

The Garden.

A vast land of green and plenty.

At its center stands Oakhold—

an ancient fortress-city of the Tree Fairies, traditional rulers of the whole Garden.

Full of danger and beauty—

Beneath this great tree, nestled among its roots, is where my tale must begin. In the Oakhold Root Stores.

and home to endlessly squabbling tribes of tiny warlike creatures:

The leaves were turning. It was a time of peace.

CASTLE ROCKERY

the Unfairies.

SMASH HIS FACE IN!

Well . . . Kinda.

For the fairies of the Root Stores, it had been a quiet, uneventful afternoon of sorting boxes.

YEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEARRRRGH!

Apart from that massive brawl, obviously.

WHACK

Caught in the middle of the ruckus was a little lost fairy called Pip.

CRASH

SLIP

OW!

AARGH!

WHAP

OOF!

WAHEY!

BOFF

A simpleton.

A nobody.

Yet somehow ...

the hero of this story.



Would the fighting end with the arrival of the Stores Manager?



WHO'S THERE?



No, it would not.



WOO! I'M GREAT AT THROWING!

ANYONE ELSE WANNA GO?



Eek.

Fortunately, our hero was on hand to share some words of wisdom...



LEAVE THE OLD DUDE ALONE, YOU MAGGOT-FACED SON OF A GRUB!

OR WHAT?



YOWFF!

CROMP



C'MON, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!



OR THIS!

KRAK

and a box to the face.



YEAH, YOU RUN, GNAT-BRAINS!

Uuuuh.



WOW. YOUR FACE IS SMOOSHED.

HELP ME UP!



UUUH. MY HEAD AND BACK AND NECK AND TEETH. WHAT HAPPENED?

IT WAS JUST SOME WEED FAIRY THUGS—WE FOUGHT THEM OFF BEFORE THEY COULD STEAL ANYTHING.

I DID A BOX-TO-THE-FACE!



So, after a quick bathroom break, Pip got to work.



Time passed slowly.



Very slowly.



WHO ARE YOU?

I'M A LITTLE LOST FAIRY.

I LIKE YOUR LUMPY HEAD.

I'M PIP!

CAN I STAY HERE?



Eventually, it all became too much.

AUUGH! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!



I NEED CHANGE!

I NEED EXCITEMENT!

I NEED ... A PARTY!

I CAN'T SPEND MY ENTIRE LIFE SHIFTING BOXES!



UH ... OK ... WELCOME TO THE TEAM! I'M BARKER. I'M IN CHARGE OF THE ROOT STORES.

NOW, I WANT LESS FIGHTING AND MORE STORING.



AND I NEED TO PEE.



IT'S YOUR **FIRST DAY**. YOU'VE LITERALLY ONLY BEEN WORKING FOR FOUR MINUTES.

Like I said, **VERY** slowly.



DO I GET A FIRST-DAY DISCO THEN?

WHAT?

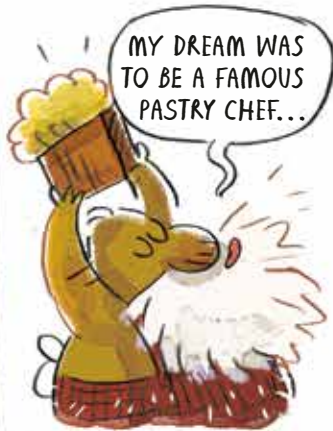
Teeeeny LITTLE RAVE BREAK?

**NO PARTIES! JUST STORAGE!**



OK, BUT THE THING IS, I'D REALLY LIKE A PARTY.

SIGH. LISTEN. THE TRUTH IS, YOU DON'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT IN LIFE.



MY DREAM WAS TO BE A FAMOUS PASTRY CHEF...



BUT INSTEAD I'VE BEEN HERE COUNTING BOXES FOR FIFTY-SIX YEARS.

WOW. I'VE BEEN HERE FOR **FOUR MINUTES** AND I'M SO BORED MY EARS HURT.



LET'S TRY AND FIND YOU A MORE INTERESTING JOB TO DO. COME HELP ME CHECK THE WINTER STORES.

THE **WINTER STORES**?! FOR **ICE AND SNOW AND ICICLES AND STUFF?**



UH, NO ... SEEDS, DRIED BERRIES, AND NUTS TO FEED EVERYONE IN THE TREE OVER THE COLD MONTHS.

Less interesting.



... AND COOKIES.

YES!

Cookies?



AS NOBODIES, IT'S OUR DUTY DOWN HERE TO KEEP THE STORES IN TIP-TOP SHAPE FOR THE BOSSES HIGHER UP THE TRUNK.

I CAN SMELL SOMETHING GROSS.

LIKE OLD WET SOCKS. YEECH.



TRUST THE WISE HEADS OF THE COUNCIL, AND KEEP YER OWN HEAD DOWN. IT'S ALL ABOUT RESPECT.

IS IT YOU?



WHAT?! OH NO. OH NO, NO, NO.

IT **WASN'T** YOU! IT WAS LOADS OF **MOLDY ROTTING STUFF!**

YAY!

BUT ALSO...

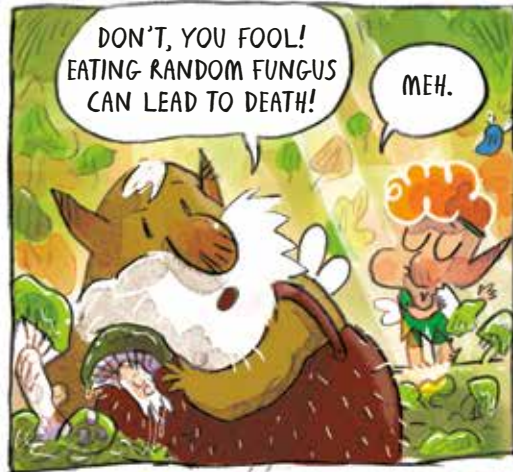
OH NO.



THE WHOLE WINTER FOOD STORE ... RUINED BY MOLD!

OOH! LET ME TASTE SOME!

NOM!



DON'T, YOU FOOL! EATING RANDOM FUNGUS CAN LEAD TO DEATH!

MEH.



... OR A RUNNY BUTT.

Ptoo



OH BOY. THIS IS GOING TO NEED ... A REPORT.

COME ON.

ACK ACK ACK

JUHT THCRUBBING MY TONGUE!



A meeting was called of the brightest and best of the Store Fairies. They aren't very bright.

IT'S AN EMERGENCY... THE WINTER FOOD STORES ARE COMPLETELY SPOILED.

NOT THE COOKIES TOO?!

AUGH!

ONE OF YOU HAS TO TAKE THIS REPORT...



TO THE DEPARTMENT.



AAAUGH!

I'D RATHER BE EATEN BY A BIRD!

I'D RATHER BE EATEN BY A BIRD AND THEN POOPED OUT!



I'D RATHER BE EATEN BY A BIRD, POOPED OUT, AND THEN EATEN AGAIN BY A DIFFERENT, WORSE BIRD!

COOOKIES!



I'LL DO IT!



OK, before we properly jump into this story, there's some stuff you think you know that will need to be corrected.

## COMMON FAIRY MYTHS

### 1. FAIRIES ARE A MYTH

Clearly isn't true.  
We're as real as slugs.



### 2. FAIRIES ARE MOTHS

Stupid. Next.

### 3. FAIRIES LIKE MATH

Absolutely not. Very few fairies can count above five.



### 4. FAIRIES FLY

Yes, we do have wings. No, we don't fly; we flutter. Rumor has it there was a flying fairy once, but that's a story for another day.



FLUTTER

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

FLUTTER



### 5. FAIRIES ARE MAGICAL

Nonsense. We're as magical as slugs.



### 5. FAIRY DUST IS SPECIAL AND WONDERFUL

No. It's dandruff.

### 5. FAIRIES STEAL BABIES

Um... No comment.



### 5. FAIRIES GRANT WISHES

If the wish is "I wish someone would steal my baby," then maybe. Otherwise, no.

### 5. FAIRIES ARE NICE

**HAHAHAHAHAHA!** This is the best yet. Fairies are horrible, violent, disgusting, stupid, backstabbing, treacherous, selfish sneaks.

I should know.  
I'm one of them.



### 5. FAIRIES LIKE DISCO DANCING

This one's actually true.

Got it? Good.  
Back to Pip...