

Pepper Nose and the giant flower

By Martin S. Beckley

One day, the wizard in the tree made some growing powder and wanted to try it out. Lemon Head sat asleep by the pond with his new fishing net. The wizard decided to surprise Lemon Head and sprinkle the powder in the pond to make the fish grow bigger. He tiptoed closer and opened the jar of growing powder. He did not see Pepper Nose walking towards him. 'Hello Wizard,' said Pepper Nose. The wizard jumped and spilt the powder over a flower. The ground rumbled and shook. 'Oh dear,' said the wizard. The flower glowed bright green. It began to grow and lifted Lemon Head's fishing net into the air. 'Oh dear, oh dear,' said the wizard. The flower grew and grew and grew, until the top disappeared through the clouds. 'Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear,' said the wizard. He looked in the jar; there was just a little bit of growing powder left at the bottom. He put the lid on so as not to spill any more. Lemon Head

woke up and asked, 'Where's my fishing net?' 'Up there,' Pepper Nose replied. 'I want my fishing net!' cried Lemon Head.

Pepper Nose looked up at the giant flower. 'Come on, let's climb up and get it.' So all three began to climb. Up and up they climbed. Through the clouds they climbed, until they stood on top of the flower. It was as big as a field. They were so high that the far edge of the flower rested on the moon. Lemon Head saw his fishing net in the middle of the flower and ran off to get it. As he ran, he kicked up a cloud of pollen that drifted towards Pepper Nose.

The wizard looked at Pepper Nose and saw his nose twitching. 'Oh dear,' said the wizard and ducked down. Pepper Nose sneezed so hard that the moon blew far away. 'Oh dear, oh dear,' said the wizard. 'Can you magic the moon back?' asked Pepper Nose. 'I can't,' said the wizard. Just

then Lemon Head returned with his fishing net. Pepper Nose smiled. 'I've got an idea,' he said. He sprinkled the last of the growing powder onto the fishing net and waited. It shook in his hands and then began to grow. It grew and grew until he could catch the moon in the net. They all worked hard and pulled the moon back to where it should be. Suddenly the flower shook beneath their feet and disappeared as it shrank back to normal size. The three friends were still up in the air, holding onto the fishing net that hung on the moon. 'Follow me!' shouted Pepper Nose and slid down the fishing net's pole like a fireman. Before they could reach the bottom, the fishing net shrank. Pepper Nose, Lemon Head and the wizard all fell into the pond – PLOP, PLOP, PLOP! 'Oh dear,' said Pepper Nose and Lemon Head. The wizard said nothing at all.

