

The Wizardry of Wacky Willy

Book One



Written and Illustrated
by eliza fegley

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All my love to
Claudia and Julian,
"emperors in the making".



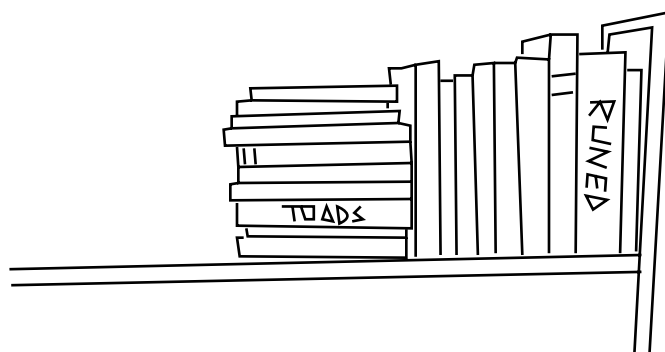
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CHAPTER 1

Meet Willy Wizard

Willy the Wacky Wizard was not always wacky.

In fact, he used to live a quiet life in study.



One day, Willy Wizard began to read a book on alchemy.

Alchemy is the study of magical chemical processes.

Willy Wizard became fascinated with the subject and began turning his basement into his secret laboratory.

Each night he would leave his home to find the ingredients he would need for his alchemical studies.

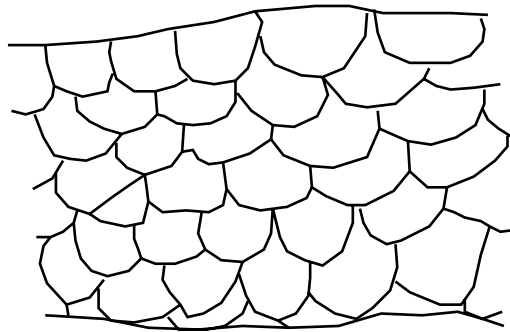


During the dark moons he would gather deadly herbs.

During the full moons he would gather odd bits of feather and hair from birds and beasts that most people did not know existed.

From hillside campfires he would collect salamanders.

On one dark and gloomy night, he had to venture into a deep, dark cave to gather the scales off a sleeping dragon.

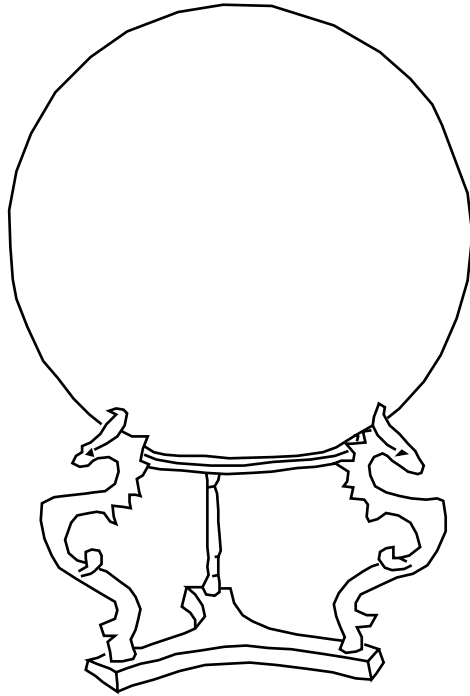


Willy Wizard's laboratory soon became full of an odd assortment of magical items.

In a corner of the room was a cage. Inside it was a red bird and a black bird.

Glass tubes filled with colored liquids littered a table in the center of the room.

There was a dust-covered crystal ball.



A stack of musty, old books written by a Magus Crakmonius sat upon a stool.

Jars filled with claws, teeth, and dried snake skins were on the shelves that ran along the damp walls.

And bins full of bones from both man and beast were tucked into another corner.

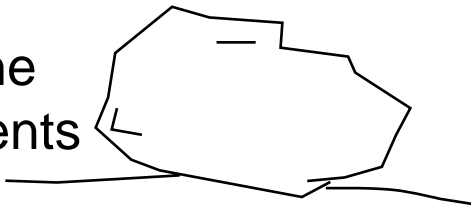
Willy Wizard was now ready to begin!

CHAPTER 2

Metal Into Gold

Willy Wizard began working long, hard hours trying to turn a chunk of lead into pure gold.

Sometimes he would melt the lead and add secret ingredients into it but when the molten metal cooled, it was still lead.



Another time he tried freezing the lead during a winter storm when the stars were in a perfect alignment to the earth.

After he thawed the metal, it was still lead.

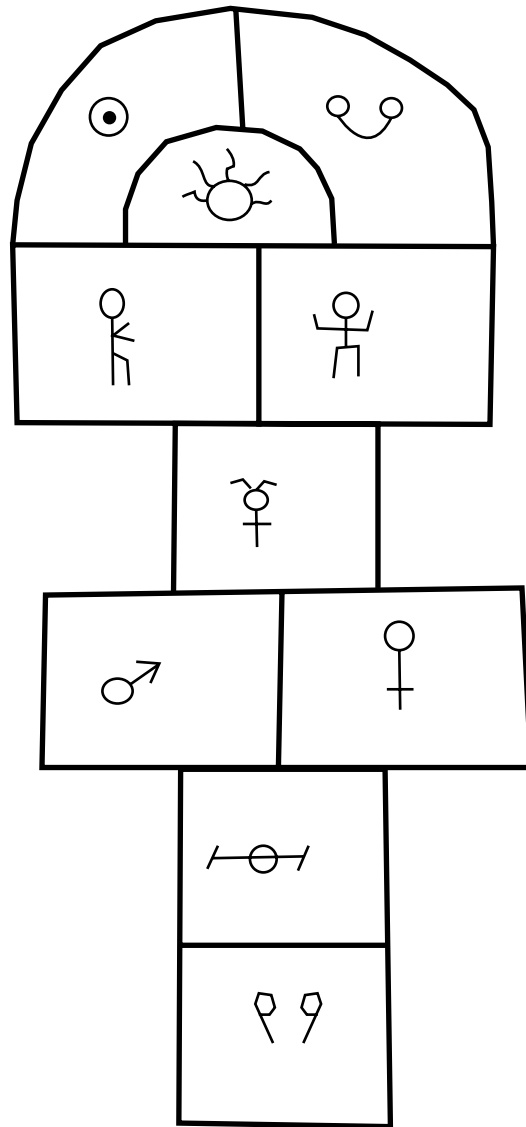
Willy Wizard was running out of ideas.

He could not figure out how to turn the lead into gold.

One day, while Willy Wizard was playing hopscotch down in his laboratory using the chunk of lead, he heard a knock on his front door.

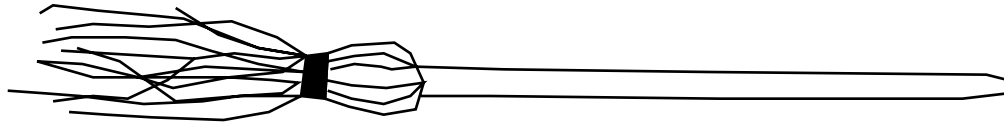
Willy Wizard, surprised that someone would be at his home, ran up the basement stairs and answered the door.

It was his old friend, Bertha Vitch!



CHAPTER 3

Willy Wizard Goes Wacky



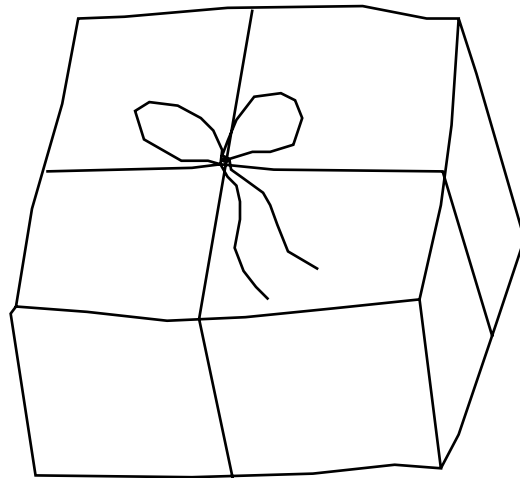
Willy Wizard spent the afternoon with Bertha Vitch .

They talked about the good old days of graverobbing and raising spirits.



When clouds started to roll in and thunder could be heard in the distance, Bertha Vitch stood up and said she had to leave. She had to give a lecture on the Classical Uses of Toadstools at the local asylum.

Willy Wizard saw Bertha Vitch to the door and as she stepped over the threshold and into the stormy night, she turned around and handed Willy Wizard a package.

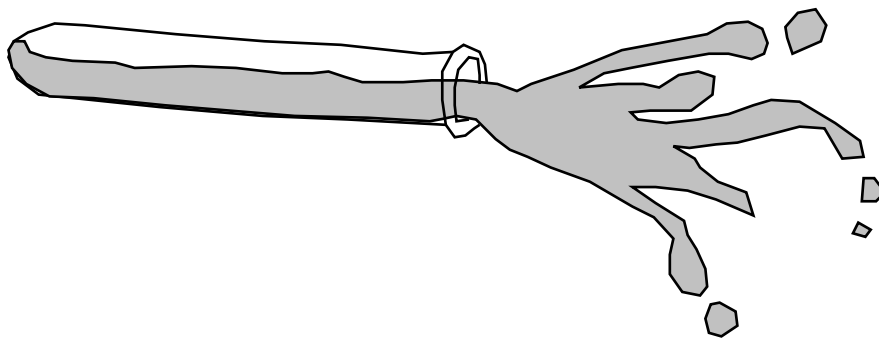


"It's to help with your studies," she said and then she disappeared.

Willy Wizard took the package and his cup of tea down to the laboratory.

He opened the package and found a vial of silver liquid.

Curious, he opened the vial and poured some of the liquid metal onto his hand and began to play with it.



Beads of the silver liquid rolled off his hand and onto the floor.

Willy Wizard scooped the liquid metal off the floor and put it into his empty tea cup.

He then ran upstairs to his study to get a book on metals, returned to the basement, and began to thumb through the pages of the book.

Mercury, also known as Quicksilver, is a liquid metal used by alchemists.

"Aha!", said Willy Wizard as he grabbed his cup of tea.

Mercury magically separates gold out of any base metal and is known as the food of immortality.

Willy Wizard gulped the last of the tea in his cup, muttered, "a bit cold," and read the last two sentences about Mercury.

Mercury is extremely poisonous and can make a person mad.

Do not touch or drink.

Willy Wizard set the book down and looked at his work table.

"Now where did I put that Mercury?"