



The Unexpected Adventure

Written & Illustrated by Thomas Turner

Published by Saronti Ltd

Facilitated by Clare Ford at the Switched On Academy

The Unexpected Adventure.

Written & illustrated by

Thomas Turner

Aged 10

Prologue

Have you ever felt like you should be doing more?

Is there something out there waiting for you?

Well... you may not be imagining it - you may actually be destined for something special... an unexpected adventure!

Chapter 1: Life on the Farm



Living on a filthy farm full of crawling creatures and tumbling trees isn't as fun as I thought!

I was expecting endless days of carefree roaming and exploring, instead It's long hot days of hard work and dirt.

Everyday I work from sun up until sun down, trudging through the wheat fields! I dream of being free, flying through the wheat fields and travel away from the farm on an exciting adventure!

I loved adventure, it was exciting and full of interesting things, the only slightly interesting thing on the farm was the pigs, but that's another story!

Every day I begged mum to let me go and explore and every day she would say, "No we are too busy; I need you here."

Mum worked very hard on the farm, tending to the animals, and harvesting the wheat. I knew I had to stay and help, I knew she needed me.

One morning, I woke up feeling different, the air felt exciting and mysterious, today would be a great day for an adventure.

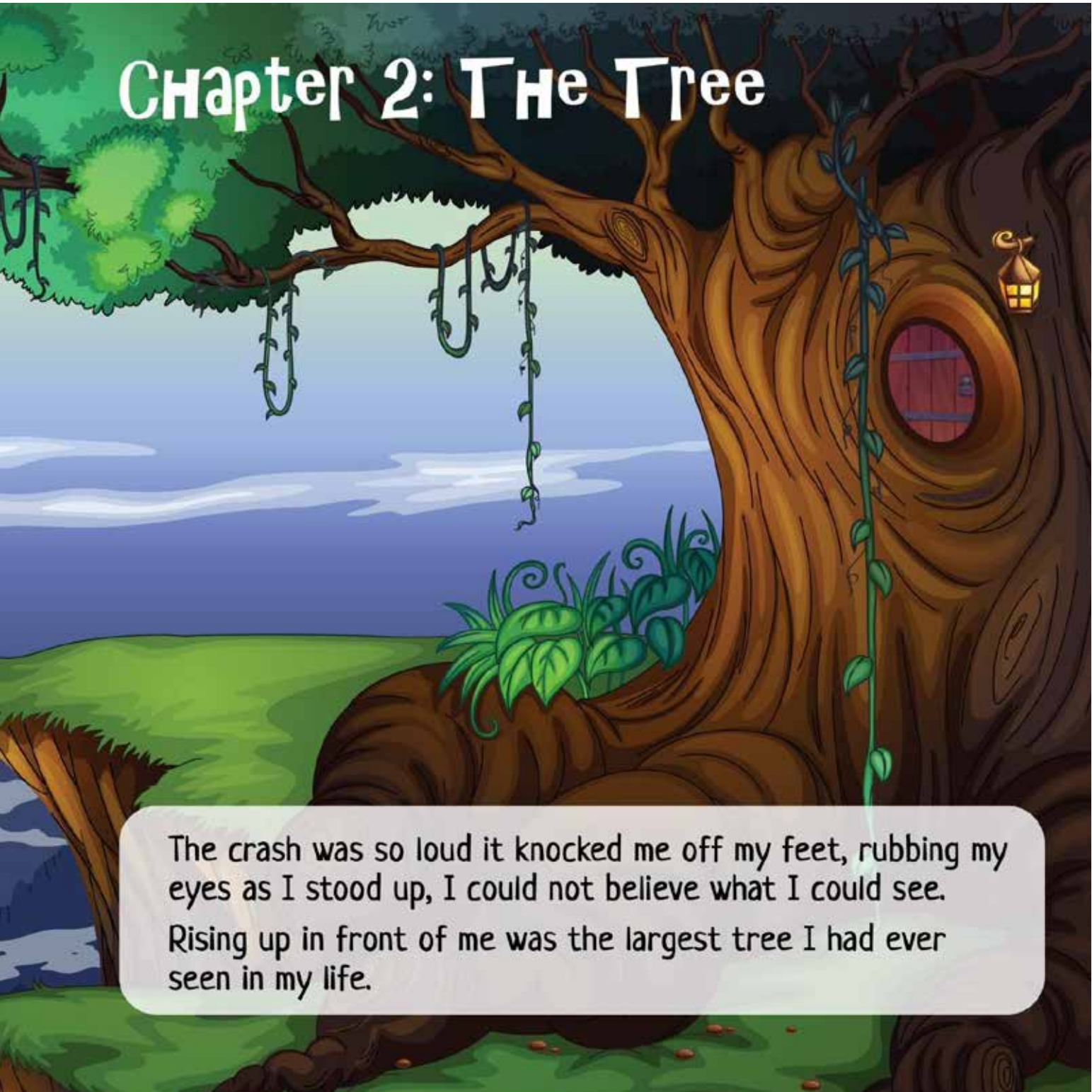
I strolled purposefully towards Mum even though I knew she would want me to stay home. Today I had to try, I had to ask to go.

I found Mum by the wheat fields getting ready to harvest, I was sure she could see just by looking at me how excited I was. I explained how I had fed all the animals and was ahead in my tasks, and how much I longed to explore.

To my surprise she said yes, I could go; I hugged her tightly and set off on my adventure.

My heart was pounding with excitement! As I ran off down the lane, suddenly there was an almighty CRASH...

Chapter 2: The Tree

A large, ancient tree with a glowing door in its trunk and a lantern hanging nearby. The tree is brown with green leaves and vines. The background shows a landscape with green hills and a blue sky.

The crash was so loud it knocked me off my feet, rubbing my eyes as I stood up, I could not believe what I could see. Rising up in front of me was the largest tree I had ever seen in my life.

Looking closer I saw a door in the trunk of the tree. Slowly, I tiptoed towards it, when it suddenly flew open with a bang and there stood the strangest sight I have ever seen.

It looked like a man, but also it looked like a horse. I had read about these creatures, was this a centaur? Whatever it was, it was huge – and heading straight for me!

“We need your help!” it shouted urgently.

“Me?” I replied nervously.

“Yes, you are Marcus right?” The Centaur asked.

“Erm, yes!” I replied.

“Then, yes,” replied the centaur, “you are exactly who I need,”

Chapter 3: Escapiland

A grayscale illustration of a mountainous landscape. In the background, there are jagged, snow-capped mountains under a cloudy sky. A river flows through the middle ground, surrounded by dense evergreen forests. In the foreground, there is a small settlement with several wooden buildings and a wooden bridge crossing the river. The overall scene is misty and atmospheric.

“The animals are in trouble and we need your help,” he continued.

Grabbing me by the arm, the enormous centaur started to run, speeding faster and faster so I could hardly keep up.

I had the strangest feeling I was flying; as I opened my eyes and looked down, I was right!

We were flying over the wheat fields...

“Ah, adventure!” I said to myself.

We seemed to be flying for ages, through fields, over oceans, until thump, we landed.

Getting up I knew I wasn't dreaming, but where were we? It felt cold and was extremely quiet.

“Where are we, and where is everybody?” I asked, feeling concerned.

“Welcome to my world,” said the Centaur,

“This is Escapadiland, and everyone has been imprisoned by the evil Kingfisher king.”

I just listened as the centaur went on to tell me about how beautiful it used to be in Escapadiland, with rolling hills and flowing waterfalls.

Looking around it looked a little bit like the old farm at home: dry, dusty and dirty.

The Centaur told me all about how the evil Kingfisher king had taken over and destroyed everything and imprisoned all the animals.

I had no idea why he wanted me or what I could do to help, but I listened very carefully as he told me his story with tears brimming in his eyes.

“I brought you here to save this world from the evil Kingfisher king and save all of us too.” the Centaur explained.

“But why me?” I asked...

Chapter 4: Learning to be a Warrior



“You have been chosen because you're the farmer's son and you love animals!” the centaur explained, “It was always meant to be you”

“But how?” I asked. “and how do you know who I am?”

“We have been watching you for a while,” he explained “we know you are the one to save us!”

“You are a centaur!” I replied, “Surely if anyone can defeat the king, it would be you”

“It has to be you,” he replied, “it's your destiny, come on, you always wanted adventure!”

I couldn't argue with him there, I had always longed for an adventure, but really me? I wasn't sure I was ready for this.

As if sensing my thoughts, the centaur said, “Let's get to work, you have some training to do!”

“Pardon, did you just say training?” I replied

Without responding, the Centaur led me to a small group of animals camped out in what looked like a training facility.

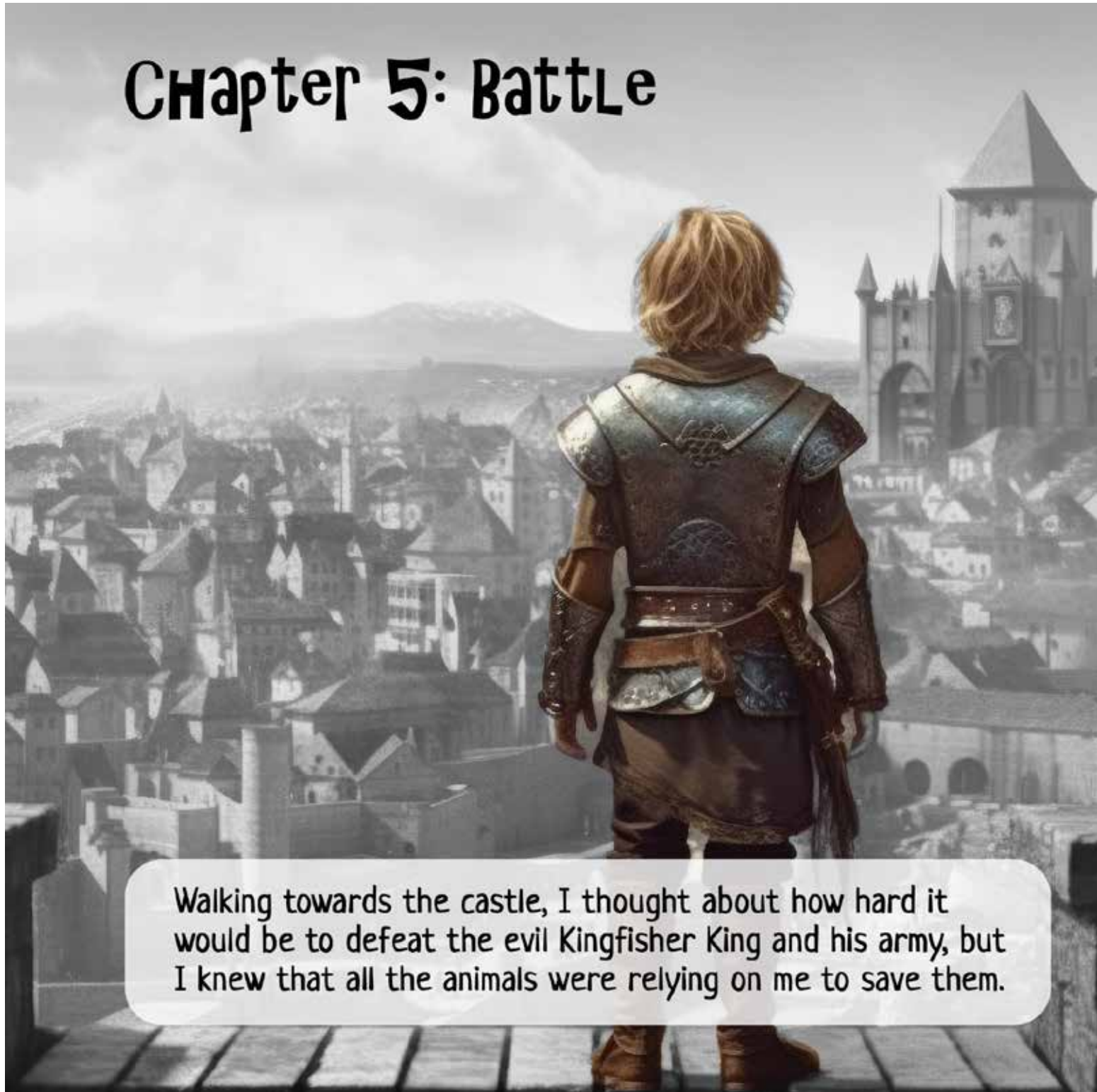
Chapter 5: Battle

The Centaur introduced me to the others, known as the Rebels, because they had run away and were not following the Kingfisher king's orders. We set about training together, with swords and bows and arrows – what an adventure this was turning out to be!

After what seemed like months, the Centaur told me I had enough training and it was time to do battle.

I wasn't sure I was ready – hadn't this been adventure enough?

The animals looked at me longingly and I knew I had to do it for them.

A character with short, wavy blonde hair, seen from behind, stands on a stone ledge. They are wearing dark, intricately detailed medieval-style armor with metal plates on the shoulders and back. The character gazes over a vast, grey-toned city with numerous buildings and a prominent castle with a tall spire in the distance. The sky is overcast and hazy.

Walking towards the castle, I thought about how hard it would be to defeat the evil Kingfisher King and his army, but I knew that all the animals were relying on me to save them.

Chapter 6: DOWN WITH THE KING

As we approached the castle, we were spotted by the army and the battle began.

There was only a small group of us: the Centaur, the Rebel animals and I, but we fought hard against the army.

Holding my sword with pride I fought my way through the army to the castle.

Leaving the Centaur and the rebel animals fighting, I climbed the stairs to face the Kingfisher king.

As I entered his chambers, I found him sitting on his throne,...

“Time is up,” I shouted, “let the animals be free.”

Slamming through the door, I purposefully strode into the chamber, although I was quivering inside.

“Let the animals go.” I shouted, again!

“No way!” the Kingfisher King replied “I am king and what I want I get and I want the animals locked away!”

Chapter 7: Celebrations



I tried to explain how he couldn't do what he was doing, and the damage he had done to Escapadiland.

“ENOUGH!!!” the king roared, “ I own this castle and you can get out NOW!”

Suddenly he started charging at me with his sword, raising my sword to meet his, we locked in a bitter fight, battling for control.

Eventually, I knocked the sword from the Kingfisher king's hand, and struck the crown off his head.

“Your reign of terror is over!” I shouted, “Let the animals go!”

Finally, admitting defeat, the Kingfisher king surrendered and released his reign of power, and let all the animals go.

I met up with the centaur, the rebel animals and all the released animals.

As we were cheering and celebrating our success, the rain started to fall, but it was like no other rain I had ever seen.

The silver sparkling rain fell heavily from the sky, and as it landed it changed the landscape.

Chapter 8: Home

It was the most beautiful and wondrous sight I had ever seen.

As the rain hit the fields they turned blue, as it hit the trees they turned pink, the rivers were blue and the flowers were purple. Everything glistened and shone brightly in all the clours of the rainbow. It was the most beautiful sight I had ever seen.

“Welcome to Escapadiland!” said the Centaur, “where you can truly escape the real world.”

“It’s beautiful!” I replied, completely in awe of witnessing such wonders.

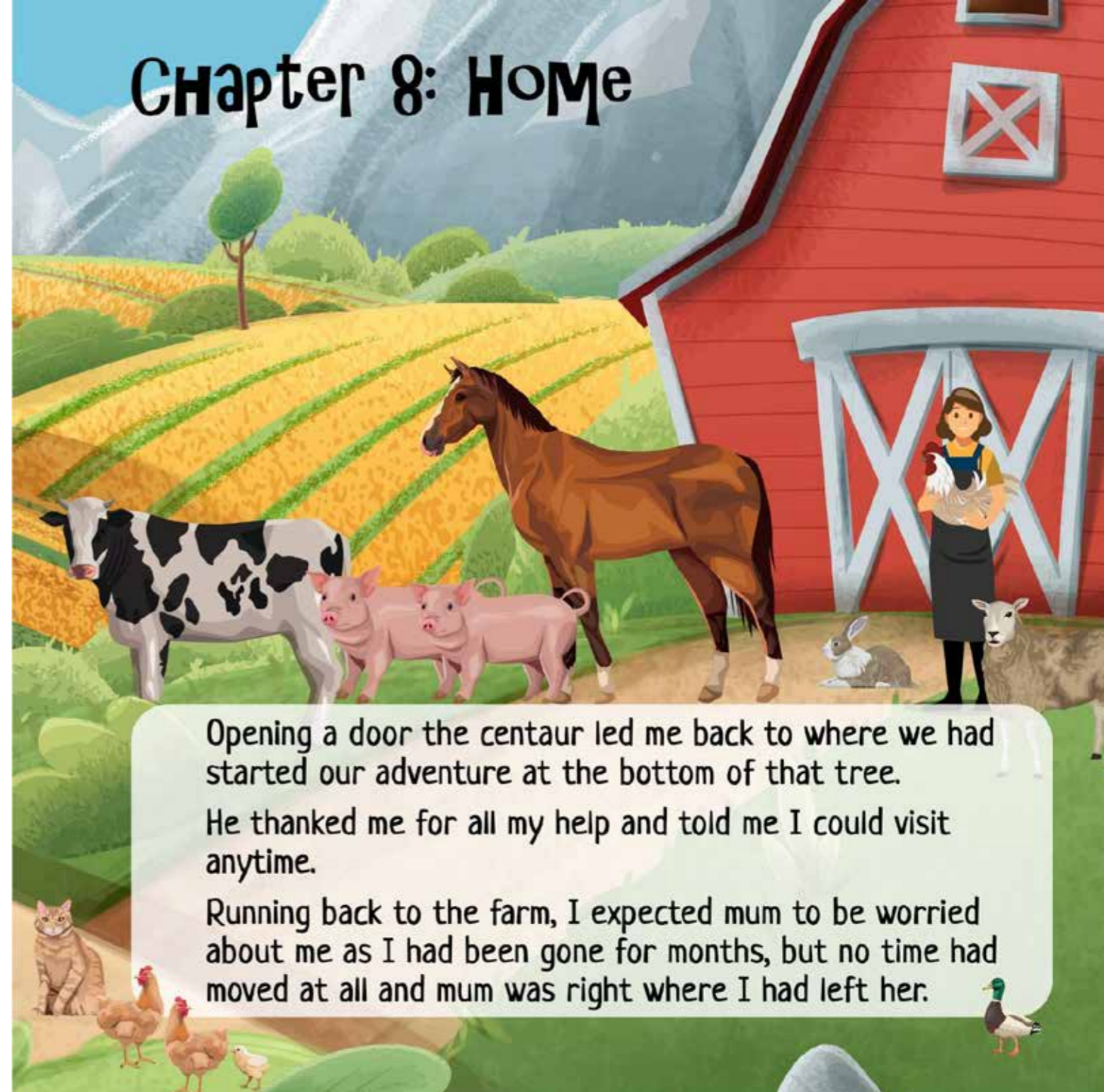
We celebrated our victory and everyone was so grateful and thankful to me.

I had had the most fantastic adventure, but knew it was time to go home, my Mum would be worried about me.

Opening a door the centaur led me back to where we had started our adventure at the bottom of that tree.

He thanked me for all my help and told me I could visit anytime.

Running back to the farm, I expected mum to be worried about me as I had been gone for months, but no time had moved at all and mum was right where I had left her.



I told Mum all about my adventure; she didn't believe a word of it, but I knew it had happened and it was all true and seeing the way the animals looked at me, I know they know it too.

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, Founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education beyond academic success.

Find out more at: www.switchedonglobal.com and register for your next exciting course.

Publish your book at www.saronti.com/switchedon

Do you like to write stories?

Ever fancied publishing one of them?

It's easy with Saronti.

**Get in touch to find out more about
our publishing packages for young authors.**

www.saronti.com

**Need another copy of this book?
Go to www.saronti.com/switchedon
Your book reference is Sar2825**

saronti



SWITCHED ON!

Life on the farm was boring, Marcus longed for more!

He didn't realise that meeting a centaur would take him on the adventure of a lifetime!