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Jonny Leighton and Anne Marie Ryan

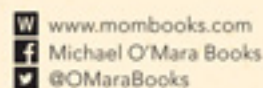


Edited by Jonny Leighton
Designed by Jack Clucas
Cover Design by Angie Allison

Illustrations by Aitch, Oana Befort and Rae Ritchie
Cover illustration by Harry and Zanna Goldhawk



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THE MAGICAL UNICORN SOCIETY
**THE GOLDEN
UNICORN**

**SECRETS &
LEGENDS**

Selwyn E. Phipps



WELCOME

Greetings, unicorn lovers.

My name is Selwyn E. Phipps, the current president of the Magical Unicorn Society. The Society unites people across the globe who love unicorns. It has branches in many countries and has existed for hundreds of years. We are always learning more about unicorns and the adventurers, explorers and ordinary folk who have encountered these extraordinary creatures.

I'm delighted to introduce *The Golden Unicorn: Secrets and Legends* – a collection of eight very special, never-before-told unicorn sightings to share with you. I gathered the details contained in each case study from the archives of our London headquarters, from ancient diaries, type reports, newspaper

clippings and transcripts of tales passed down the generations. With each story, I have included a short profile of the type of unicorn featured and information about the venerable Society member or legend who spotted the magical creature.

This book is a tribute to the work of many M.U.S. members. Whenever we think there's nothing more to discover, their intrepid exploration turns up new and exciting information to surprise and delight us. For instance, we once thought that there were only seven families of unicorn, but last year an eighth family, the Dawn Spirit, was discovered. This closely-guarded secret is described in this book, for your eyes only.

Anyone can come across a unicorn, it's often just a case of keeping your eyes peeled and your ears alert. Why not become a member of our Society? Find out details of how to join at the back of this book.

First, do enjoy these special unicorn tales. I'm so excited to be sharing them with you!

Selwyn

101st PRESIDENT OF THE
MAGICAL UNICORN SOCIETY





For secrets and legends throughout the ages,

Settle back and turn these pages ...

The Golden Unicorn

The Golden Unicorn was one of the first unicorns to spring into existence, back when the world was bursting with magic.



CASE STUDY ONE:

Hana and Jakob Alson

LOCATION: Hellingsør, Norway

TIME: 70 years ago

M.U.S. STATUS: Special members

SELWYN'S CASE NOTES:

Twins, Hana and Jakob Alson, were children when they had their encounter with a unicorn. They had always been fascinated by the unicorn lore that their beloved grandfather shared with them.

Thanks to this intrepid pair, the magic of the Golden Unicorn was brought back into the world. However, it wasn't until years later, when they met a researcher for the M.U.S., that they realized how important their experience was.

The Golden Unicorn Returns

Nestled snugly between towering Norwegian mountains covered in thick forest, there was a small town called Hellingor, where it had been winter for a hundred years. The cobbled streets were coated in glittering frost and the river – coiled around the town like a silver snake – was frozen solid.



The people who lived there wore the thickest of coats all year round and were often found huddled indoors beside crackling fires, drinking hot, spiced drinks to keep them warm.

No one knew what had happened to plunge the area into an endless winter, but more than one person suspected magic. It had been Midsummer's Eve when the chill descended. The first snows had glowed gold and silver and the wind howled with a strange energy. Nothing natural could have made this sudden winter last so long.

"I bet it was witches," said Hana, confidently. "Didn't they live in the hills above the town?"

"Witches?" Jakob laughed, "You've been reading too many fairy tales."

"No I haven't," Hana snapped. "You know Grandad always said there was magic in this place. If you're so clever, what do you think happened?"

Jakob didn't know. For the children of Hellingor the frost, ice and snow was so normal they didn't remember anything else. Green grass and hot summers were something they'd only read about in old books.

"Unicorns?" Jakob suggested. Unicorns were another of the local legends that their grandfather loved. He used to tell stories about the different types that roamed the world and how they each had their own magic powers.

"Do you mean the one about the Golden Unicorn and the Dragon?" Hana asked. "It could be that. Or, it could be that Hellingor is just cursed with terrible weather!"

The twins laughed and hurried on, making their way out of the town and through the woods. They were headed towards the hills, dragging their sledge behind them. School was out, so they were going to make the most of the fresh snow. They could worry about why it was forever winter another time.

After a minute or two of walking, Jakob grabbed Hana and pointed towards a thick clump of pine trees.

"Quiet!" he hissed. "Through there. I think I can see one."

"One what?" Hana asked, peering into the mass of snowy branches ahead. "A unicorn? I can't see anything."

Suddenly, she felt a tingling on the back of her neck. She turned around just at the moment Jakob shoved a handful of snow down the back of her coat.