KNIGHT SIR LOUIS AND THE DREADFUL DAMSEL

by The Brothers McLeod



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CHAPTER 1




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OH YAY! OH YAY!
WE PRESENT THE STORY OF
KNIGHT SIR LOUIS!


HOORAH! HOORAY! HAROOO!

CHAPTER 2

Well, wasn't Chapter One ridiculous? Let's start again. This is a proper Chapter One, though now we'll have to call it Chapter Two because of all that nonsense in Chapter One. Anyway, here we go . . .

This is the story of Knight Sir Louis.



STOP THAT!



Knight Sir Louis is the bravest of all knights in all lands. Braver than Knight Sir Colin in the bogs of Wattasmel. Braver than Knight Sir Barbara in the mountains of Itso-Hy. Even braver than Knight Sir Gary from the soggy lands of Tippinitdown.



Being brave is what Knight Sir Louis is known for.

But Louis is modest. He says he's not brave, but just good at staying calm when everyone else is going completely bonkers.

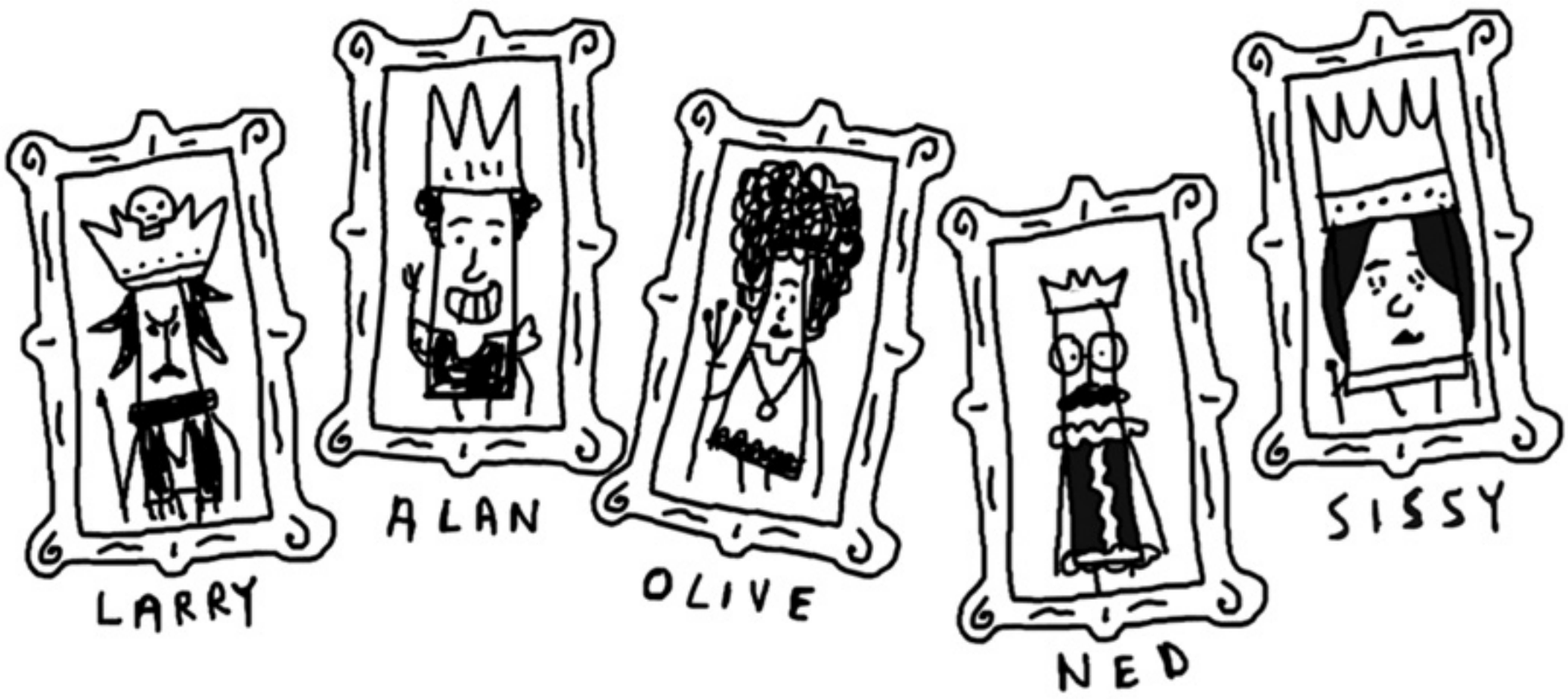
When he was a little boy the local lord locked himself out of his horse-drawn double-decker bus. It was bad timing as the lord was supposed to be going to the Royal Wedding. The lord and lady and all their friends were very upset and running around in a panic. But little Louis, only four years old, spotted they'd left a window open. He simply reached inside and unlocked the door. It turns out this kind of clear thinking is useful if you need to defeat hungry dragons, evil goblins and horrible wizards. And that's why King Burt appointed him defender of the great Castle Sideways.



OK, so now you're wondering who is King Burt and is his Castle Sideways really sideways? Well, one thing at a time . . .

King Burt is the ruler of a kingdom known as Squirrel Helm. I know it's a silly name. Don't look at me. It's not my fault! Anyway, King Burt is a good king. I don't mean he's brilliant. He's not amazing. He's all right, you know? He is known to his people as King Burt the Not Bad. (He's certainly better than his dad who was known as King Larry the Hostile.)

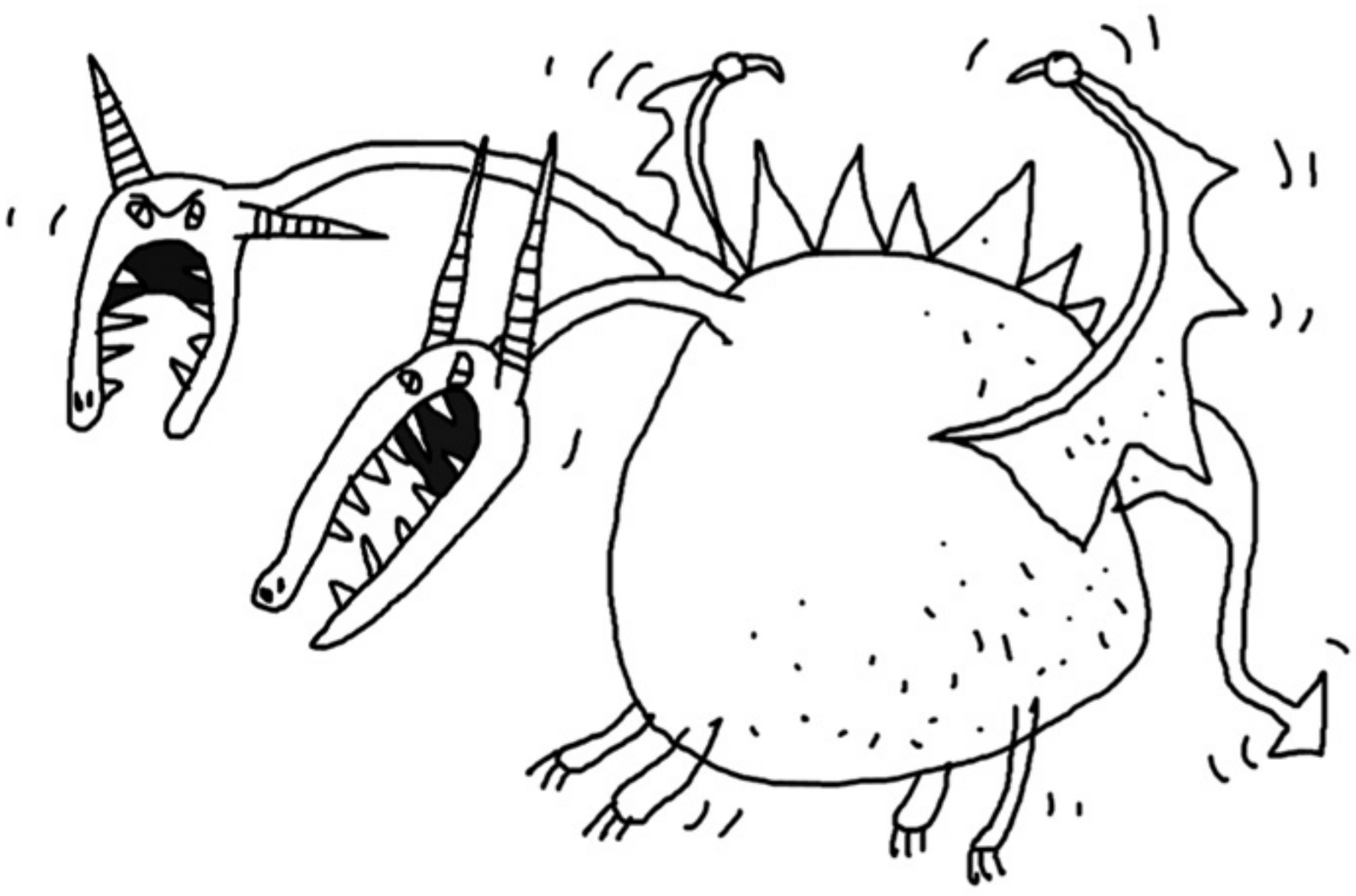
Burt comes from a long line of kings and queens. Here are some of them: King Alan the All Right, Queen Olive the OK, Prince Ned the Ninny-Winny and Empress Sissy the So-So.



King Burt's favourite hobbies are giving speeches, throwing banquets and playing computer games. Yes, computer games. He's really

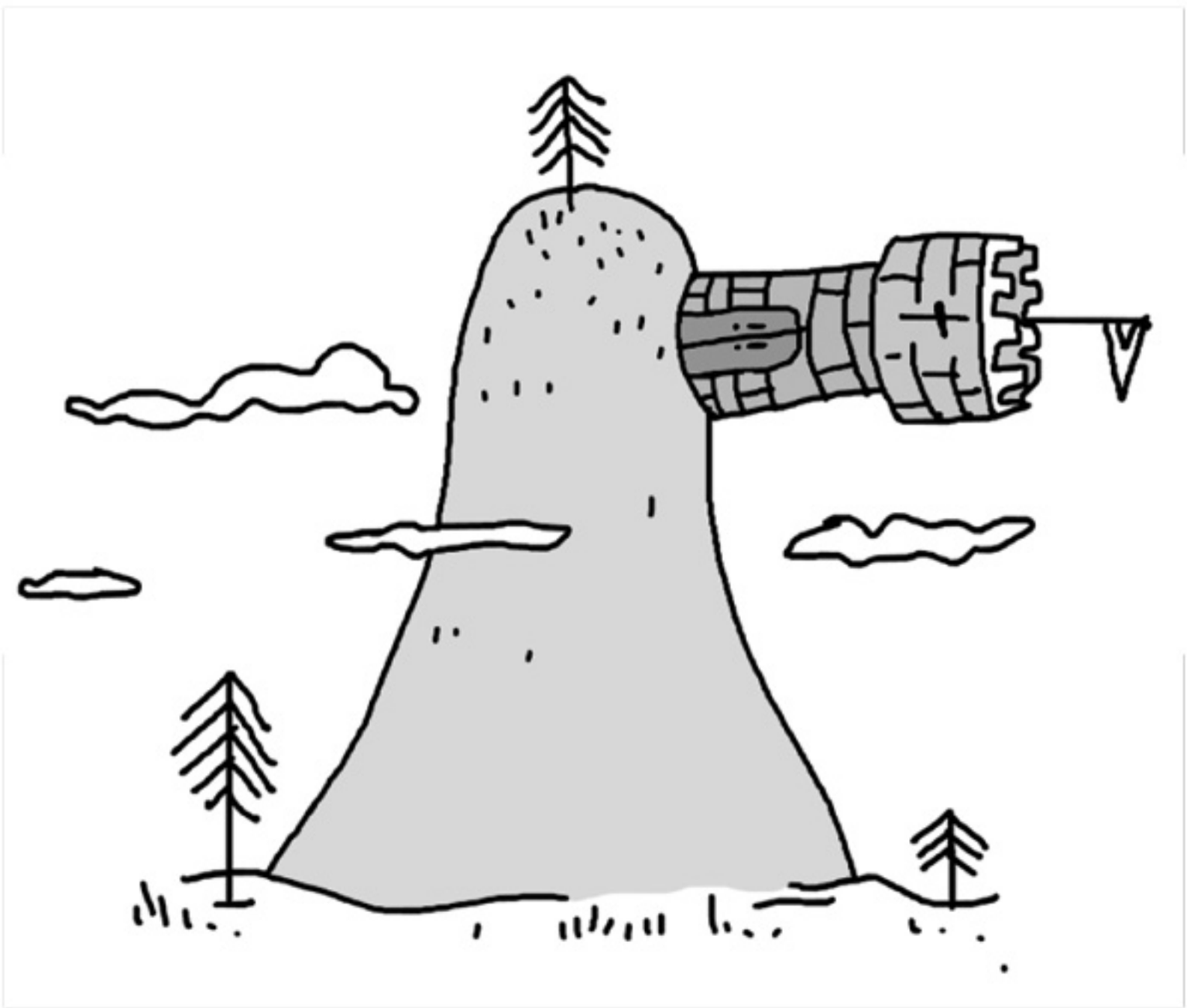
good at them, especially the one where you have to race a horse and cart around a land full of giant toadstools and stuff.

Of course, just because King Burt is a good(ish) king doesn't mean he's always fun to be around.



Before Knight Sir Louis, the king's champion was Knight Sir Trevor. He was brave and noble, but one day he failed to stop the double-headed dragon Borax from eating King Burt's brother, Prince Garibaldi (famous for smelling faintly of biscuits). Borax was very fond of biscuits and he

munched the prince down in one gulp. Knight Sir Trevor had missed the whole thing because he'd been in the kitchens cooking butterfly cakes. Burt arranged for the knight's head to be cut off with a big axe. Trevor wasn't happy about it, but agreed it was fair enough since he'd really messed up. He was allowed a last meal. He had butterfly cakes. (He said they were a bit dry and could have done with less time in the oven.)

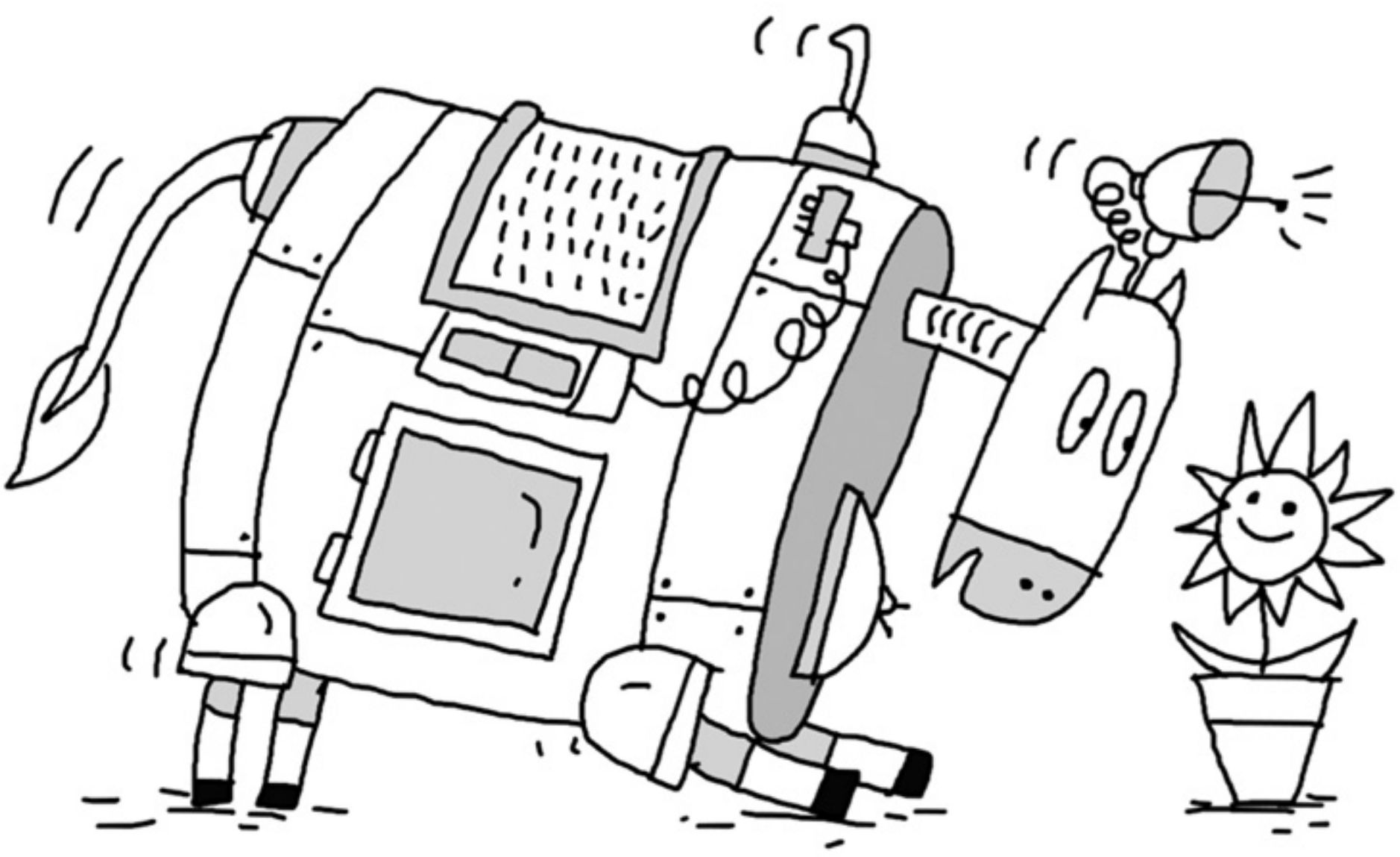


Now let's get back to Castle Sideways. It's a lot like King Arthur's Camelot, but with a much sillier name. There's really only one important

thing to remember about Castle Sideways and that's that Castle Sideways really is sideways.

Like all knights, Knight Sir Louis has a horse. His horse is a specially-made robot horse called Clunkalot. Clunkalot is Louis' faithful friend and also doubles up as sleeping quarters.

Clunkie isn't really afraid of anything. He once flew inside an ogre's stomach just to rescue a potted plant. It was a sunflower and he'd grown it from seed himself. He wasn't about to let some big, green oaf eat it.



Clunkie doesn't say much, or even neigh much. But he does compose poetry in his spare time, especially haiku. Here's one of his favourites:

Oh, my sunflower
Swallowed by a great, green brute.
That ogre is toast.

Clunkalot was built for Louis by the court wizard, Pearlin.

Young Pearlin isn't a fully qualified wizard yet. And she's not just a wizard. She's also an inventor. A sort of wizentor . . . or invizard.

