



# A Very Giant Tale

by: Evelyn Winters narrated: Karl Jenkinson edited: Robin Chambers

## About the book

Manunitus Sourpuss is a courageous gladiator who is about to fight one of the most feared foes the city has ever encountered. The Welsh giants have moved in! But after a number of attempts with his trusty crossbow, he fails to drive the new ogre community away. He receives a gift from an old dear; a bewitched bottle of green mush, a giant antidote. Things are about to change for the people of Deva. With the temporary magical powers of the gooey substance, the soldiers is about to see the giants for who they really are.

This story is based on a soldier which used to stand outside a shop in Chester UK. The shop hosts the remains of the legionary baths in its basement.

## Reviews

“This was fabulous!!! The names of the characters had me laughing out loud, another fantastic story from Evelyn :)”

“This book is a brilliant little story and just had to read all of it before going to bed. I have recommended it to all my friends”

“Great little read from a local talent! Lots of imagination and beautifully creative, my children love this book!”

“Being Chester born and bred I loved this book but you don't have to be from Chester. All ages will love it do enjoy :-)”



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## Audio Sample

Download and listen to the audio sample on the Teachers and Parent page, then read the story sample below.

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## Story Sample

Back at the baths, Sourpuss took a right ribbing from his colleagues.

"It's not wheel science... just aim and fire."

"I've seen children shoot straighter than that?" said another called Liverpoolius Platypus while loafing in a steamy bath. "Are you actually trying to kill him or are you just playing a game of Tig with him? What are you going to do next, read him a bedtime story?"

Platypus had pleased many on the sands of the amphitheatre and he'd recently been presented with the honour of the yellow scarf which he'd wrapped absurdly around his head. "Let me know when you are ready for me to take over."

The offer would be unthinkable, not to mention downright ill-advised. That buffoon would never be as good as him. NEVER! He would show him come rain or shine.

With donations drying up, people's patience running thin and a lack of servants, the gladiator was about to make his third attempt. It was a dark overcast day when a bent old dear made him a special offer of a bottle of green mush for two chickens. Sourpuss could not see the reason for the sloppy sauce and it smelt of nothing. He didn't dare taste it. It was just as well as the crooked woman told him if he dabbed a decent dollop of the gooey substance on the end of his arrow, she swore the mixture would shrink any giant it hit or his money back with a BOGOF offer thrown in.

What had he got to lose? He accepted the deal and had two chickens beheaded. Fingers crossed the mixture works. The thought of a refund repulsed him. Soon after, he dipped each arrow into the green sticky stuff before placing them in the quiver.

As darkness fell, he marched with his head held high through booing crowds. This did not trouble him at all. A servant provided him with a shield as several scallywags pounded him with baked potatoes sold by a nearby street vendor. Business was booming. Hecklers lined the streets; one or two, to be fair, were cheering, but the drop in popularity did not discourage him. After all, he was a professional.



## Questions

1. What do you think 'right ribbing' means?

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2. "It's not wheel science" is used instead of what phrase? (please circle your answer)

- a) It's not boat science
- b) It's not rocket science
- c) It's not art science
- d) It's not motor science

3. Platypus had been presented with the honour of the yellow scarf, but why did he look so ridiculous?

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4. What do you think 'come rain or shine' means?

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5. What does BOGOF mean?

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6. Why did Sourpuss not want a refund if he was not satisfied with the green mush?

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7. What did the local troublemakers throw at Sourpuss?

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8. What lined the streets?

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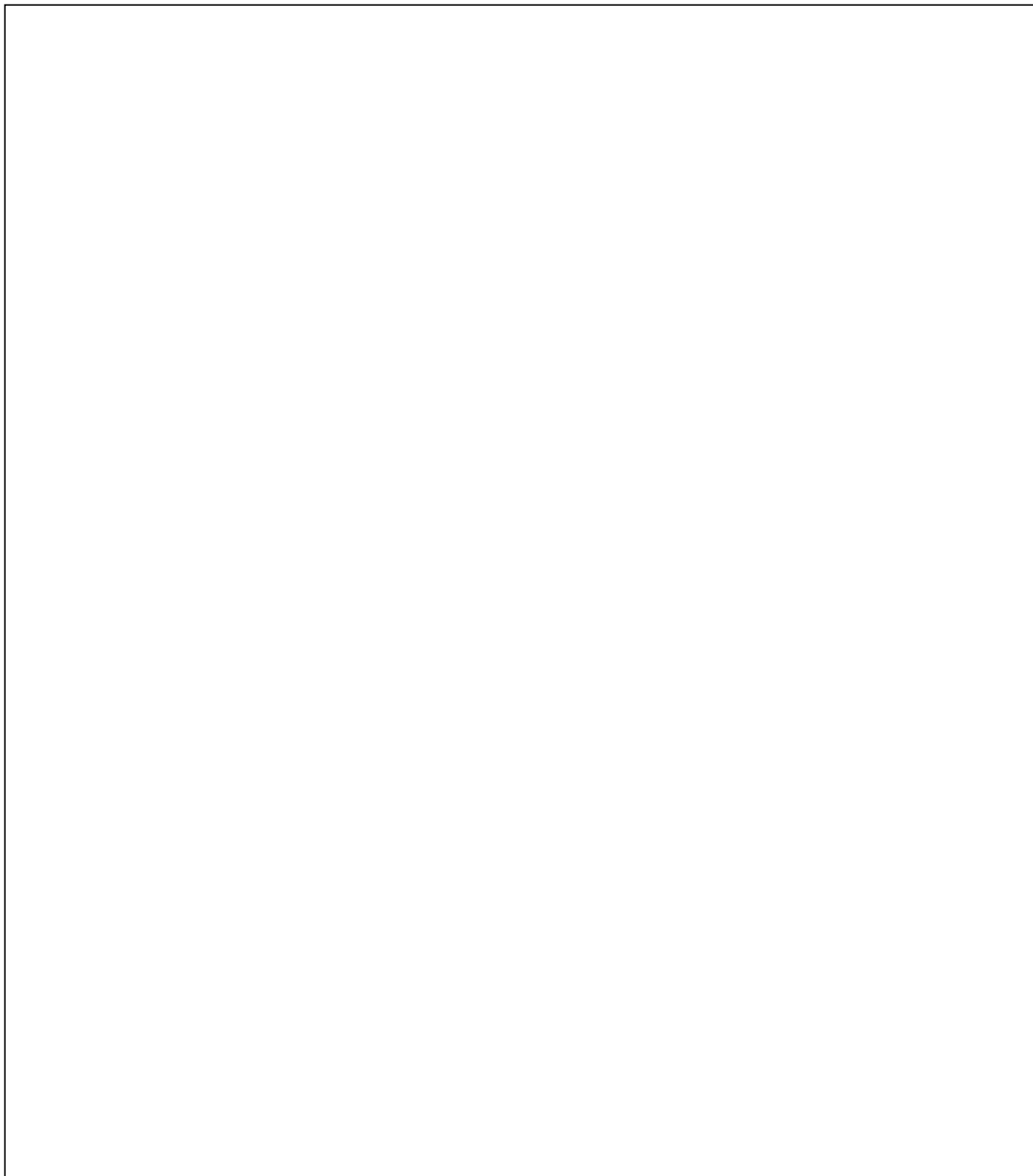
9. Why wasn't Sourpuss discouraged by the scallywags and hecklers?

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What do you think Sourpuss looks like? Draw a picture below making sure he has a bow and arrow:



## Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words? Some appear in the story or are giant words.



lupeiroovlis latyppus \_\_\_\_\_

antsgi \_\_\_\_\_

soupsrus \_\_\_\_\_

fbafoon \_\_\_\_\_

mhugoonus \_\_\_\_\_

leckersh \_\_\_\_\_

tigganic \_\_\_\_\_

normouse \_\_\_\_\_

mmothma \_\_\_\_\_

scolosal \_\_\_\_\_

gbi \_\_\_\_\_



## Question Answers

1. '**Right**' is used to mean 'very' in some dialects. '**Ribbing**' means to tease someone in a friendly way. So the phrase 'right ribbing' means **very teased!**
2. The answer is **B**  
The phrase 'rocket science' is used to say that you do not think that something is very difficult to do or to understand. This was replaced with 'wheel science' in the story because rockets were never heard of in those days.
3. Platypus had wrapped the scarf around his head.
4. 'Come rain or shine' means it **will** happen whether or not it is raining outside or the sun is shining.
5. BOGOF = **Buy one get one free**
6. Because he would get the two chickens back he had beheaded. The thought of this made him feel sick.
7. **Baked potatoes** were thrown at him.
8. **Hecklers** lined the streets. These are people who interrupt a performer or public speaker with mocking or aggressive comments or abuse.
9. Sourpuss wasn't discouraged because he was a **professional!**

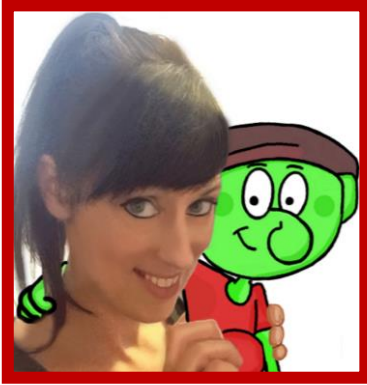
## Word Scramble Answers

Liverpoolius Platypus, giants, sourpuss, baffoon, humongous, hecklers, gigantic, enormous, mammoth, colossal, big

Writing stories is **magic** 



## About the author



Evelyn Winters is highly experienced in shrinking giants and making toy dolls dance! Her whimsical folk tales and myths are centered around the real history of the ancient Roman walled city of Chester in the UK where you will meet ridiculous and wonderful characters (unfortunately, some do not smell so great), teaching history and morals along the way. Evelyn Winters is knowledgeable in the fantasy and magic of Chester because she has the privilege to live in this wondrous city.

## About the narrator



KARL is a British born Actor & Voice Actor. Having appeared in many of the best loved Comedies & Dramas on British TV. Karl has narrated Documentary series, Reality TV Programs, Video games as well as longer form, e-learning programmes. His warm and engaging style, gives an 'Everyman quality' to the work. A Leading Radio Producer once described him as, 'the closest thing there is to a National Voice'.

## About the editor



Robin Chambers is the Editor of A Very Giant Tale. While Head of English at Hackney Downs School, he wrote stories published by Penguin and Granada. His more recent books are "Myrddin's Heir" series about a boy with extraordinary powers.

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