

The Dragon's Egg

1. The other day, I was out for a walk on Arthur's Seat, when I saw two magpies squabbling high above me in the sky. Suddenly, one of them dropped a shiny object, which hit the ground and rolled into the gorse. I ran up the hill, and, there, deep in the bushes, was a perfectly formed golden egg.

I lay down on my tummy, and carefully reached into the gorse for the egg. The egg was warm. The egg was heavy. I'd never come across anything quite like it before.

I was straightening up when a fox darted up the hill behind me.

"I must find it!" barked the fox. "I must find it!"

"Are you looking for this?" I asked, showing the fox the golden egg.

"Oh, thank you! Thank you!" barked the fox. "That's wonderful! I thought it might have been lost for ever, and then I'd really have been in the soup."

"Well," I said. "I suppose that would be tomato soup, to go with your bright red fur."

"Don't joke about it!" barked the fox. "It's really not funny!"

"I suppose it isn't," I said, though I did think it was rather funny. "You'd better have it then."

And I held out the egg to the fox.

"Oh no!" barked the fox, backing away from me. "Oh no! I can't take it, can I!"

"Why on earth not?" I said. "Whatever is it?"

"You don't know what this is?" barked the fox. "Surely everyone knows what this is! It's a dragon's egg!"

"A dragons egg?" I said. "It looks a bit small for a dragon's egg, unless it's for a very small dragon"

"Don't be so silly!" barked the fox. "Of course it's a dragon's egg! And if it isn't returned soon, I'll be in right proper trouble!"

"I've no idea what to do with a dragons egg," I said. "You can have it."

"Oh no," barked the fox. "I can't possibly take it. You found it, so you're in charge of it now."

"Why me?" I said. "Come on, just take it."

"Don't be so silly!" barked the fox. "Everyone knows that whoever finds a dragon's egg becomes its keeper."

"Well then," I said, feeling rather clever, "if I give it to you, then you'll be its keeper, won't you!"

"On no!" barked the fox. "Oh no! That will never do at all."

"Come on!" I said. "Here it is."

And I rolled the egg down the hill towards the fox. But the closer the egg got to the fox, the more slowly it rolled, and, just as it was about to touch the fox's paws, it stopped, and began to roll back up the hill towards me.

"See!" barked the fox. "It likes you! That's good luck you know!"

I sighed, and picked up the egg and put it in my pocket.

"All right," I said. "All right. What am I supposed to do with a dragon's egg?"

"Well," barked the fox, "we'd better get it back to the nest before it hatches."

"So where's the nest?" I said, looking round. "I can't see a nest anywhere."

"Don't be so silly!" barked the fox. "It's in the cave, of course."

"But there aren't any caves on Arthurs Seat!" I said.

"Of course there are!" barked the fox. "You just have to know where to find them. This way!"

I took out my mobile phone, and called Nancy, and told her that I might be a bit late for dinner.

And we set off up the hill.