



## **The cowardly hare and the caterpillar that no one could scare**

This is the story of a hare that was so very cowardly that he never wanted to leave his lair, because he was afraid of what he might find in the world out there.

But the one day that the hare went out to stretch his legs and wiggle his ears, a caterpillar - the caterpillar that no one could scare - passed by the hare's lair and said to himself:

"I wonder what the cowardly hare's lair is like inside."

Crawling steadily along, this caterpillar that no one could scare, slipped into the lair to take a look around.

When the cowardly hare noticed that the grass in front of his lair had been trampled on, he became frightened and shouted into the lair.

"Hey! Who has sneaked into my house?"

And that's how this story begins: "The Cowardly Hare and the Caterpillar That No One Could Scare"

The caterpillar noticed that the hare's voice echoed off the walls of the lair and he thought he could use that to scare the hare. And since this was a caterpillar that no one could scare, he called out as loudly as he could:

"I'm the warrior monster, son of the strongest giant in the world. I can blow the rhinoceros over in one breath and bring the elephant to his knees with one simple sneeze. I'm invincible. Ha, ha, ha!"

Just as the caterpillar predicted, his voice echoed throughout the lair and was so loud and deep that it frightened the hare terribly and he rushed off to look for help.

"How can little old me confront such a powerful monster?"

Soon he ran into the lion and explained his problem to him.

"Mr. Lion, my strong and brave friend, a monster has sneaked into my lair. Could you help me get him out?"

And the lion, who was full of himself and loved to hear people tell him how brave he was, said:

"Of course I can, not to worry. The minute he gets a whiff of me that two-bit monster will be out of there in no time."

They headed off to the hare's lair and the lion let out a big, deep growl. There was not a sound from the lair. Could it be true that the monster had smelled the lion coming and run away? As the lion was licking his chops in satisfaction over his latest victory, a thunderous voice came from inside the lair.

"How nice of you to bring me a lion as a snack! I'm the warrior monster, son of the

largest giant in the world, and I can gobble up a lion in nothing flat. Ha, ha, ha, ha!"

When he heard that, the lion's mouth dropped open, his legs began to tremble, his tail dropped between his legs and his teeth chattered like castanets.

"I'm sorry, Hare, but I can't confront such a powerful monster."

And off he ran like the wind. The hare, now even more terrified having seen that the lion didn't have the nerve to face up to the monster, went looking for help again, and came across the rhinoceros.

"Mr. Rhinoceros, I need your help. There's a monster in my lair and I don't know how to get him out."

The rhinoceros, who was used to everyone stepping aside to make way for him the minute they heard him coming, didn't hesitate for a moment, and accompanied the hare back to his lair. The entire forest shook with every step the rhinoceros took, but when they reached the lair, everything was quiet. Could the monster have run away?

"Who has sneaked into this lair where my friend, the hare, lives!" demanded the rhinoceros.

But the caterpillar had found a spot in the lair where the echo was even louder, so out of there blared a voice like thunder.

"I'm the warrior monster, son of the strongest giant in the world. I can blow the rhinoceros over in one breath and bring the elephant to his knees with one simple sneeze. I'm invincible. Ha, ha, ha!"

The rhinoceros was terrified.

"I'm really sorry, my friend, but if this monster can blow over someone as big and heavy as me in one breath, who is going to help me back on my feet afterwards?"

The hare didn't know what to do. Now his only choice was to ask the elephant for help. He was the biggest and strongest animal in the forest, and the only one who could confront that monster who made everyone tremble with that powerful voice of his. But the elephant had heard the news that everyone in the forest was talking about, that a monster had cowed the lion and the rhinoceros, and the minute he saw the hare approaching him to ask for help he started shaking all over and ran away before the hare could even utter a word.

The sad and teary hare was facing the fact that he would have to look for a new lair, because no one could manage to get rid of that monster. And then the frog appeared and said to him:

"What's wrong, Hare?"

"There's a monster hiding in my lair and not even the strongest and bravest animals in the forest dare to confront him."

The frog approached the entrance to the lair and he heard the same thunderous voice that the other animals had:

"I'm the warrior monster, son of the strongest giant in the world. I can blow the rhinoceros over in one breath and bring the elephant to his knees with one simple sneeze. I'm invincible. Ha, ha, ha!"

But instead of running away, the frog went just a little closer to the entrance to the lair and shouted:

"Well, watch out because I'm a monstrous monster. I can catapult myself into the air, jumping up to ten times my own height, plus I'm slimy and I catch my prey with my long, strong tongue."

And just to add the finishing touch he started croaking loudly: "Ribbit! Ribbit!"

When he heard that, the caterpillar got really, really scared and started shaking like a leaf.

"What if that monster at the entrance to the lair jumps the way he said he can and crushes me, or scoops me up with his big, long tongue and swallows me?"

And that's how the caterpillar that no one could scare, suddenly turned into a cowardly caterpillar. He got so scared that he gave in and, peeking his head out of the lair, said:

"No, please, don't hurt me, I'm just a little cowardly caterpillar."

And as the hare and frog were jumping for joy, all of the animals that had been scared away by that little nothing of a caterpillar, were still fleeing from the imaginary monster. Oh, the things that a little cowardly caterpillar can do!

*Script: Jaume Esquiús*

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