

Fantasy adventure for children seven to ten.

Pegasus: the Introduction

**Buy The Complete Version of This Book at
Booklocker.com:**

<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/2098.html?s=pdf>

CHAPTER ONE

Across the landscape, swirls of smoke like clouds inched along the ground. The once lush grassy meadows of summer had become a brown, brittle land.

Carolyn slowly wiped the sleep out of her eyes as she gazed towards the deserted barn that stood behind their house. Touching the window, she left finger trails upon the cold damp glass before pressing her nose to the pane. A brilliant moon lit the sky casting a strange glow upon the low lying fog that crept toward her.

What was beyond the moon? What made the fog? Did anyone live on those sparkling stars that winked back at her? It was so difficult being seven years old and not knowing these things.

Carolyn sighed, then returned to her bed. Even though her mother was in the next room, she felt alone. If only she could spread her arms and fly across the sky all the way to the moon. Yes, she giggled to herself, she would tap dance on the moon, then visit the fireflies before having tea with the magical fairies she just knew lived in the trunks of big oak trees.

Out of the corner of her eye she caught a shadow. *Oh*, she yawned, *that must be Mr. Sandman*. Closing her eyes, she fell fast asleep.

At first Carolyn thought she was dreaming, but the faint voice sounded so familiar.

“Hey, there sleepy head. Time to wake up.”

Slowly she opened her eyes. Her mother sat only inches away.

Carolyn’s eyes widened as she sat up. “Mommy,” she said hurriedly, “you wouldn’t believe where I was last night!”

Her mother smiled. “I couldn’t in a million years. Where did your imagination take you last night?”

Carolyn drew in a deep breath. She loved her mother’s smell. The light fragrance of roses always lingered close by her. After all, her mother’s name was Rose.

Carolyn clasped her hands together and held them below her chin, almost as if she were praying. Then she opened them. “I went all over

PEGASUS

the world. First, to the South Pole, then to the North Pole. I saw fairies with blue and pink wings, and dragons with three heads.”

Her mother laughed. “Hold on there. Dragons? Weren’t you afraid?”

Carolyn shook her head. “No. They were friendly dragons, and they had wings, too.”

She eyed her mother. “Can you guess what was the most beautiful thing I saw?”

Her mother caressed Carolyn’s long brown hair. “I just can’t imagine. What was the most beautiful thing you saw?”

Carolyn giggled. “You’re not going to believe it. Not in a million, gazillion years.”

Her mother waited patiently for her daughter to answer.

Carolyn rose to her knees and whispered in her mother’s ear.

“Well? Do you give up?”

Her mother nodded.

Carolyn screamed, “I saw beautiful flying horses in every color of the rainbow!”

Rose threw her arms around her daughter and squeezed tightly, “My, my! What a happier place this world would be if everyone had such wonderful dreams.” She stood up and playfully wagged her finger. “You need to get ready for school.” Then she patted Carolyn on the head and walked towards the door. “I’ve laid your clothes out. See you downstairs for breakfast.”

Carolyn jumped out of bed and dressed. From the hallway she heard her stepfather calling to her mother. Placing an ear against the door, Carolyn tried to hear what they were saying, but the walls muffled their words. She frowned, wishing more than ever she had wings to fly away.

“Rose. I don’t care. Carolyn’s had plenty of time to adjust. I can’t understand why she continues to do poorly in school.”

Rose grabbed his arm. “Jim. I will take care of this. I am meeting with her teacher today at three.”

“I hope the two of you can straighten this matter out soon,” he huffed before hurrying down the stairs.

Rose grabbed the briefcase he left behind and followed after him.

The Introduction

Carolyn arrived in the kitchen as her two stepbrothers, Jerry and Max, were heading out the door. The annoying sound of a car horn pierced the neighborhood as her stepfather repeatedly pounded on the steering wheel. They were always running late for school. Since Carolyn's school was only a mile away, she rode the bus.

Her mother handed her a plate. "Honey. Hurry and eat. You are going to miss the bus."

Carolyn stabbed at the eggs and nibbled on a piece of toast as her mother looked nervously at the clock.

After a few minutes, Carolyn jumped up and grabbed her backpack. Slinging it over her shoulders she pushed the door opened and headed towards the street.

Her mother called after her. "Remember, I'm meeting with your teacher today. Wait at school for me. O.K.?"

Carolyn had already reached the sidewalk. She nodded to no one.

Lazily she walked towards the bus stop snagging her backpack on every bush and branch that dared to get in the way. With a hard jab she kicked a rock that lay in her path. It flew through the air before hitting a tree and landing in the neighbor's yard. Suddenly the roar of changing gears made her jump. Carolyn took off running reaching the bus stop as the last person was boarding. She pushed past the door as the driver tried to close it, glancing up only to locate a vacant seat. The bus was full of children laughing and talking, but no one spoke to Carolyn. No one even said hello.

It was almost three as Carolyn stood outside her classroom. She kicked mindlessly at the door until her teacher, Ms. Emily, gave her a stern look.

"Why don't you go out to the playground? Your mother and I will come get you when we are through."

Reluctantly, Carolyn obliged. She wanted to be there when her mother and Ms. Emily had their talk.

On the playground Carolyn found a clean swing to sit on. She gave herself a gentle push. Stretching her head backwards she waved at a nearby oak tree. A leaf came spiraling down until it almost landed on

PEGASUS

her. Dragging her left foot, then her right foot, she came to a complete stop before jumping off and heading towards the tree.

It stood so tall. She couldn't even put her arms around the trunk! Looking up through the branches, Carolyn raised her hand to shield her eyes from the sun. Although fall was in the air, plenty of leaves still remained on the trees. At the top of the tree, bright red and yellow leaves glistened in the light as the branches swayed back and forth in the wind.

Carolyn bent down and knocked at the base of the tree.

"Oh. Mr. Fairy. How are you today? You are? Did you say you have just returned from a long journey? Italy? I have never been to Italy!" Carolyn plopped down on the grass next to the tree. Leaning against the trunk she pointed to the sky. "See how pretty those clouds are? They can fly way up high all by themselves and travel all over the world. Look how fluffy they are. I wish I could fly up there on a horse with wings, then jump from cloud to cloud all day long. Don't you?" There was a brief silence before she continued. "I'm waiting here while Ms. Emily is having a talk with my Mother." There was a long silence as Carolyn listened intently. Then she shrugged her shoulders and answered, "I don't know. I didn't do anything wrong." Carolyn picked at the dead grass that lay beside her. "Do I like school? No! Nobody wants to be my friend."

"Carolyn! Carolyn!" Ms. Emily was calling for her from the doorway of the school.

"I'm coming," Carolyn yelled back, then turned to address the tree once more.

"Mr. Fairy. I sure enjoyed talking with you today. See you later."

Carolyn skipped back to the building and followed Ms. Emily into the classroom. Her mother was standing quietly with her back towards the door and staring out the window. She wondered if her mother saw the same things she did.

Slowly her mother turned around and spoke in a crisp voice. "Well, Carolyn. Ms. Emily and I have had quite a talk. She tells me you haven't been doing well on your homework assignments. I wasn't aware you were having trouble. Why didn't you tell me you were having problems?"

The Introduction

Carolyn looked down at her feet. The lace on her right shoe was untied. She tried to hide it behind her left shoe, “I didn’t want to bother you.”

“That is no answer, Carolyn,” her mother replied in an angry tone. “You know I am always available to you.”

Carolyn sputtered, “But...”

“No buts young lady,” her mother answered, then took a step forward before continuing. “I also hear you have not been paying attention during class. Why do you spend so much time daydreaming when Ms. Emily is trying to give a lesson?” Her arms flailed the air wildly as she talked. “Your stepfather and I have no time for this nonsense. We could have easily understood this if it had been one of the boys. But not you!” Her mother stopped abruptly glaring at Carolyn for a moment. “I have given Ms. Emily my word that you will do better.” She took a deep breath then spoke in a softer tone, “we both agree that it would be in your best interest not to accompany your class on the field trip next Friday. Instead, you will stay behind and study. In addition, for the next few weeks I will be checking your homework. Do you understand, Carolyn?”

Carolyn hung her head trying hard not to cry. “Yes,” she answered meekly.

Her mother continued, “that also means you are not allowed to read anything but school books.”

Carolyn looked up at her mother with disbelieving eyes. “But, but,” she stuttered. “I can’t read any of my books?”

Her mother peered hard at Carolyn. “That’s what I said. These grades have to improve. But, if you show me you can do better, then we will see.”

There was an awkward silence.

Ms. Emily cleared her throat. “I know, Mrs. Scott, that you will do what is necessary to nip this behavior in the bud before it gets any worse.”

Her mother motioned to Carolyn. “Let’s go home. Your stepfather and the boys are probably hungry.”

PEGASUS

Carolyn followed after her mother trying hard to keep pace with her. As they stepped outside the building, a gust of wind lifted her hair and threw it in front of her eyes. Quickly she brushed it back before climbing into the car. After buckling her seatbelt, Carolyn glanced towards the big oak tree. Silently she waved goodbye to her friend.

That evening during dinner Carolyn mindlessly picked at her food. She was about to excuse herself from the table when her stepfather turned to her. "I hear you and your mother had a talk with Ms. Emily today."

As Carolyn looked up, she momentarily caught his eyes. They were so piercing and cold.

The boys snickered and she scowled at them.

Her stepfather's voice was laden with disappointment. "I am upset to hear that you are not doing as well as you could."

Her mother interrupted, "Jim. We don't have to talk about this at the dinner table. Do we?"

Her stepfather leaned across the table and touched her mother's hand. "I'm just letting her know this sort of behavior will not be tolerated."

Her mother sighed. "I think she is well aware of that. Aren't you Carolyn?"

Carolyn quietly answered, "Yes. May I please go to my room?"

Her stepfather glared at her. "Have you any homework?"

Carolyn shook her head.

"You're not lying to me, are you?" he asked in a stern tone.

Carolyn's face turned red. "No!"

Her mother glanced angrily at her stepfather. "She doesn't have any homework!"

He hesitated for a moment then shook his head. "Help your mother with the dishes, then you may go to your room."

Carolyn rose and began to clear the table. Her stepfather, along with Jerry and Max, hurried out the backdoor to play football.

Rose turned to Carolyn and gently touched her forehead. "You aren't getting sick. Are you?"

The Introduction

“No.” Carolyn answered.

“Why don’t you go on up to your room,” her mother offered. “It’s been a long day.”

Carolyn agreed, eager to be in the safety of her room.

As she raced up the stairs, her mother called after her, “Only school books.”

Closing her bedroom door she threw herself upon the bed. A tear escaped her eye. Quickly she brushed it aside. How she missed her real father. Why did he leave her? What had she done wrong? She would promise to make it better, to do anything if he would just come back. Didn’t God hear her cries? Didn’t he love her either?

Outside Carolyn could hear her stepbrothers laughing and joking with their father. How she wished for a father who would play and laugh with her, too.

Reaching under the covers she took out a book. Before she could open it a knock came at her door.

“May I come in?” It was her mother.

Carolyn quickly slid the book under a pillow.

The door opened slowly as her mother entered carrying a tray. “I made you some hot cocoa.”

Carolyn sat up and swung her legs around to the floor.

Her mother set the tray on the nightstand. “I put a few cookies on the tray, too.” She sat next to Carolyn then took a deep breath before continuing. “Honey. I hope you realize I am doing this for your own good.” Then she hesitated as if measuring her next words. “Your stepfather loves you. He just doesn’t know how to show it.”

Carolyn took a sip. She had the prettiest mother in all the world. Her long dark hair hung loose around her shoulders accenting a soft, glowing complexion. Her lips were the color of a rose and when she smiled they revealed teeth as white as angels’ wings. She felt safe and warm in her mother’s arms.

“Mommy. I miss Daddy. Don’t you?” Carolyn asked.

“Hush. Don’t ever let your stepfather hear you say that,” her mother scolded. “It would hurt his feelings.”

PEGASUS

Carolyn grew quiet and finished her cocoa and cookies. Her mother kissed her goodnight and took the tray.

As her mother exited the room she blew Carolyn a kiss. “Night, night, my darling.”

Carolyn blew her a kiss back then changed into her pajamas before snuggling into bed.

Night had come quickly upon the land.

Carefully Carolyn took out her book from beneath the pillow. She held it close before turning out the light. Across the hall her stepbrothers were laughing. But soon the house became quiet.

Carolyn waited a long while before crawling out of bed and tiptoeing to the bay window. She sat down on a ledge covered with soft, fluffy pillows. The rising moon was already halfway across the sky, casting a brilliant glow. How far away was it, she wondered. How long would it take to get there by flying horse?

Her eyes grew heavy as she pondered these questions. Suddenly something caught her attention. From the barn a bright light oozed through the cracks in the doorway. It sparkled like shimmering diamonds. Intrigued, she stood up. Quickly Carolyn slipped on her sneakers and threw on a jacket. Tiptoeing downstairs she headed for the backdoor where she unfastened the lock and slowly turned the knob.

Once outside, she quietly closed the door and walked towards the barn. What if there was a bad man in the barn? Maybe there were aliens in there. Carolyn smiled, that wouldn't be so bad. She would ask them about their home planet and maybe, just maybe, they would have pictures to show her.

Her pace slowed as she neared the barn. The door was heavy and hard to open. So she climbed over the fence and entered through the back door. As she slid the door open, a light, brighter than any light she had ever seen before, spilled past her. It filled the entire inside of the barn. Her mouth dropped. Before her was the most beautiful creature she had ever seen. Carolyn rubbed her eyes afraid it was all just a dream. She knew she was awake. Yet, there he stood. His long flowing mane cascaded down a strong muscular body. A tail, long and thick, waved effortlessly behind him. On each side of his body,

The Introduction

behind mighty front legs, there stretched full magnificent wings made of thick feathers. As he struck the ground, sparks flew from his shimmering silver hoofs. Slowly she gazed upward until she met his deep blue eyes. They peered out through strands of white hair. With each breath his nostrils flared opened.

Speechless, Carolyn slowly stepped forward. The horse bowed his head as if to welcome her. She reached out and touched his mane. It felt soft.

Then suddenly he spoke in a deep, soothing voice. "Hello, Carolyn."

She jumped back. "How do you know my name?"

The horse replied, "Thirty-six seconds."

"What?" Carolyn frowned.

"It takes thirty-six seconds for a flying horse to reach the moon," he answered with confidence.

Carolyn's eyes widened. "You have been to the moon?"

"Many times." He answered. "However, there are far more interesting places than the moon."

"You've been to other places, too?" Carolyn asked.

"My dear, Carolyn, even you would be surprised," he smiled back, then hesitated. "Would you like a short ride?"

Carolyn squealed. "Could I? I mean, can I? Is it safe?"

"I would never let anything happen to you." He fell to his front knees. "Hop on."

Carolyn hesitated for a moment then stepped forward. Something about this creature made her feel safe. She grabbed his mane and pulled herself onto his back. Her legs squeezed his belly just behind the wings and her hands clasped his mane.

"Hold on tight," he called out as he trotted to the front of the barn. Instantly the door flew open on its own. A few more steps and they were airborne. Carolyn bent forward, clinging to his massive neck. But to her surprise the ride was so smooth she was able to sit back.

Up, up above the trees and past the hills they went. Before long her school was in sight. Carolyn waved to the oak tree, making certain Mr. Fairy saw her before they headed back.

PEGASUS

Once inside the barn, Carolyn slid off his back and gave him a hug. "I had so much fun!"

He looked down at her and snorted. "I did too. But you must return to your room before anyone misses you." As she walked away, he called after her, "You know you must never tell anyone about me. Don't you?"

Carolyn stopped abruptly. Slowly she turned around. "I don't know your name."

He shook his mighty mane. "My name is Meagon."

Carolyn giggled. "Nice to meet you Meagon. Thanks for the ride."

He bowed his head, then disappeared into the night.

Carolyn flew to her room and raced to the bay window. She looked everywhere but he was nowhere in sight. After a few minutes she crawled into her warm, soft bed. She wasn't worried. He would be back.

Fantasy adventure for children seven to ten.

Pegasus: the Introduction

**Buy The Complete Version of This Book at
Booklocker.com:**

<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/2098.html?s=pdf>