



## Punch, Teddy and the Bookmark in Marburg on the Lahn River

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It was a wonderful day. Punch and Teddy were sitting with the other toys alone in the child's room. The kids were gone to the playground.

That's when Punch said to Teddy: "If the kids won't even take us with them, we might as well take a little trip of our own. Come on let's visit the Bookmark in the livingroom!"

Punch took Teddy by the hand and they both went into the livingroom.

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The Bookmark was stuck once again in the middle of a fat book. Because the Bookmark read so much it had become incredibly smart. And even more: A good book is able to cast a spell on the reader and to bring him to any place in the world. The Bookmark learned this special art from the books.

"Hey, Bookmark!" called Punch, "What are you reading right now?" "Oh", answered the Bookmark "A book about a wonderful little city located on a hill with a real castle. Just like in a fairy tale. Do you want to come with me there?" That was an offer they didn't need to hear twice. Punch and Teddy sat down on the floor, Punch pinned the Bookmark on his head and the Bookmark said:

"Read and read and you will see,  
Marburg is where we want to be!"

And with a loud "pop" the three of them disappeared.

4/5

When the three of them opened their eyes again, they were standing in front of an enormous tower made out of red stones.

The tower looked, as if any second Rapunzel would appear at the top to let down her long golden hair. But for that she must really have had very, very long hair. That's why she must have lived in yet another tower.

"Wow" said Punch. "This tower is indeed very large." "Yes," said the Bookmark, "they also call this tower 'Spiegelslust'.

From the bottom to the top it's exactly 168 steps. And when you are on top, you can ... hey!!" It couldn't speak any further, because it had to hold on very tightly, when Punch and Teddy started to run to the top of the tower.

6

After they reached the top gasping for breath, they looked at Marburg. It looked beautiful, the way the city stretched out into the valley and seemed to cuddle the castle hill. All of a sudden Teddy called: "Look, look! A balloon!" And really: Not far away a big balloon floated through the sky. "When the weather is nice, you can see them very often in Marburg." Said the Bookmark. "There is a small airport close by."

Teddy waved to the balloon and the people in the balloon waved back to him. The Bookmark waved too, but it was probably too small to be seen by the balloon.

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"Okay, and now let's have a look around the city." Said the Bookmark. It was good, that it could do spells. Because as fast as the three of them got there, they disappeared again. They landed in the middle of the upper town of Marburg. The people went shopping, strolling through the streets, or sitting in the sun and enjoyed the beautiful day. Punch especially liked the musicians and artists in the streets.

8/9

The three of them walked through the market place. Suddenly a strange noise sounded: "Triroeoeh! Clap!" And once again: Triroeoeh! Clap!"

Startled Punch looked around. "What is that?"

Saying that he made such a funny face that the others couldn't help laughing. The odd noise came from the town hall. And an iron town hall rooster was flapping his wings to it.

10

At the castle Punch called fascinated: "This is really a real fairy tale castle! Is an old king living here and is there a princess who is marrying a poor farm boy?" The Bookmark smiled: "No, but once upon a time a countess was living here, she did so many good things for the poor, that she became a Saint. They call her Saint Elizabeth. Come, I want to show you something."

And where is Teddy?

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The Bookmark brought Punch to a place with a wonderful view of the whole city. "The big church down there is the Elizabeth Church. There you can still see the magnificent golden coffin of Saint Elizabeth. .

They say, that Elizabeth chose the place for her church by herself, by rolling a big stone down from a hill nearby. And in that spot, where the stone came to rest, the church was built.

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After that the Bookmark took them to the bank of the Lahn River. Swans and ducks were swimming on the water. And from time to time little boats paddled by.

The Bookmark told both of them that in former times people claimed they had seen a real water nymph by the river. "Really?" asked Punch. And right away he started to search for her and called loud across the river:

"Nymph! Hello nymph! Are you there?" But no nymph answered. Discouraged Punch let his head hang down: "No nymphs to see. What a pity!"

"Don't be sad" consoled the Bookmark "Even in former times she didn't come out very often. And it sure was a stroke of luck to see her. A young fellow once had a lot of luck. He found her, when she was laying helpless withering in the dust of the street. The young man carried her back into the water. And from that moment on all his wishes came true for the rest of his life.

And where is Teddy?

14

"In the end I want to show you a hidden, but also very special house!" said the Bookmark. Now we are in the childhood museum.

A museum, that's a house, where you can see important things. And the important thing you can see here, is very, very old toys." Punch and Teddy were so excited. Because after all the two of them were toys themselves. There were so many old toys and even a real doll workshop.

The bookmark said : " In the past toys were very expensive and valuable. That's why they were fixed very often.

"Oh," said Punch "Then I am very valuable too. Look, the patch on my behind, that was made for my by the mom of my child."

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Finally the time came to go back. That was a pity, because there were still so many beautiful things to see in Marburg. Punch and Teddy sat down on the floor and the Bookmark said:

"Read and read and you will see,  
at home, that's where we want to be."

And with a loud "pop" the three of them disappeared back to their home. When the kids came into the child's room, Teddy and Punch sat there as if they had never gone away. But if the kids would have taken a closer look, they would have noticed, that both of them somehow looked very satisfied.

The End