The way through the woods is dark and deep,
With many a lesson to gauge,
And the path you take is the story you make,
Each step a turn of the page.





For Katy

First published 2018 by Macmillan Children's Books
an imprint of Pan Macmillan
20 New Wharf Road, London N1 9RR
Associated companies throughout the world
www.panmacmillan.com

ISBN: 978-1-5098-1706-1

Text and illustrations copyright © Chris Riddell 2018

The right of Chris Riddell to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission of the publisher.

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Printed in China.

Chris Riddell

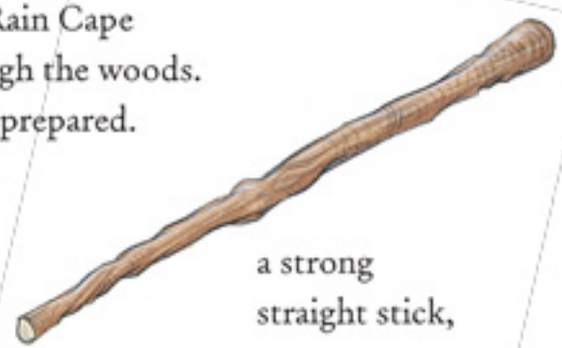
Once Upon A Wild Wood



Macmillan Children's Books



ittle Green Rain Cape
set off through the woods.
She felt well prepared.
She had . . .



a strong
straight stick,



comfortable
clumpy boots,



and a backpack
containing:



a good book,



breadcrumbs,



a pair of
clean socks



and an invitation
to a party.



She was wearing her green rain cape.



Green hadn't been walking for
long when she met a helpful wolf.

"Can I help you?" he asked.

"No thank you,"
said Green.



Next Green met a kindly old lady.

"Would you care for an apple?" she asked.

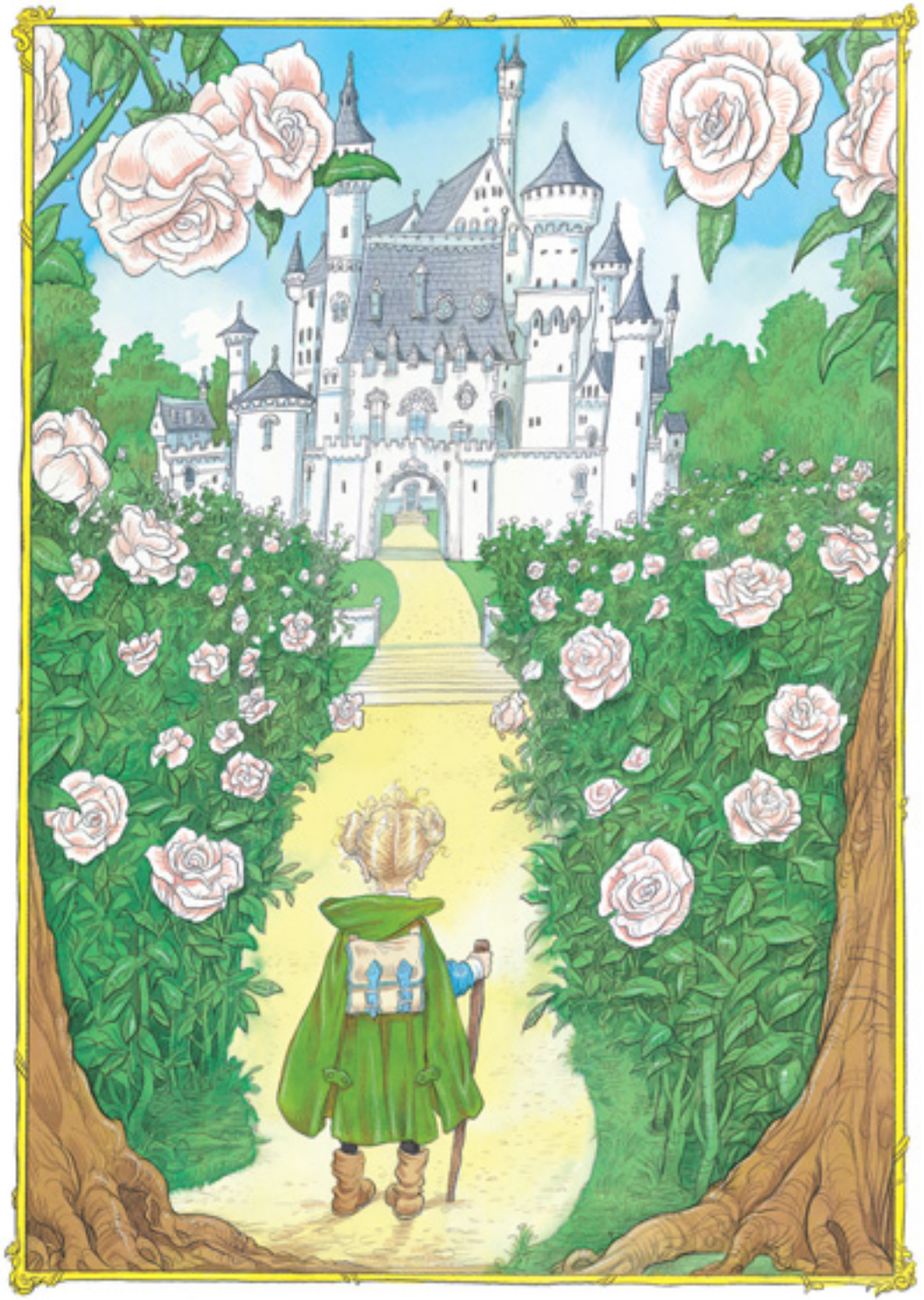
"No thank you," said Green.



And Green had hardly begun
walking again when she met
a friendly troll.

"Need directions?" he asked.

"No thank you," said Green,
and she continued on her way
through the woods.



Eventually she came to a castle.



"Who are you?" growled a fierce voice, as a figure with a very hairy face appeared from the rose bushes.

"My name is Little Green Rain Cape," said Green. "Are you the gardener here?"

"No, I'm a Beast," said the Beast. "Gardening is just a hobby. I don't suppose you've seen my guest, Beauty, anywhere have you? She went to visit her family and still hasn't come back. It's very lonely without her."

The Beast's eyes filled with tears.

"I'm afraid not," said Green. "But if I do, I'll tell her you're missing her."

"I am," said the Beast. "She throws sticks for me to fetch and I plait her hair with flowers. I've been invited to a party and I wanted to ask her to come with me."





And with that, he turned sadly away.