

## **Murmel the castle marmot in 3-minute stories**

### **Chapter 1**

*Hi there! Or "Griass di!" as we say here in Tyrol. My name's Murmel.*

Yep, I'm a marmot – but not just any marmot. I'm the castle marmot! Now, you're probably wondering how a marmot from the mountains ended up at a castle hotel like Schlosshotel. Do you want to hear my story? I can't wait to tell you it!

My marmot family lives in the Alpine Flower Garden on Mt Kitzbüheler Horn. Have you ever been there? If not, you really should – it's one of the most beautiful places ever! I have five brothers and sisters: Mila, Max, Molly, Moritz, and Mimi.

Mimi's the smallest, but her whistle is so loud, it makes you cover your ears! Moritz jumps the farthest and Molly collects the prettiest sparkly stones from all over Mt Geissstein. Then there's Max: he's the hungriest of us all and is always running around, following his nose. Mila is the oldest of us six, and sometimes she acts like she's the boss of everyone. I find it quite annoying.

### **Chapter 2**

*Murmel the explorer*

I've always been the most curious marmot around. While everyone else was snoozing comfortably in the sun or nibbling grass, I always stood on my hind legs and peered down into the valley. I could see something sparkling mysteriously in the sunlight down there. Obviously, I decided I had to go and investigate it sometime!

One day, when spring had brought new life to the mountains, I couldn't contain my curiosity anymore. I said to my mum: *"Mum, I have to go and see what's going on down in the valley! Don't worry, I'll pack my explorer's kit and I'll send you lots of whistle messages. Or a pretty stone for Molly. And Max can come visit me whenever he wants, OK? I love you, Mum!"* She shook her head, but she knew what I was like. She gave me a big hug and packed me a little bag of seeds. Then I set off down the mountain. I followed my nose until I stood in front of a huge castle. Its windows sparkled in the sunshine – just like I'd seen from up on Mt Kitzbüheler Horn. I'd never seen a building that big before.

### **Chapter 3**

*The huge castle*

Do you know what? As soon as I saw it, I knew right away that this was going to be my new home! We marmots are experts at finding cosy places. My nose can smell where it's warm and safe, and my ears can hear even the smallest sounds. There were so many exciting scents and interesting noises at Schlosshotel that I decided to stay. After all, someone had to make sure that the castle had been properly explored!

On my very first tour of Schlosshotel, I climbed up onto the roof. Suddenly a huge shadow flew over me!

"Stop right there!" boomed a deep voice from above. "Who's climbing on my tower?" I looked up and saw a magnificent eagle with golden eyes.

"Uh ... My name's Murmel," I said shyly. "I'm the new marmot in the castle." The eagle landed gracefully next to me. "I am Ludwig," he said grandly. "I am the guardian of the skies above Schlosshotel." He looked me up and down with his shiny golden eyes. "Hm, you look like you could become a good explorer. But be careful: it is dangerous for little marmots up here!" That scared me so much, I fell right onto my fluffy bottom! Ludwig laughed heartily, and I couldn't help but laugh along. I'd found my very first friend at Schlosshotel! Ludwig knows every corner of the mountains and warns me of all the dangers. I feel really safe with him.

### **Chapter 4**

*Murmel the Schlosshotel explorer*

Now I'm the official Schlosshotel explorer! I know every nook and cranny inside and out. Marmots are very agile climbers. I can slip through the smallest openings and am so quiet that almost nobody can hear me. You won't believe the secret places I've already found! And the nice humans at Schlosshotel love it when I suddenly pop up! Have you met Keven? Sometimes I make him jump, but he's always happy to see me – once he's recovered from the shock. He always asks me: *"Murmel, what's the weather looking like?"* I can hear when the weather is changing long before the humans can tell. My ears go all tingly and I get restless – an old marmot trick! That means Keven can rely on me to know what the weather will be like tomorrow.

## Chapter 4

### *Murmel's favourite things*

What's your favourite food? I love eating raspberries more than anything else in the whole wide world! They're so juicy and sweet and pop in your mouth like tiny fireworks. And I'm a bit of an expert at cracking sunflower seeds. Sleep is very important for us marmots, you know. I like it snug and cosy, and there are lots of places like that at Schlosshotel. Sometimes I dream about my mountains and then I look forward to the next day and all the things waiting to be discovered. My brother Max always says that I snore a bit, too. I don't know if I believe him because I've never heard myself snore before. Maybe he's just pulling my leg.

Something I'm really good at is wiggling my ears! First the left one, then the right one, then both together. That makes everyone laugh. And I collect colourful buttons. Big ones, small ones, fat ones, thin ones – every button I can get my paws on. Why? Because every button tells a story. Where's it from? From which adventure? Don't you think that's super interesting?

## Chapter 5

### *Murmel meets Greta*

I absolutely have to tell you about my very first adventure here in Kitzbühel! One misty autumn morning, I had just finished my daily rounds of the hotel. Suddenly, outside in the garden, I heard a soft tapping. It sounded like this: *"Tap tap tap."*

I thought to myself: "Murmel, you have to go and investigate! Whatever could it be?" I scurried outside and followed the sound. It led me up the slope behind Schlosshotel, higher and higher, until I suddenly stood in front of a steep rock face. And then I saw it: a real chamois! She was tapping her hooves on a stone and looked at me with her bright, dark eyes.

*"Hello, little marmot,"* she said kindly. *"I'm Greta the chamois from Mt Hahnenkamm. So, you're the new resident at Schlosshotel?"*

I was so excited! A real chamois! *"Yes,"* I murmured quietly. *"My name's Murmel. Nice to meet you, Greta! Can I ask you something? Why does everyone call Kitzbühel the Chamois Town? And why are you tapping on that stone?"*

Greta smiled mysteriously. *"That's a great question! And it's a very old story, my little friend. Come with me, I'll show you something special."* She jumped so fast from rock to rock, and I tried my hardest to keep up. We marmots are good climbers, but chamois are simply incredible!

Eventually, we reached a small clearing with a view over the whole valley. There were even more chamois there. *"Look,"* said Greta, pointing down into the valley with her hoof. *"Do you see how Kitzbühel looks?"*

I squinted my eyes and peered down intently. Schlosshotel stood proudly, the lake sparkled, the houses hugged the mountainsides, and the streets wound through the valley like silver ribbons. It looked like a perfect toy village!

## Chapter 6

### *The story of Kitzbühel*

*"We chamois have lived here in these mountains for hundreds of years,"* explained Greta. *"We lived here long before humans built their first houses. We watched a few little huts grow into this beautiful town. And you know what? The humans here have never forgotten us!"*

An old chamois buck with magnificent horns approached us. *"I'm Gustav,"* he rumbled kindly. *"My great-great-great-grandma told me that the first humans who lived in Kitzbühel believed that we chamois brought good luck. If they saw us in the mountains, they knew it would be a good day for hunting or berry picking."*

*"And that,"* Greta added, *"is why they named the town after us. You can spot chamois everywhere in town: on coats of arms, on signs, in books, and even on jewellery."* I was fascinated! *"And why were you tapping on that stone before?"*

Greta winked at me. *"That's our secret code! When one of us taps on a stone, the other chamois know what it means. It lets us send messages from mountain to mountain. For example, tap tap tap means: 'Nice weather today!' And tap tap tap tap means: 'Watch out, there's an eagle about!'"*

*"That's just like us marmots!"* I exclaimed excitedly. *"We whistle to warn or greet each other, too!"*

Gustav nodded wisely. *"We mountain animals understand each other. That is why you fit in so well here, little Murmel. You are now part of the big Kitzbühel animal family."*

## Chapter 7

### *Yikes, here comes Kasimir!*

That night, I crawled into my warm, cosy den and snuggled up, feeling proud and happy. Now I finally knew why Kitzbühel is called the Chamois Town! It's not just because so many chamois live here, but because the graceful mountain acrobats have always been the protectors and good-luck charms of this beautiful town.

The best part? I, Marmel the marmot, was now part of the family! I was thinking about my new friends when I heard a soft rustling and rattling.

*"Who's this?"* whispered a soft voice right next to my left ear. I looked cautiously to the side and got such a fright! A ghost! In the moonlight, I saw a white, see-through figure floating in the air.

*"Don't be scared, little marmot,"* said the friendly voice. *"It's just me, Kasimir! I'm the castle ghost. It's so nice to meet you!"* Kasimir was so kind and gentle that I wasn't scared anymore. *"I'll show you the castle's coolest secrets,"* he whispered with a secret smile. How exciting! Kasimir knows all the secret passages and the most fascinating stories about Schlosshotel. Now I'd made three friends! Shall I tell you what happened to us the next day? You won't believe it. But that's another story – about a missing button and the secret of the golden chest!

## **KIDS' CLUB PROGRAMMES**

### **Little weather forecasters wanted!**

Marmel needs help with his most important task: the weather forecast for Schlosshotel! Become junior meteorologists and learn the secrets of mountain weather.

#### **Programme highlights:**

- Cloud investigation: how can we tell fair-weather clouds apart from rain clouds?
- Rain lab: experiments with water droplets and evaporation
- Snow study: snowflakes under the microscope
- Storm simulator: how do thunderstorms develop in the mountains?
- Rainbow magic: making rainbows with a hosepipe and sunlight
- Real weather meters for children
- Marmel weather journal to take home
- Junior meteorologist badge

### **Mountain cuisine for little gourmets**

Marmel loves raspberries and sunflower seeds. What other delicious things can we make?

#### **Marmel's yummy secrets**

- Berry kitchen: making jam with Marmel
- Nut cracking: sampling and preparing various nuts
- Tea ceremony: blending mountain tea to enjoy all year round
- Bread bakery: baking crunchy mountain bread

### **The Schlosshotel Olympics**

Marmel is training for the big Schlosshotel Olympics! Join him and show off your sporting talents in the craziest mountain sports.

- Marmot long jump: who can jump farther than Moritz?
- Ludwig's flight competition: whose paper plane flies the best?
- Greta's climbing course: agility on the climbing wall
- Ghostly sneaking: who can move the quietest?

Fair play and team spirit are the most important things.

Big closing ceremony with medals for everyone

Anticipation e-mail for children

**Betreff:**

 **TOP SECRET – secret mission for Agent Jana**

**SECRET MESSAGE**

Agent Jana, this is Secret Agent Marmelade!

We have a secret mission for you. Code name: Treasure Chest

**Your mission at Schlosshotel**

- Collect information about hidden treasures.
- Decipher secret messages.
- Find the hidden Schlosshotel coins.
- Collect your reward.

**Secret kit**

- Invisible detective's hat (looks just like a normal hat)
- Agent ID (waiting for you at the Schlosshotel reception)

Agent Marmelade and Agent Kasimir are waiting for you at the castle.

We're so excited to meet you – and that's no secret!

Your friend,

Marmelade