

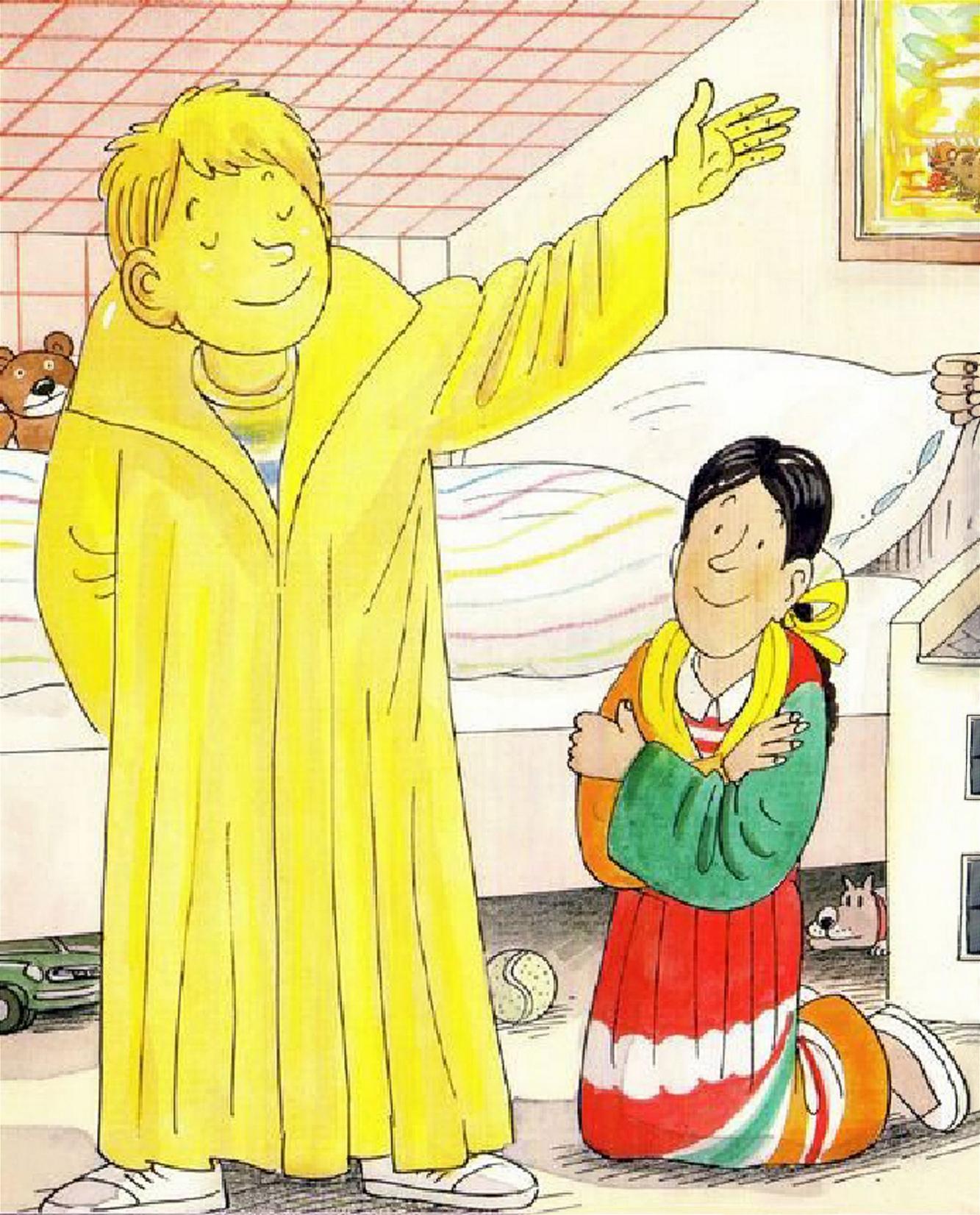
The Palace Statues

Written by Cynthia Rider

Illustrated by Alex Brychta



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



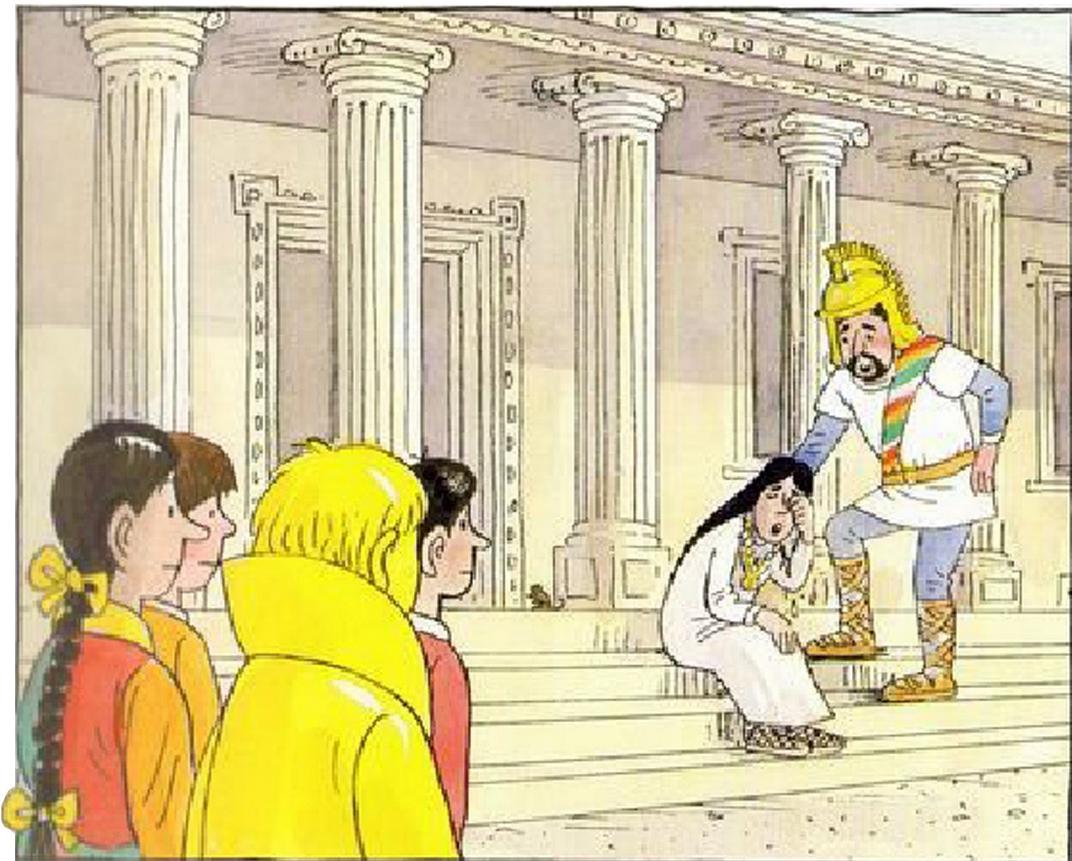


The children put on a play called *The Golden Statue*. Chip was the statue. He had on a golden cloak and gold face paint.



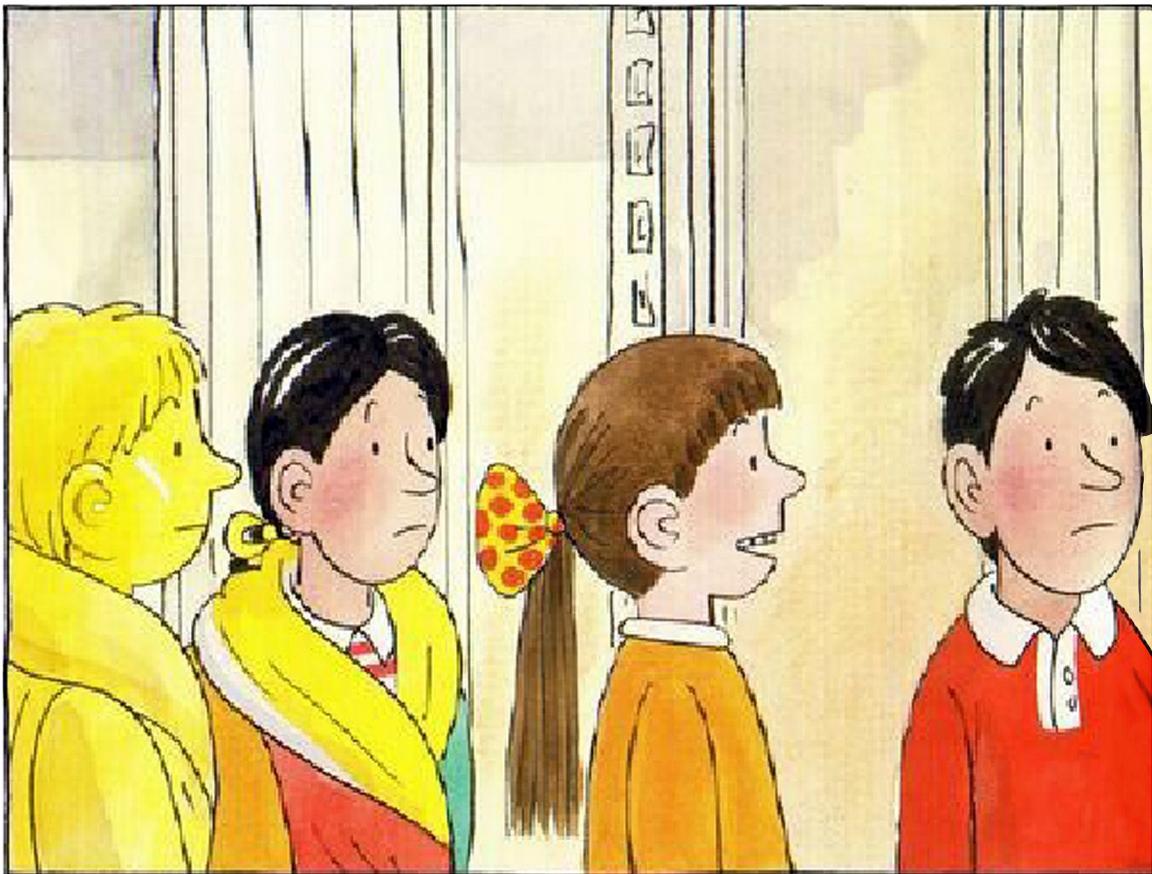
“I like this gold face paint,” said Anneena.

The magic key began to glow.

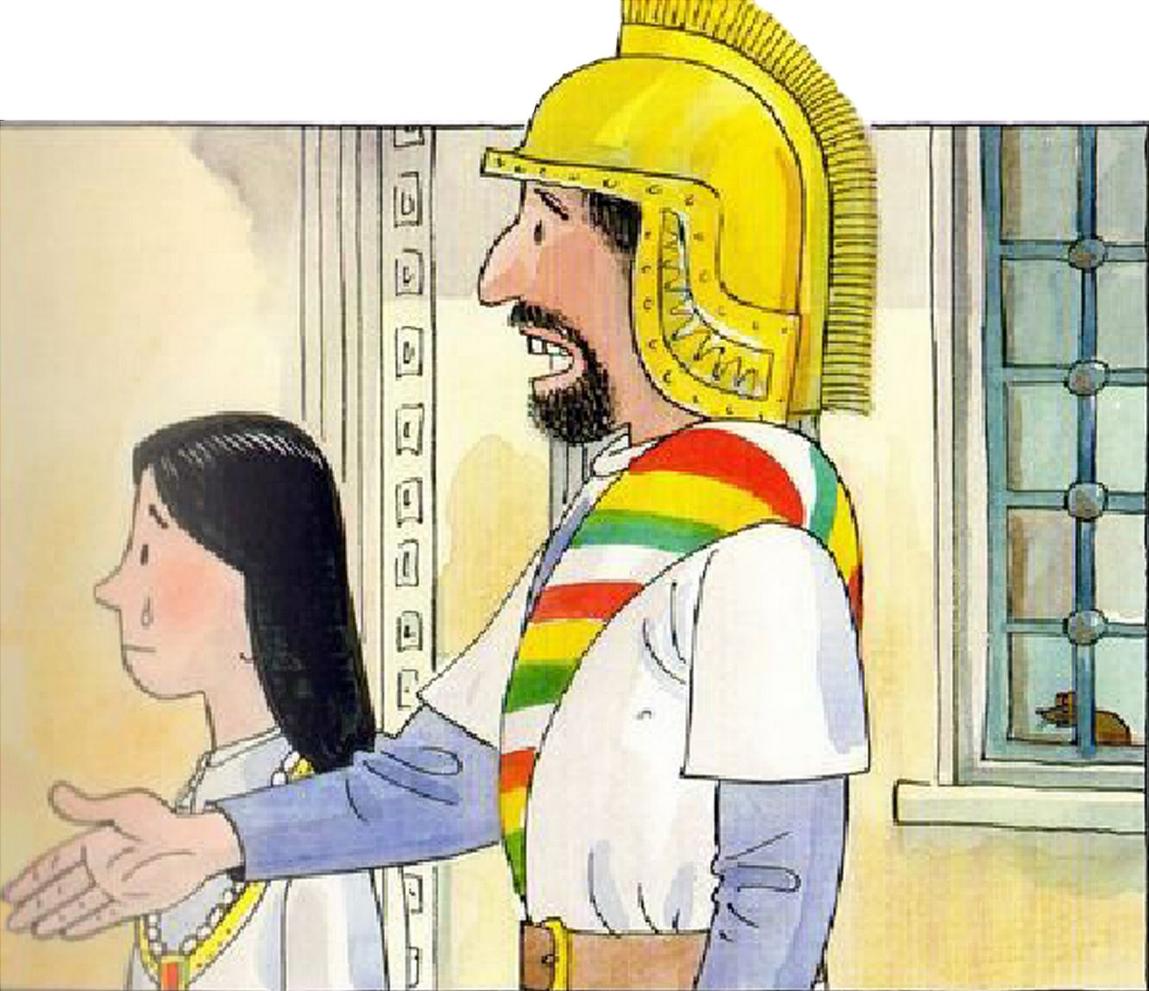


The magic took the children to a palace. They saw a man talking to a girl.

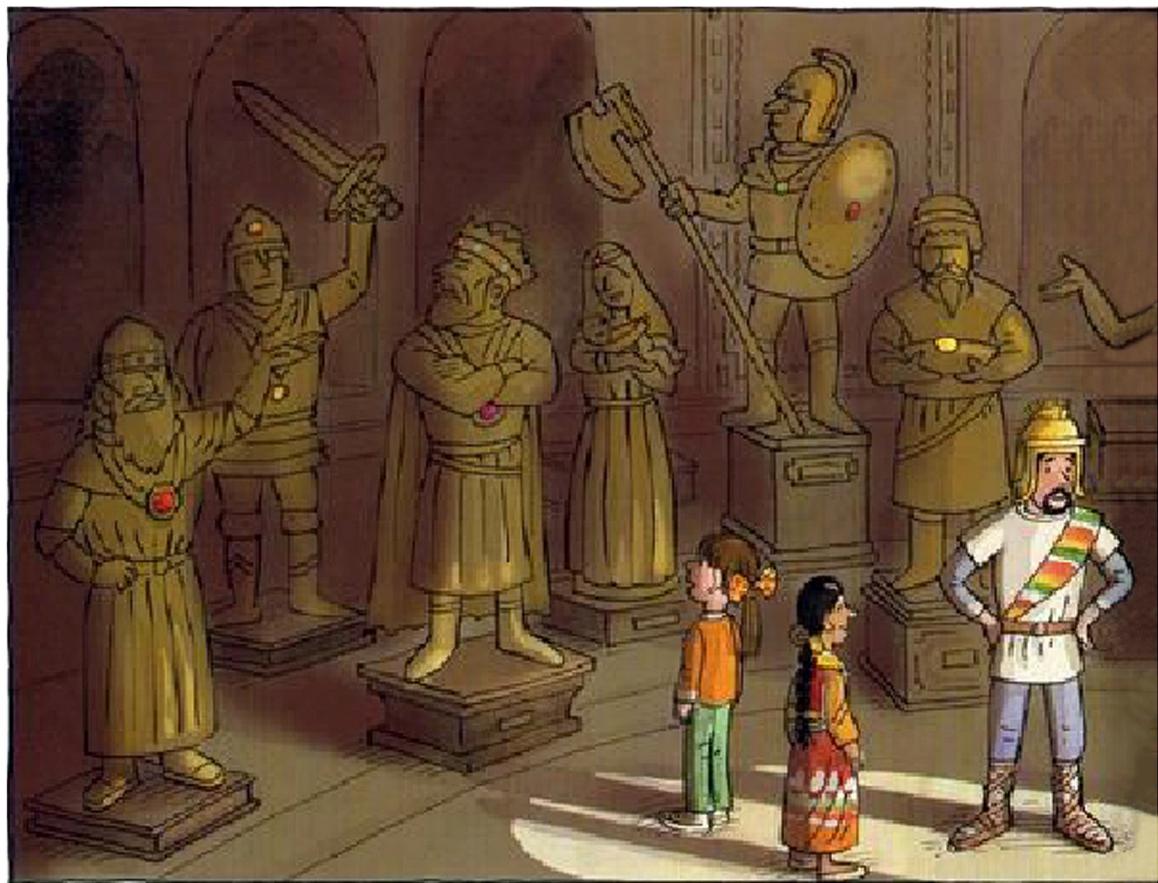
“Don’t cry, Eva,” he said.



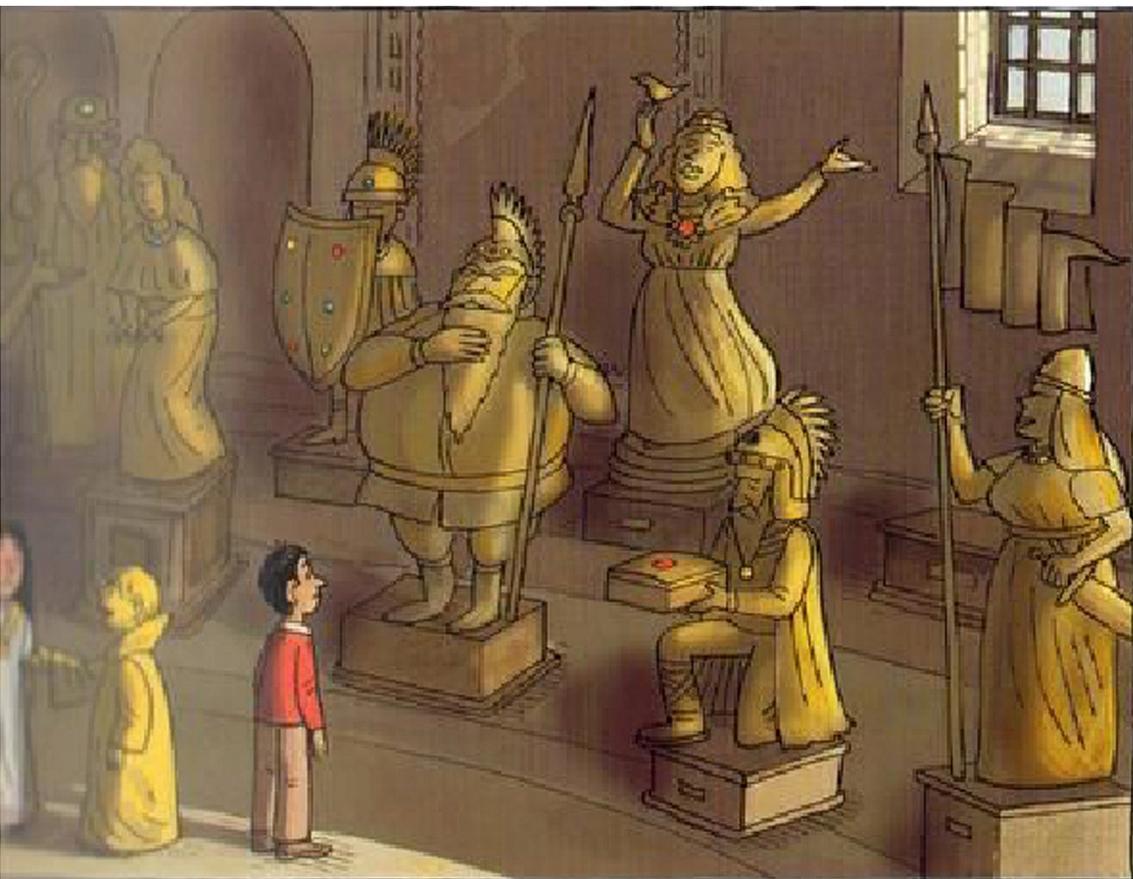
“What’s the matter?” asked Biff.
“This is my brother, Aran,” said
Eva. “He guards the golden statues
in the palace.”



“The statues all have jewels,” said Aran. “But someone is stealing the jewels, and I *must* catch the robber.”



Aran showed the children the golden statues. "The robber might steal more jewels tonight," he said. "What can I do?"



Chip had an idea. “You can
dress up as a golden statue,” he said.
“Then you can keep watch.”

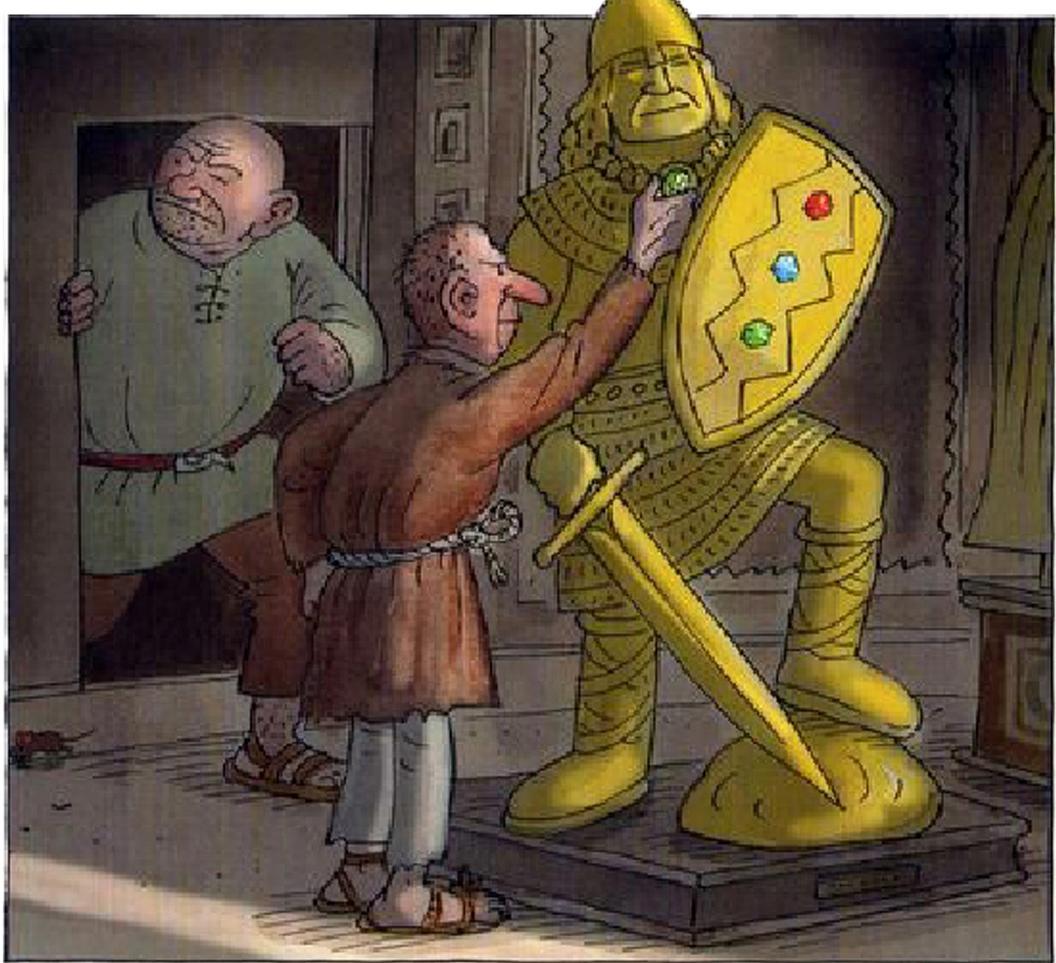


That night, Aran dressed up as a golden statue.

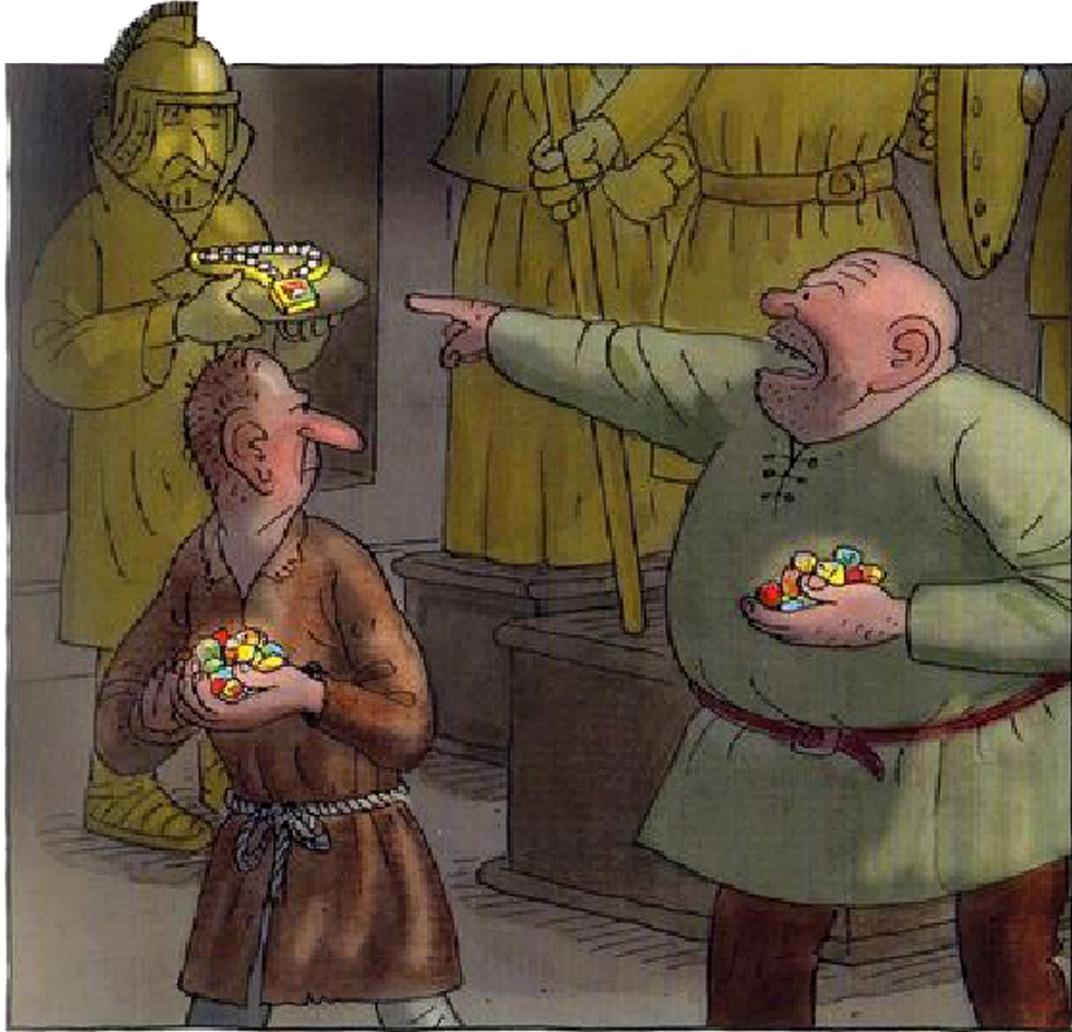
“I’m glad we’ve got this gold face paint,” said Anneena.



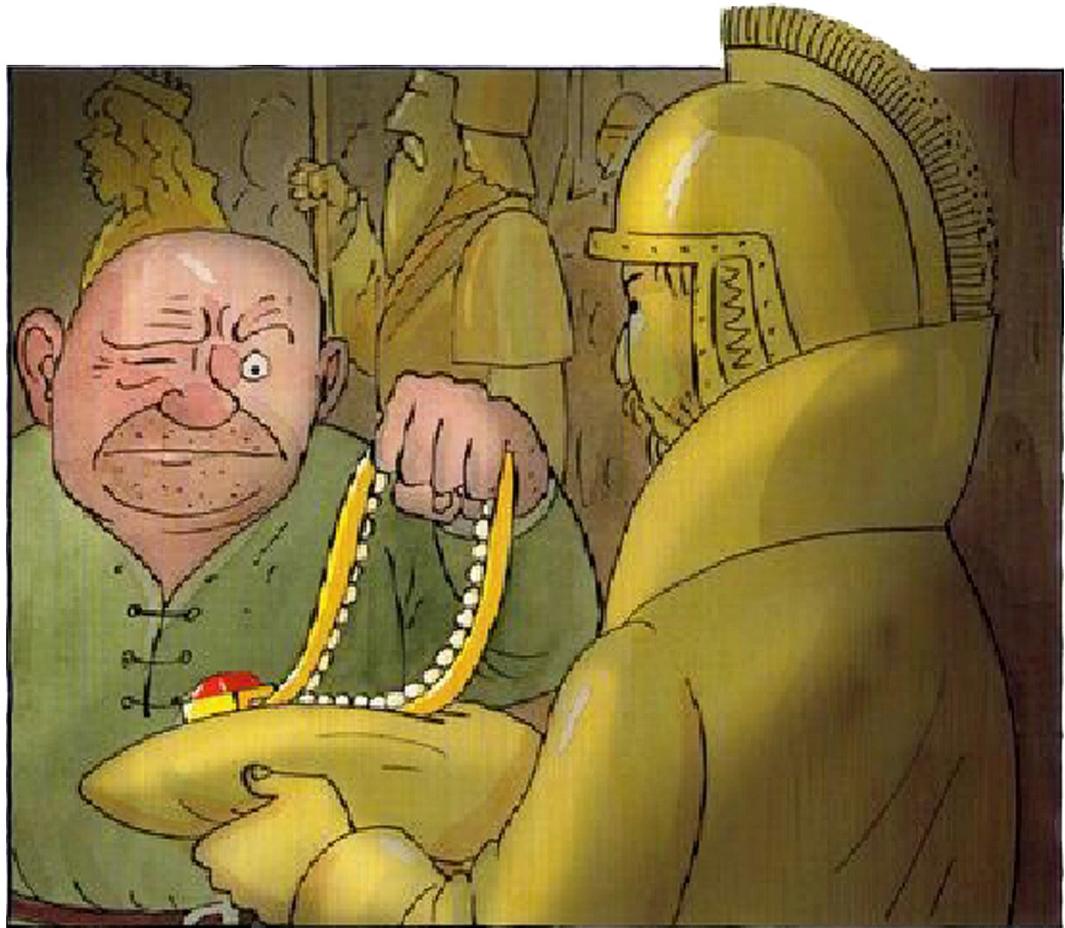
Aran went into the statue room.
He stood in the deepest shadows.
“You need a jewel,” said Eva. She
gave him her necklace, and went out.



Suddenly, a secret door slid open.
Two men crept into the room. They
took the rest of the jewels.

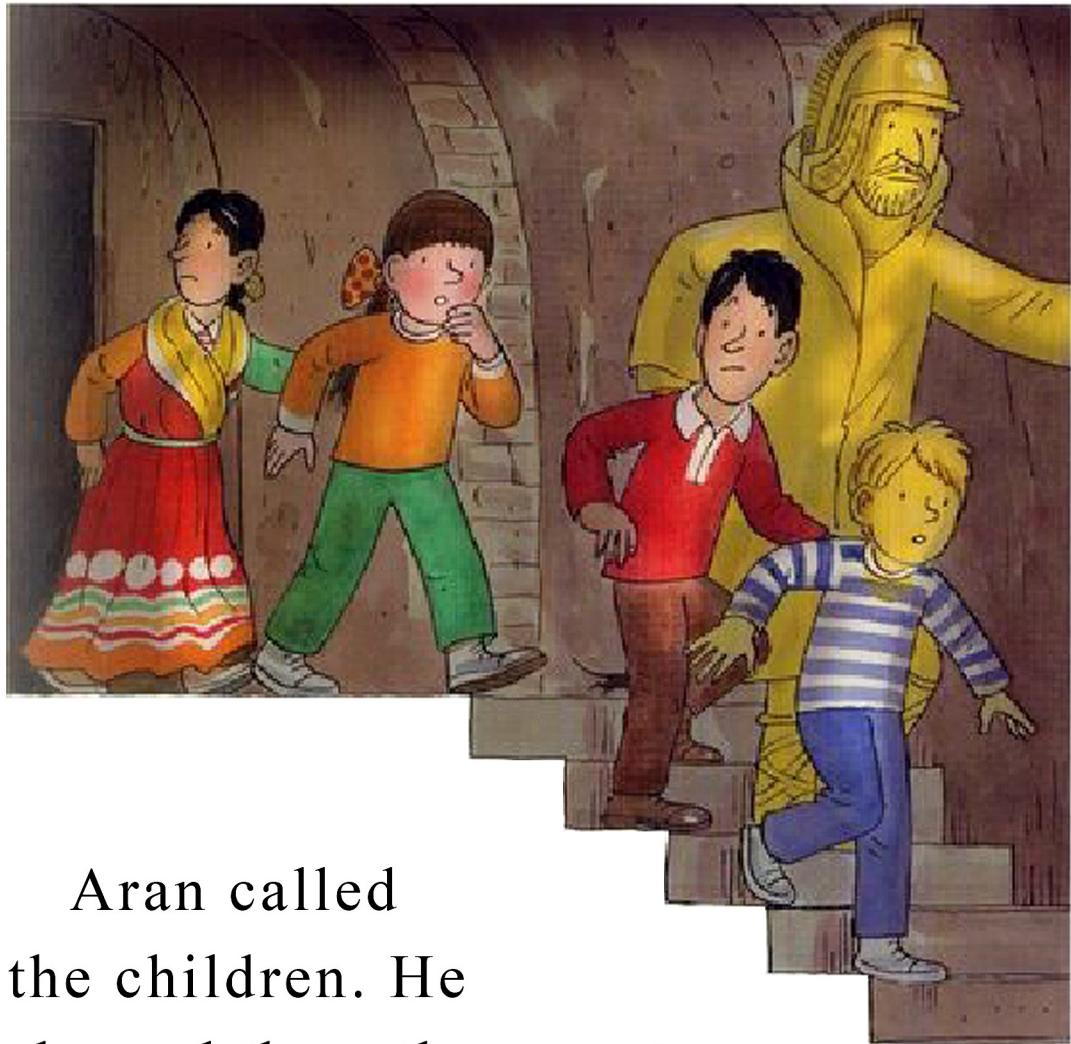


One of the men spotted Aran.
“I didn’t see that statue last night,”
he said. “Let’s get that necklace.”



Aran held his breath as the man grabbed the necklace.

At last, he heard a soft thud as the secret door slid shut.



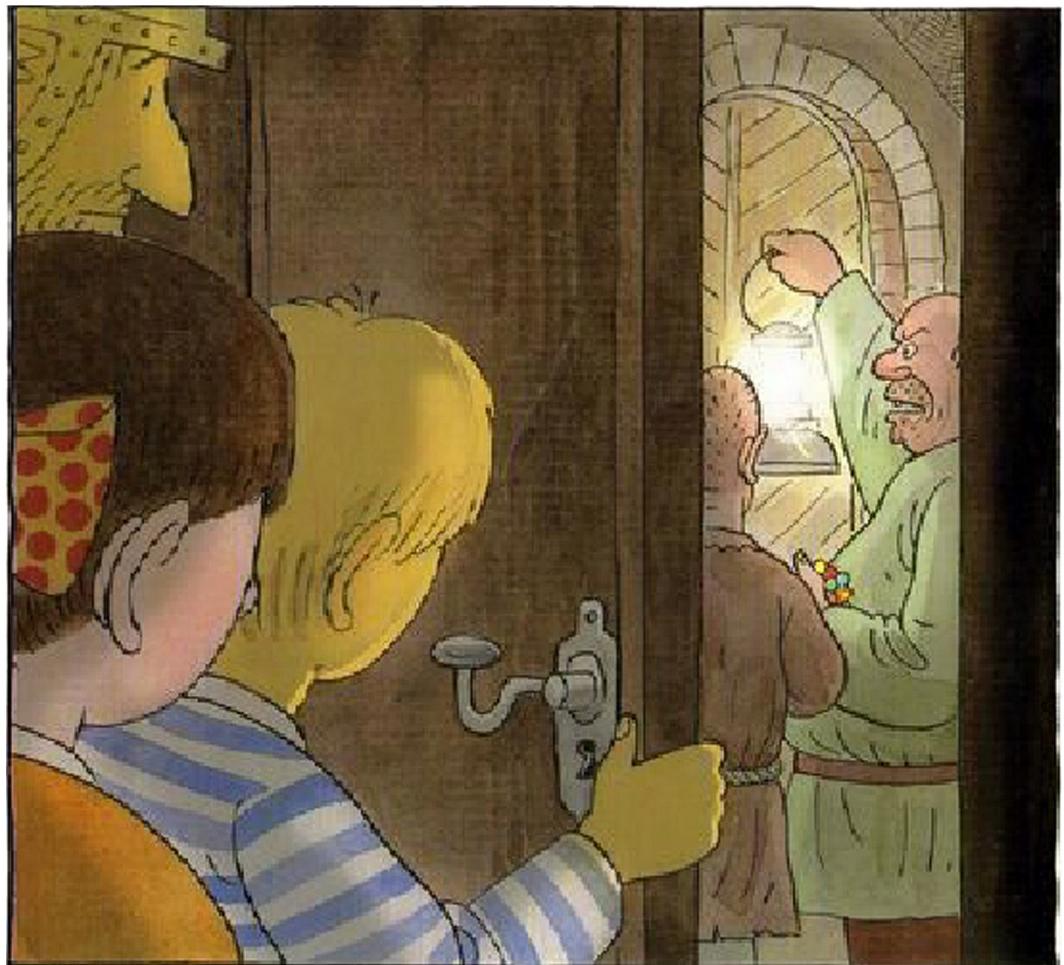
Aran called
the children. He
showed them the secret
door. They all crept down
some steps and along a shadowy
tunnel.



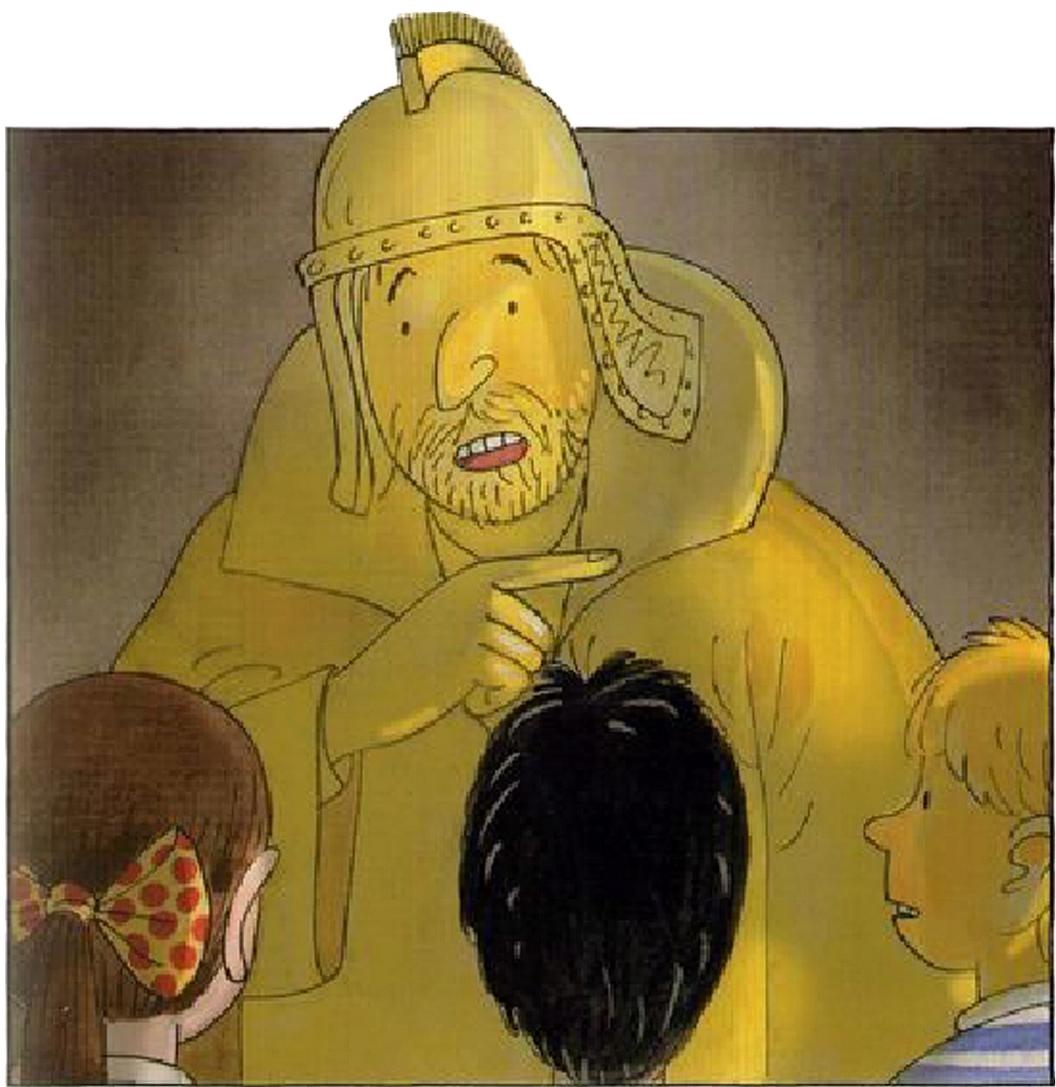
Suddenly, Biff tripped and fell.
“Who’s there?” shouted the men.
“Run!” whispered Nadim. “Hide
under the steps.”



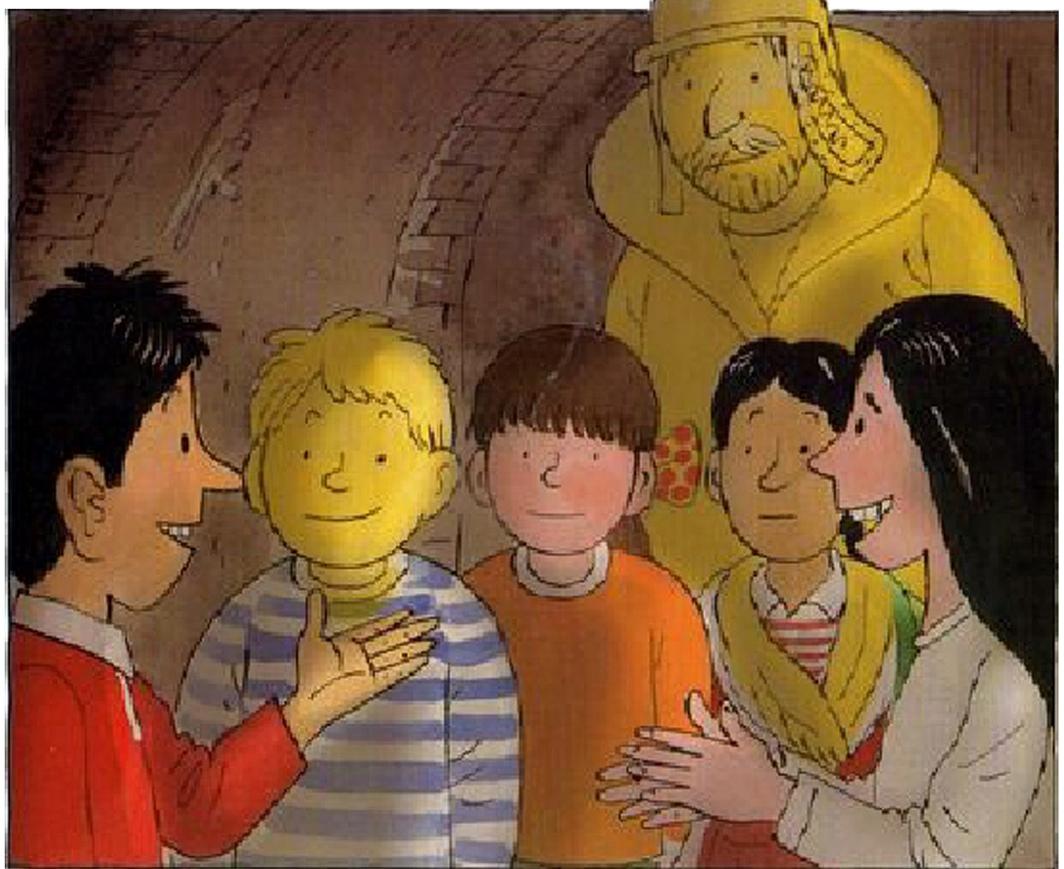
A robber came up to the steps.
He held up his lamp but the
children were as still as statues.
“There’s nobody here,” he said.



The men went into a dusty room.
The children followed them and
peeped round the door.



“There’s another door!” said Aran.
“It must lead into the palace garden.
They might escape through that.”



“I know what we can do,” said Nadim, and he told the others his plan.

“That’s a good idea,” said Eva.

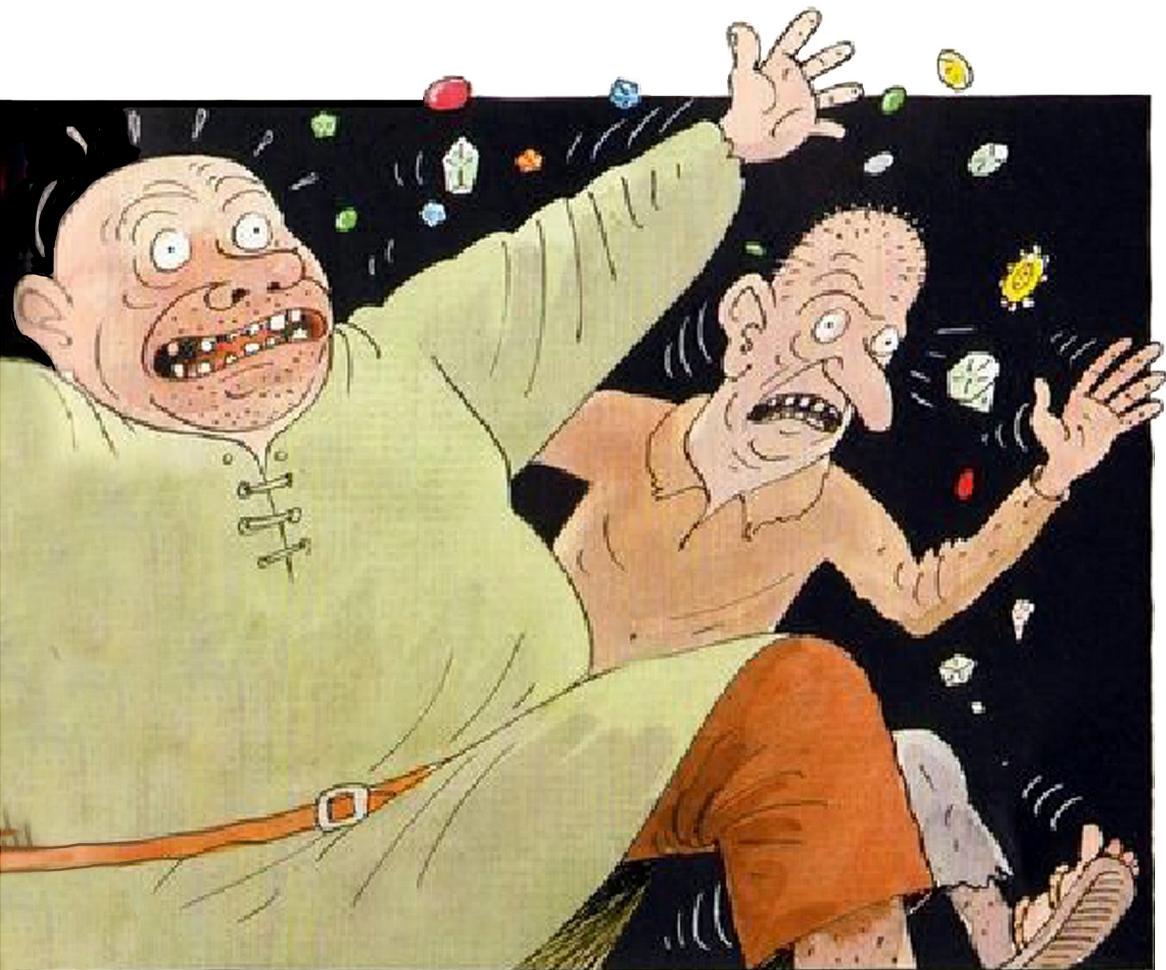


Eva raced back up the steps. She told the guards to go to the garden door. Then she ran back to the others.



Aran marched stiffly into the dusty room.

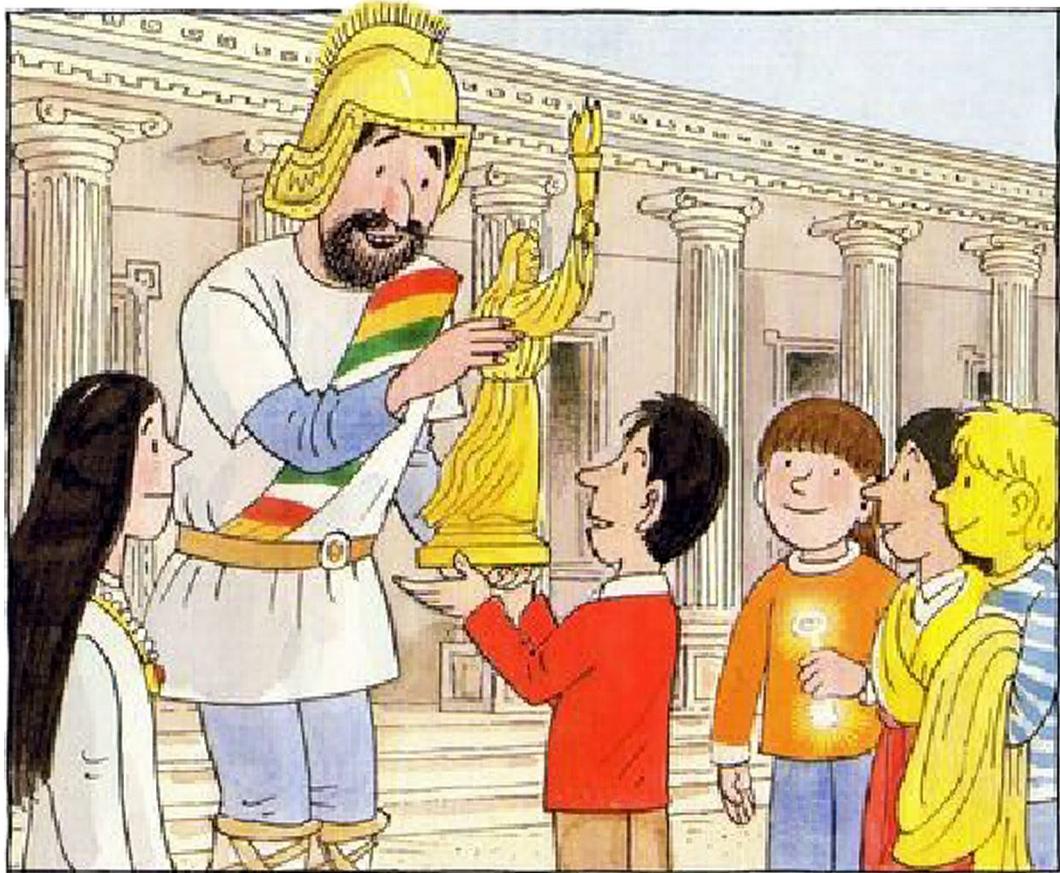
“Give me back my necklace!” he roared, in a voice like thunder.



The robbers jumped up.
“Help! The statue is alive!” they
screamed. They raced out of the
garden door . . .



. . . and ran right into the guards!



The next day, Aran and Eva gave the children a golden statue.

“Thank you for helping us,” they said. The magic key began to glow.



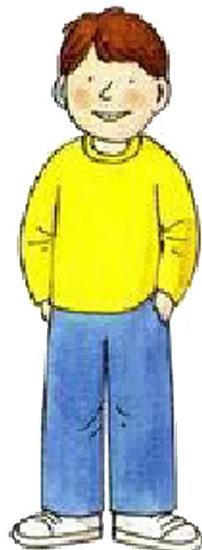
The magic took the children home.
“The statue looks just like Eva,”
said Nadim.

“Yes,” said Chip. “And Anneena
looks just like the statue!”

Think about the story



Why was
Eva crying?



What was
Nadim's plan?



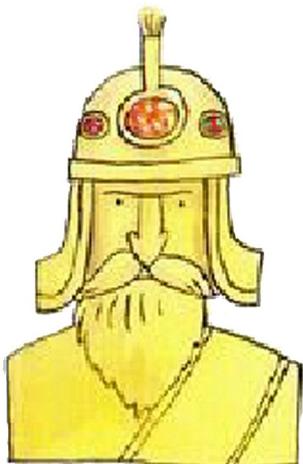
How do you
think the children
felt when they
were hiding?



How would you
help someone who
was crying?

Helping Aran

Help Aran to match the jewels to the statues.



Useful common words repeated in this story and other books in the series.

began called children door face garden gave
idea might others room suddenly

Names in this story: Anneena Aran Biff Chip
Eva Nadim