

“TWINKLE TOES OF CABBAGE CASTLE”

There was once a King with a problem, a very BIG problem, in fact a **MONSTER** problem. The monster lived under a bridge on the edge of the kingdom. It was a huge monster a smelly, mean and always hungry monster.

It stank and roared and ate. It ate the birds from the trees the sheep from the fields and the fish from the lakes. When it was very hungry it ate anything or anybody it could catch.

In the first few years many brave people had tried to get rid of the monster but they were all eaten. Constables were consumed, sailors swallowed and councillors chewed. Even the mayor was made into a sandwich and munched and crunched gold chain and all.

The people of the kingdom were too afraid to go over the bridge. This was a problem because the only food that grew well in the kingdom was cabbages. Every other kind of food was over the bridge in the kingdom next door. Certainly everyone was very good at cooking with cabbages. The cabbage cake was a great success and cabbage jelly and if cabbage ice cream didn't taste so good – they all agreed it was a really pretty colour.

But always there was the threat of the monster - if his roar was heard, everyone hid but the slow and the old could be caught and find themselves in a monster omelette.

As the years past the people got very tired of the monster and even more tired of cabbages.

They formed a midnight mob and marched to the castle. ‘Get rid of the terrible monster! they said. ‘You’re our king. Do something!’

The king was even more frightened of the mob than he was of the monster so he hid under his throne and quivered and shivered.

His daughter Princess Twinkle toes found him there. Of course she wasn't really called Twinkle toes but she moved about the castle so lightly and quietly that everyone called her that. Besides her real name was Princess Augusta Algernona, Arabella, Alfreda and she decided that even Twinkle toes was better than that.

‘Father get out from under the throne and tell the people you’ll get rid of that awful monster!’ she said crossly.

‘But how?’ the king wailed.

‘I have an idea. Trust me,’ said Twinkle toes.

So the King went onto the ramparts of the Castle and promised that the days of the evil monster would soon be over and everyone could cross the bridge and get any food they wanted.

There was lots of cheering which woke the horrible monster and a few citizens got gobbled up on their way home that night.

When the King went back into the castle he said to his daughter. 'It's all very well me promising to get rid of the monster but how am I going to do it?'

'I'm going see to it,' said Twinkle Toes with a smile. 'Trust me.'

The King slept badly that night. He wouldn't have slept at all if he knew that his precious daughter had slipped out of the castle and was making her way towards the bridge.

She reached the river and heard the roaring snores and smelled the stink of the monster. Her heart fluttered but she got onto the bridge and with steps as light as a fairy's made her way across without waking the monster.

The next day she returned. And returning with her was a bigger, smellier, hungrier even more terrifying monster.

In no time he attacked the monster under the bridge. There was a terrible fight. Houses shook and windows shattered. The water of the river boiled as the monsters thrashed and crashed around bashing and roaring at each other. Even the towers on the castle came crashing down with the noise and vibration of the battle.

The king, who had slept in after his bad night, rushed to his window. He looked in horror at the sight of the two monsters grappling like dinosaurs and the tiny figure of Princess Twinkle toes standing nearby and clapping her hands.

At last the bigger, smellier monster gave an enormous shove and the monster under the bridge fell flat on his face. He got up and began to run away. In minutes he was over the horizon and no one ever saw him again.

The King ran out of the castle, and very bravely for him, up to his daughter. 'What have you done! He cried, as the bigger, smellier, hungrier, monster roared louder in victory.

'You've made things worse! Now we've got a massive monster with an enormous appetite to deal with.

Princess Twinkle toes just laughed and did a little dance as lightly as a feather. 'Trust me, father, she said. This monster is very different. He's always hungry but he only eats cabbages!'