tools and went to the church to work next to the tailor's

body. After a few minutes, he heard the shoemaker snoring. He had realised that it was a trick and he started an argument with the tailor.

Suddenly they heard some people coming in to the church, the shoemaker hid behind the curtain, and the tailor laid in the coffin.



They heard 5 men talking about a hidden treasure in the church. They had stolen a lot of money from a bank and they were very angry because they couldn't find it. One of the thieves went mad, drew his new sword and shouted "I'm killing you all, but first I'm trying my new sword with the body"

The shoemaker were terrified when he heard his words, but he was worried about his money not for the tailor's life.

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CHAPTER 2

The shoemaker panicked and took the first thing he could find and threw it in the head of the thief who had the sword. He found out that it was one of the shoes he was repairing.



The thief turned the white out of his eyes and fell down on the floor. All the other thieves turned around and looked at him. The shoemaker slowly tried to back out of the church, but the thieves were faster, and they quickly formed a circle around him.

"Shall we kill him?" the most silly looking thief asked.

"No, please don't kill me," the shoemaker said.

"Why shouldn't we kill you?"

"Because maybe we can help each other."

"Can you do something special?"

".....uhhm..... I can read and make shoes, that's all, I guess?"

"The one you knocked out with the shoe is the only one in our gang who can read, so you're in!"

"Thanks, but if we find the treasure we'll share?"

"Okay."

After hours of searching one of the thieves found the treasure deep inside the church.

"Over here guys," he shouted.

The shoemaker ran over to see. It was a big brown chest with a huge lock.

"What now, we don't have the key?" the shoemaker said.

"Let me take care of that," one of the thieves said.

He took a clip from his pocket and started to pick the lock.

After a while he could open the chest and they all looked into it. They all expected to see gold and jewels but instead it was empty. One muscular thief got upset and threw the chest down onto the floor where it crashed with a big bang. The thieves went mad and began to destroy everything in the church, but the shoemaker was smarter. He looked closer at the rest of the chest and found a small note.

"Hey guys, look what I found," the shoemaker said.

But they didn't hear him as they were busy destroying things, and they did that really well.

"Guys!" he shouted again.

Now they heard him.

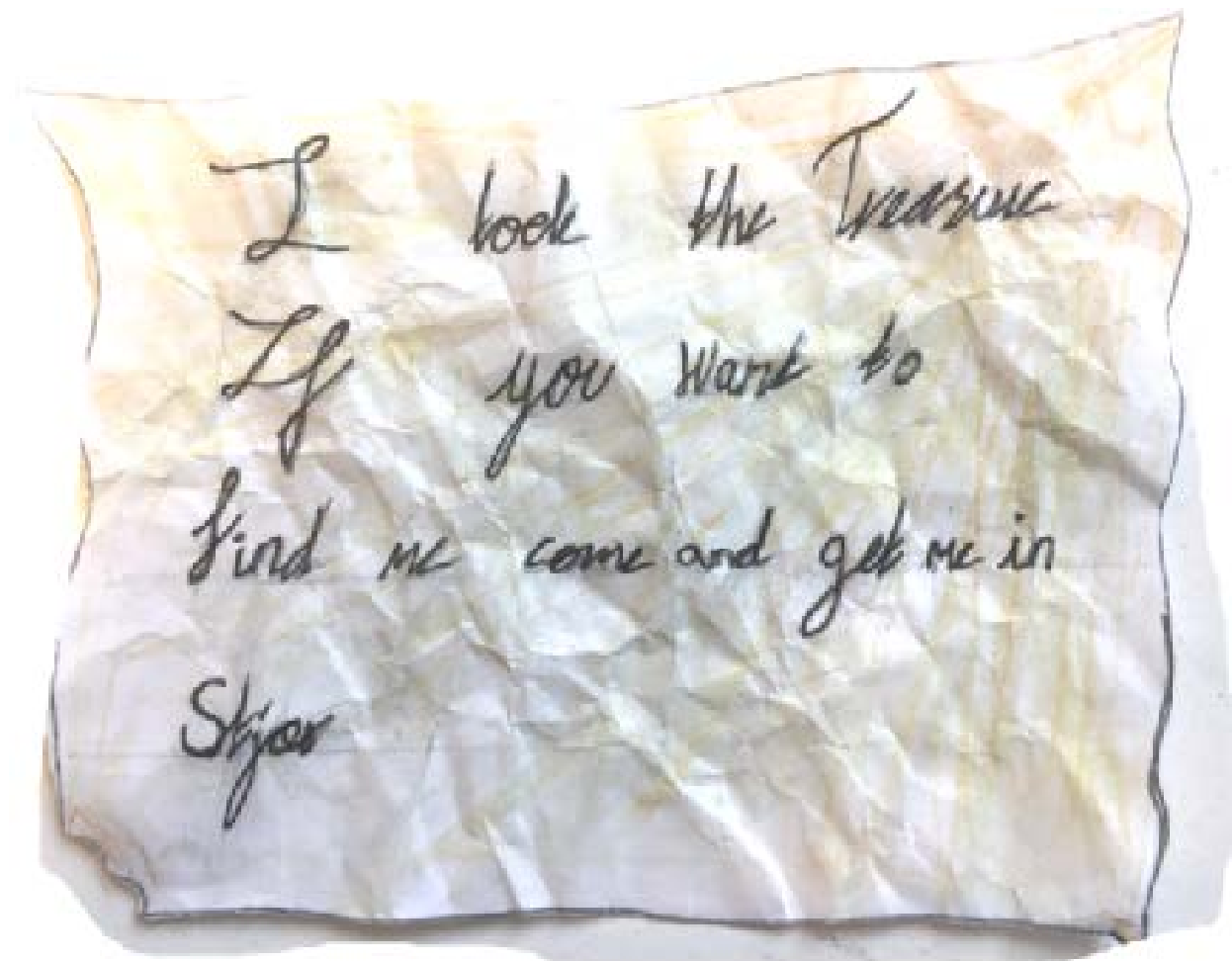
"I found a note in the chest. Come and see!"

All the thieves turned around and looked at him. One of the thieves took the note.

"What does it say?" another thief asked.

"Let me read it," the shoemaker said.

"Okay."



"Where the heck is Stjaer!" "I know where Stjaer is.

"I have a cousin who lives there," the tailor said while standing up in the coffin.

Chapter 3

The thieves were taken by surprise. They turned towards the tailor and asked him, «Who are you?»

The man replied, «I am the tailor. I have been to the 'Other Side' and now I am back to help you. I will lead you to Stjaer»

The shoemaker said, «We have no time to waste. We must hurry»

They left right away. The tailor led the way, with the shoemaker right behind and the thieves following them. In order to reach the city, they had to go through a huge dark scary forest.



While walking through the forest, they were easily scared by the strange sounds of the forest. They could hear the howls of the wolves, the roars of the lions and tigers, and also hoots of the owls.

They also saw the scary red eyes of a bat! They were really frightened. Suddenly, they noticed a bush moving. But it was only a small cute squirrel. The thieves were afraid, and run away. They were never seen again. So the tailor and shoemaker decided to continue on their own.



As they continued on their journey, a terrible storm began. The lightening lit up the sky and the rain poured down on their faces. They ran to find shelter... but they were unlucky. They found themselves in a swamp, getting swallowed by quicksand. To free themselves, they grabbed hold of a nearby tree branch. They struggled a bit, but they were finally able to free themselves.



They had to hurry because the storm was picking up. They saw a cave deep in the forest carved into the mountains. They entered, relieved that they were able to find shelter. But a surprise was waiting for them. In the darkness, they started to hear a growl of a bear. And then ...

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Chapter 4

When they heard the bear's growl they turned around immediately and started running into the direction of the swamp. When they reached the swamp the cobbler and the tailor hid behind a bush and the bear who ran after them and tried to find them stepped right into the swamp. First a splash of water was heard, then it was followed by silence.



The cobbler and the tailor resumed their journey towards the cave, from which the bear had come to attack them. At the entrance of the cave the men hesitated for a moment, but then walked into the cave.

After their eyes had adjusted to the dark they could see pictures painted on the walls of the cave, pictures of hunting and fighting. From deep inside the cave was heard sneaking steps and before long a fox with brown fur appeared in front of them.



To the amazement of the cobbler and the tailor the fox could speak! It spoke:

- 'What are you two doing here?'

- 'Well, we are looking for a treasure', they answered.

- 'I can help you', the fox promised, 'as I know this cave like the back of my paws'.



So the treasure hunters continued their journey. After a while they saw a very bright light, which...

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Chapter 5

It was getting lighter and lighter as they were going towards it. As soon as they had reached there they realized that the lightning point was a fairy.

- Could you help us to get to Stjaer? – they asked the fairy for help.
- I could but you must find my magic torch because I have lost it in the heart of the forest.
- All right. We will find it. – they promised.

They continued their way through the forest. The forest was very dark. As they were wandering among the trees the tailor crashed into a tree. He didn't noticed the beehive on it. The bees became angry and attacked the tailor and the cobbler. They ran away but the bees were chasing them.

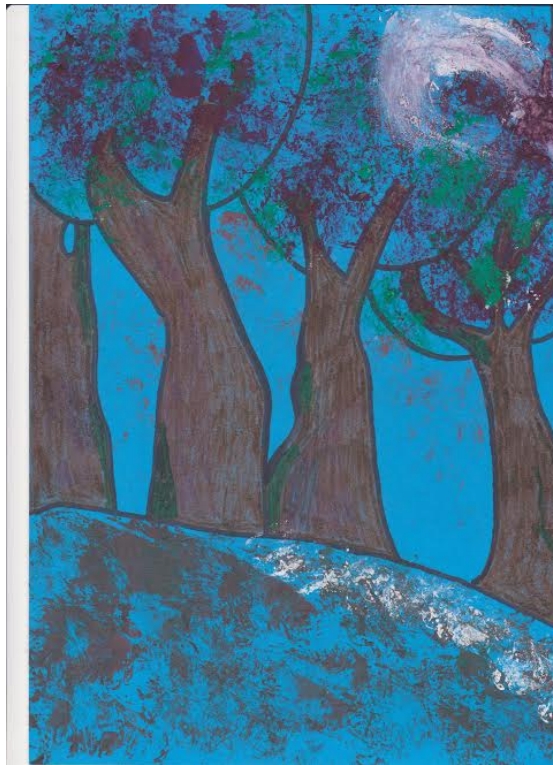


Luckily the fairy helped them again. She changed the bees into butterflies. The tailor and the cobbler were relieved and thanked for the fairy's help. They promised her to get her torch back as soon as possible.

They followed the fox who led them through the dark forest. They met a dwarf in the heart of the forest.

- What are you doing here? – asked the dwarf.
- We are looking for the fairy's magic torch. Have you seen it?
- Yes, I have got the torch but I won't give it to you until you answer my three questions.

The tailor and the cobbler could answer each questions so they got the magic torch back. They continued their way out of the forests to find the fairy and to give her the torch when a big storm broke out again. The tailor and the cobbler were scared but the fairy appeared in a sudden and changed the storm into a rainbow. She got her torch back and showed them the way to Stjaer as she had promised.



The tailor and the cobbler got out of the forest soon they said goodbye to the fox and thanked for his help. Then they continued their way towards the town.

After half-day walk they could see the gate of the town, Stjaer and arrived at the town market where.....

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Chapter 6

They had to walk half a day before they arrived at the citygate of Stjaer. "Welcome in Stjaer" was written above the gate, so they walked into the city and arrived on the marketplace.

"Look, a bulletin board", said the shoemaker. "That's strange, there's a note like the first one", remarked the tailor. He quickly grabs the note.

The shoemaker reads: Surprise! A riddle: go quickly to AvleuH. If you find this place, you will find what you seek!

They looked at each other flabbergasted. What to do? What means "AvleuH?!"

Then the tailor said: "There's a little shop overthere: "For all your pots, pans, witchcraft and riddles". Lets ask there what our riddle means.

So they went to the shop.



In the shop an old lady was sitting on a chair.

"Welcome, tailor and shoemaker of Sevilla, I have expected you", the old lady said. "You have a riddle. Well, go to the southwest and you find it. Here is a compass."

At the same moment she gave them the compass, the shoemaker and the tailor heard a noise. Just that moment they saw the fairy, who flew away through the window.

The shoemaker looked at the compass and said, "That direction is to the southwest, let's follow that path." They arrived at a lake with lots of trees around it. And there they saw a sign: Huelva 10 miles.



They shouted: "Huelva! That's the solution of the riddle! Let's go!"

They walked the way that was shown by the signpost and arrived at a large gate with "Welcome in Huelva" above it. But... it was closed. What could they do?? And then someone behind them said: "Good! You have found it!".....



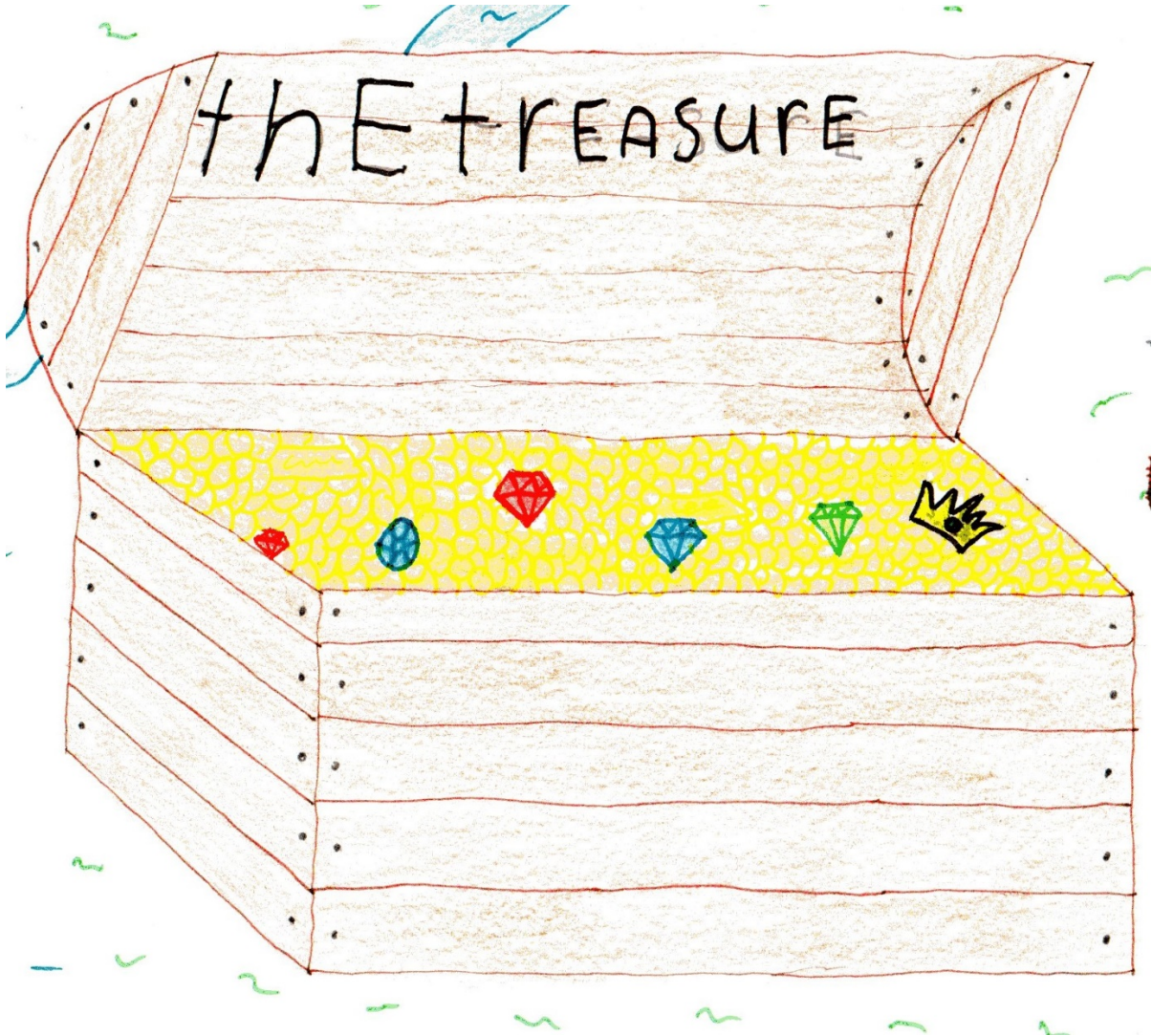
The fairy, the fox and the dwarf, they were all there. The fairy smiled and said: "We wanted to teach you a lesson. You, shoemaker, were just thinking about money. And you, tailor, you have cheated the people in an awful way. If you are good friends now, you will get your treasure."

Together they walked to a place where the fairy gave them each a shovel.



They started digging and they found a big wooden box. When they opened the box....

Wow!!! Their eyes were almost blinded by all the gold.



It was enough to pay all their debts. They gave a lot to the poor people.
And with the rest of the gold they built a shop together, in their beloved Sevilla:
"Tailormade shoes and clothes".

And they lived happily ever after!

HAPPY END!!!!

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