

## Misery Magic

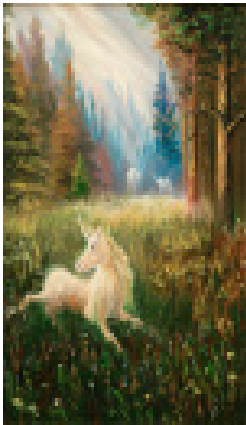
It was a cold morning at Highleap Manor. The wind howled around the grounds, swirling crispy autumn leaves all over the lawn.



Jarvis rubbed his eyes, got out of bed and made a dash towards his nice warm jumper hanging over the chair.

Pulling it quickly over his head and hugging himself until he warmed up, he looked out of the window. The bare spiky trees were covered in a Grey mist. It was definitely a very miserable day. Auntie Liz had invited him over for the night and he was grateful but he wished he had his best friend with him or a dog or both, so they could go out and run through the leaves together.

Suddenly he saw something like a flash of light darting towards the trees.



He screwed his eyes up and looked very closely at the spot in the distance. Gradually his eyes focused on what looked like a white, glowing horse-like creature, with a big horn coming out of the centre of his forehead.

"Oh I know what you are. I've seen you in books. I thought you weren't supposed to be real! You're a Unicorn aren't you?" said Jarvis to himself, absolutely not expecting an answer. But that, is exactly what he got.

"Correct." Said the Unicorn

You understand Jarvis heard this in his head and not with his ears. So naturally, he wondered if the Unicorn was speaking to him through his horn.

"Yup! Right again Jarvis."

Hmm! Now Jarvis was really curious! "How do you know my name?"

"Oh I know everyone's name as soon as I meet them, it's just a knack I've got, nothing special really."

"Wow! You call that nothing special!"

"Yes well, thanks but we're wasting time here, come out and join me Jarvis."

"I can't, Auntie Liz'll be worried and she's not up yet."

"I think you'll find Auntie Liz is has been up for some while. She's in the barn. We're old friends, so if you tell her you're with me it'll be fine."

"Really! Ok hang on I'll get dressed and put my coat on then."

In no time Jarvis was running out of the door and calling out to Auntie Liz on his way past the barn.

"Just over there playing with the Unicorn Auntie Liz, call me if you need me."

"Good idea Jarvis. I know you'll be in good hooves, have a good time now."

Actually, Jarvis couldn't believe his ears. He was delighted of course but can you imagine your mum letting you go out to play with a Unicorn? No, nether could he. He giggled as he galloped down the hill, towards the misty trees.

The strange thing was, the closer he got, the brighter it got, just like a sunny day and not only that, there was music too.

"Hey, Jarvis!" shouted the Unicorn through his horn, "let's dance."

Well Jarvis was pretty puffed when he arrived at the clearing in the trees but watching the Unicorn twist and turn, wiggle and giggle and shake its head made him laugh and gave him lots of energy. So he joined in.



He cartwheeled, waved his hands about, made Unicorn noises, laughed and sang along with the song and twirled around until he got so dizzy, he had to sit down on a tree log.

"Jarvis, this is so cool, what do you think? Shall we ask someone to join us?" said the Unicorn when Jarvis had steadied himself and caught his breath.

"Yes that's a great idea. Do you know anybody?"

"Do I know anybody! I know everybody Jarvis. See this leaf? She's called Verdana, her mum's 182 and a half and she's called Martha. And for your information Jarvis, you're sitting on Cyril."

Jarvis got up immediately and apologised to the log called Cyril, for sitting on him without his permission.

"So who do you want to invite Jarvis?"

"Um," Jarvis looked around for inspiration, "Maybe...that butterfly?"

"Why not? Go and ask her then."

"She looks busy, she might not have the time to talk to me."

"That's true, she could say 'I'm busy', but that's ok, there's plenty of others you could choose."

"Ok I'll ask. Hello Butterfly, would you like to dance with us?"

With no hesitation, the butterfly answered, "I'd love to Jarvis! I've just hatched you see and I can't wait to find out what it's like to fly. It's going to be so great, so much to see and so many new things to do. Come on let's dance Jarvis!"



And so the three of them danced and chased each other round in circles and in figure eights and laughed and had a wonderful time until they had to ask Cyril if they could rest on his back.

"Not bad for a miserable day, eh Jarvis?" said the Unicorn. "All you have to do is listen hard and believe. I call that Misery Magic, don't you?"

