

THE ADVENTURES OF **Presley** and the Mighty, Noble Knights



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"The Adventures of Presley in The Mighty, Noble Knights"
created and written by Lisa G. Shore.
Illustrated by Eryn Williams

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Dedicated to our families, who help us see the magic every
single day.
-Lisa and Eryn

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Presley was so excited! Her family was going to spend the day in the country at her Aunt and Uncle's ranch. She had been there many times and one of her favorite things was to play in the woods behind the house. Her Aunt called it "Castle Forest" .



"The pond near the house is enchanted." Presley said seriously to her cousin, Alexander. They had piled into the back of the van, the rest of the family taking the front seats. Alexander looked up briefly from his game, thumbs a blur, and smiled.

Presley loved to dream up elaborate adventures. Alexander, being a couple of years younger than she was, was happy to get swept up into whatever she would come up with next.

"Oh yeah, ok." Alexander said absently. He was concentrating on his new game and he was winning.

"No, really!" Presley said, her eyes wide with determination. "Magic happens there all the time. REAL magic."

"Really? Oh yeah, ok." Alexander knew that Presley had an active imagination so he decided to play along, whatever she said.

"Seriously, Alexander. You may not remember when we were there last time because you were too little. I found magical beings at the pond. In fact, I think the whole forest is enchanted so we had better prepare ourselves."

Alexander smiled. "Here we go," he thought, and put down his tablet.





"We have to be mighty, noble knights in order to deal with the wood's enchantment." Presley said decisively.

"Hold on," Alexander butted in, "Only boys can be knights."



Presley looked down her nose and studied her cousin. She shook her head as if he was the craziest person she had ever seen.



Eyes wide, chin juttied, nose high, shoulders back, "I am noble. I am mighty. I can be a knight if I want to be!" Presley declared to the roof of the van (and to whomever else was within earshot).

"Oh yeah, ok."

Presley looked over at her cousin. He was always fun to play with but he needed a little coaxing in the imagination department.

It was going to be fun playing knights in the forest, but she didn't need a lot of imagination this time. This time the magic was real and she was going to make him a believer.



Pretty soon they had all arrived and were pulling up to the ranch with its big, old red barn, rolling hills in the distance and the enchanted forest waiting just beyond the house.

Presley stepped down from the van as if she was stepping out of a horse-drawn, 18th century coach. Feet firmly on the ground, she felt the tendrils magic reaching out from the forest, twirling around her and drawing her towards the path at the entrance.

"C'mon Alexander! We have to get our shields and swords!" Presley bounded into the house, leaving Alexander and the adults following in the swirls of her dust.



After the family had all said hello, hugged and started the visit, Presley asked if she and Alexander could play in the forest. They were all going to be there for dinner so she knew there was plenty of time to play.

"Sure," her mom said, "be home before dark and stay within ear shot."

"Awesome! Thanks!" Presley had the green light!

The first thing to do was find suitable armor. Presley and Alexander looked all over the house. Hmmm, not much to work with in the way of hammered metal breastplates and helmets. Then something caught her attention.

Perfect!

She found pillows on the patio that had a pattern with chains that looked like something like a thingy from a castle. Whatever. She unzipped the cushions and pinned the covers on the front of their shirts. Then they snuck into the kitchen and found large pots.

Outfitted at last, they ran into the yard in search of swords. A stick here, a branch there; they hunted for just the right ones.



Finally, with trustworthy swords of valor by their sides, the noble, mighty knights made their way into the charmed emerald canopy of Castle Forest.

Crunch, crunch went their feet.



"Hoo hoot", called an owl up high above them. Eerie in the daylight, it sounded like a spell cast down from an enchantress. Wide-eyed, they both gulped as they looked at each other. The magic had begun.

Presley took Alexander's hand as they circled around giant trees. Looking up as far as their necks could bend, they could barely see the tops and the blue sky beyond.

"To be a mighty knight, one has to look danger in the face and remain strong." Presley said to her little cousin. She was a bit spooked by the owl but she knew Alexander was downright scared. "One must stay true to—"



All of a sudden, they heard voices coming toward them through the trees.

"Get down! Follow me!" Presley dragged Alexander as they ran for cover and dove into the moss behind a large fallen tree.



Mumble, mumble.

The voices grew nearer.

Stomp, stomp.

Presley stole a peek over the edge of the tree.

TROLLS!! DRAGONS!!



Poor little Alexander cringed as the creatures made their way directly towards them. Presley covered her head with her arms as the dragons caught her scent and sniffed in their direction.

Closer. Closer.

The dragons leaned over the tree and, once they discovered the two concealed knights, they had them trapped. The noses of the dragons were wet and cold. Their whiskers tickled Presley and Alexander. It was all they could do to stay quiet and still. They were so scared and excited they almost wet their pants!

"Rufus! Rusty!" The trolls called out to the dragons and instantly, they diverted their steamy, sniffy attention from the hidden knights and flew away toward the edge of the forest.

Presley and Alexander's hearts pounded in their chests. They stayed so still as their breathing calmed they heard a horse from the stable whinny in the distance.

"Quick Alexander! Hop on the back of my horse and let's ride to the distant realms of Castle Forest!" Presley threw her leg over the tree and hopped up, straddling it like a horse. Alexander did the same and soon they were fleeing the sight of the attack of the dragons.





Their gallant steed was actually a unicorn and it lifted them into the air with a thrust of its powerful wings. Presley pointed out the tops of toadstools as if they were rooftops of a town far below.

Through the enchanted forest they flew with the wind whipping their hair. They whooped and waved their swords as they vowed to protect anyone and anything against the seething dragons and deadly trolls.

Gently, they glided to the forest floor and the unicorn came to rest right beside where the dragons nearly ate them. Presley and Alexander hopped off the tree and waved goodbye as the beautiful unicorn lifted off, drawn towards another child's imagination.

"Come, Alexander. Now it is time to see real magic." Presley's voice was tender and full of awe.

Slowly and soundlessly, they crept toward the pond. There was a strainer left on a rock. Presley knew it would be there as she had done this many times before. She picked it up and reached it into the water.

Gently, she drew the strainer through the murky depths and Alexander watched as Presley lifted it out with two tiny, wriggling beings in it.

She tipped the strainer and rolled them into her hand. "One for you and one for me," she said as she shared one into Alexander's little waiting palm.

Alexander looked into his hand. He had never seen one of these things before.

It was cute with a round face, had tiny arms and legs and a big tail. It splashed and wiggled in his wet, cupped hand.

"This is a magical tadpole." Presley began. "It is a baby frog that starts out living under water like a fish. Then it magically transforms into a frog that can live on land."



"Really? Or are you just making it up?" Alexander was used to her wild explanations. "What happens to its tail?" He asked, hoping to stump her.

"That's the magic part. It disappears!" Her eyes were wide and steady. "The tadpole morphs into a frog."

Alexander looked at Presley seriously with his mouth slightly open. He was ready to challenge her but the look on her face told him she was telling the truth. "Wow." It was all he could say.

"Now we have to return them to their home or they will die." Presley gently let the little tadpole go in the water and it swam happily away, waving its huge tail. Alexander did the same.

"As noble knights, we do no harm to innocents." Alexander was impressed.

"Ok, now it is time to make shelter in the woods. Mighty knights can live in the woods for as long as they want."



Presley found a warm, mossy patch beside the edge of a giant tree. They rounded up several branches and placed them against the tree to make a little den.

Snuggled under the slanted roof, Presley and Alexander really felt they could live out there forever. They lay on their backs and looked up through the branches at the sky. Presley loved playing in the woods.

The distant chirping of birds, the rustle of the wind in the treetops and the warm sun on their faces soon lulled them both to sleep.

“Presley!”
“Alexander!”

As they crept out from under the roof of their shelter, they could see that it was dusk already. The lights were on in the house at the edge of the forest. Presley and Alexander crawled out from under the branches and saw a sight that was truly magical.

Presley awoke to her mom’s voice calling from the house. She stirred and sat up, gently nudging Alexander as she called back that they were on their way.





"Now, let it go. As noble knights, we do no harm." Presley reverently repeated. Alexander opened his hand and watched as the twinkling beetle silently lifted off his palm and drifted into the night.

Fireflies blinked like hundreds of floating green jewels, hovering and disappearing and then glowing slowly to brightness again.

Alexander had never seen them before and giggled as Presley caught one and placed it in his hand. He studied it as it sat on his palm unafraid and glowed to light his fingers with a green shimmer.



Silently, the fireflies led the children out of the woods and to the door of their Aunt and Uncle's nearby house.





Presley and Alexander had secretive smiles on their faces. What an adventure! For Presley, it was the usual... trolls, dragons and unicorns...

Alexander was blown away. Presley had been powerful in the face of danger and had shown mercy to the weak. She was always

resourceful in what she did. She was definitely a Mighty, Noble Knight.

They were unusually quiet as they sat down to dinner. Presley's mom asked, "So, what did you two find in the forest?" Alexander was the first to answer:

Magic.

About the Author:



Studies in Advertising Art at Red River College led Lisa into the fields of television and design. The creative challenges of copywriting took a personal turn and she began to write for her young children.

Inspired by the forest around her family island home, nature set the scene for the magic that came to life on the page. Now, years later, Lisa publishes her books to share with her grandchildren.

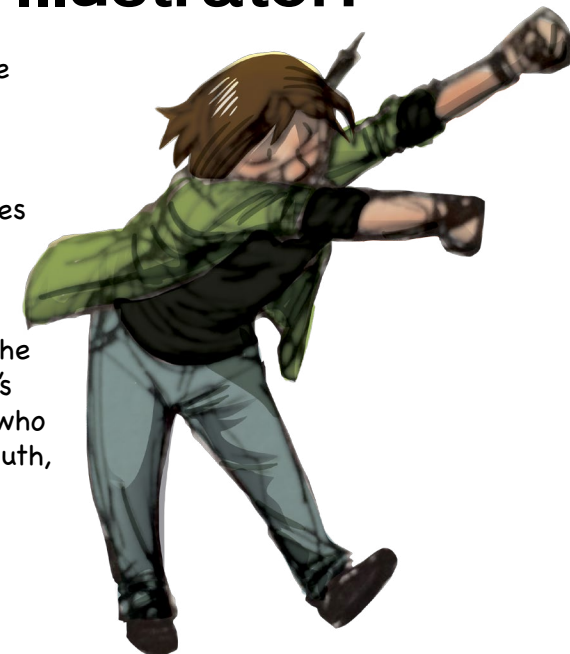
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About the Illustrator:

A graduate of Humboldt State University with a degree in Art Studio. Spends most of her time applying her skills to the utterly silly and only slightly insane stories and ideas in her brain.

In her second go at illustrating for kids, she hopes any young people who read this will enjoy the pretty pictures. She also hopes it's not cheesy to encourage anyone who can hold a pencil (hands, toes, mouth, anything) to keep drawing!

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Presley is back!

And this time she's not alone. Joined by her cousin Alexander, the two brave adventurers take to the woods where they encounter magical dangers and discover what it takes to become a mighty, noble knight.

