

GUIDE 1: (INTERVIEW 10)

SFX: MUSIC

NARRATOR: You're listening to Story Trails: the interviews - a micro-series preceding the complete series launch, by Beccy Stirrup. I'd like to dedicate this week's episode to my daughter, Jessica, who turned five just last week. She is a constant source of delight and wonder, thanks Jessica for being the wonderful bean that you are.

SFX: MUSIC - FADES

SFX: CAFE

VAL: My name is Val, Val Key, and I'm the Guide. Trouble is, everyone's been living here for so long no one really needs a guide anymore. That's why I've petitioned the council to open the way to the human realm. We could all use a boost.

HATTER: Early grey?

VAL: That's me - thanks Hatter.

SFX: TEA CUPS TINKLING

VAL: (Drinking tea) That's lovely. Would you like some of my cake? No? (Eating) Too bad - it really is scrumptious! Anyway... Just look around the enchanted realm. The trolls are on strike, the pixies are definitely plotting something, and the dragon dung! So much dragon dung everywhere. Ever since the fairies left... And where did

they go? No one knows! And then there's all those other creatures.... Ooh... The thingummies and what-do-you-call-its... Its like they're here one day and then POOF - gone. And no one can even remember their name!

SFX: POURING MORE TEA

VAL: No.... If you ask me inviting humans on organised, carefully regulated tours will inject some much-needed commerce into the area. Give everyone a lift, you know? (Whispering) And here's the clincher, if it looks like the council might vote no, I'll remind them that humans are absolutely dripping in new stories. Everyone remembers Alice and all her rhymes! Imagine all the new stories since then. All the poems, the rhymes, the songs... All of that lovely narrative! You know what that could mean for us all... And cash of course. Cold hard cash.

SFX: SIPPING TEA

VAL: It's a win, win.

(BEAT)

VAL: How was that? Didn't come across as desperate did I? Would you like a nice cuppa? You really are a champ running around, conducting all these interviews...

SFX: CAFE 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: The creatures in the enchanted realm will deal in cash, but they also deal in stories. This week's creative mission is to let me know what your favourite stories are. They can be from games, or films, or tv or books... But they might be fun things you remember doing, or a story you've made up. Remember to email or tweet them to me on: info@storytrails.co.uk or tweet to [@StoryTrailsUK](https://twitter.com/StoryTrailsUK) - remember to keep checking the website to see your work displayed at www.storytrails.co.uk. And 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 and the published book

will likely be a bit different to the one you hear here. I hope you enjoy the following chapter.

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.