

goop  tales

XASPERY AND THE WHITE IBEX



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CHAPTER 1

Once upon a time there was a dashing, young Goop called Xaspery. Xaspery had the manners of a true gentleman. He was polite and quite charming to all he met. He wore a feather in his hat and carried about a walking stick to hike high into the mountains. For the most part Xaspery was excellent company and well liked by his fellow Goops, but he did have his moments where he could be downright exasperating.

Out of the blue, he would indulge in the most exasperating behavior that would cause the other Goops to roll their eyes and smack their heads. It wasn't too long ago that Xaspery was playing "hide and seek" with his Goop friends, but when he was found he would say, *"I think Verivaine is hiding behind the large hall mirror,"* or *"Nibolene must be hiding in the kitchen cupboard,"* or *"Nevershair is hiding in the toy closet."*



All of the Goops found this type of behavior very exasperating. The Goops were never quite sure if Xaspery was going to be a delight, or if he was going to be exasperating.

One crisp, fall evening, Xaspery and Haychu decided to hike up to some nearby magical waterfalls that shone in the moonlight. At the beginning, Xaspery was quite a little gentleman. He showed Haychu the hidden path that led to the waterfall, and told her how it was lit by fireflies that would show them the way in the moonlight. He even lent Haychu his walking stick and he helped her up and over the rocky paths. A little while later, Xaspery told Haychu that he wanted his walking stick back. So Haychu gave it back to him, although she wasn't sure why he needed it so badly. A few moments later, Xaspery used his walking stick to hit a tree branch. All sorts of foliage and bark rained down all over Haychu. Haychu didn't appreciate this at all, but she kept on hiking. Then Xaspery did it again.



This time a hard acorn hit Haychu on the head, and she began to get annoyed. The final straw happened when they arrived at the waterfalls. Xaspery reached into the water with his walking stick and splashed water all over Haychu. Now she was quite upset.

“You are exasperating and I hate you,” shouted Haychu.

As she shouted the word “exasperating”, it echoed off the water saying, *“Exasperating.”*

“Yes, that is me,” said Xaspery, and he began to shout his name so loud that it echoed over and over. *“Xaspery, Xaspery, Xaspery!”*

“Stop, please,” said Haychu, *“you’re so annoying.”*

“Xaspery, Xaspery, Xaspery,” he shouted even louder.



“I’m leaving,” said Haychu, *“you are just too exasperating to be around.”*

Haychu turned around and disappeared down the firefly path - before Xaspery could say another word.

Xaspery just continued climbing rocks closer and closer to the falls as he shouted his name.

He was on the edge of a very **precarious** rock with rushing water beneath him as he shouted again. This time, the **reverberation** of the echo combined with the water was so loud and strong: that Xaspery slipped and fell. He went tumbling down, down, down into the waterfall as he heard the water echo back, *“Xaspery, you will learn your lesson.”*



CHAPTER 2

Xaspery felt himself land with a thud on the hard ground. He shook his head and looked around. Everywhere he looked, he was surrounded by snow covered mountain peaks and a serene lake. He had been transported to the most glorious Swiss Alps. As he got up and started to amble around, he struggled to keep his balance. Out of the clear blue sky he heard a deep voice say, *“Strange one.”*

Xaspery looked up to see an intimidating regal creature staring down at him. The creature had the most mammoth curled horns that Xaspery had ever seen. The horns were taller than Xaspery and they looked terrifying. Xaspery froze in fear. He had no idea what sort of creature this was or what he may do next.



“Worry not, I won’t hurt you. My horns are scarier than they look.”

“What are you?” asked Xaspery .

“Well, I should be asking you what you are. I’m an Ibex, and I live here in Switzerland, but I’ve never seen anyone like you before,” said the Ibex with a question in his voice.

“Well, I’m a Goop. I live with my Goop friends in Goop World,” replied Xaspery as he twirled his walking stick.

“A Goop, huh? I have never heard of that before,” said the Ibex.

“Well Goops are quite nice in general, but we all have a naughty little habit that we are named after. My name is Xaspery, because according to the other Goops, I can be quite exasperating at times. Although, I must say that I fail to see that.”



“Time will tell,” said the Ibex.

“What do you mean, ‘time will tell’?” asked Xaspery.

“Just that, ‘time will tell’. It always does,” replied the Ibex.

“Well, I want you to tell me, not time,” stated Xaspery.

“Like I said, ‘time will tell’. From what I can sense from this conversation - you may have earned your name,” said the Ibex.

“Time will tell,” said Xaspery in a disgruntled voice. *“What does that mean? You should just tell me.”*

“It seems to me that you aren’t really listening,” replied the Ibex.

“Of course, I’m listening,” Xaspery retorted.



“I must be off to the Matterhorn. We have the Ibex dance tomorrow, and I don’t want to be late,” said the Ibex.

“I want to come to the Ibex dance,” announced Xaspery.

“Well then, you’ll have to come to the Matterhorn and get past the white ibex.”

And with that the Ibex hopped up and over a cliff edge and disappeared. Xaspery walked to the edge of the cliff and looked down. The ibex was quick and **nimble**, and he was more than halfway down the cliffside. Even though Xaspery could move down a cliff quickly, he knew he could not catch up with the ibex. Nonetheless, he started down the cliff using his walking stick for balance.

“White ibex,” Xaspery thought to himself. *“How am I ever going to find this Matterhorn and this white ibex?”*



As Xaspery was making his way down the cliff, his walking stick got caught in some rocks. Alas, he slipped and fell and tumbled all the way to the bottom of the cliff and landed right on top of what looked like a white, fluffy patch of snow.

“Hey, watch where you sit.” piped the soft, fluffy patch.

Xaspery stood up and found himself staring down at a fluffy, white rabbit.

“What in the world! You can’t just go around sitting on rabbits,” said the indignant rabbit.

“Sorry,” said Xaspery. *“I’m trying to find a Matterhorn and a white ibex and I don’t really know what I am doing.”*

Xaspery told the white rabbit, whose name was Cedric, all about the white ibex and the Matterhorn and the ibex dance.



Cedric got very excited and said that he wanted to come. He told Xaspery about the legend that if you saw the ibex dance - you could make any wish you wanted and it would come true. But legend also said that no one had ever gotten past the white Ibex.

Cedric went on to explain to Xaspery that the Matterhorn was one of the highest and most majestic alps in Switzerland, and they could catch the Swiss Bernina train to get there.

Xaspery and Cedric set off to ride the elegant, red Swiss Bernina train to the Matterhorn.

Unfortunately, the train station was a long way off. By the time they arrived there, the Bernina had already left. Xaspery was very disappointed, and he let Cedric know it.

“This can’t be,” he said in a discontented tone.

“Well it is,” said Cedric firmly.



“But it can’t be,” Xaspery whined again.

“Xaspery, stop being so exasperating and listen to me. I am telling you, the train has left the station. We need to find another way. Let’s just follow the train tracks until the next train comes. We can hop on the train from the tracks.”

So off they went along the tracks for what seemed like hours. After many miles, the train tracks turned into a very high and large bridge that led into a dark tunnel cutting right through the cliffs. Xaspery turned and looked at Cedric.

“Should we cross?” he asked with ***trepidation***.

“We must, or we will never get to the Ibex dance on time,” replied Cedric.

They started to cross the very high bridge. Xaspery did his very best to not to look down. He focused on the track in front of him and on talking



to Cedric but just as he was about to tell Cedric about his favorite magic trick, he felt a strong vibration on the tracks. His little legs began to wobble. Even with his walking stick, he started to lose his balance. Xaspery looked back behind himself. The red Swiss Bernina was moving at full speed toward Xaspery and Cedric. There was no where to go, but to jump off the bridge which was very, very, very high.

NOW IT'S UP TO YOU!

Finish the story and tell us how Xaspery gets back to Goop World.

Make sure and submit your story ending to
GoopTales.com/Xaspery
so the rest of the world can read it!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maria Calanchini lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. Goop Tales are inspired by “The Goops”, which were a childhood favorite of Maria’s.

She uses her travel experiences and grown up imagination to breathe new life into the Goops with the Goop Tales series. She loves integrating world geography, cultures, and music into the Goop Tales.

Her goal is to ignite the imagination of children while introducing them to unknown places all over the world.

To learn more about the author you can visit her at **GoopTales.com/about**

