

HELFRATE 1: (INTERVIEW 02)

SFX: MUSIC

NARRATOR: You're listening to Story Trails: the interviews - a micro-series preceding the complete series launch, by Beccy Stirrup.

SFX: MUSIC - FADES

SFX: CAFE (HATTER'S)

HELFRATE: My name's Helfrate and I'm a battle-elf... What does that mean? Oh, I try to keep the peace that's all... you know how it is in an enchanted realm my lovely... all kinds of tricks from those **goblins**... still, keeps me busy... Hatter! More Early Grey!

SFX: CAFE

HELFRATE: Where were we? Oh, that's right, you were asking me about the request to open the way between the human and enchanted realm. Well of course I know about it, I am on the council you know... Oh, where are my manners, would you like some cake? Hatter! More cake and a scone for me - jam first! Let's not have a repeat of the last time!

SFX: CAFE

HELFRATE: What was that? Will we be granting the request? Oh my dear I couldn't possibly comment. Though it does have some merit. Our world isn't exactly booming, a bit of

commerce from human tours might be just the ticket... But then again, humans are quite fragile and what if a giant treads on one? The Guide will have to think carefully about the fine-print... We'll just have to see. I'm quite sure that anyone trying to sway my vote couldn't do so by purchasing me a scone... No... Quite sure!

SFX: FADE OUT

NARRATOR:

You've been listening to Story Trails: the interviews - a micro-series preceding the full-series-launch of Story Trails: the ultimate package holiday - a podcast for grown-ups and children to enjoy together. This micro-series has been developed specifically to provide families with something fun to do during these tricky times. Each episode: introduces a character from the enchanted realm, gives you a creative mission that, should you choose to accept, may result in your wonderful creations being displayed on the story trails website, and includes a chapter from the latest draft of my book: The Not-Bird. Keep listening for this week's creative mission and the chapter from The Not Bird.

SFX: SOUND

NARRATOR:

This week's creative mission is to design a cake for Hatter's tea shop. Email your designs to: info@storytrails.co.uk and visit www.storytrails.co.uk in to see if your cake gets added to the menu! Keep listening for this week's chapter from The Not Bird.

SFX: SOUND

NARRATOR:

The Not Bird is intended for children from the ages of 8-10, but some younger and some older children may enjoy it. The story includes themes of family, separation, friendship and identity. Towards the end of the book, it also includes some violence and death. It is a journey of discovery and found-family. These chapters are taken from the latest draft of the novel (which has now been edited around 8 times). This draft will be edited again, involving some structural changes, suggested by the latest reviewer. I believe that the book is a good read as it stands, or I would not be sharing it here, but I also agree that the suggested changes will make it better - so I will be making them, and the published book will likely be a bit different to the one you hear here. I am reading this version to provide another source of entertainment and engagement during this time, and to engage any creative folk listening with the idea of editing. First drafts are rarely the final draft. Keep on working on your own creative endeavours and you will grow with the making.

SFX: SOUND

CHAPTER READING

SFX: SOUND

NARRATOR:

I hope you've enjoyed this episode of Story Trails: the interviews. A micro-series preceding the upcoming series: Story Trails: the ultimate package holiday. This episode was created and acted by Beccy Stirrup, the wonderful music was provided by the talented King Rich. For a full list of sound effects and credits, please see the show notes. And thanks for coming on this journey with me, remember that words are magic, that's why putting letters in order, is called spelling.