

CHAPTER II – MAXIM AND THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

In Harlewoods there was a small village near Harlestone Castle called Aya, where a sweet young girl lived, whose name was Maxim.

Maxim was a very happy and joyful girl. She had many friends, but Laio and Florian were her very best friends and they had known each other ever since they were very little babies.

One day, Maxim and her friends decided to go to the Blue Lake in the Province of Blue Valley for fishing and for a swim. It was a beautiful sunny day with no clouds in the sky and they went all the way talking and laughing all the time.

But, all of a sudden, as soon as they reached the shore and were preparing to jump into the water, the sky went pitch black and it looked as if a terrible storm was about to begin. The water in the lake began to form huge waves and suddenly a huge silver fish appeared in front of Maxim!



She was scared to death and started to shiver from fear. Her knees began to shake and she thought she would faint as the fish looked straight at her and started to talk.

- 'Don't be afraid my child, you are a very precious one to the God of Life. He has chosen you for a great purpose.'

Maxim was still very scared as she asked:

- 'But who are you?'

- 'My name is Alistair; I am the guardian angel of Doggerland. And I have a very important message from the God of Life to you. Listen carefully to my words. Behold, a time of great anguish and pain is to befall this kingdom, a time of tribulation as never before! But you have been chosen to bring peace and joy back into this realm and, perhaps, to this and to other kingdoms.'

- 'But I am just a little kid, how could I fulfill such a mission?' – asked Maxim.

- 'Don't worry about that, my child. At the right time the God of Life will lead you and show you what will be the right thing to do. He will bring people in your life to help you on your way. Be brave, he will take care of you always, and ensure that you succeed in His purposes!'

Having said these words, the big silver fish disappeared beneath the water of the lake and the sky turned blue again and the sun began to shine.

However, Maxim found herself lying on the grass while her friends were around trying to revive her. Laio was holding her head over his knees while Florian kept calling:

- 'Wake up, Maxim, come on, wake up, please!'

Maxim opened her eyes shaking her head and asked:

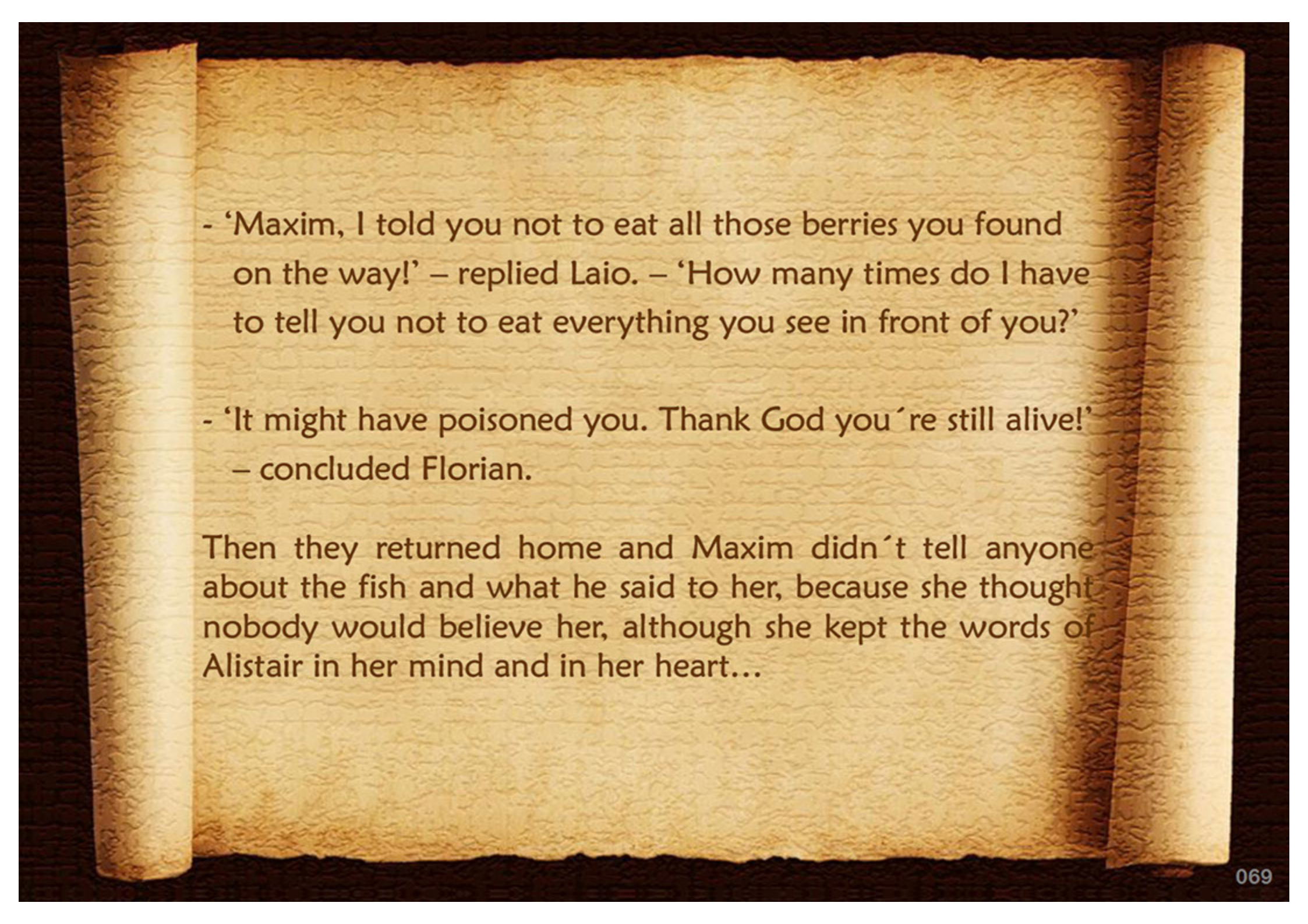
- 'What happened?'

- 'Are you all right?' – asked Laio.

- 'Oh ... did you see the big silver fish?' – replied Maxim.

- 'Big silver what? You fainted!' – said Florian.

- 'No, no... there was a storm, a horrible storm ... and the silver fish, the fish of the legend... I saw him, he appeared to me, right there!'

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- A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and uneven. The background is dark, making the parchment stand out.
- 'Maxim, I told you not to eat all those berries you found on the way!' – replied Laio. – 'How many times do I have to tell you not to eat everything you see in front of you?'
 - 'It might have poisoned you. Thank God you're still alive!' – concluded Florian.

Then they returned home and Maxim didn't tell anyone about the fish and what he said to her, because she thought nobody would believe her, although she kept the words of Alistair in her mind and in her heart...