



**KNIGHT  
SIR LOUIS**  
AND THE DREADFUL DAMSEL

[www.guppybooks.co.uk](http://www.guppybooks.co.uk)

## Praise for *Knight Sir Louis!*

'I love these books so much! Mr Gum levels of weird and brilliant'

**Jo Nadin**

'Sublimely funny and seriously entertaining, this is the ideal way to get your youngsters hooked on reading'

**Lancashire Post**

'Dazzlingly silly and brilliant fun.'

**Matt Brown, author of *Compton Valance***

'As if Hans Christian Andersen had cornered you in a pub and got his own yarn in the wrong order, or The Brothers Grimm had squeezed up next to you with a Tupperware box of home-made sandwiches on a long coach journey. Knight Sir Louis is an epic non-epic saga.'

**Stewart Lee, comedian**

'A scampering, walloping fantasy adventure, brimming with ludicrous magic and fizzing with irresistible comedy.'

**Peter Lord, co-founder of Aardman Animations**

'Probably the funniest book I've ever read. A masterclass in silliness!'

**Gary Northfield, author of *Julius Zebra***

'This is a really funny book, and will appeal to anyone who likes adventures and laughing.'

**Philip Reeve, author of the *Mortal Engines* series**

'Sublime daftness on every page.'

**Jeremy Strong**



# KNIGHT SIR LOUIS AND THE DREADFUL DAMSEL by The Brothers McLeod



**GUPPY  
BOOKS**

KNIGHT SIR LOUIS AND THE DREADFUL DAMSEL  
is a GUPPY BOOK



First published in 2020 by  
Guppy Books,  
Bracken Hill,  
Cotswold Road,  
Oxford OX2 9JG

Text and illustrations copyright © The Brothers McLeod 2020  
First published in 2020

978 1 913101 28 2

3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

The rights of The Brothers McLeod to be identified as  
the author of this work has been asserted in accordance  
with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,  
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by  
any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or  
otherwise, without the prior permissions of the publishers.

Papers used by Guppy Books are from well-managed  
forests and other responsible sources.



GUPPY PUBLISHING LTD Reg. No. 11565833

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

Typeset in 13½/20 pt Adobe Garamond by  
Falcon Oast Graphic Art Ltd, [www.falcon.uk.com](http://www.falcon.uk.com)

Printed and bound in Great Britain by CPI Books Ltd.

For Louis



# SO WHO'S IN THIS

# BOOK EXACTLY?



## KNIGHT SIR LOUIS

The young hero of this tale. A calm and clear-thinking champion in a bonkers world. All the most difficult quests are entrusted to him. His name is pronounced “Loo-ee”.

## CLUNKALOT

The trusty mechanical steed. Sturdy, brave and always ready to join his beloved master Louis on a dangerous quest. Also loves flying and poetry.



## MR CATALOGUE

This boar is a unique sort of piggywig. Loyal, willing to try anything once (or even twice), with a brain made “much more thinky” by magic.

## PEARLIN

A young, self-taught wizard and inventor (or wizentor!). Always coming up with new and fun ways of using machines and magic.



## KING BURT THE NOT BAD

The (mostly) kind and (usually) fair King of Squirrel Helm who lives in Castle Sideways.





## DAVE THE SWORD

A magical sword recycled from a magic mirror. Likes reflecting magical spells, chopping up nasty things and singing. (Is an awful singer.)

## MYSTO

The greatest wizenor ever known. Used to be good but turned evil for some mysterious reason.



## CHAMPION TRIxie

A wise, champion knight who is always busy defending, organizing or partying. Also . . . she's Knight Sir Louis' mum.

## THE STRIPY KNIGHT



A fiendish, giant knight with stripy armour. Who's hiding inside? No one knows!

# CHAPTER 1









# CHAPTER 2

Well, wasn't Chapter One ridiculous? Let's start again. This is a proper Chapter One, though now we'll have to call it Chapter Two because of all that nonsense in Chapter One. Anyway, here we go . . .

This is the story of Knight Sir Louis.



STOP THAT!



Knight Sir Louis is the bravest of all knights in all lands. Braver than Knight Sir Colin in the bogs of Wattasmel. Braver than Knight Sir Barbara in the mountains of Itso-Hy. Even braver than Knight Sir Gary from the soggy lands of Tippinitdown.



Being brave is what Knight Sir Louis is known for.

But Louis is modest. He says he's not brave, but just good at staying calm when everyone else is going completely bonkers.

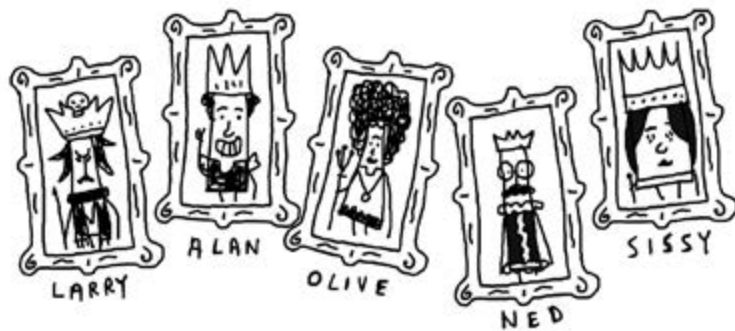
When he was a little boy the local lord locked himself out of his horse-drawn double-decker bus. It was bad timing as the lord was supposed to be going to the Royal Wedding. The lord and lady and all their friends were very upset and running around in a panic. But little Louis, only four years old, spotted they'd left a window open. He simply reached inside and unlocked the door. It turns out this kind of clear thinking is useful if you need to defeat hungry dragons, evil goblins and horrible wizards. And that's why King Burt appointed him defender of the great Castle Sideways.



OK, so now you're wondering who is King Burt and is his Castle Sideways really sideways? Well, one thing at a time . . .

King Burt is the ruler of a kingdom known as Squirrel Helm. I know it's a silly name. Don't look at me. It's not my fault! Anyway, King Burt is a good king. I don't mean he's brilliant. He's not amazing. He's all right, you know? He is known to his people as King Burt the Not Bad. (He's certainly better than his dad who was known as King Larry the Hostile.)

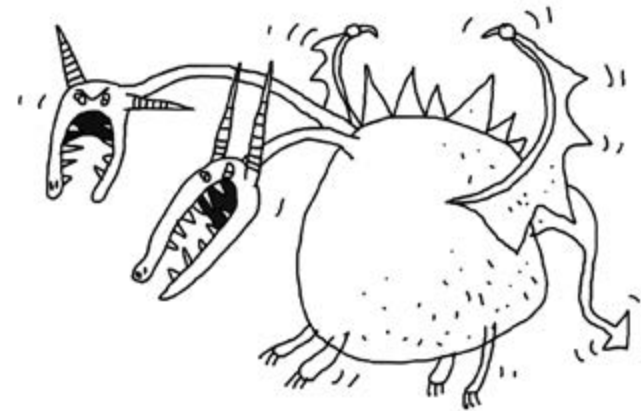
Burt comes from a long line of kings and queens. Here are some of them: King Alan the All Right, Queen Olive the OK, Prince Ned the Ninny-Winny and Empress Sissy the So-So.



King Burt's favourite hobbies are giving speeches, throwing banquets and playing computer games. Yes, computer games. He's really

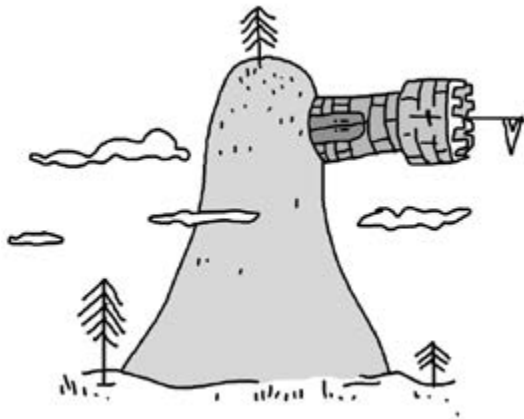
good at them, especially the one where you have to race a horse and cart around a land full of giant toadstools and stuff.

Of course, just because King Burt is a good(ish) king doesn't mean he's always fun to be around.



Before Knight Sir Louis, the king's champion was Knight Sir Trevor. He was brave and noble, but one day he failed to stop the double-headed dragon Borax from eating King Burt's brother, Prince Garibaldi (famous for smelling faintly of biscuits). Borax was very fond of biscuits and he

munched the prince down in one gulp. Knight Sir Trevor had missed the whole thing because he'd been in the kitchens cooking butterfly cakes. Burt arranged for the knight's head to be cut off with a big axe. Trevor wasn't happy about it, but agreed it was fair enough since he'd really messed up. He was allowed a last meal. He had butterfly cakes. (He said they were a bit dry and could have done with less time in the oven.)

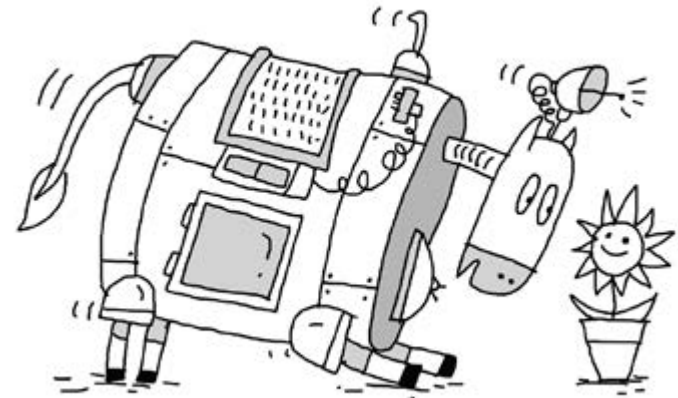


Now let's get back to Castle Sideways. It's a lot like King Arthur's Camelot, but with a much sillier name. There's really only one important

thing to remember about Castle Sideways and that's that Castle Sideways really is sideways.

Like all knights, Knight Sir Louis has a horse. His horse is a specially-made robot horse called Clunkalot. Clunkalot is Louis' faithful friend and also doubles up as sleeping quarters.

Clunkie isn't really afraid of anything. He once flew inside an ogre's stomach just to rescue a potted plant. It was a sunflower and he'd grown it from seed himself. He wasn't about to let some big, green oaf eat it.



Clunkie doesn't say much, or even neigh much. But he does compose poetry in his spare time, especially haiku. Here's one of his favourites:

Oh, my sunflower  
Swallowed by a great, green brute.  
That ogre is toast.

Clunkalot was built for Louis by the court wizard, Pearlin.

Young Pearlin isn't a fully qualified wizard yet. And she's not just a wizard. She's also an inventor. A sort of wizentor . . . or invizard.

Anyway, she comes from a big town down south called Larrrrrrndun. She came north to enter Master Mysto's Marvellous Mysterious and Mystical Academy of Magic and Magical Machines (called MMMMMMMM for short). Unfortunately, her scholarship was cancelled at the last minute. Why? Mysto had suddenly turned evil and run off into the woods. As a result, Pearlin is mostly self-taught.

Great. So now we've established some facts we can really get going.

