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extracts from

The Princess and the Pony

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Most warriors get fantastic birthday presents. Shields, amulets, helmets with horns on them. Things to win battles with. Things that make them feel like champions.



Princess Pinecone got a lot of cosy sweaters. Warriors do not need cosy sweaters.



Now, as it happens, a great battle was coming up,
and battling is a warrior's favourite thing to do.



The princess tried to teach the pony
how to be a real warrior horse ...



Warrior after warrior paused to admire the pony.
"What a cutie pie!" said Sally Smash. "He's so round!" said Carlos the Cruel.
"Aww, he looks a bit like me!" said Huge Harald.

Pinecone was flabbergasted, flummoxed, floored!
"This is not how a battle usually goes," she said.