

Midge

Prince

of



THE
GIANTS

Mark Dorey



Bobcat First Readers Edition

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Mark Dorey

illustrated by Liz Dorey



Bobcat First Readers Edition

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Midge

Prince of the GIANTS

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To Dewi
A True Giant in my life

*A
True Giant
cannot be measured
just by his size*

Ancient Giant Proverb
(mostly forgotten)





Chapter One

TOO SMALL!

When Prince Midge was born, he was a healthy sized baby, weighing in at six stone and three pounds, and a modest three foot and nine and a half inches in length.

Now you might well be thinking:

*“Isn’t that a bit **BIG**
for a baby?”*

MIDGE – PRINCE OF THE GIANTS

And you would be right, it is a bit big for a new born baby, but in Midge's case this was totally normal, because Midge was a baby

GIANT!

His parents, the King and Queen were very proud of their son, and planned great things for him. Midge's full name was a very royal and a very regal **Midgeverland the Magnificent**, but the Queen shortened it to Midge because she thought it suited the young Prince who was **Very Cute**.

Yet, despite being **Very Cute** and appearing to be a normal giant in every respect, young Prince Midge simply

TOO SMALL!

refused to grow at anywhere near what was thought to be the normal giant rate!

At the age of five, Prince Midge was only six foot and five inches tall (which is about the same height as the door to your bedroom).

Meanwhile, the smallest of his school friends were nearly eleven feet tall (which is maybe higher than your bedroom ceiling).

Comparison Height Chart for 5 Year Olds



MIDGE – PRINCE OF THE GIANTS

The royal physician – which is really just a posh word for ‘Doctor’ – was called and after many medical tests, it was decided that the young Prince was just a bit of a **late developer**, which seemed to satisfy the King and Queen, at least for a while.

But by the time Midge was eight, the very un-giant-like Prince had only reached the terribly un-giantly height of seven foot



TOO SMALL!

two and a half inches (which is just over a door height and a bit). Every half an inch was thought to be vitally important for the royal Prince as other giants his age by now were at least fourteen feet tall (which is well over two doors in height).

Things were getting so worrying for the King and Queen that in his official eighth birthday photograph, Prince Midge was made to stand on a large box – nearly as tall as he was, carefully hidden underneath his royal robes in order to make the young Prince appear to be a respectable giant height.



MIDGE – PRINCE OF THE GIANTS

Now, giants are a very large and proud race (otherwise they wouldn't be giants!), and will tolerate most things, but by far the best way to upset a giant is to make fun of their height.

For example, saying something like "Hello Shorty!" would most probably result in a giant-sized fist knocking you into the middle of next week (or even next year)!



TOO SMALL!

So the fact that Prince Midge was so small proved to be a great source of jokes and not very nice gossip throughout the land. A typical joke would go something like this:

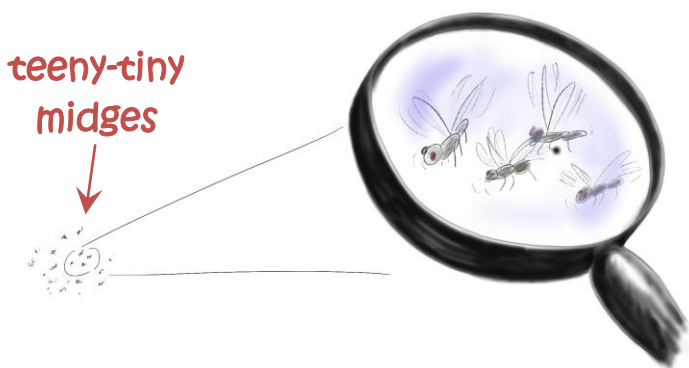
What do you call a Prince
who falls short at every level?

*Midge-Never-Land
The Un-Magnificent!*

Now, this might not seem very funny to us, but it was hilariously funny to those nasty fun-poking giants, especially as giant Royalty were traditionally renowned for having bigger children than all the other giants (which is most probably how they became Rulers in the first place)!

MIDGE – PRINCE OF THE GIANTS

Outside of the Royal Court, it was not just the Queen who called their mini-Prince, 'Midge', other giants called the young Prince 'Midge' too – not because they thought him cute. No far from it, they called him 'Midge' because the silly nasty giants couldn't think of anything smaller in the whole world than teeny-tiny midges!



This meant that most of the time, Midge found himself being kept inside the Royal Palace where no one could see him

TOO SMALL!

or make fun of him, and the young Prince never, *ever* got to travel on any exciting Royal engagements.

So, in order to keep himself occupied, Midge spent most of his time reading lots and lots of books. This is a most unusual behaviour for a giant, because giants, being a very strong and physical race, they much prefer to be exercising their muscles rather than exercising their brains!

The years rolled on and just three months before Midge's eighteenth birthday, emergency (and very secret) measurements were made, and to the King and Queen's dismay, the young heir to the throne was still only a titchy-tiny eleven foot one and a quarter inches tall.



TOO SMALL!

However, no one outside the Royal Palace knew the Prince's exact height because he was never allowed to go out. Royal rumours were sometimes allowed to leak out from the Palace that the young Prince was just over fourteen feet tall (about the height of a small tree), and was at last beginning to show signs of 'sprouting' (if you pardon the pun), but no one outside of the Royal Palace knew if these rumours were true or not.

Other giants of Midge's age were towering to well over thirty foot (a considerably larger tree height), as they neared their full adult giant height of around thirty-five foot. Some taller giants would grow to over forty feet high, especially those of Royal pedigree,

MIDGE – PRINCE OF THE GIANTS

present Royal Princes not included, of course.

Inside the Royal Palace, everyone knew that unless a miracle happened, Midge would not grow much taller. Worse still, as giants prided themselves on their giant size, the King and Queen knew that all the giants in the Land would resent having such a small Prince as heir to the throne. This wasn't helped by the fact that Midge was never seen outside the Royal Palace, and so great unrest grew throughout the Kingdom.

The King and Queen called an emergency (and very secret) meeting with their closest advisors to discuss what was the best course of action to take.

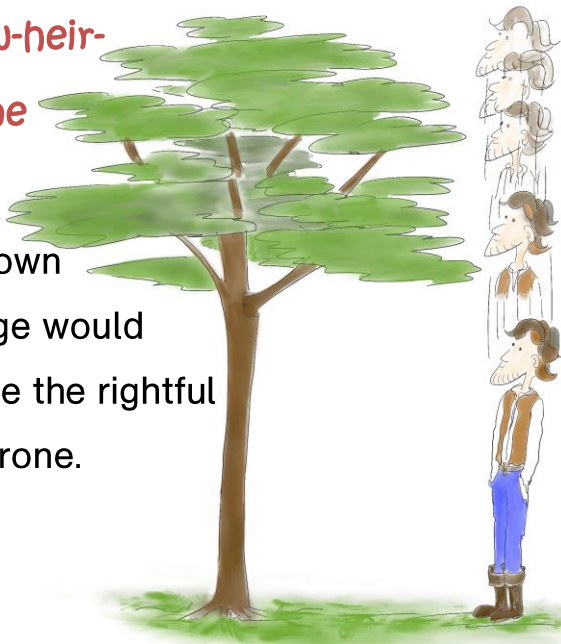
After a lot of thought and discussion, it

TOO SMALL!

was decided that when the young Prince reached the age of eighteen, there would be **A Great Contest** to decide who was to be the new heir to the throne.

Although the King and Queen made it quite clear, that if a **GIANT MIRACLE** happened, and Prince Midge suddenly sprouted to the respectable height of twenty-seven feet (a fairly largish tree size) before he was eighteen, then the idea of **a new-heir-to-the-throne Contest**

would be thrown out, and Midge would once again be the rightful heir to the throne.



Thank you for previewing our book

Midge

Prince

of



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