



Once upon a new time



Once upon a time, long, long ago, there lived a beautiful princess. When she was born, the King and Queen were so enthralled by her red hair that they decided to call her Amber. Like all princesses, Amber wore a golden crown and lived in a huge castle, with towers and moats. She was a generous and courageous princess, and everyone loved her. She spent her days surrounded by her maids and her tutor, who taught her history, writing and etiquette.

Now, there was nothing wrong with Amber's life, and many young girls envied her, as the perfect princess who one day would become queen.

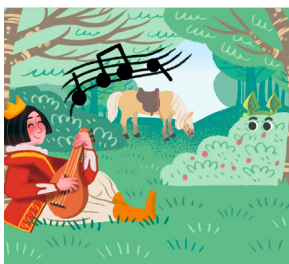
Yet, Amber had a dream buried deep down inside her. What she wanted more than anything in the world was to ride Flèche, the family's faithful steed, and for the two of them to go galloping together through plains and forests, exploring the world and its wonders....



Not far from the castle, her brother, Prince Philippe, was walking.

His entire life, he had been taught that a future king had to be strong, valiant and brave. He had had plenty of training to make sure he was up to the task, but, no matter how hard he tried to be all that was expected of him, the prince simply was not. Philippe didn't like to fight and he hated weapons. He was sometimes even afraid of his own shadow, and the slightest creak made him jump.

The things that really excited him were music, singing, instruments, the notes blending together to form a sweet melody. His sister Amber had always encouraged him to pursue his dreams.



So, when Philippe found a quiet and isolated place in the forest bordering the castle, he dismounted his horse, determined to play a few notes and lose himself in his passion. He leaned comfortably against a tree. He took the mandolin he had brought with him and played his favourite songs. Life was so peaceful and calm. The prince continued to play song after song. He was so lost in the music that he failed to notice that a strange creature had approached and was watching him.

Have you spotted it?



The minutes passed. The strange animal was hesitant to come out of his hiding place. Usually, everyone was afraid of him and he could never make any friends. Over the years, he had learned to disappear in the blink of an eye and had mastered the art of concealment. But this time it was different. The man leaning against the tree looked kind and calm. Not to mention the fact that he felt lonely, as he had been living in seclusion for years. Inspired by the music, the animal made a big decision: he took his courage in both hands and appeared before Prince Philippe. This time it might be different, he thought. But the second Prince Philippe saw Pop, the dragon, he was frightened and ran away, screaming «Aaaaaah!» at the top of his voice.



The prince ran as fast as his legs could carry him. Ever since he was small, he had heard tales of fire-breathing dragons, destroying everything in their path and having no mercy on humankind. He had to warn the castle of the impending attack. Amber, the princess, heard the cry outside the castle. She immediately recognised her brother's voice. She abandoned her tutor and ran to the window to find out what could have terrified the prince so much!



Philippe, out of breath after his spectacular sprint, told her (with some difficulty) about the attack by a ferocious dragon that was lurking in the forest. He said he was the size of two men and spit flames over three metres. He had tried to fight, of course, but faced with this merciless foe, he had no other choice but to flee to save his life! "The castle is in danger, something must be done", Amber said to herself!



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KIDS
BIG BEN



Casting aside her fears, Amber, the intrepid princess, swapped her pretty dress for knight's breeches. In an instant, she grabbed her sword: she was ready to face the danger. She wasn't going to let this dragon destroy her castle and everything in her life. She was ready to defend her brother, her parents, her friends, even at the risk of her own life.



Amber mounted Flèche, who had also galloped back to the castle. She grabbed Philippe by the hand and made him climb up behind her. She ordered him to take her to where the monster had emerged. Amber had waited for this moment all her life; accompanied by her brother and Flèche, she felt no fear. After several minutes' racing at an epic speed, they finally arrived.



The princess jumped off the horse and drew her sword, ready to fight. To her surprise, she found the dragon, mandolin in hand, singing in a deep and melodic voice. It wasn't exactly the scene she had been expecting! Firstly, the dragon was not especially big, and it certainly wasn't breathing flames. In fact, the closer she got to him, the more she found the animal cute and harmless.



Amber turned and looked at her brother who had been careful to stay behind her. "So, you...", she said starting to laugh! The prince admitted that he had maybe exaggerated a little, but honestly, the dragon had taken him by surprise, so maybe that explained why he had got it all wrong. Philippe realised how funny the situation was and began to laugh with his sister. Reassured, he dared to take a few steps towards the dragon who returned his instrument to him.



Against all odds, the dragon sang even more beautifully. The prince began to play a few notes to accompany him and together they performed as a fantastic duo, to the applause of the princess. The three friends then got to know each other. Pop, the dragon, told them his story, explaining his loneliness and why he had decided to appear today in front of Philippe. Amber and Philippe looked at each other: they both agreed to invite Pop to join them at the castle.



Back at the castle, they announced that the danger had passed and asked everyone to welcome Pop as a new friend. The King and Queen congratulated their children and agreed that, from now on, they could each spend their time doing the things that really made them happy. As for Pop, he watched over Philippe to make sure that he was never in danger, and together they formed a band: «Philipop». He also spent time with Amber, helping her to train and accompanying her on her long rides. Pop was never alone in the forest again. He had found his two best friends that day.