

A KINGDOM IS REBORN.

Once upon a time there was a king. His name was King Ruditrude. King Ruditrude looked as though he was made of gold. This is because he had tripped up and fallen into a golden pond when he was a very small child. The pond had been built by the evil demon, Rattertrap.

His golden appearance helped King Ruditrude to impress the ordinary people, who thought that he must have magical powers. King Ruditrude liked to remind the people of this.

'I have magical powers,' he proclaimed. 'And because I have these powers you must obey me. I promise you that I shall make our kingdom of *Fantasia* great again!'

But the problem was that the King could not stop eating. Every day he ate lots of chocolate, and never did any exercise.

'I don't need to exercise because I am the King,' said King Ruditrude. 'My servants will exercise for me.' But as much as King Ruditrude's servants exercised for him, going jogging each morning, he did not lose any weight. All the servants agreed with the King that this was not fair.

Then, one day, a little girl called Vérité came to live in the kingdom with her parents. That day was a special day of celebration, Fantasia National Day, and all the people lined the streets to watch the King go by. He was so large that the royal tailor had had to make a special costume with a cloak for the King to parade down the street, carried by an elephant.

As the King went down the street everyone cheered. 'When I make *Fantasia* great again, you will all be slim and fit, like me!' he said.

But, Vérité, who was still new to the kingdom, yelled out at the top of her voice, 'But you are not slim and fit. You are ugly and fat'.

A deep silence fell across the crowd, as no one knew what to say. Then a little boy, called Wahrheit, shouted out, 'You're right. That's what I've been saying, but my parents told me to keep quiet'.

Suddenly, all the people, who had been silent for so long, started to talk. They all agreed with Vérité and Wahrheit.

'Out of the mouths of babes!' cried one woman. Because the children had told the truth, all the people felt free to speak again.

Meanwhile, the King was carried back to his palace by his elephant, never to be seen again. People said that he had left to start a new kingdom, far, far away, but no one really knew.

As time went by, Vérité and Wahrheit, became grown-ups. They fell in love and decided to get married. Everyone in the land rejoiced, because truth and honesty had triumphed.

Then everyone decided that the kingdom should change its name from *Fantasia* to *The Kingdom of Truth*.

And everyone lived happily ever after.