



# CHERRY

## THE LEGENDARY

### PART 2:

## The Legend Awakes

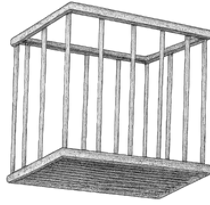
Cherry the Legendary  
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## CHAPTER 5

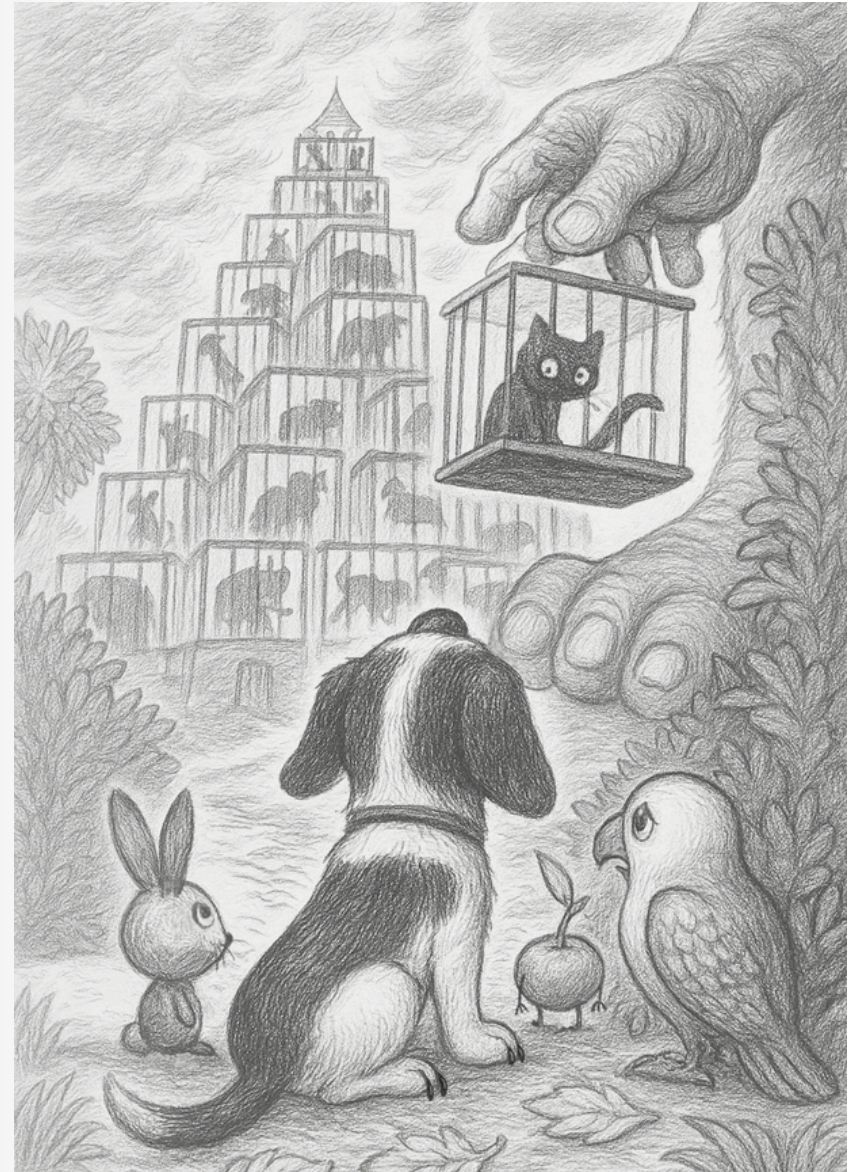
# A Little Wisdom

The adventurers crept closer to the towering shape, watching it grow bigger and bigger until they stood right beneath its shadow.

It certainly was not a mountain, but more like a castle. But the castle wasn't made of stone, or bricks. To the adventurers' shock, the castle was built out of giant cages stacked up to the sky, and each cage housed an animal of all different shapes and sizes. The dog had never seen so many animals at once.

At that moment, the red path disappeared. Suddenly, they heard a thunderous roar of laughter, followed by a giant foot with three

enormous toes crashing down from the sky and landing right in front of them. From beyond the clouds came a hairy hand, lowering a cage with a frightened cat covering inside.



The dog trembled, licking at his long toenails for comfort. But even his silly habit couldn't calm him now. His fear was telling him to turn around, but his collar was pulling him towards the captors. With a gulp, he crawled forward.

"Have you gone to the cuckoo's nest?! Where do you think you're going?!" cried Gersnikit.

"C'mon! We've got to help them!" whispered Pit.

The dog thought to himself, "But how can I help? All I know how to do is hide?"

The four companions kept going, shaking as they reached the cage which housed the frightened cat.

"Hello there. What's your name?" asked Pit.

"My name is Brunard. But who needs a name where we're all going. What are your names?" asked the cat.

"Well, this is Gersnikit, I'm Pit, and this here's Aloway." Everyone looked at the dog.

"Oh, I don't have a name. But I would like to know,

where ARE you going?"

"This is Captor's Castle. The giant ogres steal animals from their homes and sell them for their own gain. They've spread a terrible shadow across the trees of this land to harvest wood and build these harsh, uncomfortable cages. I once had such a lovely home, with a soft, fluffy bed, mountains of bacon-wrapped treats, and a companion who gave the best ear scratches."

The cat pressed its head against the bars, rubbing to soothe an itch. A small bald spot showed where the fur had worn away. Most likely, this cat had been captive for quite some time, each patch of bare skin silently counting the days.

The dog finally knew what had happened to his beloved orchard.

At that moment, the dog's collar began to turn.

There he saw a vision of the castle of cages, but hidden in the middle was something familiar. The vision zoomed closer and closer until the dog could see... himself!

He saw himself standing on top of a cage, looking straight back at him. The dog in the vision lifted its paw and reached it out, showing its long, black toenail. Slowly, the dog faded into the tower of cages, leaving the real dog with a clever idea that just needed some courage to make it work.

The dog took three deep breaths, reached his paw to the lock, wiggled his curly toenail like a secret key, and—click—the cage swung open!

Pit, Gersnickit, and Aloway pulled the door open to a shocked cat.

“You’re free! Best get going before that big foot comes and tramples us all!” warned Pit.

The cat slowly crawled out, not sure if it was a dream or reality. He took a breath, basking in his freedom, and darted away from the cage.

The dog looked up at the castle. Then he started to climb. One by one, he hid from the ogres while he sneaked around, unlocking every cage with the help of his long, curly toenail.

There were elephants, guinea pigs, zebras, cows,

sloths, and other animals the dog could never have even imagined himself.

After he finished, there he saw the red path, leading him away from the other side of the castle.

“Jolly dog, you did it!” cried Gersnikit.

The dog couldn’t believe his raggedy little toenail had some good use after all.



**Hero Reflection:**

The dog used his special nail to help others. What’s something unique about you?



**Hero Tip:**

Think about what makes you you — maybe you’re a great listener, a creative thinker, a builder, someone with a unique look, ability, or way of moving through the world, or someone who makes others laugh. Draw or write one of your strengths, then choose one way to use them this week to help a friend or family member.



## CHAPTER 6

# The Cave

The group continued down the red path, until they came to a cave that was covered by a roof made of old wooden planks. Carved into the top of the cave was a shield with a collar around it. The red path led right into the dark void of the cave.

“Do you think the path led us to the right place?” asked Pit.

“Maybe it’s a g-g-giant rabbit hole?” whispered Aloway.

“I must admit, I don’t fare well in dark spaces!” cried Gersnikit.

But the dog with no name was great in dark spaces. “Let’s all go together.”

The adventurers stepped slowly into the cave. As they walked deeper, the dog noticed the red collar around his neck begin to spin — faster and faster — until it lifted them all into the air and carried them through a long, winding tunnel!

At the end of the cave, they slowly floated back to the ground. To their shock, they saw a wall made entirely of gold. Though it was dark, the gold wall lit up the cave and sparkled like there were thousands of fireflies inside.

The dog walked closer to the gold wall and gave it a sniff. The gold suddenly started to melt like honey, until it reshaped into glowing words across the wall. It read:

*Here stands:*

*Courage in the face of fear.*

The gold wall melted to form a picture of the dog chasing the snake.

*Energy to take on the day.*

The gold formed into a picture of the dog and his companions resting on his back.

*Care when pain is near.*

The gold formed into a picture of the dog sitting quietly with the frightened rabbit.

*And wisdom to know the way.*

The gold formed into a picture of the dog unlocking the cage with his long toenail.

*A Legend you are,  
And forever will be.  
To rescue the lost,  
And restore dignity.*

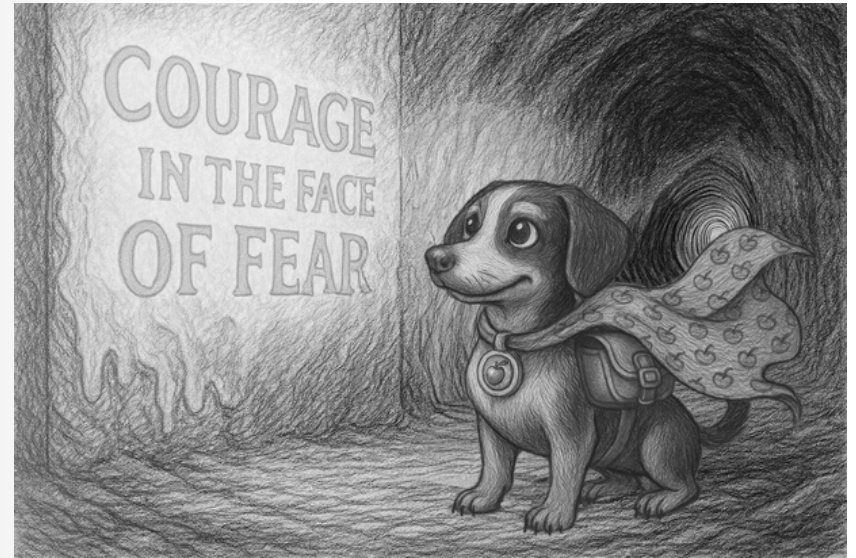
The gold melted one final time into one tight small sphere that looked like... a medallion.

The medallion floated there shining before the dog with no name.

Magically carved into the gold medallion appeared

a golden cherry.

The dog with no name without thinking (and almost like he knew he was meant to) reached out and took the medallion in his paws. He clipped it to the red collar.



Suddenly, the collar twisted and unraveled into a long red cape with cherries all over. The cape hovered for a moment and then fell over the dog, covering him like a big hug—his very first hug.



### Hero Reflection:

The dog's actions of courage, energy, care, and wisdom made him a Legend — which of these would you like to grow more?



### Did you know?

**Dignity** means treating every human and animal with care and respect. It's about remembering that everyone has value, including you — no matter what they look like, where they come from, or what they've been through.



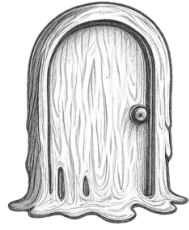
### Hero Tip:

Being a Legend doesn't mean you're perfect—it means you keep trying to make a difference. Find a mirror, look at yourself, and say the Rescue Legend Motto:

I have...

Courage in the face of fear,  
Energy to take on the day.  
Care when pain is near,  
And wisdom to know the way.

A Legend I am,  
And forever will be.  
To rescue the lost,  
And restore dignity.



## CHAPTER 7

# The Golden Escape

The adventurers stood in awe of the shining dog.

“What a cool trick!” said Gersnikit, grinning.

Then they heard pounding—deep, echoing thuds from the tunnel behind them. It wasn’t just one thing; it sounded like many.

“Oh no, we’re trapped!”

As the sound grew louder, the medallion on the dog’s chest began to glow. The golden wall shimmered and melted once more, pouring down the cave wall like a waterfall.

From the darkness came the animals the dog had freed from the cages, racing toward them in panic.

“The ogre is chasing us!” cried a leopard.

Suddenly, a massive ogre’s hand reached into the tunnel, grasping for anyone it could catch.

“Aaargh!”

“Please, help us!” the animals cried.

Pit leapt forward. “We’ve got to help them escape!” she shouted, diving beneath the golden waterfall.

The dog watched as liquid light poured over her, coating her cherry-red body until it hardened into a gleaming suit of armor.

Seeing her bravery, Gersnikit and Aloway dove beneath the falling gold as well. They then emerged shining beside her—Gersnikit in a sleek suit of gold feathers, and Aloway in a tiny suit of armor that glittered around her paws and ears.

Looking at his friends, the dog had a vision. His medallion flared brighter than ever. Guided by its

glow, he lifted his long toenail and carved a shape into the wall, revealing a great golden doorway.

“Come on!” he barked. “This way!”

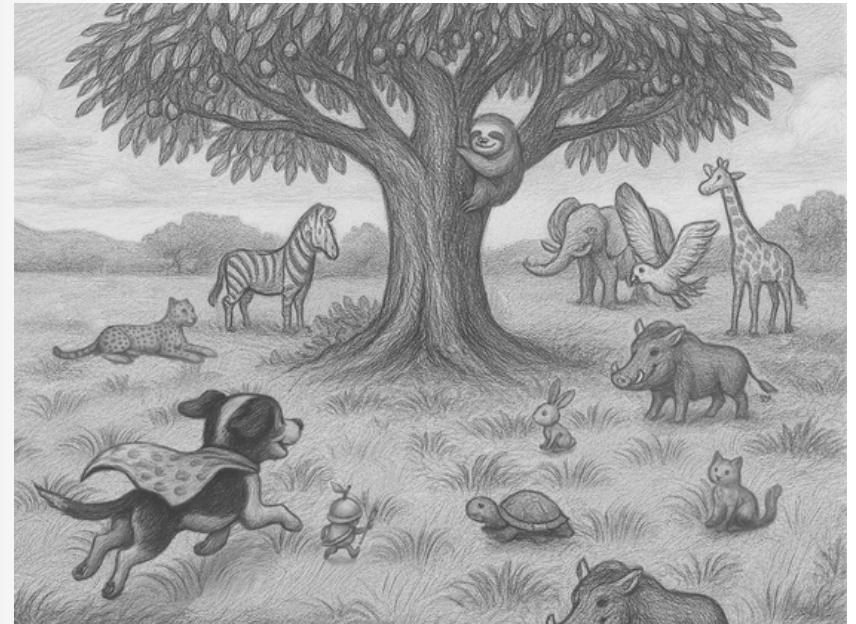
The dog led the animals through the doorway as the three armored friends distracted the ogre’s hand—poking, tugging, and pulling at the long hairs on its knuckles.

When every one of them was through, the door shut, and magically disappeared back into a golden wall.

On the other side of the doorway, there stood the dog, adventurers, and all the animals, just safe from the ogre’s grasp. As they looked around, they found themselves in the middle of a beautiful field, with fresh green grass, a watering hole and—right in the middle—one giant cherry tree.

And there on the ground, was the end of the red path.

“Just one more step, and we’re home,” Pit whispered to the dog.



One by one, the adventurers and animals each took one last step to freedom.

As the dog’s paw stepped onto the fresh grass, his collar began to turn with a fresh vision.

He then began walking around the animals, giving every one of them a name, as each joyfully scampered around the orchard in their new home.

As the dog gave one last name to a small turtle, it looked up at him, puzzled.

“But sir, you have given all of us names. But, what

is your name?”

The dog turned over his medallion and saw three golden words carved on the back.

He looked back at the turtle and said, “You can call me Cherry. Cherry the Legendary.”

The adventurers looked at Cherry and grinned.

And Cherry, knowing he was home and out of hiding with his new friends, grabbed a cherry from the tree, and smiled for the first time in his life.

— THE END —



**Hero Reflection:**

Think about what makes you one of a kind — your courage, your energy, your care, or maybe your wisdom. If you could choose your Legend name, what would it be?



**Mission Challenge:**

Cherry the Legendary found his forever home. Now it's your turn to help others do the same!

Visit Mission Headquarters on our website to start a mission that helps animals find homes of their own.

# The Real Cherry

## A True Rescue Story

The real dog Cherry also had quite a rescue adventure to find freedom and his forever family!

Cherry's life began in a very unusual place... an apartment in New York City filled with 113 dogs!

This is called *hoarding*—when someone collects more animals than they can care for. The person who owned the dogs realized they couldn't give them the life they deserved, so they called for help.

At about six years old, Cherry was rescued and went outside for the very first time in his life.

### Did you know?

Hoarding happens when someone keeps more animals than they can care for. Dogs in these homes often don't get walks, playtime, or grooming.

Cherry is a mix of several different dog breeds—but mainly Dachshund, Yorkie, and Chihuahua! At his rescue, he was overall healthy and had been fed a diet of chicken and rice (still his favorite!) But he had never learned how to play, meet other dogs, or go on walks. His fur and ears were dirty, his teeth needed professional cleaning from never being brushed, and his long black nails curled like daggers. Just like in his adventure story, the real Cherry also likes to lick his long toenails!



### Fun Fact:

Cherry got his name from the rescue. They named all the dogs they saved from the hoard after different foods—like Maple, Peach, and Apple! Rescues usually give names to the dogs they save, and adopters can choose to keep the name or pick a new one.

At first, Cherry's world was very small. He liked to hide under beds, in corners, or inside his crate. He felt safest exploring at night and hiding during the day. But every day brought small victories. One day he peeked out a little longer. Another day he sniffed a new toy—even if he didn't know how to play with it yet. Slowly, season by season, Cherry began to heal.

### Did you know?

Hoarding dogs like Cherry sometimes feel safer at night. That's called being nocturnal!

With love, patience, and lots of time, Cherry learned to:

- 🐾 Play with a snuffle ball full of treats
- 🐾 Ask for belly rubs and pets
- 🐾 Take a bath without fear
- 🐾 Run joyful zoomies around the room



### Moment of Courage:

After spending the first part of his life indoors, Cherry's very first full walk around the block was a huge step in his journey. Click [HERE](#) to unlock a secret video of this moment of courage!

It wasn't easy. Cherry was shy, and for a long time he only trusted a small handful of people to touch him. But with the patience and help of caring foster families, dog walkers, and rescue groups, Cherry began to believe the world could be safe—and that receiving pets and love could feel wonderful.



At last, Cherry found his forever family—people who understand him, celebrate his bravery, and know how to “speak Cherry.” With their care, Cherry now enjoys gentle pets from people, can bravely sit outside in the backyard, and never misses a chance for his night zoomies!

Today, he is loved for exactly who he is: a gentle, courageous little dog who proved that even the smallest steps can lead to the biggest victories. Cherry became the very first Rescue Legend, inspiring others to help those in need and bring kindness and dignity to every rescue.

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video about Cherry's rescue!



More adventure awaits you, Hero!

Want to keep playing, earn more badges, or meet new Legends?

Visit [RescueLegends.com](https://RescueLegends.com) to get more cards, stories, and missions—and keep the journey going. Let's rescue!