

“Come on Fitzy, run!” The wind and driving rain whipped the words from Buttons mouth as he urged his brother forward.

“I can't run anymore” gasped Fitzwinkle, a tall, skinny lad, his enormous feet pounding a few metres behind his younger brother.

*Buttons grabbed his arm, “Come on Fitzwinkle! Ma’s gonna be so mad. She told us not to go out while she was at work. This was **your** great idea. **I** don’t want to get in trouble for it.”*

He pulled his brother close and screamed in his ear “Focus! Wands out! Celox agito!”

Fitzwinkle snapped to attention. In one fluid movement the boys executed a perfect spin roll, followed by a leap of almost five metres onto a thin tree branch, barely landing before throwing themselves forward into a body flip landing them 20 metres into the narrow pathway: their only hope of safety.

Buttons quickly scanned the precarious pathway. “It’s too dangerous” he yelled.

“We have to try. There is no other way” There was a massive flash followed by an earsplitting boom which shook the ground around him.”

“aaaah that was nearly a hit.” screamed Fitzwinkle.

Another lightning bolt struck the ground in front of them followed by a second chilling boom. The boys froze for an excruciating 5 seconds before powered by adrenalin and fear, in unison they screamed “Absum.”

The boys raced down the treacherous pathway across a narrow strip of land. A huge crack of lightning lit up the skies and forked earthwards towards them. An ancient tree behind them exploded into a charred heap showering them with daggers of kindling.

Thunder unfolded around them. A brilliant show of multicoloured shards of light raced across the sky. Jagged forks singed the ground with terrifying cracks and sparks of electrical energy.

Buttons orange curly hair hung in wet, scraggles barely hiding his pointed ears now purple from the freezing wind. His eyes wide with terror, his heart pounding in his chest, he caught sight of his brother, his clothes, saturated, mud splattered and torn.

Suddenly the earth buckled dragging them towards a huge crater in the ground.

“We’re going over” screamed Buttons