

Illustrated by Katy Riddell INNER COVER



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Dedicated to XXXXXXXX









There once was a Land that nobody believed existed.

And every day people passed by it or around it or over it or through it, but never once saw it or felt it or heard it or knew any person or thing in it.















The Land was not a land as you or I might think of it. It was not a place with borders and landscapes and laws and customs.

This Land was almost anything and everything you could imagine, whether likely or outlandish. It was every one of the myths and legends and stories you have ever heard or told yourself. It was all of the dreams you've not yet had as well as those which have woken you up laughing or weeping in the middle of the night. It was every person, animal, mythical creature, god and ghost, on every journey, adventure or quest there could be.

Everything in this Land crackled with a thrilling sense of being outside of the ordinary – EXTRAordinary. But because of this it was unstable and unpredictable and mercurial and tricky. Some would say it was dangerous.

So it was packed away, shut inside some carefully labelled packing crates and hidden, deep underground, far beneath the city of Kingston–upon-Hull.

Was it tucked up to keep it safe, or locked up to keep us safe?

Whichever the answer, a force like that will not be held fast for long and so came the day that the Land revealed itself. Not all of itself because that would surely have been too much excitement for ordinary people to take in one dose and would likely have resulted in frenzy and panic on the streets of Hull!





Instead it revealed itself slowly in a series of ACTS OF WANTON WONDER, across the city and throughout the year of 2017.

Perhaps you saw one of these ACTS? Perhaps you witnessed them all? Perhaps you learned to recognise the signs which showed that another ACT OF WANTON WONDER was about to begin.

In this book, we'll tell of six ACTS which seeped into the cracks of everyday life to astonish, delight and thrill, and to leave a lasting change on everyone who came into contact with one. Every ACT began with the contents of one of the packing crates, but every time what emerged from those crates and then came to pass was wildly different. It was as if each ACT was a "land" in itself, and each revealed something of the place where they happened.

What stories shall we tell of this Land and of these Acts of Wanton Wonder? Not all of the detail of what came to pass because how could we succeed in describing the sights and the sounds when magic is afoot? Let's talk, instead, of people – ordinary, everyday, decidedly unmagical people – who found their lives altered by the appearance of this Land in one of its many, varied guises.

One last thing, before we begin. The name of this Land?

The Land of Green Ginger.















ACT I 7 ALLEYS







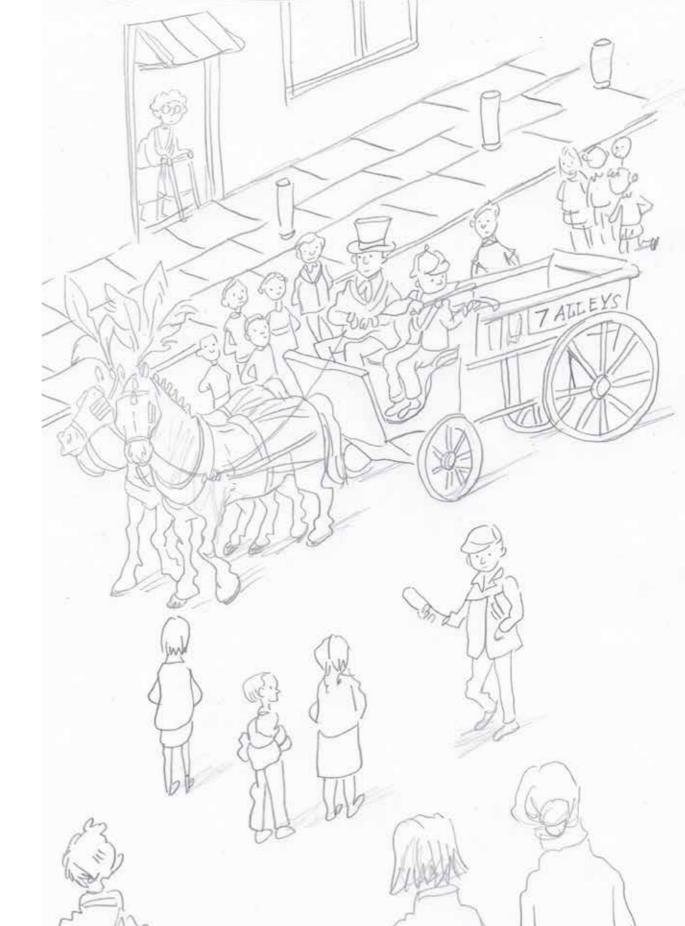




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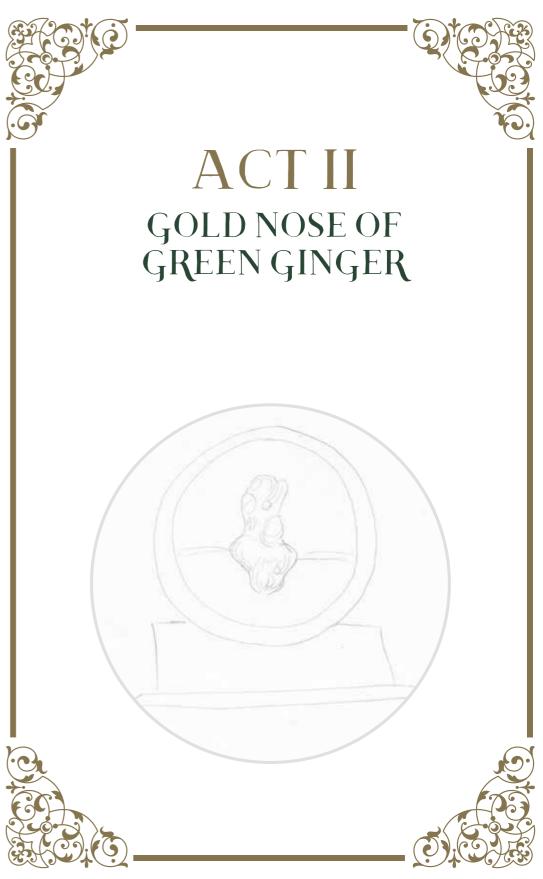
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A Gold Nose. A Gold Nose? What does that mean? Chelsea stood wondering, idly. Her wares seemed to taunt her, her doorway stood empty,

Yet over the road were people aplenty.

A week ago had been a quite different matter, The hubble and bubble of gentle chit-chatter – She'd welcomed her regulars into her shop, From morning to evening, her feet wouldn't stop.

Then suddenly – nothing. The shop door stopped swinging.

Worse still, her till had completely stopped ringing. And everywhere round her shone trays of gold treasure, Waiting for people to buy at their leisure.

It started one Saturday, out in the centre, Some kind of procession was starting to enter. She stuck out her head to see trumpets and pleats, A riot of colour disrupting the streets.

They marched past outside with solemn expressions, People from all walks of life and professions, A woman held something aloft. Shoppers lingered. A whisper began; 'The Gold Nose of Green Ginger?'

No-one quite knew what this thing was about; Some talked of a treasure, others of doubt. One thing Chelsea knew was she hadn't a clue What these weird people were, or what they would do.











As days turned to weeks her shop dwindled in trade; The Gold Nose of Green Ginger had interest swayed. She freely admitted she was starting to hate, This odd-shaped gold thing found inside an old crate.

And yet, though she didn't know quite how to say it, This Gold Nose was starting to pique her vague interest. It seemed to her that there was more than she reckoned, And things were getting more strange by the second.

The girls who would always fawn over her gold, Were over *there* now, obsessed with this nose.

Not a glance at her shop – Chelsea's mind boggled - They were serving up tea and playing with toddlers.

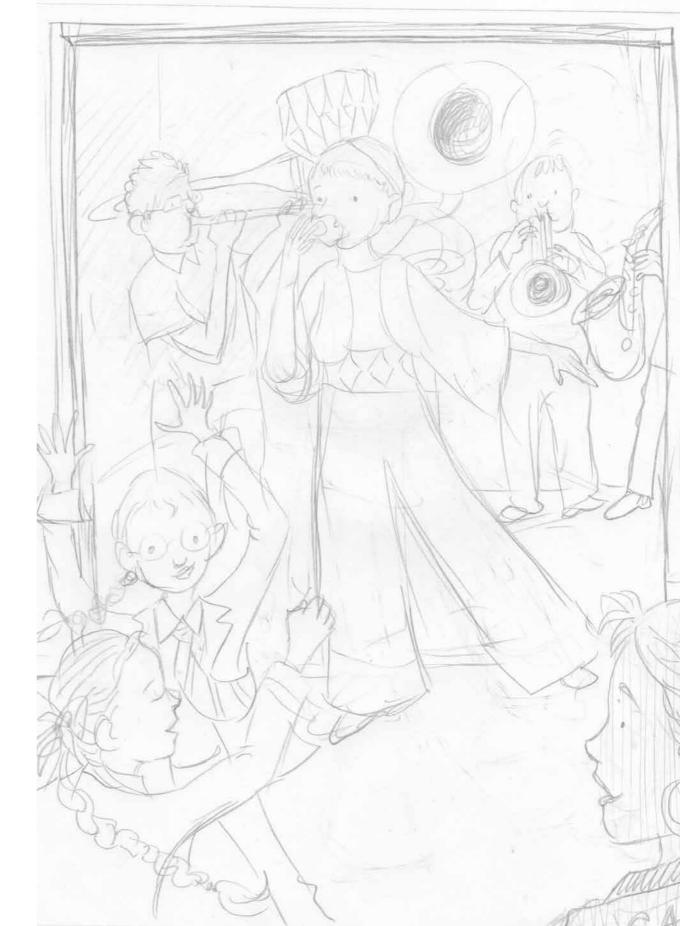
They hung off The Guardian, talked to The Nose Jammed flutes up their nostrils, wore colourful clothes. They whispered of wishes made true by nose magic (which Chelsea discarded as rather dramatic).

One girl, who no one had ever heard speak, Was first to arrive and the last one to leave. She helped the small children make noses to wear, And tidied the shop after craft sessions there.

Yes; something unusual had definitely occurred, But no one else Chelsea met seemed to concur. They were drawn to the Nose Shop like moths to a flame, Coming back over and over again.











It got to week four and the stories got dafter, She tried not to meet them with cynical laughter. But really, she asked, is there no one I know, That hasn't had wishes made true by a Nose?

So far – and this is just all on one day – She heard of arthritis just going away. A new job, a pools win, an MOT pass, A long-lost twin sister appearing at last.

"It honestly wouldn't surprise me one day
To hear a world leader pop up just to say;
'We're announcing world peace, that we've hoped for so long,
Because of a wish on a nose in Bransholme.'"

And yet, though she scoffed, at the back of her mind Was a creeping suspicion she tried hard to hide. It started to edge out as every day passed; And Chelsea had even more questions to ask.

There is more to this life than we oft dare to dream, But what was the Gold Nose, and what did it mean? You couldn't deny it brought laughter and fun, As she watched people dancing and playing their drums.

As the noise grew, it was like Chelsea shrank; Could it be it was nothing more than a cruel prank? She knew it was nonsense but maybe, just maybe, Could this silly talisman grant her a baby?











Another day passed with no sale still in sight
And Chelsea was locking the shop up at night
When curious thoughts stole into her mind
And impetuously told her to see what she'd find.
She pulled down the shutters, stole straight to The Nose,
Creeping and balancing on her tip-toes.
Her heartbeat drummed louder than anything there,
But Chelsea was far too excited to care.

It wasn't quite what she expected, close up; Not quite like a nose, but more like a ... cup? Was this really the thing people revered so much? She couldn't see anything magic, as such.

Then suddenly, out of the silence, it came. She listened more closely and heard it again; The unmistakable sound of soft breathing; Louder and faster, her heart started beating.

How long did she stay there? She just couldn't say. But Chelsea would always remember that day. For standing there, on her own, with The Gold Nose, The hope in her belly ignited and rose.

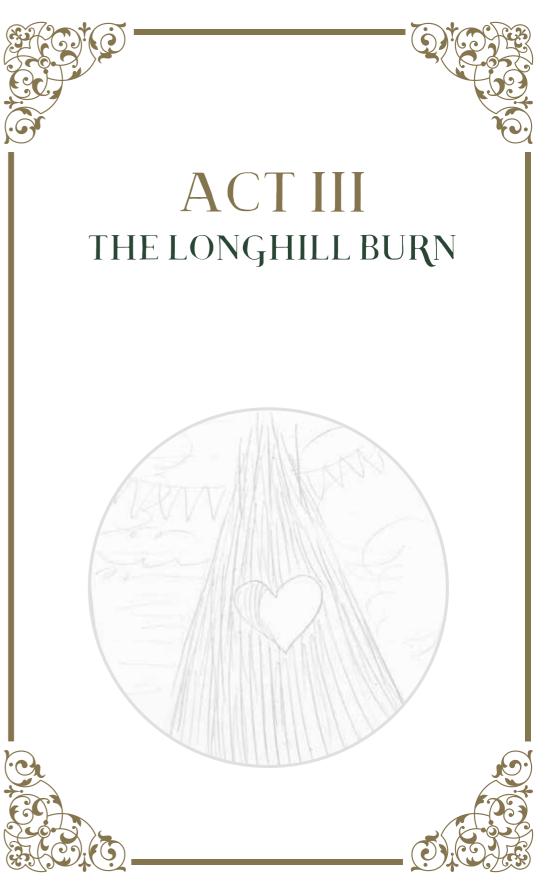
She put pencil to paper and took a deep breath, Her hand scribbling furiously over the desk. Then posting it paused, her hope now increased; Would The Nose hear her pleas and her deep wish unleash...?















Jimmy Johnson feels adrift
Although he can't quite pinpoint it.
On the surface, all is good,
Kicking 'round the neighbourhood.
Sundays, Wednesdays, Five a Side,
Teaching kids how not to dive,
Running round the playing fields
Wind-burnt cheeks, knees scuffed and peeled.
He picks up odd jobs now and then,
Helping on the allotments.
(Margaret says he's a godsend,
while her back is on the mend).

Life ticks on and though it's busy,
Jimmy knows that something's missing.
He often dreams of childhood days,
The endless, stress-free summer haze
Of running wild and climbing trees,
Building dens and grass-stained knees.
But then, he always had some pals,
To knock about with on weekends,
And since Year Ten it's always been
Just him and Laura, love-lorn teens.

He always wanted her to do As much as possible, it's true; But right now, university Seems very, very far away.











Shouting, whooping, panting, jumping,
Rounders has their small hearts pumping,
Bats and balls strewn all around,
An evening filled with happy sound.
Jimmy watches, hand on chin,
Recalling happy times again,
When suddenly, to their surprise,
Rain starts falling from the skies.
First a spitting, then a pour,
People run for their front doors,
And as they do, then Jimmy spies
A copper tea urn, burning bright.

'Have you heard?', a voice chirps up, behind a steaming tea-filled mug.
'There's going to be huge bonfire, a flaming, crackling Longhill pyre.
They've asked if we'll write down our hopes, And put them in those envelopes.
Then they'll burn them well and good,
To send the hopes out in the world.'
Jimmy pauses, thinks it through;
It seems an odd concept, it's true;
But they had that beast thing two years since,
So weird things shouldn't bother him.











It's been three days since Laura called And Jimmy's feeling really bored. He twiddles both his thumbs and sighs, Wondering where she is tonight. 'Look here!', his mother points and says, 'That massive bonfire that they've made!'. He doesn't know what he expected, Or where the hopes are they collected, But he's watched these people grafting, Building, heaving, layering, crafting. And now the neighbourhood's alight, excited, for the Burn tonight.

The light is fading fast and pink,
When Jimmy and his mum go in.
'Hope you don't mind!' A Longhill Host.
'Can we just ask – what gives you hope?'
Jimmy takes the piece of paper,
Holds it tight, tried to remember,
And somewhere deep within his heart,
He feels tiny flicker start.
He writes of people brought together,
Longhill memories in all weathers,
Then hands it back in heat-edged dark,
To watch the bonfire-lighting start.











Jimmy doesn't check his phone,
He's transfixed by the heart-shaped hole
Right at the top of the huge pyre,
Now burning brightly, kissed by fire.
Suddenly, some people make
Their way beside him with a crate.
They lift it up – the heart-shape glows –
And place it gently in the hole.
And then he starts to realise
That all their hopes are crammed inside,
And burning them, 'til black and curled,
Will send them out into the world.

The crowd is whooping, full of cheer, And songs of Longhill reach his ears. When the fireworks hiss and crack, A hand is placed on Jimmy's back. He turns. She meets his eyes and smiles, 'I wanted to come home – surprise!' He doesn't know if it's for good But something's lifted in his mood; Their arms entwined, fire dancing high, They watch the colours in the sky.













ACT IV

RE-REDIFFUSION'S VOICE PARK











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ACT V MICROPOLIS









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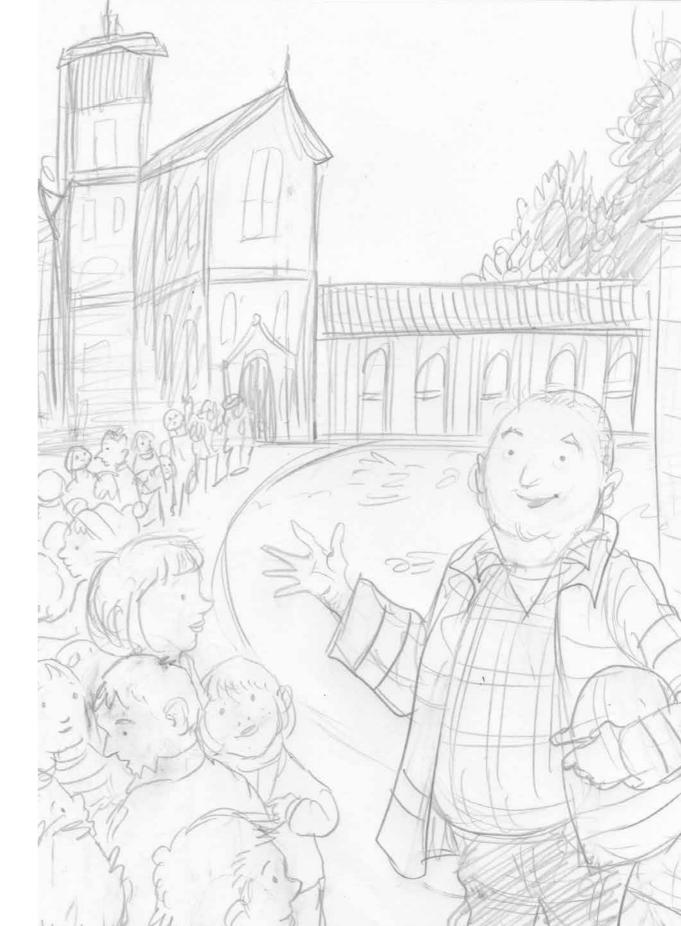






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ACT VI LOGG UNLEASHED









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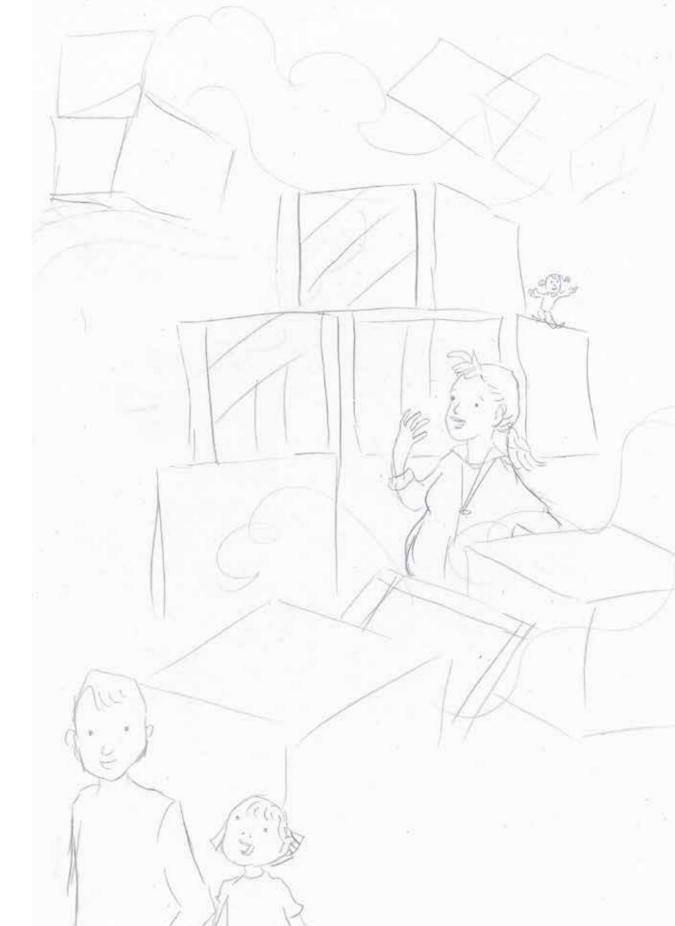






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And every day people passed by it or around it or over it or through it, but never once saw it or felt it or heard it or knew any person or thing in it.

Until, one day, the Land revealed itself...

And because of that, people began to believe and behave in all sorts of strange and wonderful ways. They wanted to leave work and play and wonder and be part of this amazing world. They wanted to share it with friends and family and neighbours and visitors and strangers.

And because of that, this real world changed too. The status quo was not so fixed and people questioned things they had always accepted.

And then, one day, the Land started to fade away and things began to return to something a little more akin to normal. But traces and reminders and changes and memories remained.

Serhaps, one day, the Land of Green Ginger will return, but for now, our world is a little more like it.







BACKGROUND

Throughout 2017, Hull 2017's ground-breaking community engagement project, Land of Green Ginger, invited Hull's residents to immerse themselves in a magical citywide story, inspired by and celebrating the spirit of Hull.

The Land of Green Ginger project was presented as a series of events or Acts of Wanton Wonder united under an overarching narrative. The individual Acts were developed and delivered with artists who worked both independently and in collaboration to bring new kinds of art and culture into the neighbourhoods outside the city centre.

Six Acts of Wanton Wonder transformed communities across the city into places of wonder, delight, magic and possibility.

This book is the seventh and final Act of the Land of Green Ginger project.

It has been delivered to residents and schools across the city as a record of the project that took place and as a keepsake for the people whose lives were touched by the magic of Land of Green Ginger.

Land of Green Ginger was delivered and produced by Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

The live Acts were created and delivered by the following artist companies:

Act I: 7 Alleys by Periplum

Act II: The Gold Nose of Green Ginger by Joshua Sofaer

Act III: The Longhill Burn by And Now:

Act IV: Re-Rediffusion's Voice Park by Aswarm

Act V: Micropolis by The McGuires

Act VI: Land of Green Ginger Unleashed by Macnas

Find out more about the live project by visiting

www.hull2017.co.uk





INNER BACK COVER

