



THE FISHERMAN AND THE MAGIC FISH

PART 2

Frederick and Isobel's first week in their new castle was wonderful: they had all the things they could possibly want and servants to do all the chores.

But there was nothing to do all day except ride round the gardens in a carriage...and even that was getting boring.

'I want to feel more important,' said Frederick. 'If I was King, I could rule the whole land. I could make laws...'

'...and everyone would follow our orders,' added Isobel. 'Why don't you ask the magic fish if it will grant us one more wish?'

The next day Frederick rode in the carriage to the sea. The waves had turned from dark blue to dark grey and the wind was whistling as he called out.

'Oh magic fish swimming in the sea! Hear my call and come to me!'

Straight away, the fish appeared. But this time, it wasn't smiling. 'You again, Frederick,' it sighed. 'I thought I'd given you everything you wanted?'

'Oh you have and I'm very grateful!' replied Frederick. 'The problem is, I want to feel more important - like a King!'

The fish looked a little sad. 'Go back home and see what you find,' it sighed.

When Frederick returned the castle had turned into a great palace with white walls and flags. Soldiers banged drums and played trumpets as Frederick walked into a grand hall.

In the middle were two diamond-covered thrones. And on one of them, looking very queenly indeed, sat Isobel.

As one courtier placed a velvet robe over Frederick's shoulders, another placed a gold crown on his head.

'Long live King Frederick!' everyone cried.

'Isn't this exciting!' said Isobel.

Each day they sat on their thrones, wrote down rules and gave orders. Until, one day, they received a letter...from the Emperor!

'The letter says we have to follow *his* orders, said Isobel in surprise.

'I think it's time for me to visit the magic fish again,' replied Frederick.

When Frederick reached the sea, it looked black as night and very stormy.



He felt terrified as he shouted out the rhyme - but the magic fish appeared as usual.

‘What do you want now?’ it asked with a scowl.

‘I’d like you to make me Emperor,’ shouted Frederick. ‘In fact, I demand it! I want to be the most important man in the world!’

‘Well then, I must obey!’ replied the magic fish. ‘Go home and see what you find!’

When Frederick’s carriage returned the palace had turned into a vast city. In the middle was a great tower rising high into the sky with two giant thrones at the top. They were so high up, they were above the clouds.

‘I’m up here!’ cried a voice. Frederick looked up, and could just about see Isobel sitting on one of the thrones, with a huge crown that was too big for her head.

He had to climb up a great staircase to join her. ‘Oh, hail! Great Emperor!’ echoed distant voices from below.

Emperor Frederick and Empress Isobel looked down from the tower. ‘Now we really are important!’ sighed Isobel with delight.

‘And really do have everything we could possibly wish for!’ agreed Frederick.

In the stormy sea, the magic fish raised its head above the water. ‘Hmm, we shall see...’ it said, before diving into the depths.