

The Knight who wouldn't Fight



*Story by
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*Illustrated by
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Leo was a gentle knight
In thought and word and deed.
While other knights liked fighting,
Leo liked to sit and read.



He was kind to every creature;
He wouldn't hurt a fly.



When Mum and Dad said,
"Knights must FIGHT!"

He couldn't quite see why.



One morning, Leo's parents said
They'd like to have a chat.
There was nothing wrong with reading,
But he couldn't *just* do that!

They'd seen a lovely advert
In their favourite magazine.
A dragon needed taming!
Leo wasn't very keen.

"Nonsense! You'll enjoy it;
It'll stop you getting bored.
In case the dragon's scary, here's
A brand-new shield and sword."



Leo packed some sandwiches
(And lots of books, of course.)



Then, with a sigh, he saddled up
Old Ned, his faithful horse.



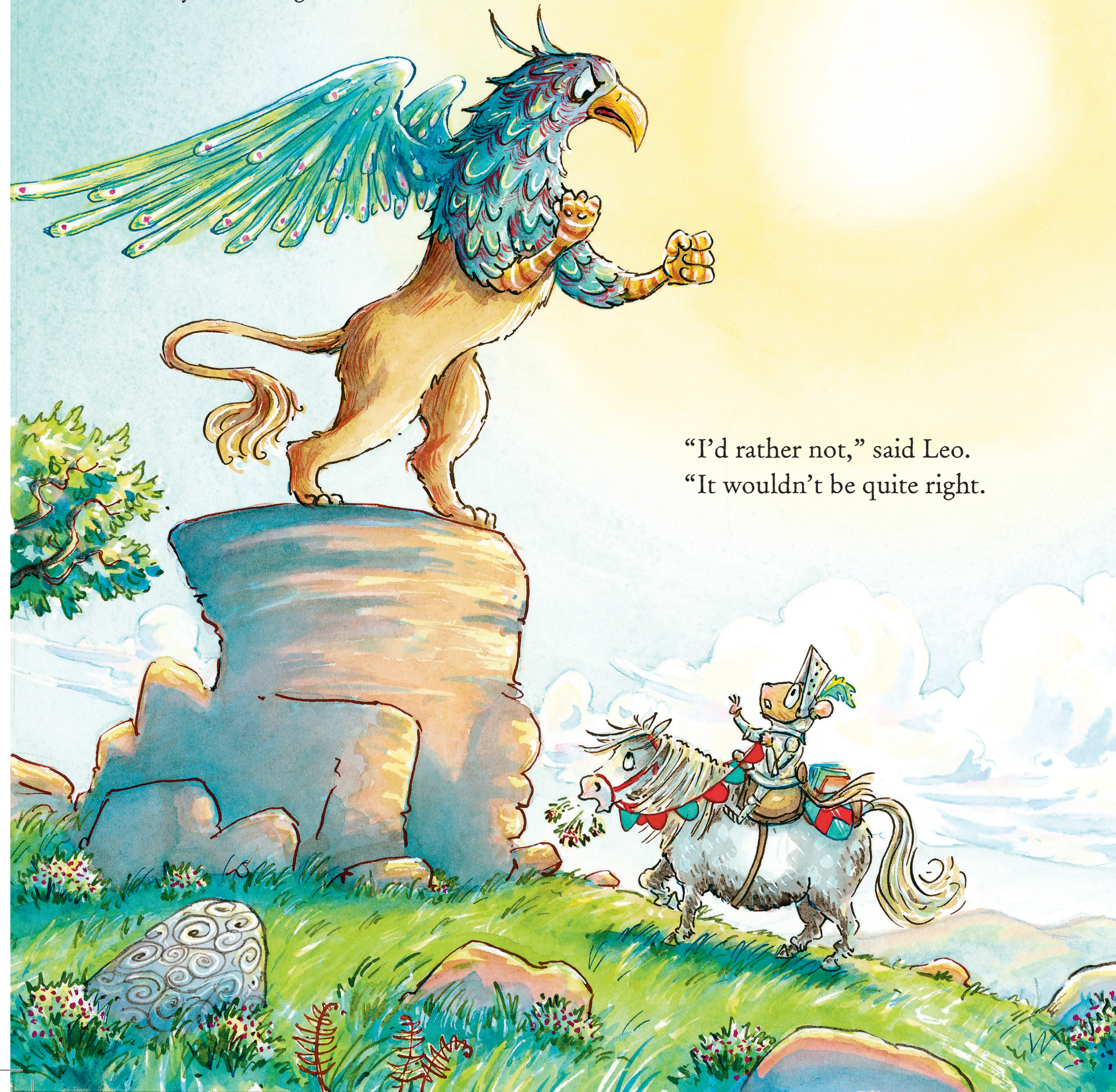
He hadn't travelled far, although
The sun had risen high,
When, suddenly, a fearsome creature
Swooped down from the sky.

It had a lion's body,
But it had an eagle's wings.



"A griffin!" marvelled Leo,
Who had read about such things.

“Come on, then,” snarled the griffin,
“I dare you to a fight!”



“I’d rather not,” said Leo.
“It wouldn’t be quite right.”

“I’ve got my brand-new
sword with me,
So I’d be bound to win it.”



“But how about a story
With some pictures
of *you* in it?”



For Helen's dad, Gareth (another gentle knight), and for our very own Leo.
Also for Wilf, Felix, Laurie, Jake, Max and Edward.



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