

The Land of Lost Hair

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Frank Hinks 2018

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Tales of Ramion

The Land of Lost Hair



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TALES OF RAMION



THE GARDENER

Lord of Ramion, guardian and protector



THE GUIDE

Friend and servant of the Gardener



SNUGGLE

Dream Lord sent to protect the boys from the witch Griselda



CHIEF TORTOISE

Keeper of the Book of Rules



JULIUS ALEXANDER BENJAMIN

Three brothers who long for adventure



THE BOYS' MOTHER

Does not want anyone to see her without any hair



THE BOYS FATHER

Loves rock and roll, very keen on dancing





GRISELDA THE GRUNCH

A witch who longs to eat the boys



THE DIM DAFT DWARVES

Julioso, Aliano, Benjio, Griselda's guards



BORIS

Griselda's pet skull, strangely fond of her



PRINCESS OF THE NIGHT

Lord of Nothingness, source of evil



ALBEE THE ALBATROSS

Spy of the Princess, harbinger of doom



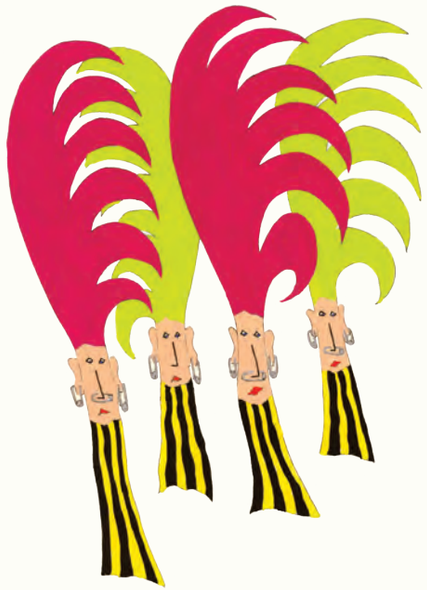
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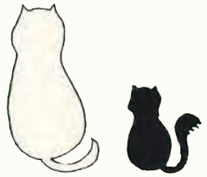
Warrior servants of the Princess



CLOUD 9

A mischievous cloud, but not all bad





Chapter One

When Snuggle became a legend (Snuggle the Mighty, Snuggle the All-Powerful) many whispered in awe that he was descended from the gods, that in Ancient Egypt men and women had bowed down and worshipped his ancestors. The whispers were almost true, but in Ancient Egypt men and women had bowed down and worshipped not Snuggle's ancestors, but Snuggle himself.

Dream Lord and hero for thousands of years Snuggle has been sent by the Gardener to protect the lives and dreams of boys and girls (and their parents) from the Princess of the Night (Lord of Nothingness, source of evil). The life of a hero is often short. When Snuggle fell in battle (fighting against impossible odds) he returned to the Garden, regained his strength, walked with his Master, slept in the sun dreaming of chickens (for like other cats Snuggle was far from perfect) before returning once more to earth. Though born of many parents Snuggle was always the same, was always Snuggle (the name first given to him by an Egyptian Princess). His most recent parents were Belinda and Black Tom.

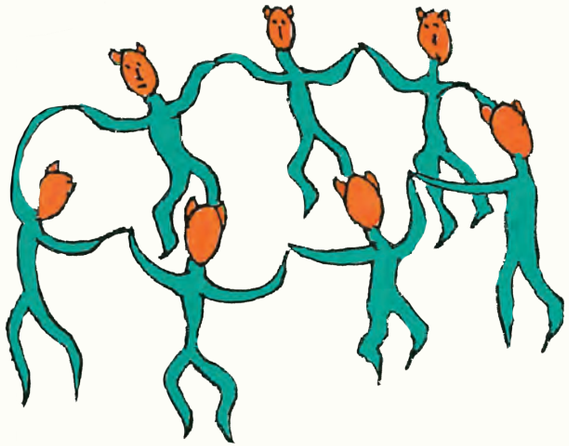
Black Tom was a scavenger who ran wild in an abandoned granary. Belinda lived next door. She was a most superior cat with long white fur. She had been forbidden by her Master and her Mistress from meeting Black Tom, for he fought, spat and never washed. But one spring day Belinda fell for his careless charm and from their union Snuggle was born.



From the moment of his birth Snuggle was wild. A tiny ball of fur, he shot up and down the legs of Belinda's Mistress, laddering her tights. He jumped on to the table and ate the supper of Belinda's Master. He ran up the curtains, jumped between the pelmets, ran down the curtains and up again and round and round until Belinda caught him by the scruff of the neck, cuffed him soundly and sent him to bed.

That evening Belinda heard her Master and her Mistress whispering. "I'll not have a son of Black Tom in my home," Belinda's Mistress said.

"In the morning I'll drown him in a bucket," hissed her Master.





Belinda lay down beside Snuggle. She felt the warmth of his body. In the morning there would be no more Snuggle - he would be drowned in a bucket. Belinda fell into a troubled sleep and began to dream. She wandered through a garden where plants grew wild and free, roses grew high into the trees, and Precious Plants danced in the breeze.



The Gardener walked towards her. He bowed and smiled: "Take Snuggle to the garage at The Old Vicarage. He has special powers. He has a special job to do."

Belinda awoke. It was getting light and she heard her Master stir upstairs. There was not a moment to lose. She took Snuggle by the scruff of the neck and pushed him through the cat flap. She carried him to The Old Vicarage and they sat in the garden, looking at the house. Then Belinda took Snuggle to the garage and left him alone, curled up in a ball behind the mower. Sadly she ran home.

