



GIANT: The Unlikely Origins of Shim

The prequel to *The Merlin Saga*

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Reviews

"Simply delightful."

— **Kirkus Starred Review**

"Filled with exquisite settings and eloquent language, Shim's adventures are of a type not often seen in modern children's literature, hearkening back to classic high fantasy."

— **Booklist**

"5 Star Review ★★★★★"

— **Compass Book Ratings**

About the Book

Shim has only ever known a world of peace. Unusually big and strong even for a young giant, he lives on the magical isle of Fincayra, immersed in nature as well as tales of wizards, mer folk, and dragons.

Suddenly that world explodes in chaos. A terrible attack forces Shim and his mother to flee — and take a hazardous journey to reach the only person who could possibly help them, the mysterious Domnu. But when a wager goes horribly wrong, Shim shrinks down to a tiny fraction of his size. Now only as tall as a man's knee, he finds himself lost in a deadly swamp. Worse yet, he has forgotten something important, something truly essential. But what?

As small as he is now, Shim must find giant-size courage. He embarks on a perilous quest to discover what happened, what secret he forgot, and what it really means to be a giant.



Finding Your Inner GIANT

All page references are from the 2021 hardcover edition of Giant.

1. What are some of your Giant qualities?

"Bigness means more than the size of your bones." — page 42

2. What positive phrase makes you feel like yourself?

"Certainly. Definitely. Absolutely." — page 34

3. When in life have you doubted yourself? How do you find the Big-ness in yourself?

Especially after you've been "shrunkled" down by a cruel witch of the woods? Or by a bully?
But that wasn't remotely possible now, in his shrunkled little form. Why, he was really as far from having a true heart as he was from being a true giant! — page 184

4. What is one thing that you would like to do, but are afraid to try? What would it take for you to raise your sail? What advice would you give to a friend who was afraid of the very same thing?

"On the stormy seas of life, the winds of hope and goodness and love are always blowing. All we need to do is find the courage to go out there... and raise our sails." — page 224

5. Shim had help from friends and family like Elf, Vonya, and the great hawk Rowallon. Who do you lean on in times of trouble? Who leans on you?

He made a sad smile and tapped his shoulder where she'd so often perched. "There will always be a place rightly here for you." — page 228

6. What does it mean to be resilient? Where in your life have you shown resilience?

"I must say, my pet, you are more resilient than I expected." — page 233

7. If you were a Giant, what kind of Giant would you be? What powers would you have?

(Just for fun.)

The Books of The Merlin Saga

