

★ THE ADVENTURES OF ★ TINTIN

THE THREE SCROLLS

CHAPTER 1 The model of the *Unicorn*

Tintin was in the town with his little white dog, Snowy. He was at the shops when he saw a beautiful model of a ship.

'I'm going to buy that,' said Tintin.

He gave the money to the man and soon the ship was in his hands. Tintin looked at it carefully. 'Look, Snowy,' he said. 'Its name is The *Unicorn*.'



'The *Unicorn*?' someone said. A tall man was in front of Tintin. He smiled as he looked at the ship in Tintin's hands. 'How much did you pay for it? I can give you much more money, Mister ...?'

'My name's Tintin. Who are you? And why do you want my model?'

'I am Ivan Sakharine,' said the tall man. 'Hundreds of years ago Sir Francis Haddock owned this model. My family knows the Haddock family. I want to take the model back to their family home. So how much do you want for it?'

Snowy made an angry sound. He did not like Sakharine. Tintin looked at Snowy. 'I don't like this man either,' he thought.

'I'm not selling it,' Tintin said.

Sakharine's smile left his face. 'You are going to be sorry about that, Mr Tintin,' he said coldly. Then he turned and walked quickly away.

* * *

Back at home, Tintin put the ship on the table and opened a window. Suddenly a cat came into the room. Snowy jumped up and ran after it – around the chairs and onto the table with the ship ...

'Be careful!' cried Tintin, but it was too late. His new ship was on the floor.

'Bad dog!' he shouted.

Tintin looked at the model carefully. Did Snowy break it? The answer was yes. But Tintin was not angry because there was something in the model – an old scroll. Tintin pulled it out carefully.

'*Three Unicorns together can speak in the light of the sun,*' he read.

The name of the model ship was the *Unicorn*, but Tintin did not understand more than that. ‘What can it mean, Snowy?’ he said.

Under the message, there were some little lines on the scroll. ‘And what are *these*?’ thought Tintin.

He knew one thing – there was an interesting story here and he wanted to know more!

‘I’m going into town,’ he thought. ‘I can learn more about the *Unicorn* there.’

