

DIARY OF A
**DREADFUL
DRAGON**

More magical adventures

from Ben Miller:

The Night I Met Father Christmas

The Boy Who Made the World Disappear

The Day I Fell into a Fairytale

How I Became a Dog Called Midnight

The Night We Got Stuck in a Story

Once Upon a Legend

Robin Hood, Aged 10 3/4

The Fairytale Woods

Diary of a Big Bad Wolf

Diary of a Puss in Boots

Diary of a Wicked Witch

The Elf Chronicles

Diary of a Christmas Elf

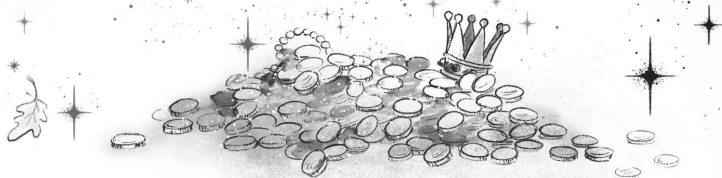

Secrets of a Christmas Elf

Adventures of a Christmas Elf



BEN MILLER

DIARY OF A
**DREADFUL
DRAGON**



Illustrated by
ELISA PAGANELLI



SIMON & SCHUSTER

London New York Amsterdam/Antwerp Sydney/Melbourne Toronto New Delhi



First published in Great Britain in 2026 by Simon & Schuster UK Ltd

Text copyright © Passion Projects Limited 2026

Illustrations copyright © Elisa Paganelli 2026

This book is copyright under the Berne Convention.

No reproduction without permission.

All rights reserved.

The right of Ben Miller and Elisa Paganelli to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with sections 77 and 78 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988.

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Simon & Schuster UK Ltd
1st Floor, 222 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8H

For more than 100 years, Simon & Schuster has championed authors and the stories they create. By respecting the copyright of an author's intellectual property, you enable Simon & Schuster and the author to continue publishing exceptional books for years to come. We thank you for supporting the author's copyright by purchasing an authorized edition of this book.

No amount of this book may be reproduced or stored in any format, nor may it be uploaded to any website, database, language-learning model, or other repository, retrieval, or artificial intelligence system without express permission. All rights reserved. Inquiries may be directed to Simon & Schuster, 222 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB or RightsMailbox@simonandschuster.co.uk

www.simonandschuster.co.uk
www.simonandschuster.com.au
www.simonandschuster.co.in

Simon & Schuster Australia, Sydney
Simon & Schuster India, New Delhi

The authorised representative in the EEA is Simon & Schuster Netherlands BV,
Herculesplein 96, 3584 AA Utrecht, Netherlands.
info@simonandschuster.nl

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

HB ISBN 978-1-3985-4175-7
eBook ISBN 978-1-3985-4181-8
eAudio ISBN 978-1-3985-4178-8

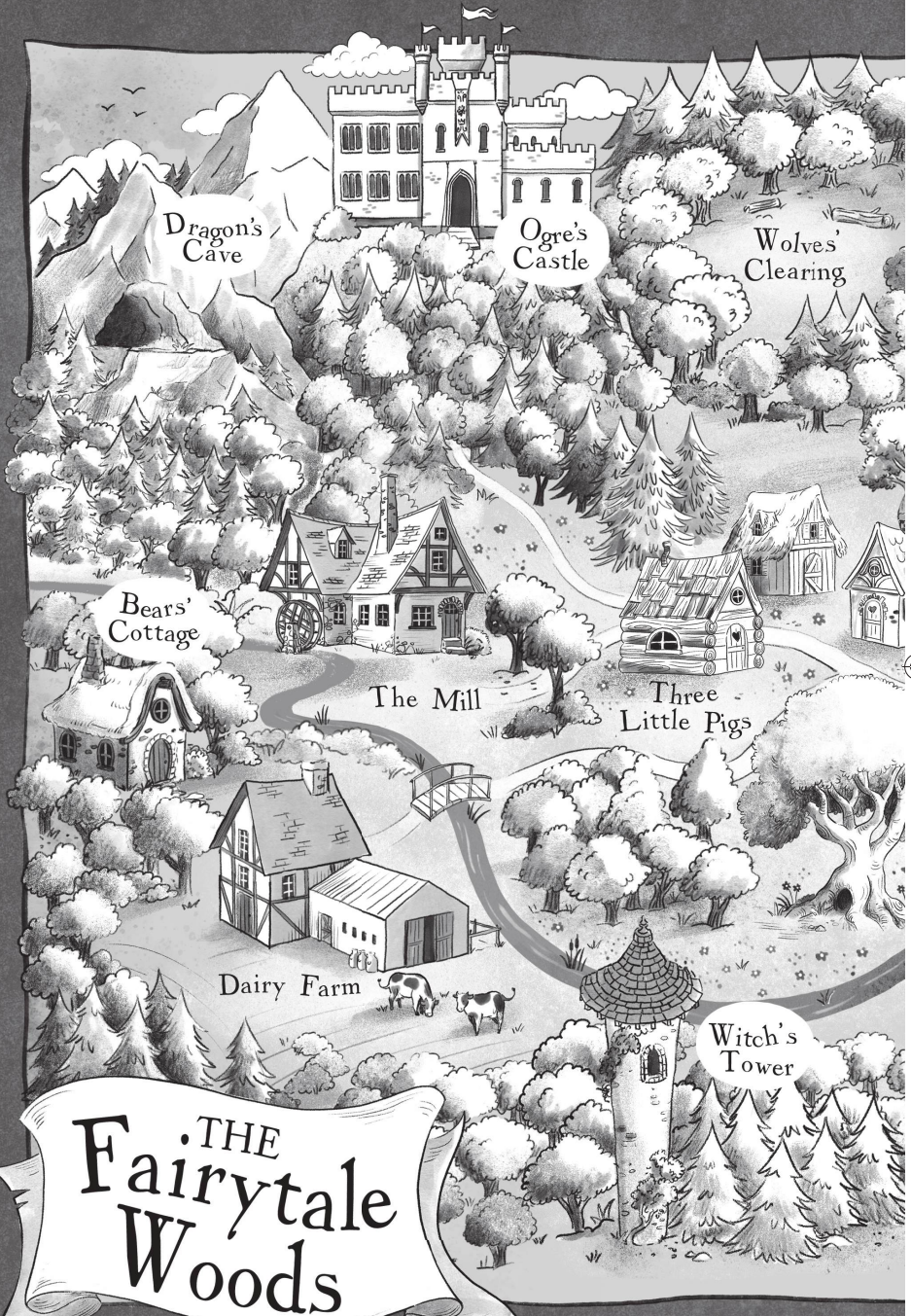
This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual people living or dead, events or locales is entirely coincidental.

Printed and Bound in the UK
using 100% Renewable Electricity at CPI Group (UK) Ltd



For Albert





Dragon's
Cave

Ogre's
Castle

Wolves'
Clearing

Bears'
Cottage

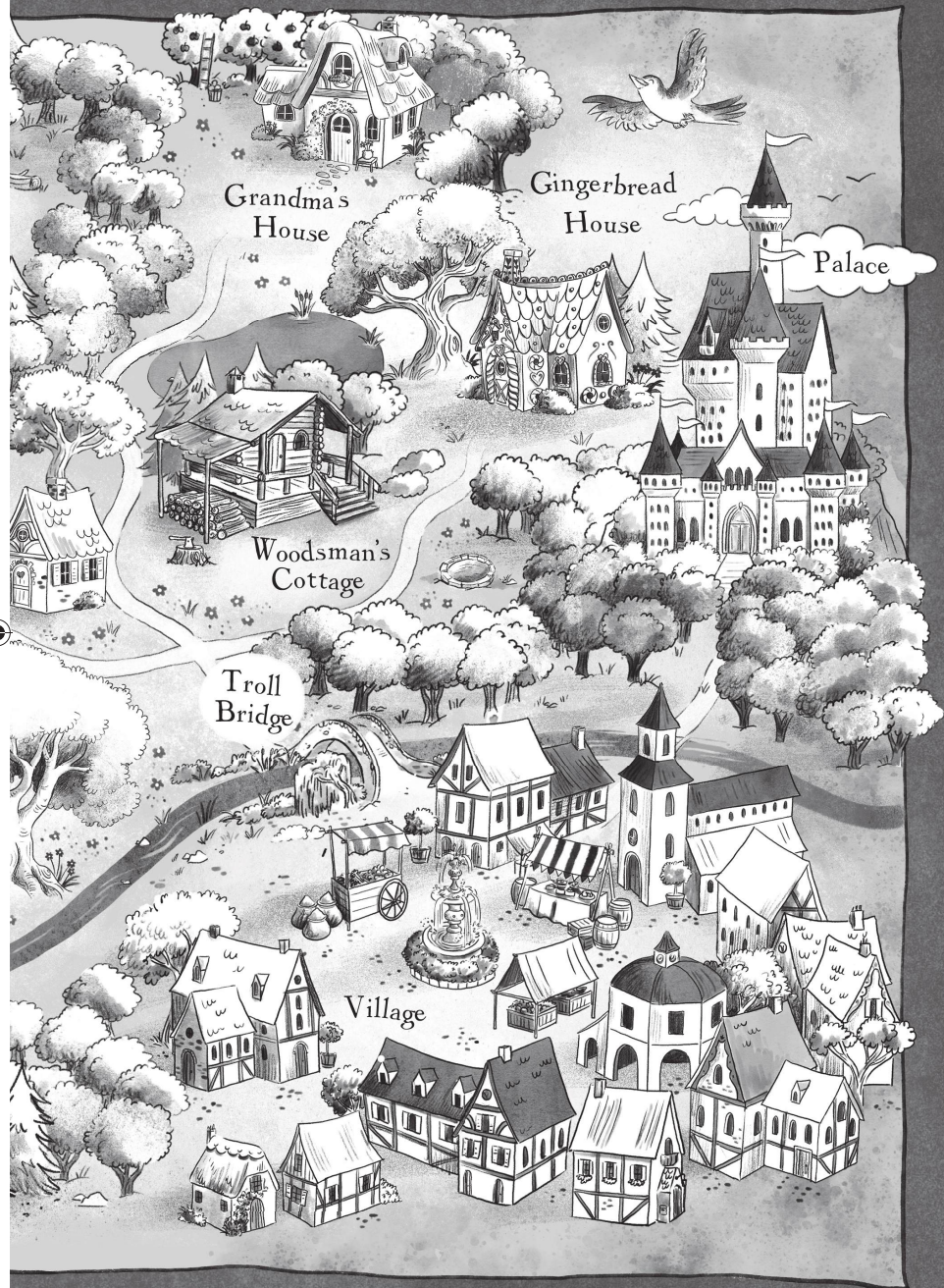
The Mill

Three
Little Pigs

Dairy Farm

Witch's
Tower

THE
Fairytale
Woods







Saturday 4 June

All right, panic over – everybody breathe . . . In and out . . . In and out . . . Nice, easy, non-fire-breathing breaths . . . And . . . relax.

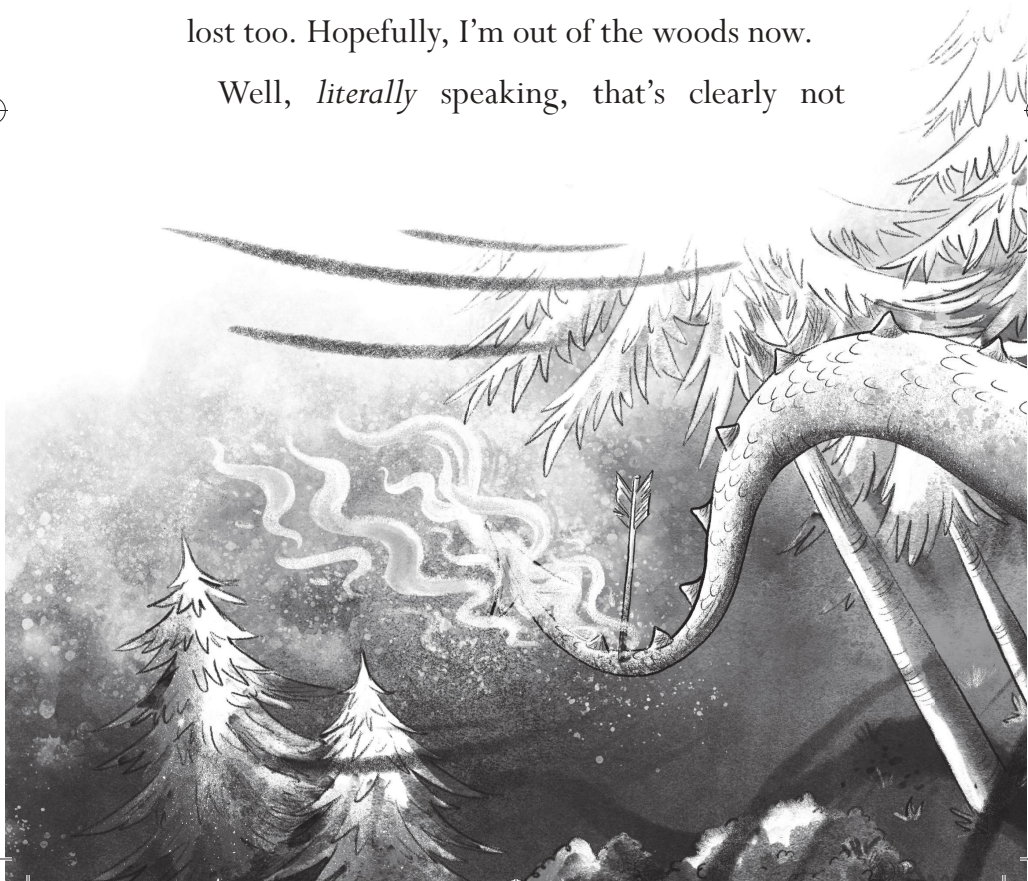
PHEW! That was a **CLOSE** one. I can't believe that's **ANOTHER** kingdom I've been driven from by those angry villagers . . .



That must be, what, the **THIRD KINGDOM** this year?

I've been flying for so long, I was practically sleep-flying for the last few hours just looking for a kingdom to land in that I haven't already been banished from. Frankly, I'm **EXHAUSTED**. And a little bit lost too. Hopefully, I'm out of the woods now.

Well, *literally* speaking, that's clearly not



true. I seem to be most definitely IN the woods,
and they're rather thick and dark too. Plus,
OOPS, hang on a second – I think my tail's
still on fire . . .

Is that a glimmer of water I spy through the
trees? I'd better put this fire out before I get too
comfy . . .



Ahh, yes – here we go!

One niiiice cool river to dunk my flaming tail
in . . .

One niiiice grassy riverbank to rest my poor
weary—

OW!

What was that? Who got me? Is there someone
hiding in the woods?

Oh . . . oh no – wait . . . It's all right. It's just
an arrow from earlier still stuck in my bottom.

That's the good thing about dragon skin. You
could stick me like a pin cushion and I'd barely
even notice, plus I'm practically flameproof.
Which I suppose is lucky for me given the number
of flaming arrows I get shot at me.

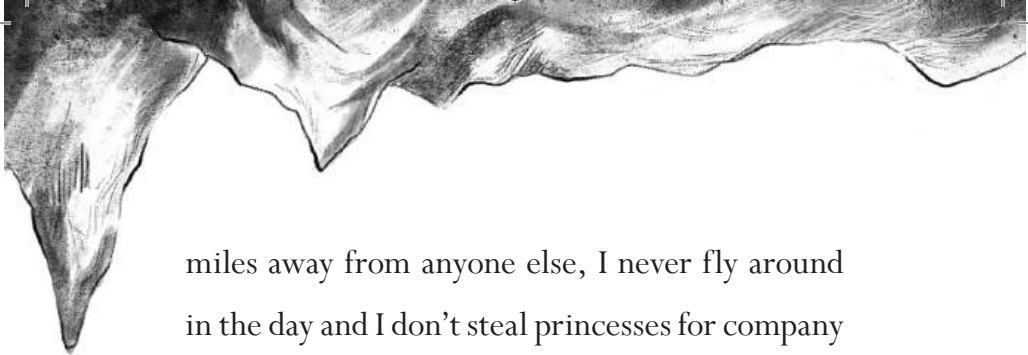
Still, a dragon has *feelings*, you know. Plus I
HATE all that shouting and angry arm-waving. It

gets me all stressed and jumpy inside, and that's when I **SOMETIMES** lose my temper and let out a little

ROOARRRRR!

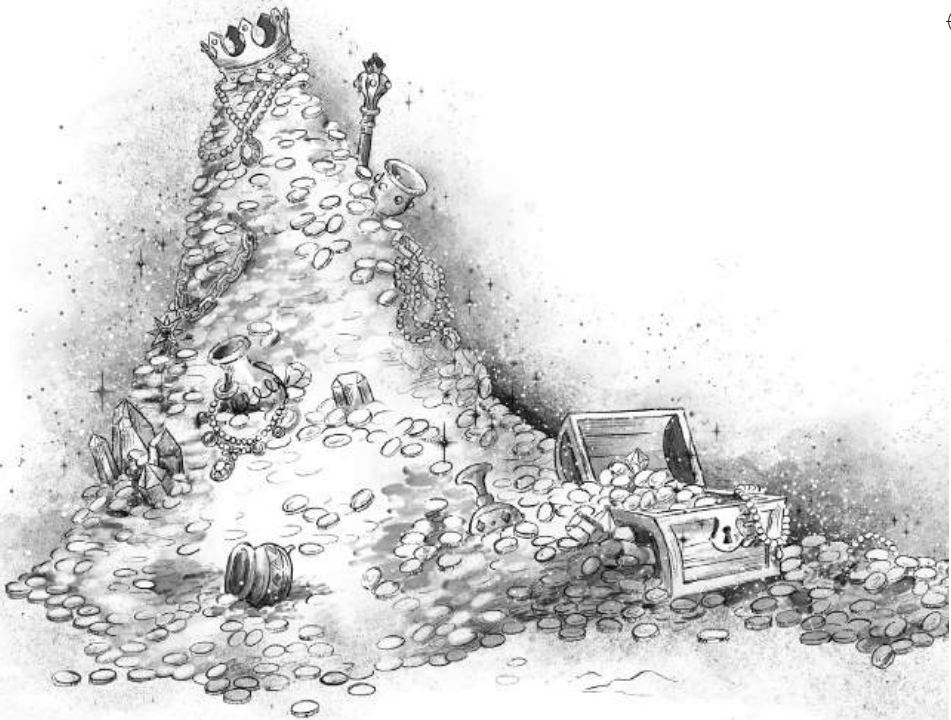
Just to get them off my back, you understand. And sometimes a teeny-*tiny* plume of scorching fire comes out too, and then of course everyone is like, **OH, DRAGONS ARE SO BAD**, when in fact it was **THEM** that came to **MY** cave and started the trouble in the first place!

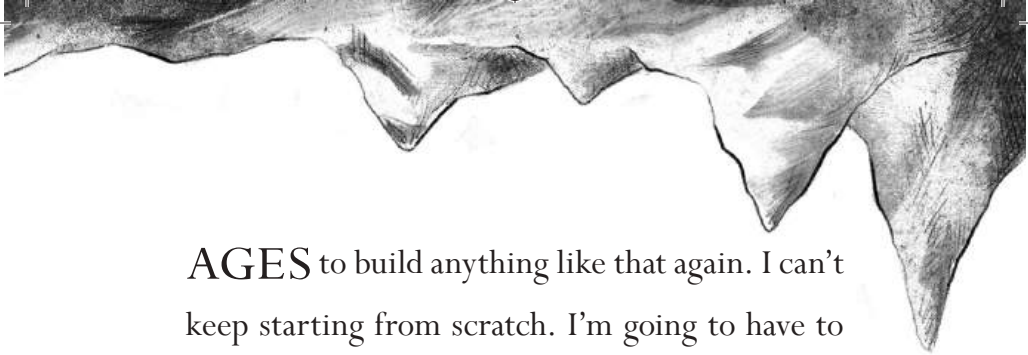
I don't even know what their problem is. Can't a dragon be left to guard his hoard in peace without getting shouted out of town? It's not like I'm even **IN** town . . . I always pick a lonely cave



miles away from anyone else, I never fly around in the day and I don't steal princesses for company either like **SOME** dragons do. Princesses are far too shouty for my liking. I **ONLY** steal treasures. Anything for a quiet life! But there's just no pleasing some people.

I'm going to miss my old hoard. **SO** many treasures . . . **SO** lovely and shiny . . . It'll take






AGES to build anything like that again. I can't keep starting from scratch. I'm going to have to play it smarter in this kingdom. Find a cave even **FURTHER** out. Keep my thievery on the downlow. Maintain a low profile. Secret missions under cover of darkness . . . Slipping in and out of the shadows . . . Full Stealth Mode! Silent, but deadly . . . So silent, no one will ever even know there's a dragon in town . . .

What *is* this kingdom anyway? I don't recognise it from my dragon history books – these woods, this long, curvy river . . . it's very distinctive. Strange that I wouldn't recognise it. Dragons have documented all the kingdoms they've been to. Unless . . . they somehow never came to this one?? But that's impossible. Dragons have been **EVERYWHERE**. Surely they





wouldn't miss out on a nice kingdom like this – with that big shiny palace on the other side of the river, and the pretty little village beneath it, and that cute cobblestone bridge leading back over the river to . . .

Wait . . . Hang on a minute . . . What's that . . . ?
On the bridge . . . ? Is that . . . ?

Oh **DRAT**. People on the bridge . . . and they're coming this way!

Actually, not people . . . Bears, I think? Three of them: one little one and two great big hairy ones . . .

UGH, what do I do? What do I do . . . ? I'm getting all stressed again. I'm too tired to fly. No time to hide . . . I doubt I've even got enough breath for a puff of smoke let alone a rolling ball of fire.

Right, okay, time for Stealth Mode . . .



If I stay **COMPLETELY**
STILL, then maybe they won't notice
I'm here and will just keep walking . . .