

**RORY THE
KNIGHT**

**AND THE
ANACONDA**

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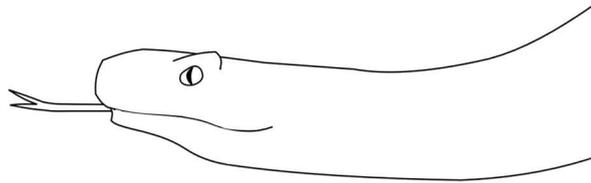
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Note to parents: This book is meant to be read aloud, with silly voices and sound effects. Also, your kids might need some help with the pictures. Make this book your own, something to look back on when your kids are older. Change the names, if you want to, to that of your own child. Then drop me a line and let me know how it goes. Enjoy!

For Rory,

Pride comes before a fall...



Color in the snake

Draw Rory's broken ship

Rory the Knight was brave, but often he had help getting out of danger. This next story is about getting help from the most unlikely source, from an animal that was brave only because it was so stubborn.

You'll soon find out what I mean.

After the great battle with the giant squid, Rory's ship was in rough shape. Broken mast, torn sails, holes in the hull – it needed some serious repairs. So they limped their way to a tropical island nearby to patch things up.

Now, this island just happened to be the favorite hideout of Rory and his friends. It was there that they kept their *treasure*.

Draw a treasure map leading to the cave

The island was in the Caribbean Sea, just off the coast of South America. It wasn't very big, but it had a little mountain with freshwater creeks running down through the jungle. Rory and his crew would stop there often to fill up their water barrels.

In those days, there were pirates on the high seas and Rory didn't want their treasure stolen. So they had carved a little cave into the side of the mountain. Then they'd hung vines over the entrance, so nobody could see inside and that's where they hid their treasure. The location of the cave was marked on a treasure map and everyone on the crew swore they would never tell the secret location.

When they arrived for repairs, Rory's treasure island didn't have a proper name yet, but after this next adventure, it got one.

Draw a rabbit, a chicken, a goose, a duck, and a goat

Rory and his friends liked their island so much they had left some animals there years before, so that they would have something to eat whenever they passed by. They left rabbits, and soon those rabbits had more rabbits, and before long there were rabbits all over the place. They left chickens, and soon there were chickens all over the place too. They had done the same thing with geese and ducks, and goats too. So over time, there were rabbits, chicken, geese, ducks, and goats all over the island – plenty of food for anytime they stopped by.

However, another type of animal had arrived on the island since their last visit. A very big, very dangerous animal. An *anaconda* had come over from the mainland and taken up residence in the swamp.

And it was eating whatever it could catch.

Draw a snake with big poisonous fangs

Do you know what an anaconda is? Well, before I tell you that, I should tell you about regular snakes. Snakes kill other animals with *venom*. They have two big fangs, and when they bite into their prey, venom gets injected through the fangs deep into their victim's body. The venom quickly kills the animal, and then the snake can take its time eating.

Snakes don't have any teeth (apart from fangs), so they have to swallow whatever they catch in one big bite. This can take a while. Snakes' jaws detach from their skulls and their mouths open up really wide. Then they slowly swallow their food down *whole*, in one big gulp. Snakes never chew and they never chomp off pieces.

That's how normal snakes hunt and eat. But anacondas are a bit different.

Draw a HUGE anaconda

Anacondas are ***GIGANTIC***.

They can be as thick as a tree trunk and as long as a bus. However, unlike other snakes, anacondas don't have any venom. They kill their prey in a more painful way.

Is this too scary for you? You just tell me if it's too scary and we can read a different book. No? Okay then, let's continue.

An anaconda hides silently in the jungle until an animal walks by. It can wait for days, completely still. But then, *fast as lightning*, it jumps out and bites! But there's no venom. Instead, the anaconda wraps its long body around and around the animal in a massive deadly snake hug. It squeezes so tight that its victim can't breathe, and that's how it kills it.

Anacondas are deadly fast and terribly strong. They live in South America, which is exactly where Rory the Knight and his crew were. They were on a tropical island just off the coast, with a massive anaconda hiding in the jungle, waiting for something (or *someone*) to come along for dinner.

Draw treasure chest full of gold and jewels

Back to our story: Rory and his friends had dropped anchor in a little bay close to shore. As you know, their ship was in bad shape and would take weeks to fix up. They got to work on the repairs. Then they found their treasure chest hidden in the cave and added more money to it. They caught some rabbits and rounded up some chickens. Everyone was looking forward to a big feast that night.

In the swamp near the cave there was lots of long grass for building nests, perfect for ducks and geese. However, Rory noticed that none of them were going anywhere near it.

“That’s strange,” Rory thought. “The birds used to love the swamp. I wonder if there’s something in there scaring them away.”

He told the rest of his men his suspicions – that the swamp seemed *ominous* – and they all agreed to stay away.

Draw a goat head-butting someone in the bum

Now, on that island were many goats, but one in particular was especially stubborn. He was a mean old billy-goat named Burt. Burt the butt-head. He was called that because he liked to run up behind people and smash into their *butt* with his *head*.

BONK! POW! WHOP!

Anytime someone turned their back on him, he would send them flying. The poor fellow would land on his face in the dirt and everyone else would laugh. Nobody was safe – there were sore butts and scraped faces all over the island. Burt would even run at the other animals, scattering them in a flurry of feathers and fur.

Burt was a grumpy old goat who thought he was the king of the island. He picked on *everything* and *everyone*. However, Burt wasn't very clever and he was a little too stubborn for his own good.

Draw your dad sleeping on the couch

The anaconda had taken up residence in the swamp, eating whatever animals came its way. It was *BIG* when it first arrived, but now it was

MASSIVE.

It was as thick as that you are around your waist!

The other animals on the island knew it lived in the swamp, so they avoided going anywhere near it. As a result, the monstrous snake was getting *hungry*. It had been weeks since it last ate, although anacondas don't have to eat very often. They have a big dinner once, then they wait for days until it's digested. And while they're digesting, they don't even move – they just lay there, as still as a log. It's like when your dad eats a big dinner and lays down on the couch and falls asleep because he's so full.

However, *this* anaconda was very hungry.

Draw the anaconda with its head up, sticking out its tongue

Burt the billy-goat wasn't afraid of anything. He went trotting around the edge of the marsh and didn't care that there was a giant anaconda lying in the long grass waiting for something eat.

As Burt walked up to the water to take a drink, the giant anaconda reared itself up in the grass. Its big forked tongue smelled the air as it looked down at the stubborn goat.

HHHHHHHSSSSSSS!!!!!!

Burt heard the snake hissing and turned to face it. He stuck his legs out to the side and lowered his head. Then he let out the meanest, most horrible

BLE-E-E-E-E-EAT!!!!!!

Rory and his friends ran to the swamp when they heard what was happening. They yelled, "Burt! Get out of there! You're going to get eaten!"

Burt could have run away and saved his own life, but he was too stubborn.

He wasn't going anywhere.

Draw the anaconda wrapped around the goat

The anaconda looked down at Burt with its black snakey eyes and opened its big snakey mouth. But Burt *still* didn't back down.

Fast as lightning, the anaconda struck out towards Burt and bit him over the shoulder!

BLE-E-E-E-E-EAT!!!!!!

Burt cried out as the anaconda's strong body wrapped around him,

squeezing tighter ...

and *tighter*...

and ***TIGHTER***.

Burt kicked and thrashed for all he was worth, but he couldn't get away.

Rory the Knight and all his friends watched helplessly from the beach. They'd left their guns back on the ship. They watched as Burt got squeezed and squished and strangled.

Before long, Burt the goat was dead.

Draw the anaconda with a goat in its belly

Rory and his crew could only watch, horrified. They couldn't go near the snake or it would've eaten them too. Poor Burt was too stubborn for his own good.

After Burt died, the snake opened its mouth really wide. Starting at the head, it began eating Burt's body,

s l o o o o w l y

pushing him down its throat. It took half an hour, but eventually the giant anaconda swallowed him whole.

As the hind hoofs disappeared down its throat, the anaconda closed its eyes and laid completely still, with a huge belly full of goat.

Draw Rory throwing a rock at a giant snake

Now, as I said before, anacondas don't eat very often. They get so full that they can't even move. And that's how it was with this one.

An hour past. Two hours past. It was the middle of the afternoon by this point, but Rory and his friends were still watching the giant snake closely.

Finally Rory said, "I don't think he's going to move."

Rory slowly walked towards the snake. It didn't move.

He took a stick and threw it, but the snake still didn't move.

He yelled, "Hey snakey!" but the snake *still* didn't move.

Rory threw a rock at it, but the snake barely flinched as it bounced off its scaly head.

The anaconda was fast asleep. It wasn't moving for anything.

Draw Rory chopping the anaconda's head off

Rory walked right up to the snake. Do you know what he had in his hand? A machete.

[A machete is like a big knife used for cutting through the jungle.]

His friends yelled, “Rory! What if he eats you?!”

But Rory said, “Guys, he’s sound asleep! He’s not going anywhere for days.”

Even still, Rory was *wary* (*wary* means careful for danger) and his friends had their knives ready, just in case. But as Rory approached the snake, it didn’t even bat an eye.

Rory stood right next to the anaconda’s big head. In one quick movement, he swung the machete down as hard as he could!

CHOP!!!

He chopped that snake’s head right off in one stroke! The anaconda’s body stiffened up as its head flew off, then it laid there dead at his feet.

Rory turned back to his friends. “Well, I guess that’s the end of our snake problem!”

Draw a dead goat and a dead snake

It was a pity the anaconda was dead, because if any pirates had tried to steal the treasure, it would have gobbled them up. However, it was just too dangerous to have a giant snake sneaking all over the island. Sooner or later, it would've gobbled up Rory or one of his friends.

“Poor old Burt,” Rory said. “We should really bury him.”

Rory used his machete to cut open the snake's belly. They pulled Burt out, but he was long dead, so they dug a big hole in the sand and buried him on the beach.

Draw a beautiful red ruby

Rory cut open the rest of snake and pulled off its skin. It was huge. He rolled it up and took it back with him to England, where he presented it as a gift to the Queen. The Queen was so impressed by the size of the snake and the story behind it that she put it in her treasury, even though it was stinky.

“You brave knight,” she said. “You’ve brought back a monstrous snake skin for me at the cost of a very stubborn goat.”

The Queen gave him a beautiful red ruby in exchange for it. The next time Rory went back to the island, he put the ruby in the treasure chest there. And for all we know, it’s still there to this day.

The island was thereafter named *Isla de la Serpiente* (which is “Snake Island” in Spanish).

And that is the story of how Rory the Knight killed the massive anaconda on *Isla de la Serpiente*, but it was only because of very stubborn goat named Burt.

The end.

Hey Kids!

You've probably noticed that there are no pictures in this book. That's because kids always do a better job at imagining stories than adults. So go back and draw all the pictures. Get your parents to scan and email them to me and we'll post the best ones on our website! Be sure to include your name and age.

Enjoy!

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