

The Realm of Magical Kingdoms

MAGICAL STORY

Book I the Scepter

Written by Christopher Lee Parrish

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Written 1/14/2005

Completed 1/07/2007

Published 2/19/2008

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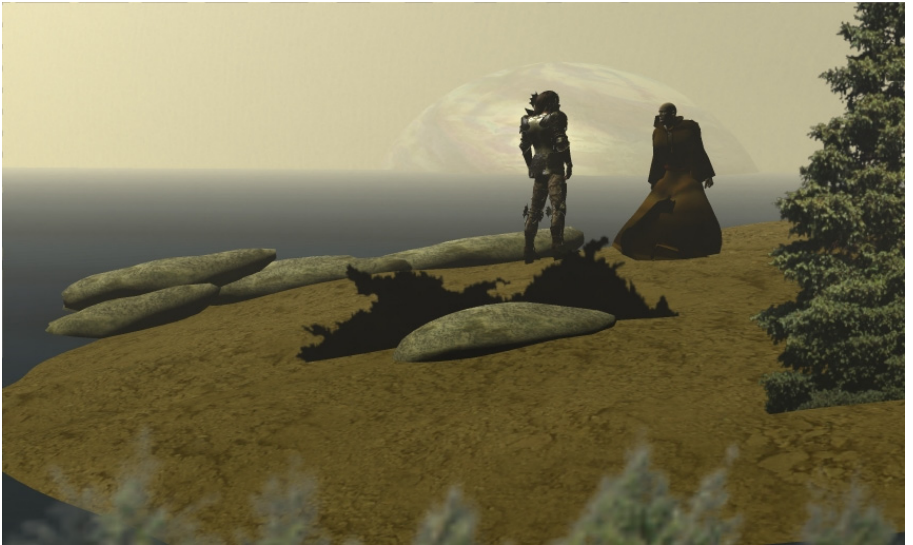
INTRODUCTION

The Knight must restore his honor; a Princess must save her Kingdom. A powerful weapon called the Scepter has been broken and the pieces scattered across the lands. The Evil Dark Sorcerer wants it for himself and will stop at nothing to get it. The Knight must protect the Princess while she searches for the Scepter. Then she must unite the pieces together to form the mighty weapon to save her Kingdom. Will the Evil Dark Sorcerer and his Black Knight, who commands the armies of Orcs, Goblins, and Dragons prevail and conquer all that is good. Or with the help of a Dwarf, a Thief a Wizard and the Armies of Pathano's can the Princess and the White Knight restore the Scepter and save the Kingdoms of Kantara?

Maybe.... Just Maybe read on and found out if you dare.

Early Morning Day 1

Evil lurks out of the Shadows



Chapter 1

The third moon peeked thru the clouds and over the horizon of The Planet Andaar. The last of its silver light reflecting in the Sea of Quadroon, calm as the night's darkness fell. There the forest on the edge of the sea is silent, not even the wind rustles its trees. Suddenly, a force creeps through the branches, reaching the edge of the sea and stopping. Out of the nothing, an apparition, a cloaked figure on a Dragon appears. A bright light engulfs the sky as the Dragon is snorting fire, which falls to the sea, extinguishing into the dark blue crystal water. The Dragon descends down out of the clouds.

As the rider dismounts he removes his hood and reveals a dark face for he is a Sorcerer. His skin is gray, but so shiny it is almost glowing. The figure's eyes are black, no life behind them at all.

A bald scalp with a few scattered hairs and a pointed nose with a cruel mouth complete his face. The figure's robe is as long and as wide as the sides of his body, resembling those of a bat. An evil grin slides across His soul-less face. "It's time," the creature breathes as another figure in Dark Iron Armor appears from the shadows to his side. "Yes, it has come, My Lord. This Voice is that of The Black Knight, Commander of The Orc and Goblin Legions that control the Dark Realm. "The night is upon us, and we must prepare for Battle," the raspy voice of the Evil Sorcerer snarls in response. "Yes, And my Legions await your command my Lord," Said the Black Knight. The Black Knight has never been defeated in Battle. With the Black Knight leading the dark armies every campaign or war that was wagered by the Evil Sorcerer has come out with a Victory for the Dark Realm. Thus making The Black Knight the most feared in the lands.

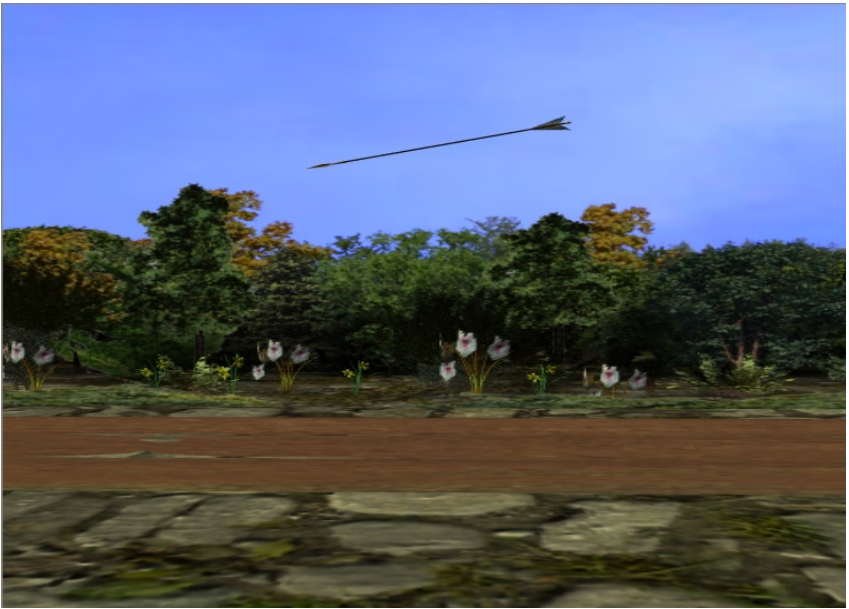
The Sorcerer raises his hands into the air then in a figure eight says: ***Space-Devine-Earth-be-mine-split-the-clouds-so-I-can-see-mine.*** A Shriek of Lightning cuts into the air.

With a Loud pounding of thunder the wind starts to pick up. The clouds overhead then split without haste as they look up. Thru the clouds you can see the gray sky and the three moons coming closer together. "In seven days the three moons will align and the Protection of the Scepter by the Elders will be stripped away for one hour. "The King will send the Mighty Great White Knights to protect it," says the Black Knight. "My dragons along with your Orc and Goblin Armies the Kantara realm will crumble without the protection of the Scepter," replies the Sorcerer. "The time has come to gather the Armies to capture the Scepter my lord?" questions the Black Knight. "Yes," Says the evil sorcerer. "It will be our greatest hour." The Scepter has been in the Control of the Kantara Realm way too long," Now it shall be mine." The evil sorcerer shouts in a loud cheer. "My power will be unstoppable with the Scepter," The evil sorcerer replies. "Indeed," spoken by the black knight as he crosses his arms and grins.

Then the Sorcerer scales his way up the large dragon and leaps onto its back. He pulls back the reins and shouts "To the air Dragon."

The dragon stands up on all fours leaps into the air and its massive wings spread apart like a giant kite as it takes flight. The Dragons wings start to move up and down like a swimmer in the ocean causing the dragon to lift. Then two ascend up thru the air and soon disappear into the clouds. Out of the forest a Black War Horse appears. The horse was sixteen hands Tall. The horse was Black as silk with full battle armor from top to bottom. The Horse snorts a gust of air past the side of the Black Knights face. "Yes, Blanian we must go." Then the Black Knight pats his horse puts on his helm and mounts the horse. He pulls the reins and the horse gallops into the forest leaving two burnt marks in the grass where they were standing.

Afternoon Day 1
The White Knight



Chapter 2

Sunlight streams through the branches as the leaves fall along side the long and winding dirt road. On one side a tall Evergreen forest marks the edge of the road for hundreds of miles. And on the side are many small trees and bushes with a few grandfather red oaks here and there. In the transition of time, fall shows life in a very quite land. The Wind rushes through the trees moving some of the branches.

The red, orange and yellow leaves take a little girl's breath away as she skips through the forest gathering berries. She has sun-kissed golden blonde hair and pretty ocean-like blue eyes. Her eyes widen as she catches a glimpse of a beautiful butterfly landing on a berry bush in front of her.

She gives awe to nature's creation. Its wings come to a stop and it is motionless for a moment, as to take notice to the little human girl. As the little girl reaches out to touch the butterfly it flies away. A smile comes across her face as she begins to hum and starts to skip again. She is wearing a worn and tattered old pale blue dress, which hangs a little on her shoulder, obviously a hand-me-down. She hums to herself and slowly picks blackberries and raspberries, dreaming of a world where berries were not rare, but grew on every street corner for her to eat her fill of.

The little girl is looking up at the sun when suddenly a single arrow goes whooshing by above her head landing into a tree at the other end of the trail. Then two horses at a fast pace come galloping up the trail. Traveling very fast, two men one in plate mail armor a knight and the other in noble clothes his squire, on horseback come into view. The little girl covers her ears from the loud noise going by; scaring her she hides behind berry bush. The two riders are barreling up the path, hooting and hollering as they are going up the trail towards the arrow.

The Squire yells out a small wine... "Aha ayah I will get there first, Sir Jonathan!" As he says this, the Squire pulls up farther away from the Knight, getting closer to their arrow stuck in the tree. Passing the little girl in berry bush the squire did not see her.

The Knight passed her but did not give much notice to her. As they gallop up the path the Squire reaches the tree where the arrow rested and slows down to a sudden stop. This was a crossroad sign with the arrow extruding out of it. The main trail lead straight ahead or a smaller path went to the left. The Squire then reaches down and grabs the arrow removes it from the tree and packs it into his quiver. Alarmed as he stopped Sir John notices a band of Orcs on the left cutting thru the path heading towards the section of trees where the little girl was. "Orcs Felix Orc." The Knight Roars aloud shouting the Squires name aloud. Come Squire we must save the girl. As the Knight kicks his horse and goes barreling down the path in the direction of the Orcs, passing the Squire. "Can't we just leave them alone?" the Squire pleads.

"Nonsense! Exclaims the Knight. Where is shivery? Besides I need to have my fill of honor for the day! We must save that little girl!" the Knight Bellows throwing his head back with laughter and puts down his face shield with his hand and charges off. "Killing four Orcs isn't going to do it for you, and what little girl are you talking about?" the Squire mutters under his breathe and rakes in the reins. His horse begins to gallop down the path in pursuit of the Knight.

The Squire is closing up behind the Knight; Alarmed with anger the Orcs who couldn't help but notice the racket that the two men were making and started charging towards the medieval duel. The Knight and Squire stop before a thicket of bushes just before the Orcs and dismount swords in hands. The little girl moves up the trail a little to see what was going on. She quickly hides behind the bushes. She watches the group through the branches, clutching her basket she pokes a stick out of the bushes she picked up to see if the ghost is clear. She could take on those big old Orcs, as she swirls the stick in the air.

She looks out at the two heroes' that have come on horseback. Curiosity is in her eyes; she has never seen men in armor before. There are four Orcs, all dressed in military uniform one with a great battle axe and the others with clubs. The Knight and Squire walk to their foes as the Orcs stood still holding their ground waiting to attack the heroes. The Knight lets out a roar of a half laugh and half yell, "En guard!" Then he stomps his foot and the Orcs all jump except the largest one. Then the largest Orc lunges out towards the Knight followed by the rest screaming and yelling war cries. The Knight smoothly and arrogantly parry's the first attack from the large Orc's axe and trips him while he pushes him off balance causing the Orc to stumble and fall into the bushes. Following the big Orc three other smaller Orcs lunge out after the Knight.

The Orcs swing there clubs wildly. He quickly parry's two, and knocks down and the third with his shoulder. The big Orc very mad and upset charges back at the knight with his Axe held way up high.

The two clash weapons and the battle begin. "Felix." The Knight shouts. "Time to Join I guess," Exclaims the squire. Then Felix wastes no time and joins the Knight and attacks the two Orcs while standing on the third orc. The two Orcs charge up as the Squire leaps off the Orc strait in swinging his sword vigorously at both of them. They mutter some gross detest words and slobber is drooling down their mouths as they both block his swings.

The smaller orc of the two, charges at him taking a swing with his club and misses Felix arm by an inch. Felix blocks a second attack with a parry and strikes the Orc with a deadly blow to the mid section. The Orc slowly topples over. Felix Charges the the Second Orc and the two fight each other. A few misses and the Orc overextended his Club and Felix thrusts his sword right into the torso of the orc. The orc topples to the ground. The other Orc that was on ground is up now and runs off down the trail ranting and raving sacredly. Then the Large Orc yelps out a large war cry then jumps up and down with rage, and with an attitude as he sees his fallen comrades.

Out of the bushes The Large Orc starts to run at Felix. The Knight steps in front of Felix, and says, "Better let me handle this one." Felix steps to the side. The Knight trails his sword behind him, awaits the attack from the Large Orc. The Orc pulls his axe back and lunges forward with all his might and swings the axe. The Knight slightly turns and leans back as the axe scrapes past his chest plate of armor barely missing him. The Large Orc stumbles off balance falling towards the ground; the Knight turned and lifted his sword up, tilted it sideways bearing down on the back of the Orcs head and releases it from his body. "One, Two, and Three... I thought there were four" Exclaimed the Knight. Out of nowhere an Orc leaps off a nearby tree stump with his axe overhead growling and screaming while falling towards the Knight. The Knight turns his head at hearing the noise while watching an arrow with white feathers past his nose hitting the Orc in the forehead. This stops the Orc in mid air then the Orc collapses to the ground like a bag of broken chips. The Squire had made a crisp clean shot and bulls eyed the Orc.

The two rants and rave with victory, the Knight's hearty laugh bellowing through the woods. "Now that was just way too close, says Felix. These guys are getting smarter as the Knight pulls the arrow out of the dead Orcs Skull. Remember when those Orcs couldn't fight and I would watch you play with them till I got bored then I would jump in swords a blazing and kill everything that was moving. These guys really put up a good fight, Right Felix? Felix? Where did that boy go," Ponders the Knight. Felix, the squire, is off in the bushes relieving him self after that battle. He is staring at a tree whistling to him self when something catches his eye. He looks to the left then does a double take and rushes to turn around and make him self decent. The little girl pops up from behind a small bush giggling and starts to run away. "Wait, little girl, come back," Felix Yells. Running towards his horse to follow the little girl, he is still battling his garments.

The Sir John is already on his horse and leads Felix's horse to him. The Sir John kicks his spurs into the horse and after the little girl he went.

His horse is fast so catching up was no problem. Felix was still getting himself situated on his horse then he turned his reins one side to the other and kicked his spurs into the horse. Nearly falling off his horse Felix regains his posture as horse continues at a fast gallop. Sir John catches up to the little girl and he slows his horse then reaches down to grab the little girl up in his arms.

"Let me go... Let me Go!" the little girl starts screaming. "Shhhhh... I'm not going to hurt you, sweetheart," Sir John laughs while trying to calm her down. "I'm not your sweetheart! Don't call me sweetheart!" she yells in an upset voice then kicks and struggles to get loose. Sir John laughs deeply again. "Ah, a Feisty One." Alright, I won't call you that anymore if you tell me your real name." Felix finally reaches the two; his garments all arranged and he is out of breath. "Let me down! I can walk! I'm fine." she begins to scream and shrilly and kicks Sir John in his shin. Sir John groans in pain then let's loose his grip and she started to slide down the side of the horse.

He tries to catch her but the little girl pushed free. Walking towards the sun she was happy and singing to her self as if nothing ever happened. As she walked she stretched out her arms to touch the trees that overhung the path. Pulling some leaves off of overhanging branches she gently threw them onto the ground. She picked up a yellow sunflower and looked up towards the sun and she blew all the pedals off the stem. Slowly as she walked the pedals fell to the ground all around her. "My name is Dora the Blue." She shouted. She shouted out in a joyful way, follow me and I will take you to my town. Then she started off down the path. We should follow her to make sure she gets back safely to wherever she is going. With half a grin smile there was no hiding it Felix was holding back a laugh. "What are you laughing at?" Shouts Sir John. As the Knight says this he looks down and on his tunic he could see two small handprints from small hands covered in blueberry stein. "Dora the Blue, Hmm. Ha That's real funny, he says." He Start to laugh. "I don't know why you had to go and scare the girl like that, Sir John?" Felix mumbled out loud in an embarrassed way.

"Me?" Confused Sir John snapped back. "I'm not the one who decided to relieve myself right in front of a girl; no more than...how old do you think she was? Never mind, follow her." Sir John pulls out his water flask then takes a few gulps to drink. After he had his fill he put some water on a handkerchief and wiped off his tunic of the blueberries stain. Putting his flask and handkerchief back in his saddle he then nudged his horse to keep up with the pace of the little girl. Felix Chuckled to himself as he trailed behind. Sir John the Blue he thinks to himself.

Late Afternoon Day 1
The Town of Torrance



Chapter 3

Following the little girl about five miles up the road they soon reached the outskirts of a small town. A sign reads Welcome to the Town of Torrance. They enter the town. The streets are busy, a large marketplace filled with people, carts full of fruit, vegetables, small trinkets and furs. There are butchers, Fletcher's, farmers and performers. People are walking, talking, selling and buying goods. The little girl walks by them like there all friends. They turn and smile and say hi as she passes. There is a fire eating man with People huddled around him in a small circle clapping and laughing at the show. On the right a butcher has a sharp axe in one hand and a freshly caught chicken in his other and it's struggling to get free. The Butcher looks up at Sir John and smiles as he releases his chop as grins. On the left a man is buying a new bow for hunting pays his merchant in silver coins.

Kids are playing and chasing each other around the market. Up a little further on the same side of the market an elderly woman is heading out of the market place with a small bag of wheat. The little girl heads towards the far corner of the market place where a small cobblestone road begins. The little girl sees the two trailing behinds her and yells back this is road as she points to the right. "Okay, little one," Sir John laughs. "Come on," she motions to the two. With reins in hand the two follow the little girl to the edge of the cobblestone road. The old Cobblestone Road is lined with storefronts and small houses are mixed in. The little girl stops at the corner then starts walking down the alley. First the road starts out as a cobblestone road then narrows down into a smaller dirt road.

After a few small houses a tavern and a barn they come to the end of the dirt road. A trail led to a small house on a hill just above the dirt road. With a white picket fence surrounding it and a huge Oak tree with golden brown leaves sit in front of the house.

Yellow clay shingles lay on the roof, being held up by small sandstone bricks built into walls. The Little girl enters the gate that separated the white picket fence. She stops, turns around and says. "My name is Dora the Blue and this is where I live." Sir John and Felix stop at the gate and watch as she walks up to the house. There was an older woman, standing on the porch broom in hand sweeping the surface. This was her mother. She stops sweeping for a moment when her daughter reaches the porch. The little girl points at the two visitors and the mother looks down the hill to see who they where. As Sir John and Felix dismount from their horses the little girl starts to tell her mom of her adventure. They walk up to the house on the hill. You can here the little girl telling a story of two men with swords and war horses in a big battle with the Orcs that were eight foot tall... and... She doesn't finish though. Sir John interrupts her by saying the Orcs were not really eight foot tall but only a near six-foot tall. Actually Sir John was six-foot-eight just a bit taller then the Orcs. Her mother's gaze goes from her daughter to Sir John as he approaches the front porch.

The Mother looks at her daughter and smiles asking for her to go in the house and do her chores. She then looks at the Sir John and Felix and thanks the heroes for rescuing her daughter. "Yes, we where Fighting and smacking down those large beasts..."The first two where hard to kill but by the fourth it was a cake walk. Felix here took on one or two at least." Sir John embellishes. As the Knight stood there smiling from ear to ear he turned sideways and was showing off his armor with his right arm resting gently on his sword. Before Sir John could finish his story the mother turns around still smiling leans her broom at the side of the house and walks into the front door closing it softly behind her. "Wow that was weird," Says Felix. He looks at Sir John with a puzzled look in his eyes.

Felix smiles and lets out a small Chuckle. "Hmm that lady was kind of weird..." says Felix. Still talking with no one listening, finally Sir John stops. "What did you say Felix?" Sir John asks. Sir John lost at what Felix just said was just looking confused. "Huh?" He said. "Oh, yes. I said "Wow that was weird!" Says Felix again.

He was starring Sir John's pose and clear his throat to give a hint that Sir John's audience was no longer there. "What are you starring at Felix? As Sir John Looks at Felix with a lost stare. Felix taps his foot on the ground twitches his right eye and points at the Knight with his Hand on his sword and standing sideways posing. Then all of a sudden reality strikes the Knight. "Ya. Ya oh I am sorry... Drops his pose and his hand off his Sword." "He he he he." "You know I just love to show off." He grins from ear to ear with a Kings smile. Then from out of the woods behind the house a fairly large man came. Carrying an axe in one hand and an arm full of wood in the other he walks up to the two and with a smile he starts to talk. "You will have to forgive my wife, she's not all that social able until she gets to know you. She thinks everyone wants to steal from us." My name is Kristian, many thanks for watching out for my daughter. I was just finishing up chopping down some trees in the back and needed some wood for tonight's fire. He sits down the axe next to the broom on the porch.

Running his hands through his hair to get out the leaves and dirt from his head he then shakes off the leaves from his hands and wipes his hands on his pants. He then puts out his hand for a handshake from the Knight. Sir John shakes his hand and introduces himself and Felix. Sir John looks at Felix then raises an eyebrow.

With A smile Kristian says "Would you strangers like a drink?" Sir John's eyes lit up like a candle as he turned his look back to Kristian shaking his hand firm and with a happy thought. "I sure could use a drink right about now, he thought to himself." "We thought you would never ask," said Sir John. They tie up the horses around the side of the house near a watering trough. Kristian gives the horses some hay and the three are heading up the little dirt road back to the Tavern just before the cobblestone road started.

The three stroll there way there in no time. They walk in the door of the pub and it was scarcely dead. There were only three other patrons sitting at the bar. They order their drinks and sit down at a table near the door.

The drinks kept on coming one after another and the talk started to get good. As he gets comfortable in his chair, Sir Jonathan asks where they are in accordance with the boundaries. Kristian explains; you are in the town of Torrance on the outskirts of the Castle of Tureen. We live on the borders of the town and mostly keep to ourselves. The Knight smiles at Felix, us too, we like keeping to ourselves. "Aye." Kristian laughs. Then he takes a swig of his ale. You can't fool me I know your soldiers of some kind. My daughter would not have been safe if ordinary non-troublemakers tried to save her. If you hadn't fought those Orcs who knows what would have happened. She knows that she's not supposed to go that far out of the city. She has this fascination for berries. She is just so lost in her own world sometimes, picking those berries she just gets so involved in the forest. She loves the forest you see. Sir Jonathan looked at Kristian, "You are very perceptive my friend. He downs almost half of his mug in one gulp. "May I ask where you acquired such wisdom," Says Sir John. He laughs. "It is not wisdom." Look at both of ya...

You have armor bearing a great big White Cross, you have swords, shields, war-horses, and your companion is dressed in the same clothes as you uniforms I guess. Every once in a while my Daughter and her mother will dress alike but never the same thing. You're either a Knight or a Noble." I bet my money you're a Knight." Kristian almost runs out of breath. "Is that a question or are you guessing?" the Knight finishes his mug with one gulp and laughs. "It's a Question!" Says Kristian as he orders another round of ale for the group. "Aye, I am not trying to hide it, Sir Jonathan Mullen of Coralline is my name," And I am a White Knight." The Knight stands to offer a toast and he notices his mug is Empty. Before Felix could get a chance to drink his most recent mug of ale, Sir John pours a small bit of Felix's ale into his mug.

Then all three begin to toast. Sir Jonathan lifts his almost empty mug. Kristian slides his mug in almost tipping it. Slowly and almost drunk Felix puts his mug in. "Not sure what where toasting to but here is to just plain toasting," Says Felix with a big smile.

Sir John says abruptly. We are toasting that we are White Knights. The mugs hit and ale is spilt. The three drink until the mugs are empty. Then a waitress places three more mugs of ale on the table and Sir John quickly downs his. A bit drunk he starts to talk to the woman waitress. "I think we need another round woman," Burps the Knight." "Whoops sorry. HEHEHE" the Knight scrambles for composure. Felix turns to the woman and says everything is all right and that they would like another round and pays in advance for these along with a tip. She quickly trots off with a smile and an empty tray. Kristian pretty much holding his owns sits back into his chair and pick at his teeth with a toothpick. Feet all kicked up onto the table and just relaxing. "We need to meet up with Lord Rathix Mullan of Coralline," Sir John said. "Oh really ya do? And who is he," Says Kristian. Felix and Sir John look at each other. "That's John's father," Said Felix. "Yes that is my father," says Sir John. "Oh I see," Kristian sits back in his chair and relaxes. "What for?" said Kristian. Then Sir John tells of the Story of how he has to join his father on a quest to protect a scepter for a king.

This Scepter was used to keep the Kantara Realm from evil invading it. Amazed at the story and overwhelmed the man sits there and stars at the two with a blank look. Three hours later and four gallons of ale gone the two decide it was time to hit the hay. Sir John and Felix stand up ready to go. Then all of a sudden Kristian jumps up. He was moving side to side as to a drunken person would.

Kristian knowing that a Knight never turns down a challenge due to honor makes a challenge to the Knight Just for fun. "Well, YA first have to get through me." "Every man who walks into this pub and has a sip of the brew has to get into the ring," Kristian smiled at Sir John and Felix. Felix's half drunk face got pale and he stammered, "Well, you, ya, um, ya know that we have a really long trip ahead of us and we really must be go-g-going," Kristian cut him off with a strong poke in the shoulder with his finger, nearly knocking Felix to the floor. At this time they were all standing up. "Come on, sissy boy! It's all in fun! Hit me! Hit me!" Kristian was on his feet, dancing around Felix, who looked a bit confused.

Kristian throws a haymaker at Felix. Felix tries to block it causing Felix's hands to jolt back at his face hitting himself in the nose. Felix then staggers and a bit dazed he slowly makes his way towards the back of the pub while trying to get his nose to stop bleeding. Ouch that hurt. "Let me look at that," the waitress says. The waitress has a wet towel and is cleaning the blood off his face and shirt. Sir John stepped up, swayed for a minute, for his brew was strong and put much toile on him and Says. "You should not pick on him he is way to small of a man for you." "You should pick on someone bigger then him. " Then Kristian pokes Sir John on his Shoulder. "You're Bigger," Said Kristian. . "Indeed I am," Sir John says with a great big smile that could only come from a heartfelt foe looking for attention comes to light. "Oh ya think you know how to fight do ya? Hey how about you take on a full package?" Said Kristian. Then Sir John punches several hard blows into stomach of Kristian and he did not even flinch. Kristian dropped his hands to his knees and began laughing at Sir John as he was trying to recover the lack of breath. Sir John looked at him in puzzlement.

"What are you laughing at?" exclaimed Sir John. "Is that the hardest you can hit?" Then Sir John lunged from his stooped position straight at Kristian knocking him off balance onto the floor. Kristian was very surprised and in much anger jumps back to his feet. Then he starts to grab Sir John around the waist. Then Kristian turns around to gain control of his arms. Breaking his arms free Kristian gets out of the hold and pushes Sir John away. Then Kristian walked right up to Sir John and throws a nicely right hook to the mid section causing Sir John to double over. Kristian tries to put his knee into Sir John's Face. Sir John catches his foot sending Kristian for a short back step. Sir John steps up and puts a full bear hug on Kristian. Looking dazed Kristian tries to break free. Sir John picks up Kristian over his heads and swirls him about ten feet into a wall. Kristian as he finishes his flight crashes loudly into the wall, which did not move nor budge. Slowly sliding down the wall he reaches the floor and sat there against the wall dazed. Sir Jonathan begins to chuckle looks over at Felix and grins.

Felix sends an appreciation glance while holding a wet bloodied towel over his nose. The Knight walks up to the fallen Kristian. "Think you have had enough for the night?" Says the Knight. Then Kristian half drunk have dazed smiled and said. "Enough" Yes indeed "Enough." The Knight puts out his hand. Kristian takes the offer and starts to stand up. As he stood, Kristian gives Sir Jonathan a good pat on the back. Nicely done, almost had you at first but your definitely a worthy warrior, "Knight." See it's just harmless fun, No grudges and shakes the Knights hand. Kristian and Sir John walk over to Felix whose nose has stopped bleeding.

Later that night, the three stumbled back to Kristin's home, where he gave the two men the spare room in their tiny house. Two beds, two tiny pillows and two thin sheets and two blankets where the makings of the beds. One small table with a candle on it complete the room. "This is all we have." Says Kristian. "Well its better then sleeping out side in the weather on the hard cold ground." Said the Knight. "Yes Indeed." Said Felix.

"Good Night," I will wake you in the morning for breakfast." Kristian said. Leaving silently from the room as he shuts the door. He walked to his room to join his wife and little girl. "Tomorrow we leave for the castle," Sir Jonathan tells Felix who was already fast asleep.

In the morning Felix wakes up, notices that the Knights bed was empty and signs of him sleeping there where evident. Outside you can see Kristian and the Knight splitting firewood for the morning breakfast. After making a big enough pile the two carry the wood into the kitchen for Kristin's wife to start cooking. At the smell of food Felix hops up out his bed and gets dressed to go and eat. Later that morning after breakfast, the two start walking to the barn out back where there horses where being kept. Walking into the barn they see Kristian and notice that he has already saddled and packed the horses. They mounted the horses and ride out of the barn. Kristian follows behind and all three met at the front of the house. On the front porch the mother and the little girl stand with a small nap sack in the mother's hands and a small basket in the little girls hands.

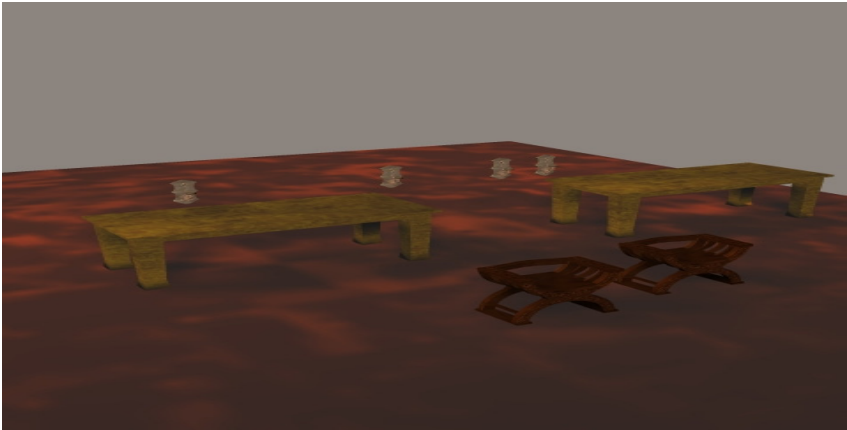
They were just standing there looking so innocent the two riders had to stop to give awe. The mother walked up to the Knight and said thanks for protecting her daughter. "I have a gift for your journey," she smiles and handed him a small nap sack. The Knight peeked inside. The inventory consisted of two loafs of bread some jam two small blocks of cheese. And a large piece of dry meat wrapped in clothe finish the inventory. He smiled and deeply gave thanks. Felix just lost in another world watching the trees and birds above notices something or someone tugging on his boot.

There next to him stood the little girl with a gift in her hands stretched out upwards as to be giving it to him. Puzzled he sends a look over at the Knight. He shrugs his shoulders and proceeds to take the small basket. As he flips over the small towel that wrapped the goods to keep fresh he notices pretty blues and reds. This basket was full of berries. They must have been less then hours old for they smelled so fresh. The young squire takes a hand full and tosses them in his mouth.

The look of enjoyment would be the only thing the little girl needed for thanks as she skipped off down the trail with a smile on her face. A stick in one hand and berries in the other the little girl was sword playing, skipping and singing you could hear her happy little self a far off. The squire covers the berries back up with the towel and packs them into his backpack on his horse. He hands the basket to the mother and says thank you. The two start their journey again heading down the trail towards the sun. As they leave the Knight looks back and watches Kristian stand next to his wife. With one hand in her hand he waves, smiles and shouts good luck. The Knight and the Squire turn around and ride off into the distance towards the castle.

Afternoon Day 2

The King and His Court



Chapter 4

Later that evening in another part of that very same Realm a Great King sits on his throne in the Council Hall with his Royal Council. The Council sits at two separate tables in front of the throne. This hall is very large and has no windows. There are twelve enormous pillars on each side of hall that run in parallel and they help support the ceiling. These pillars are light gray marble in color with a touch of Greek style look in them. A rot iron holder is set on each side of the pillars and has a lit torch nestled in its grasp.

"The time is approaching," the King of Northern Pathonas proclaimed. "Will we have protectors?" A member of the Royal Counsel asks the Question. "The Oracle spoke of protectors," the Aged man's raspy voice questioned. "The Great White Knights shall come; they will not disappoint their destiny," Loudly Spoken by the King. "Do they know their destiny?" Yet another member of the Council stands and shouts out.

"Yes, they have trained for this for their soul's lifetime. It's in the bloodlines to serve and protect the Scepter. "Their Quest for eternity is to protect the Scepter." "Lord Rathix Mullan the Leader of the White Knights will arrive with his great armies soon. Together with the army of Northern Pathonas the White knights will take heed in protecting the Scepter," Says the King. "They must not fail us or there will be Chaos and we will fall into ruins." Another Counsel Member exclaims. "Thus creating, The Realm of Fallen Kingdoms." Spoken firmly and just loud enough to echo through the Great hall, as a very wise educated man spoke. He has pale skin, long white hair and a small white beard. He is wearing a Long Silver cloak and a Dark Blue Robe with a silver belt to hold it together.

As he walks down the great Hall towards the King he passes the marble pillars one by one. He reaches the tables set before the King. He then walks between the men and the tables. With a firm voice, "These Knights are well trained and are Braving.

A well Honored and followed Leader Lord Rathix Mullan leads them. He has Ambition and Courage. With his Great White Knights he will lead the two armies against the Evil Lord. If he fails our destiny is unknown? Spoken as a true Advisor the King agrees. Then the Head Advisor slowly makes his way to the Kings side. She looks up with her tears trailing from her eyes can you help me? The Council members wrestle in the chairs and speak among themselves in small conversations. It could almost be heard through the entire Castle the big question... Will the White Knights Prevail?

In a small courtyard off to the side of the princess's sleeping chambers very close to the Council meeting room three young girls are walking. The Princess in leading and her two friends trail her walking down the small path towards the Main Hall. Talking and making jokes the princess is the center of attention. As they walk through the courtyard the three stop as they watch little children playing in the courtyard. A small leather brown ball passes in front of them.

There's a little girl that is running trying to catch up with the ball and two boys are following her. She slips and loses her balance down to one knee and the ball bounces out of the courtyard past the guards into the Main Hall. The little girl looks sad then starts to cry. The Princess notices a slight difference of the little girl's clothes. She had a green and white dress on. Her face and hands were dirty and her dress shows wear from playing. The little girl turns to notice The Princess of North Pathonas. The Princess walks up to her and asks why she was crying. The boys back off and chat among themselves quietly. The little girl exclaimed that she did not want to get yelled at by the guards but she wanted to go get her ball, so she could play again.

The Princess leaned over just slightly to take the little girl's hand. Smiles and with a firm soft voice she says. Come with me I will help you get the ball back. The tears come to a complete stop as she wipes her eyes and then a smile comes across her face. The little girl stares at the Princess and notices her beauty.

The Princess is tall with long blonde hair resting perfectly on her shoulders. As her womanly features fill her dress perfectly, she has sparkling baby blue eyes. On her left shoulder hidden mostly by her hair rests the noble birthmark. All nobles receive this at birth. A leather ball bounces into the Main Hall a leather ball that finds its way to the Kings throne and just stops shortly from his feet. The Princess walks in with her new little friend. The two boys follow. Her father the King stops after his sentence and notices the ball wobbling at his feet. He leans over and picks up the ball with one hand then stands up out of his throne. Then he takes a closer look at the ball. He bounces it twice. As he looks up, he sees his beautiful daughter with a little girl standing in front of her. The little girl was being very shy and embarrassed with her head turned to the side with her arms crossed.

The Princess had her hands laid slightly over the little girls shoulders for support. The princess speaks in a calm voice. My little friend has lost something father. The Kings walks forward with his robe trailing behind.

He has a Golden Crown with green and red emeralds incased on the sides. The King wore golden armor and on the breast plate there is a Symbol of his kingdom. It's a Great Oak Tree. Brown with green leaves it its worn and displayed throughout the entire palace on Sur Coats the flags and on the tapestry. The council chats among themselves and the head advisor smiles advisor smile when he notices the princess. The King walks up within ten feet of the two. The king says to the little girl, is this yours, you may approach little one. The little girl turns her head to see this huge man they call the King. The King has such glamour of an outfit on and with a long white beard. She runs up stretches her arms out. The King hands the leather ball to her. She then runs and hides behind the Princess. The King walks up to the Princess and kisses his daughter on the forehead and smiles with approval. He then turns to the little girl and winks at her. The little girl with joy and glee runs out of the council room with the ball in hand. She runs back into the courtyard and tells her friends of the exciting news of meeting the King and how the princess helped her get the ball back.

The Princess walks through the Main Hall out the main doors. Her friends join back up with her, chatting and continue walking throughout the castle. The Kings sits back down on his throne. The King almost opening his mouth almost to speak was interrupted by a loud noise coming from the other end of the Main Hall. Soldiers march through the Hall towards the throne Led by the Captain of the guard. As honorable dressed as a Soldier in this era could be and well armored too. A Very Tall, Young and hansom Man, "The Kings Nephew" comes to the throne and Greets the King. Another noise of footsteps running this time rises from the Hall.

Coming from the end of the Great hall from at least a hundred feet away a Guard hurriedly makes his way to the Captain. The Guard stops and makes his salute to the Captain and then Captain salutes him back. The Guard leans over and whispers into the Captains ear. "Sir," there at the South Border." "Already" Exclaims the Captain. "Yes," our South border patrol scouts have reported seeing a large army approaching the south border.

The army is flying the Colors of the White Knights. The King almost puzzled for a moment. Then realizes what the Guard has said. Almost completing his sentence, the King rises to his feet and says.

"Their here?" The room goes into a clutter of everyone talking and moving around. Then the King scurries over to the Captain. The Captain and the guard both turn and look at the King and at the same time respond with "Yes your majesty." The King makes a loud and clear command to his council. Get my servants and my people and make ready a feast for tomorrow I declare is a feast day. The Great White Knights are going to arrive and we must greet them with the best of my wines and fattest of my pigs for a feast they shall never forget.

The Captain and the guards left the main hall to gather the greeting party of Knights and soldiers to meet the White Knights. The King turned to the council and said it is late in the day we will have guests in the morning so we will continue this meeting again at a later date. The Meeting was adjourned and there was a great movement in the castle, almost as much as the End Years festival.

There are servants cleaning up and tidying down the castle fixing and preparing the Great Hall for a Dinner Feast. Chiefs prepare the best foods. The Brewers Making up the Finest wines in the castle. The bakers are on over time and it smells of fresh bread in the air. Many of the people are about in the castle. Some are cleaning the floors, stairs, and the guest rooms bringing them up to best presentation. Others taking care of the everyday chores that keep there lives going day by day. The maids are making beds and cleaning window seals of dust.

Butlers go around opening all the doors to the castle to let in the cool breeze. Children help there parents in the sorting and folding of fine cloth napkins on the Tables in the Great Hall. Banners of the Great Kings and Knights are hung above all the tables. Wood Sculptures are prepared to be set on the food tables to be shown as art. The evening has just begun. Through Out the night the preparations will under go for the mornings Feast. There is laughter and Happiness heard throughout the Castle.

Early Morning Day 3

The Market Place of Castle Northern Pathonas



Chapter 5

Their journey took them over several valleys and over some small mountains. Across a small dry baron land similar to a desert, then through some woods and across two rivers into the mid day. Finally the last mountain to cross over before entering Northern Pathonas Castle was in sight. "Are you ready for this, my Lord?" Felix glanced sideways at the Knight. "Come, young squire, a Knight is always ready for anything!" Taking a swig of his flask, Sir John kicked his horse into action and the two took off for the last hill. Later that morning as the Sun makes its way past the mountains to the North the White Knights Camp is about five miles from the Castle. The massive army was waking up from the evening camp. Sir John and Felix arrive at the camp. A scout makes notice of Sir John and He delivers a message to the Lord of the encampment. The Lord then sends for the two visitors to meet him at the common tent.

Sir John and Felix dismount and hand there reins over to a stable hand to care for the horses. Sir John walks into the tent met by guards. He removes his helm revealing a similar face as to the Lord who was sitting down at his Lords Throne. The Lord stands and shouts to the guards to let Sir John and Squire Felix in. Sir John walks in makes a bow of courtesy then hugs his father. After chatting for a few hours Sir John leaves the tent and makes his place in the camp as Head Knight. Sir Jonathan and Felix wash up and clean there armor and boots getting ready to travel to the castle.

After a few hours a large group of Knights and squires prepare there horses for departure of the camp. At the same time another small group of Knights on horseback was forming inside the castle to great the visitors. Outside every castle there was a small town that surrounds it. This is where all the trading is done. This is called the Traders Marketplace. Lord Rathix Mullan, Sir John, Squire Felix and the White Knights with there Squires mount there horses and start for the castle.

Red Banners bearing a White cross flies high above the Large Band of Knights. This was the White Knights symbol. As the first few White Knights enter the Trader's Marketplace the castle horns were blowing as a sign that the White Knights were arriving. The White Knights entered the town with a trail of wind at their backs, which stirred those in the storefronts to look at the Knights. "What are they doing here?" A little girl questioned. "Have they come to help us? A man says. "Look a Knight!" a woman, exclaims. "Where are the rest of them? Father?" a little boy asked his Father. Look darling there is an army approaching. Several hundred horses with Knights trailed in behind Lord Rathix Mullan, Sir John and Felix. John looked around. "Great! Peasants." The Peasants and Knights got along okay, but the marketplace was always a strange mixture of emotions and Nobility that was hard to understand. For the Knight is use to Nobles and not beggars of sorts.

A 17-year old elf boy stumbled out of the crowd, falling at the feet of Felix's horse. He fell to a short bow, his brown pants acquiring a slight tear in the process.

His green shirt was the color of the leaves and his cap was pulled low on his head, his pointed ears just barely sticking out of it. "Sirs!" says the boy elf. The boy was up in a flash and cheerfully welcoming in an instant. "Welcome to Northern Pathonas! "This Castle is the greatest in all the lands and this marketplace has the finest goods from here to the Sea of Quadroon!" "Do you see anything you like?" the elf boy said. The boy started pointing at bags made of leather, apples, and chocolate pastries, silk fabrics and little wooden flutes. "We have it all here, even a show, a magic show!" the elf boy says. The boy pointed towards a withered-looking older elf, with a long gray beard and a purple conical hat upon his head. The man looked up from his sleep and pulled a flower stem from his cape, missing its petals however then turned over and went back to sleep. "Sillyboy!" We are important men and have important business to attend to. I am sorry, but you must move aside as we are here to see the King." Sir John bellowed down to the boy with a smile. "Well, I am sorry to hold you up sirs, good journey!" says the elf boy.

The boy backed away, his hands folded behind his back, and He disappeared into the crowd from which he came. They rode on, John turned to Felix. "Silly Elf, he should know a Knight does not stand for such nonsense." "We have important—" Sir John reached for his flask interrupting him for it was gone! He looked in both his saddles frantically but could not find it. Then he looked back, as his horse rode on saw the Elf waving, flask in hand. John just sighed. Serves him right the elf boy says to himself. Well he will sure be back young one the old man said as he turned over and laid on his side arms all tucked crossed into his sides.

Shortly after the Group of White Knights arrive at the Castle Gates. A half a sleep soldier yells out from atop with a crackling voice. "Who be yea?" "And what businesses do yea have here?" Almost knocking him over the wall, his fellow soldier of higher rank recognizes the Banner of the White Knights and the Crest of the Lord Rathix Mullan of Coralline, and Yells down. "We have been awaiting thy arrival."

"Please wait while my men lower the Draw Bridge and Raise the Gate." This gate is very old and has twenty-five steel spikes resting on the ground below. The gate is very heavy and has years of age on the dark black iron metal chain the drives the machine. With a loud voice the Soldier yelled down to a group of men deep in the castle walls to lower the wooden drawbridge and raise the iron spiked massive door. And so they did. From inside the walls a loud clear voice could be heard. "Gate going up." Appearing over the top of the wall leaning out a window a soldier of the guard shouts down to the soldiers inside the gate. "Let them in, it is the White knights, for the King is expecting them." They crossed the moat and to the other side and passed through the castle gates to reach the inside of the castle walls to the main courtyard.

Standing at the other side of the Gates were several solders standing guard, these Knights were expected so the guards gave them no quarrels and let them enter. Lord Rathix Mullan started in thru the main gates after the scouts followed by Felix.

Sir John had passed the guards and he moved his crest on his shield where it could be plainly seen and the all the Guards came to quick attention and cheered the White Knights as they entered the castle. Once the White Knights passed the soldiers went back to war ready hands on swords and shields held high. The soldiers chatted among themselves very loudly and very happily.

The White Knights entered the Castle of Northern Pathonas. The Captain of the Guard and forty Knights on Horseback greet the White Knights inside the courtyard arches of the castles entrance. The Captain Greeted the Lord and the White Knights riding closes to him. Welcome My Lord Rathix Mullan of Coralline and Hello Sir John Mullan son of Lord Rathix Mullan of Coralline. "Jonathan It has been a long Time since we last met." The Knight ponders while remembering playing as kids in the Gardens of the Castle. Sir John shakes the Captains hand. As both men laugh while riding along Sir John Says. "It has indeed." Sir John and Lord Rathix follow the Captain and his men into the city gates.

The Guards open the Castles inner gates As the huge wooden gates slowly open, hundreds of cheers and shouts of happiness pour out thru the door way. The inner Castle gates open and they pass into the main street of the Castle where there are many nobles, peasants, children and soldiers cheering their arrival. People are shouting, praising and cheering aloud as the White Knights passes by them. Thru a market into even yet a bigger courtyard where people of all kinds mix and mingle carrying on there market duties of buying and selling. Crowds of people stare as the great white Knights approaches. A Little Girl runs up to one of the knights and offer flowers.

The town's people gather around to see the Great White Knights. Pushing and shoving and trying to get a closer look they are amazed at the beauty of armor that surrounds each white knights body. Sparkling and glowing of sunlight the armor has a perfect white cross that lies on every shield, every chest plate, and every sword that is carried. Even the great battle horse dawn blankets and armor with the symbols.

Beautiful young women walk up to the horses and offer wheat and apples for them to eat. They offer blankets made with pretty colors and soft to the touch for the knights to keep warm. The bakers and meat cutters offer their goods all wrapped up in skins or parchment for the knights to take to battle.

An elderly man walks up to Sir John and offers him a beautifully hand made Wine Flask that was much larger than his previous one, that had some five year old mead in it. He said to the knight fight hard and fight brave this is all I ask in return for the flask. The Knight gladly accepted and put the flask away in his side pack on his horse. As the White knights slow down to gladly accept the offerings of fruits, bread, wine, and flowers they move up the courtyard and dismount at the stairs to Castle Northern Pathonas. Horse handlers take the Steeds away and the knights begin up the stairs to the gates to the Castle.

As the White knights reach the top of the stairs they come to two huge doors that are closed and are being guarded by soldiers.

The soldiers see the captain of the guard and quickly open the doors to let them in. The group enters the Castle of Northern Pathonas, and the captain of the guard and his men are in the lead. Then followed by Lord Rathix Mullan, with his son Sir John and a small group of the White knights. Trailing the group was a small group of the Kings Personal Guards. Sir John walking with an air of valor into the Castles Grand Hall looks around with awe at the magnificent Castle. Lord Rathix Mullan thinks. "This place looks as beautiful as it has always been since I could last remember."

Just to the side and not a step behind follows his Generals, made up of his truest friends who have fought many of battles with him and have been through the Chronic Wars. These were truly the best swordsman, axe man, and archers that the White Knights have to offer for protection. The rest of the white knights have never seen this castle. They look in amazement for they have not seen a castle in such clean and kept up shape in a long time.

The castles they have seen have been rotten away from battle and long time war. This Lord and his White Knights so shining, looking as magnificent as victors from a royal battle between men with swords. With Armor made from the best Blacksmiths the realm could offer. Swords made of white gold and platinum and decorated with Jewels of Rubies and Emeralds hung loosely in their sheaths. Next to the knights side the swords sways back and forth like a pendulum with a right hand atop keeping pace as they walk in towards the Throne Room. On each the knights Armor Chest plate lays a painted Picture of a White Cross on a small red shield that represented The Lord Rathix Mullan of Coralline Family Crest. His Father past this crest to him, from his father and his father's father to which almost seems an endless past of generations. The party approaches the end of the great hall and they reach a crowd of people talking and having conversation. The Captain of the guard breaks through the middle and the group of people split in too. Soon after they see the White Knights they become very quite.

The Knights follow the Captain past the crowd to where the council members were standing. The Council members move to one side reveal a King with his advisor to the left of him. The Captain takes his side at the right of the King. In front of the King a small group of city nobles are gathered to the white knights. They are well dressed and where his or her clothes in a very tasteful style. There are many servants all around the throne room dressed in very Upper-class clothes. Two small children are waving tall fans above the king to circulate the air. A well-dressed older man brings the King a picture of water and a glass. Another man brings in a fruit plate for the king. Some women are standing off the side of the king with veils over their faces to hide some of there beauty. And on the other side a jester is telling singing and twirling three small colorful eggs in a circle. A black smith brings a finished assortment of well-crafted swords for the Kings approval. Refreshments to eat and drink are being brought to for the Nobles several women servants. As the party approach servants are offer wine and bread to the knights too.

Lord Rathix and Sir John Approach the King. At the Kings command the Knights along with the Kings personal guard stay back allowing the two to approach the throne. The King stands and says welcome to the White knights. Welcome to my Castle. They bow and touch one knee to the ground along with one hand over the Cross-on the armor. Then as the King acknowledges their presence they raise their heads and Lord Rathix Mullan proudly removes his helm. Resting his helm beside him as he approaches the King to kneel again. Lord Rathix says in a loud and clear voice. "And Greetings, to you Your Majesty." "I" "Lord Rathix Mullan of Coralline Commander and Head General of the White Knights hath come to your beckoning to fight for the Realm of Northern Kantara to protect the Sacred Scepter of Psylion." With all my strength and with a great Army I shall protect the scepter down to the last unearthly Evil creature. I will serve Even till my death. The Lord pulls out his dagger and cuts into his right hand offers a Knights blood oath to the King. He then places his Dagger as a symbol with a bloodstain in the first stair at the foot of the throne.

No sooner then the words were spoken Sir John Mullan steps out from Behind Lord Rathix Mullan of Coralline. "Father I too offer my oath to this cause." As the Knight bows in front of the King, He removes his helm letting down his long dark blonde hair and shows his deep emerald green eyes. Sir John Stands up then also cuts his right hand with his dagger. Then he offers a Knights blood oath. He too places his Dagger as a symbol with a bloodstain in the first stair at the foot of the throne next to his fathers. "We have come to aid in defending the scepter your majesty." Sir John says in an honored voice. As pleased as any father could be Lord Rathix Introduced his son. This is my boy he is twenty-three grown into a man since last you saw of him and eager to engage on any dangerous foe and even out numbered he swings a mighty good blade. He has been on many quests with me. Luck runs on his side. The Knight grins. Both the King and Lord Rathix Chuckle to themselves. The Knight wraps his hand with a cloth and steps back behind his father. Just as the Knight steps back to his Fathers side a young and beautiful princess steps out of the shadows into his view.

As she walks up to the Kings side, the King introduces his Daughter to the new guests. "This is my Daughter, "Princess Lorraine." As he finish's his sentence Sir John steps over to his men. Grinning from ear to ear he says. "And very beautiful I might add." The Princess holds her composure she smiles, with blush on her cheeks. Immediately the young princess has fixed eyes on the young Knight. What a beautiful daughter you have your majesty. It is truly an honor to fight for you, your majesty once again. "Yes it is a good sight for sore eyes Lord Rathix." Said the King. It is always a pleasure to see Great warriors up close for these old bones; I don't get on the battlefield much anymore. The King stands up and motions for Lord Rathix and his Son to step forward. As Lord Rathix and his son walk closer you can hear commotion in the background and some small rejoicing. Lord Rathix walks up and kneels before the king and kisses the Kings Royal ring on his hand. This is the Kings way of accepting the Knights Blood oath. With this the King sat down and made a great declaration a small speech. "I hereby make today a special feast day."

The entire kingdom is to eat twice as much food to eat
and eat twice the drink for our greatest Lord, and His
white Knights are here and will be going to battle soon as
our greatest hero's.

Late Afternoon Day 3
The Great Feast



Chapter 6

Dinner was served. Steam rose from the fresh Roast Pig, Blackened chicken legs, and Salted fish. The three meats where served this evening. Loafs of bread, small rolls, and cornmeal biscuits sat in big piles in the middle of the tables. Tall Shiny gold candles with white glossy sticks set in between the foods giving them light to see. Small cubes of cheese displayed them selves nicely on wooden plates. Apples, grapes, bananas, pears, kiwi, oranges and almost every fruit imaginable where stacked nicely in silver bowls. On every table a large glass bowl of red wine sits waiting to be emptied. Almost overflowing over the ends this bowl is tipped to pour into small pictures that where used to fill up the guest's glasses. Servants rush everywhere trying to keep the foods and wine full as they could.

Somewhere taking dirty dishes, some-where bringing more food out to be displayed. A small band of folks where playing a slightly mamba mood. Somewhere playing violins, cellos, and harpsichord to. There was a Funny man telling jokes that made everyone laugh. Jugglers where passing all sorts of flying objects. Including some chicken legs and apples they where keeping the attentions of most of the guests. Doing their stunts and acrobatics small people was entertaining the king. During the mid course of the meal a duel of two opponents fencing started and was a long one that ended up in a tie. The kingdom was enjoying a great feast. The White Knights with out their armor all the swords and shields look like ordinary men. Clean-shaven and well dressed they might have been mistaken for common folk. But everyone knew who he or she was. They were the White Knights. Lord Rathix is stuffed after two big meals of Roast Pig, and Blackened chicken legs. Sir John sits sharing stories of his great battles with the white knights and his friends while having his fill of the bread and wine.

The Princess was eating fruits and toying with her wine. She is so intrigued with Sir John's stories that she started flirting with him. The Princess was showing signs of a crush. Sir John takes notice and tosses a small glance her way. After finishing his last story Sir John relaxes and takes a drink of his wine. Watching his friends drinking and carrying on he sits back and watches the festivals. The night grew on and everyone enjoyed herself or himself and that was the feast. Later that night as Sir John stands in his balcony he notices the bright blue lake sea across the way. "It's very beautiful at night." A voice from the Skies, calmly speaks. The Knight looks around. Gasping he says. "Hello," "Say again please?" Repeating what she had just said the Princess started to talk again. "It's very beautiful at..." The Knight slips up the stairs to the Balcony just above his to where standing at the rail is a very Beautiful Princess. She looks with a smile and says. "Your pretty sneaky there John." Oh, Sir John I mean," As she elegantly walks past his way with a grin.

The Knight Remembering his mother when she told him stories of romance with a knight and a princess in a palace that had a happy ending. He pauses and stares at the Princess. As he admires the princess he notices her beauty in the moonlight. Her Long Flowing Red hair flickers in the moonlight glow. She was in a very exquisite white evening gown. A small golden pendant of an oak tree rests slightly on her shoulder. "Are you going to stare at me all night long?" Say's the Princess. Before he could say anything the Princess throws a small black shiny stone at Johns left arm. With a quick turn of the wrist and clasp of the hand he catches the shiny stone. You could hear him playfully growling. "What did you throw that for?" Noticing him showing a small smile she grins and says. "Come stand next to me and look at the stars." Still lost and about half dumb from the fact she threw a stone at him. "Oh" ok, I was going to.

The princess sits down on a small wooden chair. A few moments' later John walks over and leans over the ledge of the balcony next to her.

As he opens his hand he looks closely at the small black oval shiny stone as it glistens in his palm. Here I think you lost this. Are you going to throw it at me again? The princess says. "NO," If you're not going to stare any more. The Princess stands up next to Sir John and takes the small stone out of his hand. The Princess Smiles and points her finger at the stars. I have a favorite star, and it's called Junipers. What about you? Sir John Just nudges his shoulders with uncertainty. The princess says she likes them all, especially the ones that look like small spoons. John says he knows of only the North Star as he points at the brightest star that could be seen. She giggles and says that's everyone's favorite. Why can't you pick another one? Like Toppan, Styles, Chan Dune, Parlaa, or even Icecandara star? The knight thinks to himself. Isn't there a star that represents honor and family? She thinks for a moment. Yes there is its called Tri-Kantara. Yes it's a pretty star, she says as she points just shortly west. A table nearby houses a vase some glasses and fresh water. As the princess offers the knight some water they look out at the moon.

It sure is a pretty site here looking over the water and seeing the stars and the moon. Say's the Knight. Some laughter is heard from one of the other rooms where some of the other knights are still drinking and carrying on. The princess looks at the Knight and leans over to him and reaches for his hand. As he extends his hand she places a glass of water in it. She then moves a bit closer to him. Sir John pulls her close to him. With her head in his arms she feels comfort. I'm sorry dear princess. I was not trying to be rude. You're just so darn beautiful. The two snuggle up on the Ledge and gaze fast under the stars. This night could not have been a more clear night. You could see the third moon over the risen.

Early Morning Day 4
In the Morning



Chapter 7

Early in the morning on the Fourth day the princess opens her eyes lying there on her bed with her sheets tucked nicely up under her shoulders. She turns just a little to her side to see if her Knight was there. She is alone in the room. She jumps up and goes to the balcony where the sun was out and shining brightly thru the doorway. She smiles as she turns around and walks back into the room. She notices on the second pillow on her bed a small white letter with a red rose on top of it. The princess smiled and picks up the freshly picked rose and smells it. She then unties the small piece of silk string that held the Note closed then unravels the parchment. The words of her beloved Knight showed thru like rays of sunlight in thru the window at dawn. She quickly reads the letter.

"Dear Princess,

We have not much time to prepare the Evil Sorcery's attack is coming. So I must go away to battle. But I will leave you with this Decree. I Sir John Mullan of Coralline and Noble of the White Knights make a decree that I will fight this evil until it has gone from our lands. Our lands will be safe again I will come to thee and we shall watch the stars in the sky again."

Sir, Jonathan Mullan of Coralline

The bottom has a seal. This was no ordinary seal. It was a Blood bond seal from a White Knight. Only that a blood seal from a White Knight was never taken lightly for it would never be broken as long as the Knight Lives. In those days a signed seal from a Knight was as golden as a prayer. She held the Letter close to her heart and sat down on her bed. She lay there with Content and a smile could be scene from a mile away.

Later that morning when the planet's sun starts to raise, the King, Lord Rathix, Sir John and the White Knights are preparing there horses to travel. The King offers one of his best horses to Sir John as a good Gesture knowing that the Knight had an eye for his daughter. At least 18 hands tall this one stood. It was White with one small dot of black on his snout. The Knight accepted the Kings horse. Lord Rathix shook the Kings hand and said until we meet again old friend. And the king repeated, "Until we meet again Knight."

The Knights saddled up their horses and said there goodbyes then started out of the coral with Lord Rathix in the lead. The Knights made no haste for they knew their journey would be long and hard time was slipping away every so fast. Sir John Mounts his new horse and starts out of the coral following the others. The Knight made it to the main alley way, and many yellow flower pedals line the road. As the last knight appeared in the main courtyard thousands of white flower pedals fell from above.

The Nobles empty their palms offering their prayers to God above to watch over the White Knights. People were cheering and shouting their praises to the White Knights as they passed by. The Knights made it to the Traders Marketplace where they were greeted by the rest of the Kingdom. Sir trotted his horse up to meet Lord Rathix at the head of the great multitude. It was a happy celebration. Staring up Sir John could see his Princess standing at her balcony. Quickly the Knight raises his Helm, smiles and waves at the Princess. The princess waves back then tosses her Golden pendant that was wrapped around the red rose with a small note attached to it. Into the Air it soared downwards passing all the falling petals like a falling star making its way to the ground. The pendant plunges into the bed of yellow and white petals leaving only the bright red rose atop. John grabbed the reins of his Steed and galloped back into the Courtyard. He unsheathes his long sword and catches up the red rose with the pendant still attached to it. He then sheathes his sword as he turns his horse around.

Removing the note he places the pendant around his neck. The pendant was showed proudly on his armor next to his heart. He starts his horse to gallop to catch up with the other knights while he reads the note.

Sir John,

Take this pendant wear it to remember me on the battlefield till you get back. In your battle keep it close and I will be there to keep you company. Do not be afraid! Sir John Do not be afraid. Princess

Sir John returns to the head of the group and he shouts to the Princess I will return victorious. With a deep breath he calls out a Great War yell the Knight join in shouting. Lord Rathix follows Sir John as he leads the White knights out of the castle. Outside the City the Army of the White Knights already broke camp and was awaiting their leaders to take them on their journey. The Knights Join the rest of the army and Sir John are in the lead of the massive army bound for The Castle Keep of Psylion. The Army can be seen slowly moving away while the Sun slowly rises to full sunset.

Afternoon Day 4

The Orcs move closer to the Castle Keep



Chapter 8

In another part of that very same Realm in the late evening on you can hear the rumbling of the Evil army of Orcs as the constant drone of their marching continues. The Evil army is only Two thousand plus Orcs and goblins, but their purpose is simple, to the focus of the attention of the Keeps soldiers on the ground. The main assault will come from the air by dragons. The Black Knight can hear the footsteps of his horde of Orcs slowing behind him. "What, with the wrath of ten thousand snakes, are you all slowing down for?" He shows his teeth to the gasping creatures behind him, and swiftly draws his sword from his belt and slices off the first ear the blade meets. "We are carrying out the orders of the Dark Lord! How dare you drag your feet! The dark lord is not someone to ignore, and neither am I Now move out and move faster!" The Army Starts marching again at a faster pace.

A tall shadow of a man appears behind the Black Knight appearing to float. The shadow mumbles, "Hear me now, great flyers. You are the ones who will help me with my task. These creatures alone are not enough strength that I need; you are the out stretched hand that I need. Your power must run through me, I need the power!" A lightning bolt cracks through the sky as The Black shadow raises his arms to the sky. It catches his hands and runs through him and his eyes turn white, his lips crack and the few strands of hair on his exposed scalp turn blue. Several dragons fill the sky and the Orcs crouch in fear. "Now you shall obey me Dark Winged Creatures!" "Dragons," A Goblin Yelled. Then all at once all the goblin scream then run for there lives hiding in the woods.

The Orcs come to Halt. With the entire army at a halt and very scared the black knight Turned and looked at his army. Now what he exclaims. The Black Knight stops and asks one of his followers why the troops are not moving. "Well?" As soon as the goblin called GE-Gob could get out from underneath the nearest big oak tree he spoke to the black knight with a scared tongue.

Well your evil one... We goblins are very much afraid of the Dragons. They Eats us. We not want eats. The Black Knight looked up and saw the dragons then turned around seeing the Dark lord hovering behind him. Oh. That explains it. With a very powerful entranced look by the eyes of The Dark Lord, he turned and waited. The Dark Lord Shouted some words of arcane and then the eyes of the Dragons turn black and the Dark Lord spoke. He is possessed by the Darkness; The Dark Lord Yelled out a command that the Dragons not eat the Goblins. And that here enemy was only the humans. With this the First Dragon landed and the dark lord mounted it. Seeing this all the Goblins looked at each in acknowledgment that the dragons were no longer a threat and came out of hiding. The other dragons all landed and many of the goblins rode on there backs. The dragons took flight. This Dark Lord is pure evil that can only be described as if you took all of the evil bad things and evil with no names in the world and put them into a box, this would not equal half the bad of this creature. Death is the spirit of this Creature. The Black Knight Let out a loud bark as he told the evil army to continue on.

The Dark Lord's Dragon flew up into the sky. The Orcs marched on; dredge on to the castle keep, minions of darkness, and servants of evil all. A great dark wind follows them, created by the flapping of the dragon's wings. The Orcs are so entranced by the Black Knight they hardly notice their feared comrades flying overhead. They do not control their hands, the Dark Lord does. The Dark lord was there to take the Scepter of Psylion, the fate of the Kantara Realm is upon them. The Black Knight will not leave the castle without the Scepter, and the Dark Lord with the Dragons will make sure of that.

Both Armies are marching thru the entire fifth day.

Day 6 - Early Morning

The Arrival at Castle Keep of Psylon



Chapter 9

Almost dawn three days later and in the early morning they arrive at the foothills of the valley neck where the Castle Keep Psylion lies. The Knights dismounts there horses and look down at the valley. Way back deep in the Valley you could see a small silhouette of a castle. So far back in under the cliffs a side or rear attack would be impossible. The only way in is thru the front said Sir John. "The moons are getting really close, they will attack tomorrow of it will be the 7th day and the moons will be fully aligned," Said Lord Rathix. Sir John and the captains were standing there with him. These men twice and three times his son's age, who have all sworn to do his bidding, to give their lives for the White Knights and for the protection of the scepter. Here at dawn a great battle will unfold. "Let us move on, men," Lord Rathix yells to the troops behind him as he mounts his horse.

The captains and Sir John mount their horses also. The great army starts again. There are twelve hundred in all. Eight hundred swordsmen. One-hundred and fifty longbow archers. Two hundred veterans Full-Plate Armor Knights on war-horses, and fifty long-swordsmen man-at-arms. Warriors from all corners of the realm who have pledged to the Great White Knights and will protect the Scepter of Psylion. Slowly they came down the valleys winding path till they could see it, the great castle Keep of Psylion. Very well fortified with a twenty-foot wall surrounding the castle. It has two huge towers one on each of its sides and a main sanctuary in the center courtyard. There is a small moat with a large stationary bridge that leads right up to the castle. Inside the castle are placed a few hundred archers and foot soldiers. Their faces were grim not much movement could be seen coming from the Castle. In the keep one of the Soldiers was peeking out of his tower down at the valley and was happy to see the flag that was waving in the air bearing the cross of the Great White Knights. He shouts down to his fellow soldiers. There here, the White Knights are here.

Soldiers in the castle start to rustle and come alive. You could hear loud cheering and laughter coming from the Keep as the soldiers feel relief. The soldiers in the Keep find new life and energy as the White Knights ride up to the front of the Keep. As the White Knights march forward onto the large bridge a forged black-iron gate was raised then two giant oak doors standing twenty feet tall creak open to let them in. Inside the Keep the great army comes to a halt.

Then Sir John and Lord Rathix dismount their horses and so do the Captains. Well, what do you think? Lord Rathix says in a natural tone to Sir John. Well I am a little worried about the two wooden doors. As long as the Iron Gate stays down we should be ok. Well, it looks strong. I think we could hold them back from in front of the gates as long as possible with swords while we hail down lots of arrows from those towers." Says Sir John as he points to the two large towers. "How are we going to form up, my Lord?" Ractor, the man with the military training, asks Lord Rathix.

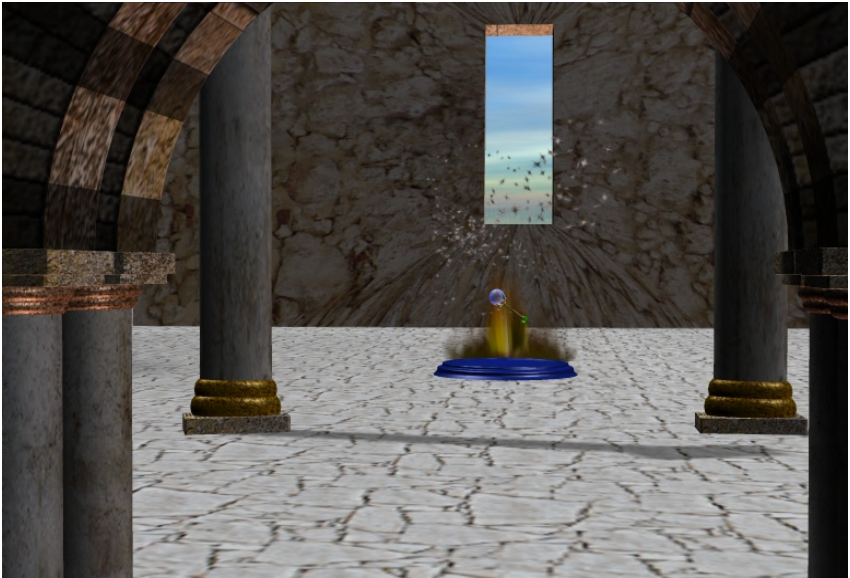
"I want Serek and his archers inside those Towers and on the front walls for the frontal assault to try to take out as many Orcs and goblins before they reach the Keep. The Brothers Garci and Joci with the swordsman, out in front on the bridge case they get to close to the gate. Sir John and the White Knights up front on the other side of the bridge to take on the main assault. "Ractor the men-at-arms and I will be in the main sanctuary," We will be the last stand where all can retreat to if it we get overrun." There not getting in this castle Except through the windows above in the ceiling. Said Garci. "Last time I seen an Orc, they couldn't fly." Said Sir John. They are way much to fat. Said Joci. Smiling. They all laugh. "Father." Says Sir John as he is greeted with a puzzled look from his father. "I will lead the White Knights into battle." I will kill all evil that opposes and I will not allow the White Knights to retreat." The Lord Stares into his Son eyes who with words that only a White knight could say agrees. "My Son You will lead the White Knights in battle, and you will bear the great sword of the White Knights." Says the Lord. Then he sheathes his sword too his side.

Then he pulls out a large leather battle sheath for back hung sword and hands it to Sir John. Then he removes a massive wrapped object from the satchel on his horse. It was wrapped in a white tunic with a red cross on it. He unwraps the tunic and reveals a great sword. Sir John unbuckles his sword and sheath then hands it to Felix. Lord Rathix hands the White Tunic to Squire Felix. 'Here help Sir John put this tunic on.' He says. Hands already full with Sir John's sword and sheath Felix looks around for somewhere to set it down. He notices a small set of bushes then turns and chucks the small set into the bushes. Then he reaches out and takes the white tunic from the lord. Sir John, Take this Tunic of White bearing the Red Cross on it. Know that it is the sign of leadership and the White Knights will follow you into battle. And Sir John accepted the tunic and put it over his own with the help of his squire. Sir John was admiring the Great sword in the lord's hands. It sparkled with three red ruby crosses inlaid in its hilt. Zero to none imperfections. This was undoubtedly the most magnificent sword Sir John had ever scene. The knight overwhelmed with pride took the sword and put it in the air.

The Silver two-hand great sword with the family cress of the White Knights engraved on the hilt shined bright in the sunlight. A fine sharp edge glistened, as he raised the sword in the air. You could hear a loud whistling sound coming from the sword. "I will live for honor, father, I will fight for honor, and I will die for honor," Shouted Sir John. The soldiers depart and take their places. Lord Rathix leads his men in to the main sanctuary. The Men-at-arms take their positions in front of the main gate close to the drawbridge. Horsemen prepare their horses and armor inside the main gate and prepare for battle. Archers make there way up the stairs to the large towering towers and in the front castle walls. "Our arrows will cut down the enemy in a harsh way and make the numbers that the foot soldiers encounter a much easier win," says Serek. "There will be plenty to fight but the less the better," Says Sir John. Yes agreed we will take down many as we can Sir John, as Serek looks up to the towers from the courtyard. He then orders his men to the top of the towers. Serek is the best marksman in the kingdom of Pathonas and quite possibly in the whole realm.

He has trained most of the men to aim quite well, but only he is blessed with the vision of a Hawk. Up in the tower the archers prepare small fires to which they could light their arrows. "They are almost here, I can feel Em," one of Serek's men tells him. "Be Patient," is all that Serek could respond? He is mature for his age, and realizes the commitment of these men and that the value of there shots where critical. They too are sacrificing. All of this weighs even heavier on them, as each Orc that is alive is another one that the swordsmen will have to bring down. Lord Rathix prays that his army will prevail. For in the morning there will be a great battle.

Day 7 - Early morning
The Siege of Castle Keep of Psylion



Chapter 10

Lord Rathix and two of his men enter the Great Room in the tower where the scepter lies to view the scepter before the great battle. The Elders surround the Scepter of Psylon. The Knights stop, amazed by the brightness of the room, the Scepter is surrounded by the most amazing glow. It is the aura of the world, colorful and colorless at the same time. The Elders are also glowing, their eyes a bright light shining out each Elder's window to gaze upon the world. The men come to full understanding that the world is resting on their shoulders and they must defend this scepter with their lives. They leave the tower and head back to the main sanctuary. There they wait at the ready. The Archers are edgy but their eyes are focused.

Sir John tightens the last piece of body armor across his leg. He taps it with his hand, as another knight looks at him he says, tight huh. Yep, says sir john just enough to keep the blood circulating.

Why said the other knight? So that the blow is taken full and I don't have any ringing to my armor, which will make it, come loose. Oh, said the other Knight. Right, I will too. So the rest of the Knights follow the idea and start tightening their armor. They mount their horses and are ready for battle. Inside the main gate Garci and Joci along with Felix get their troops focused for battle. In the towers, on the ground and in the main sanctuary all are ready for battle. Loud noise of marching echoed through the valley in front of the Keep. It was almost dusk. A small rumbling could be heard coming closer. The rumbling grew closer. The time has come!" said Lord Rathix, "At the ready, men! Shouted Sir Johan and all the Captains echoed in. Through the windows above, the moons are converging, lining up in a conjunction of the sky. The Elders' eyes began to close. Weapons appear in their hands and the men know that the hour is at hand. The Fog is thick in the morning so Lord Rathix gives the Command to Serek to take the first shot with lit arrow so that the rest of the archers would know where to aim at.

The first wave of Orcs came marching down the valley to the sound of an orc war drum. A wave is less than five-hundred but more than three-hundred. Bong, Bong, Bong-Bong-Bong, Bong was the sound of feet marching with the beating of the drum. Then it stopped and the shout of Black Knight echoed thru the valley. Charge Great Horde, Take no prisoners, Kill all who oppose the Me. Serek Shoots his first flaming arrow into the air and lands several feet from the horde making them visible for all to see. With many more flaming arrows flying overhead the Knights could see plain as day. Sir John Leads the White Knights two hundred in all and they stampede out the gates of the castle into the night to the battle. They met the horde and shred the orc ranks to pieces. Hundreds of Orc's had fallen, but not a single knight.

The White Knights had crushed the first advancement. The knights returned to the keep to regroup at the sound of the Orcs retreat. After several minutes had gone by the Orc war drums were beating again. The Knights ready the ranks. Sir John yells out charge.

They rush out to battle and once again they come out victorious and with at least twice the last Orc advancement of ten waves. This went on and on for a few hours until the light had started to come up. Then the drums started again and this time the Orc's with torches could be seen marching forward with large wooden poles with cut ends. Sir John shouted to the Knights to retreat and let the Foot soldiers advance. Then a single wave of Orcs arrived this time and with large wooden poles with sharp ends expecting the horsemen again. The shout for foot soldiers to come and break the Orc's down was barked while the Knights and horses take a break. Joci and Garci with their one hundred-fifty Swordsman advance outside the main gates to the battle ready. Garci then shouts, "lets get them men". The swordsman advance in and take out the horse killing Orc's loosing only two men. Before the group could returns to the Keep making it only to the front gates the Orc drums beat again. Yet another wave of the horde advance down the valley. The Swordsman trailing advance back out to the valley again. A magical storm approaches them as they enter the valley and the sky is dark and it starts to rain.

The flaming arrows no longer show the way and the fog was getting thicker and thicker the soldiers could not see. There were loud screams and noises of shrieking creatures coming from the woods. And then those in the battle were met with a sight they never expected. A rain of Fire came. Black Shadowed winged creatures flew in from above and started breathing their hot singing breathe down to the ground as they swooped in over Garci's troops. The swordsmen scattered like ants into the woods chasing the Orcs and running for their lives. Garci yells out loud, "Dragons!" Men were incinerated and disappeared before each other's eyes.

Sir John's Steed tears through the air with the White Knights following out of the Main gates of the Keep. His Steed jumped over the fire lit ground and passed in front of Garcia's troops. "Do not let them get past us," Sir John yelled. "We must fight; we must not retreat for we all pledged to fight!" The Orcs rushed the army and swords began to clang together. Serek peering through an eyepiece yelled to his men.

"Ready! Those Arrows." Shouted Serek. Fire on the dragons concentrate on them, Ready? Aim! Fire!" and hundreds of arrows came Sparkling into the sky over the Knights some hitting there marks and taking one or two dragons down but the rest just whistled thru the air passing the swordsmen and into the second horde of Orcs that where approaching. Some killing others hit the ground around the Orcs. "Do not fall back men!" shouted Garcia As a soldier became engulfed in flames standing next to him. Garcia gasped, and bore down on the Orcs he was fighting. He ran his blade through the armor of the faceless thug and it fell to the ground. Felix, Joci and his swordsman join into the fight to help Garcia and his men. Lord Rathix peered through the glass in the tower and saw the Black Knight approaching. The dragons were too much for his army. Lord Rathix had not expected these Dragons to be allies of the dark realm. Lord Rathix sent one of his trusted soldiers out of the keep to tell Sir John that he needed to bring the army back to the keep and that it was a trap to lure the army away from the keep.

Sir John looked up and saw The Black Knight on a horse with another horde of Orcs passing him heading for the Keep, and knew why he was there. The Sir John and the Knights after killing all that was close to them galloped back onto the bridge at the moat where few of the soldiers were left fighting hundreds of Orcs. Arrows coming down from the sky where hitting Orcs and some swordsmen too. They slashed and killed everything that was coming at them but the Dark Lords horde of Orcs still kept coming. Although the Orcs seemed to have them surrounded, it looked as though Sir John, and his Knights were finally making some headway, and where slowly fighting there way back up to the keep.

Then A soldier out of nowhere rode up to Sir John and said his father needs him. The White Knights were fighting hard but with the dragons swooping down and tearing them off the horses and eating the horses it was no match for the white knights. Some of the soldiers went running into the woods while others were be slaughtered by the Orc horde.

In the main sanctuary out of the shadows The Black Knight appeared Lord Rathix immortal enemy. The one that he knew he would have to defeat to gain the scepter. The rest of the army almost didn't even matter; this was the man who was sent to do the job. The Black Knight could take on ten ordinary men single handedly. The Orcs were just to keep The Army busy. Lord Rathix thought to himself. As the dragons take out a third of the massive army, With One Look Sir John made the Shout for a Retreat. "Retreat men! Retreat!" Joci yelled too, and the diminished army ran back into keep, The Orc horde right behind them. As they turned, the dark silhouettes of the dragons cast shadow over the great keep, each burning up as they try fly over the keep. They are forbidden to enter the area fore they are evil and their area is protected from flying evil creatures. Their burnt, crisp carcasses disappear and the riders fall through the windows, the sound of breaking glass surrounding the soldiers. As the Falling goblins are dropping through the broken glass, the fighting continues. Lord Rathix Ran up a long set of stairs up to where the Scepter rested.

The Black Knight followed both with swords drawn. As the swords clashed together, the earth began to rumble, and the Elders eyes crept closer to being shut. "My destiny," Sir Lord Rathix rumbled. "Silly human, this is not your destiny, this is your death!" The Black Knight thrust his sword into Sir Lord Rathix armor, barely missing his chest knocking him down. "No human could do this task; the King was foolish putting their faith in a human!" "Their faith will be your undoing!" Sir Lord Rathix sprang from his position and sliced through The Black Knights left arm like a knife through butter. The Black Knight didn't even flinch. "You have no idea the forces that you are dealing with, old man. You will not win this fight, and you will pray for a fast death and it will not come."

Their swords clashed again as the eyes of the Elders shut. The moons were in line, shining brightly upon the Scepter of Psylon. "Now is the time!" The Dark Sorcerer screamed and lightning came. A black shadow appeared. Murmured voices echoed through the hall/tower, and an earthquake violent. The sky turned gray and the air got thick.

The movement caught some of the soldiers off guard, and they began to stumble, Orcs too. The voices grew louder, and the chanting became recognizable. "Koola, macouna, cravel tru lavis...koola, macouna, cravel tru lavis..." Evil Dark Lord was weaving a spell. The room began to get brighter, and the scepter began to shake. The Dark Lord reached into the pit that the Scepter was suspended over. He tried to grasp it, but just as he touched it, a light exploded out of the Scepter. All of the soldiers and evil things in the room were blinded and knocked over by the blast, including the Black Knight. The Evil Dark Lord fell to the ground. Sir John and some of the White Knights had made into the tower but they too were knocked over by the blast. The Dark Lord stood up after the blast and said in a firm voice. It is done I have separated the pieces. Now I can retrieve them. Then he disappeared into nothingness. The Scepter flew up into the sky; the soldiers slumped down to the ground. The Black Knight, White Knight, Serek, Garci, Joci, knocked over from the blast watch the Scepter burst into three pieces and flew up through the windows, each piece going its separate way.

The Black Knight jumps into the air sword pointing down at The Great White Knight Lord Rathix and pierces his armor straight through to the bone. The Black Knight twists the blade a little watching Sir Lord Rathix scramble in pain. As Sir Lord Rathix gasp's for breath he drops his sword and slumps over. The Black Knight stood, looking down upon his defeated enemy, he grinned. Sir Lord Rathix was born of the faith of the Elders, and now that that faith was gone, the glow has left him. He fell down to his knees. Black Knight said, defiantly you die here White Knight and all the hopes of the Kantara Realm are lost. He looked upon his fallen brethren with disgust. "None of you were warriors; I am the only true warrior." The rest of the Knights and solders make a mad dash towards The Black Knight but not before goblins and Orc's met them. In anger Sir John is trying to fight his way through to get to the Black Knight. He slashes and hacks at the Orcs but they keep coming. Killing many Orcs and goblins he is still held back and is fighting. The Black Knight reaches over the dying Knight and pulls from his neck the sacred white cross medallion.

The Lord Rathix Mullan of Coralline Family Crest was engraved on it. He Turns it upside down and puts it around his neck. "White Knight indeed." He says. More like Dead Knight, with horrible laughter he dashes for the nearest door and leaves the castle keep. You can see many hundreds of dead soldiers Orcs corpses on the ground. The Black Knight Walks out of the Tower and Mounts his Horse and remaining forces follow him out of the keep. The one or two Dragons that were left disappeared into the sky above. Sir John hacks his last Orc and makes it to his father. He kneels down and takes his father in his arms. With his last breath the great Lord requests his son to make a White Knight Blood oath to avenge his death get the family medallion back and to save the Realm with the Scepter. His father passes and John sheds a small tear for his father and then takes the family sword and runs off in pursuit of the Black Knight.

Shortly after, the Keep started to rumble. Twisting and Shaking the Keep started to crumble. Glass was breaking and the large shards started falling down upon them.

Wood beams start to crack and pieces of the ceiling start falling in. Some of the soldiers were standing up and starting to make sense of things. A man shouts out orders for the men to run their lives. Orcs and goblins were crushed by falling rocks and wood pieces falling from the walls caving in as they were trying to escape the chaos. Most of the Soldiers managed to make it safely outside the Keep. Sir John stumbled out of the Keep main doors barely escaping the collapsing archway. A soldier covered with mud in the moat in front of him yells out for help. Then all of a sudden a large piece of the tower wall comes crashing down into the bridge in front of him collapsing it sending pieces everywhere. Sir John manages to dodge the gate from cutting him into two.

As He misses the thrown wooden contraption hurled at him he reaches for a dangling rope that was still attached to what was left of the bridge and he starts to swing across the moat. Before he reaches the other side he stretches out his hand to the soldier below him in the moat and pulls him loose.

Sir John swings him to the other side of the moat while still holding on to the rope he swings a little further. A goblin is standing their axe drawn as the soldier drops down to one knee. The goblin raises his axe and is yells out a war cry. Then the soldier goes for his sword but its not there. There was a doubt across his face. But then Sir John lets go of the rope and comes crashing down on top of the Goblin and crushes him, then makes a tumble to the ground. The soldier clears the mud off his face revealing himself then opens his eyes and he is lying on the other side of the moat next to Sir John. Sir John turns head towards the blaze. "The Scepter has to be found and restored before it was too late." "Thanks Sir John." Felix said. "What?" Sir John Exclaimed. "Thank you." Felix said. Felix starts to get up. "Oh, I wondered where you went; Your Welcome." Sir John Questioned. "What are we going to do about the Scepter?" Said Felix. Sir John turns over and starts to get up. As he gets to his feet an army of ORCS surrounds them with clubs and Axes pointed at the two. The Black Knight on Horseback ordered they be taken as prisoners. One of the Orcs Shouted.

Before Sir John could put up a fight a big Orc hits him hard with a blow to his head with the handle of his axe. Then another Orc hits Felix with the butt end of his Axe causing him to go unconscious too. The two disappear with the Orcs.

Somewhere in the clouds the Elder's eyes began to open, to see the world again and tears fell from their eyes. The tears of the world fell from the Elder's eyes, as they whispered a prayer for realm, they start to disappear. Already, devastation was beginning to take over the land. In that instant the balance was gone. Now in three pieces, the Scepter could not protect the humanity any longer. The Realm was unprotected and evil would take over realm. Lord Rathix and all The White Knights were slain Sir John and Felix the last of the white knights were captured and there was no hope or was there. Could someone free the Knight and his companion?

The Princess Accepts her Journey



Chapter 11

"AHHHAAAA!" a war cry is yelled, as a thin tall masked figure charges at a wooden statue of a swordsman. Then almost out of nowhere a small but stout man, appears in front of the masked figure. The Figure did not stop its charge and its sword was blocked by an axe that was quickly pulled by the small man. The sword was aimed at his heart." Whoa! The masked figure exclaims, as the small man blocks the tip of the sword with his Axe a second time. The small man shouts. Princess, princess, it's me, Joanna The Champion!" The masked figure stopped in her tracks and pulled her mask, revealing a beautiful princess. Her fire red hair fell to her shoulders, and Joanna was glad to see the face of his friend. The two have sparred so many times before for it was the dwarf who trained the princess.

"You should know better than to startle me while I am in practice, Joanna. Hasn't anyone ever taught you any manners?" "Me? What about you! You're the one charging me with your sword. Little old me, all small and help-l-e..." He exclaims. "I know that you weren't just going to say helpless. The Champion is not small, and he is definitely NOT helpless." "Well..." said by the princess. Joanna was proud of the fact that the Princess knew who he was and that he was known as the strongest of the entire dwarves kingdom. Humans don't socialize with dwarves very much in this society, especially the royal families. Her shiny skin and the long hair that ended in the most magnificent point in the center of her back enchanted Joanna. She looked amazing in her leather tunic she wore when fighting, her bosom slightly grazing the edge of the low neckline, showing a bit. The long fire red hair was tied back in a braid, her bangs framing her eyes perfectly. They were the most beautiful violet eyes Joanna had ever seen. Even the most beautiful dwarf, Giselle could not compare to this Princess. For Dwarfs were short people.

The male dwarfs usually had long flowing beards and side burns. The females had long hair usually hung to their feet. This Dwarf, Joanna has a royal blue long sleeve shirt with little wooden toggles. A heavy brown leather vest with brown leather pants and a thin red sash to cover his waist line make the rest of his apparel. Many Cow, Deer, and Rabbit furs are sewed together to make his cape that drapes over his shoulders. Joanna found he was staring. The Princess looked at Joanna and spoke, "I would appreciate if you kept the stares and the mouth dropping to a minimum." Grinning she winked her eye as she turned and pulled her bow and an arrow from her back. "You know that I've made lunch of less man than you." "Sure princess, if you would pardon my saying, there is no way that you could beat me, I am the Dwarf Champion." "Don't let that silly title make you think that you are better than you are, Joanna," Exclaimed the Princess." If females were allowed into that tournament, you know that I would be Champion." "Want to bet?" Joanna lunges at the Princess as he had a number of times before and she lets the arrow go.

She dodges his swing with his axe and tumbles to the ground picking up a sword and parries his axe. The two clang blades for at least twenty minutes. Then the two called it a truce. Blocking each other's every move and parrying when needed. Then Joanna looked at his leg and there was an arrow in his leg armor. "Ouch!" that looks like that hurts, the princess said. That's why I would win. "You don't even pay attention to the situation you are heading into. How did you not see the arrow in your leg? Says the princess. "I did not feel it." Said the Dwarf as he pulls out the arrow and drops it to the floor. "Always Axe first then brain. Amateur..." Said the Princess. Joanna's pride was hurt, but he smiled anyway. Princess was an amazing fighter, but Joanna was sure that he could beat her if he were challenged. After all she was a girl. He grinned. A strange wind howled through the training hall where they were standing. The weapons hanging on the wall moved a bit. The Princess and Joanna both stopped and smelled the air. The two walked over to the window and looked out at the beautiful rolling hills of the Kingdom. The day was beautiful.

A light breeze swayed the trees and the clouds slowly danced across the sky. The Princess closed both her eyes and took a long sip of the fresh air. She finished drawing in her breath. She opened her eyes and walked into a long hallway with Joanna by her side. This hallway runs alongside the training court and ends at a set of stairs. Halfway down the hallway, the Princess notices at the top of the steps her father, and the Oracle High Elf standing they're talking. "The oracle," the Princess whispered to Joanna. "He must come with news," Joanna replied as he stepped to her side. "He only comes when there is bad news." Princess and Joanna raced up the castle steps, with the Princess beating Joanna by four whole steps. "It's not fair when your legs are as long as I am tall!" Joanna growled. Still marching up the stairs the Joanna whispers. "Quiet, old man, you are just a sore loser, especially when you lose to...a girl! A princess no less, why I don't think that there is any worse humiliation in the world, a strong fighter like your self, and one who, rumor has it, took on ten Orcs at once and killed them all. Woo Ehh Ohh What a warrior. Bla Bla Bla.

Whatever it is they say you did." I mean, how can you stand the humiliation? A Human, a human girl beating the strongest, supposedly the fiercest Dwarf in the land? I think it's because I'm just plain Old better than you!" The Princess burst into laughter as Joanna stomped ahead to the top of the stairs. "Stupid girl, why I put up with you..." Joanna mumbled as he trailed. Princess nudged him, "Come on, you know I'm your favorite, just fooling ya." As she turned away she smiled. "Besides, the story is up to eleven of them orcs," the Princess said." Joanna stopped short and quickly turned his head in the direction that Princess was staring. In the middle of the grand hallway, a glowing orb of mist and smoke was suspended in front of the Oracle and the king. They were talking then stopped when the two approached. "She is here," the Oracle says in a low tone. Both the King and the Oracle cast a fast glance at the Princess and the Dwarf walking their way.

The Oracle stood next to the king, showing the King his visions in the mist. Inside the mist a great battle with the White Knights, Orcs, Goblins, and Dragons was raging.

Then the battle was over and there was the Evil Dark Lord, the ruler of the Keepers and he had a claw in his hand. Most of the White Knights had been burned or slaughtered. There was a massive fight and hundreds of Orcs where lying dead on the ground. The Leader of the White Knights Lord Rathix was slain by the Black Knight. Sir John and the last of the knights where taken Captive. The Princess rushed over to the two with Joanna right behind her and the two stops to gaze into the mist. "That's not," she said as she trailed. "I am afraid it is my darling," Said the King. "The Scepter has been broken and one of the pieces the claw is now in the hands of The Evil Dark Lord." The king says. "I am afraid the White Knights have failed," Said the Elf with a low unhappy tone. "Someone must go," Said the King. "We must act now," Said the Dwarf and the Princess. The Elf and the King turned to look at the Princess and Joanna. "We have little time, someone has to restore the balance again," Said the King. The Princess looked at the Oracle very seriously then stepped forward. In a sharp but clear medium tone said. "I will go, Father."

Then the dwarf moved forward adjusting his belt and sash. The Oracle looked puzzled past the princess towards Joanna. "And you?" said Oracle. The King and his Princess look in the direction of the Dwarf for his response. Joanna as sure of him self as he was a Dwarf said, "I will protect My Princess no harm shall come to her." "Ok then, you cannot do this alone," Says the King. "You must gather some warriors and rescue Sir Jonathan, for he alone has the might to defeat The Black Knight," Says the King. "I will send a small army with you princess to help you with your task," Said the King. The Oracle then explains that a large group would slow them down, attracts attention and would certainly be discovered faster by the Evil Lord. He said that a smaller group would be faster less apt to be unseen. The Oracle suggested that the King send ten of his finest warriors with the Princess and Joanna.

They would need to find the other two parts before the Evil Dark Lord does. If the Evil Dark Lord obtains control of all three parts and puts them together he will rule both realms. Joanna looked towards Princess whose eyes were wide.

"I feel like we have a lot on our shoulders," Says Joanna. The Princess looked towards her father. "What about the third part to the scepter, and where is Sir John being held?" Says the Princess," The King looked down. Sir John and the white knights are held in the Dead Valley Dungeon Prisons in the Dead Valley Mountain. "You and Joanna will have to free Sir John first and he can go after the third missing piece to the scepter and face the black knight. Then you have to find the other two parts." Joanna was getting annoyed. "What are you all talking about? We don't need the Knight; I can defeat the Black Knight." Princess looked to Joanna. "Well, aren't you my little hero," says the Princess. The Oracle cut her off. "Dwarf you must save your fight for the Dark Lord you will need to protect the Princess against him while she puts the scepter back together. The Dark Lord is your destiny. For you alone cannot defeat the Black Knight, It is your destiny to protect the Princess." "Your youth Princess and your strength Dwarf will help you defeat the Dark Evil Lord," Said the Oracle. You must get the sphere from the half lings most likely that is where it has headed for.

The parts have magic in them and have gone back to their creators. You can find the golden scepter in the mines of Ladamer the underground Dwarven City. Well that one will be easy said the Dwarf. That's my home. "What about the Claw?" the Princess asked. "That is Sir John's charge." "The White Knights slain the Dragon the claws came from, and now he must fight the Black Knight to get it back." "You must meet here when the three moons are full and restore the balance once again," says the oracle. "Joanna can you lead me to the half lings?" says the Princess. Joanna smiled. His gaze was icy. Then the Oracle spoke. "Joanna, You have the key to the gate of Half Lings, don't you Joanna?" says the Oracle. The King looks at the Dwarf. The Princess was puzzled. "Joanna?" says the princess. She laughs and looks towards the King and the Oracle. "Joanna doesn't have any special key!" says the princess. Now Joanna was puzzled. Joanna remembers his prize for being Champion. The key around his neck, it all of a sudden felt warm. He pulled it from under his vest as it glowed of jasper and gold.

The Princess sighs as she notices she was wrong and is feeling quite silly. "Well, that is certainly a key alright," Says the King. "This will get us into the gates of the half lings?" says the Princess. Rejoicing the Dwarf Bellows, "Yes it will." "You must convince them to give you the sphere Princess. Whoever has it will not give it up easily. Half lings are partial to shinny things. They most likely will not have any clue to what it is. So you must be cunning and out smart them. That is the Key Joanna," Says the Oracle. Joanna held the key tightly. "You can count on me your majesty," Says the Dwarf. The Dwarf bowed to the King and nodded his head in acceptance to the Oracle.

The Princess rushed up to her father and hugged him. "Succeed and Come back to me, my Princess," Says the King. "I will father." The Princess exclaimed. "You are strong and good of heart my daughter, you shall restore the balance and save our world," Says the King. "Thank you father, your faith will guide us," Says the Princess. The Princess nodded towards the Oracle and turned to Joanna. "Are you ready for a journey?" says the princess.

Joanna half smiled and replied. "I'm ready if you are." He bowed to the King and the Oracle. "I thank you for this honor, My King," Says the Dwarf. "The honor is ours, Champion," the King replied. The two Hero's walk away and the sounds of there footsteps fade away. The Princess nudges the Dwarf in the back of his helm, "When where you going to tell me about the key?"

In her room, the Princess was collecting weapons and clothes for her journey. She was packing her usual wardrobe into the small backpack. An extra Leather tunic, green pants, leather boots and a few extra pairs of woolen socks line the inside of the backpack. The Princess held up a dagger and pointed it at Joanna who was standing in the doorway to her room. "What?" "What?" What did I Do? Well you haven't done anything that's the problem. But I never knew you had a special key to the Gate of Half Lings. "What is it, the Dwarf Don't tells the Princess because she can't keep a secret? To whatever it is that the key goes to? The Princess says in a sassy voice. "Would you just stop? The Dwarf almost yells.

"Maybe I didn't tell you because I forgot about it myself!" It just hangs there with no noise or glow no use at all. Princess threw her packed backpack on the bed and turned to Joanna. She looked at the ground. "All I know is that the Oracle said Sir John had a destiny to the Scepter. That means that you and I need to free Sir John so he can confront this Black Knight." Princess had her hands on her hips and an icy gaze. "We can do this, you can do this, and we will conquer our foe." Joanna Says. The Dwarf didn't want to make Princess anymore stressed than she already was. Her pretty face was twisted in fear and anger. "Sorry, it's a lot, the balance is Sir John's destiny and I can't turn away from helping him," Said the Princess. "It's yours too, we have to do this together," Said Joanna. "No problem, we should get going soon Princess. What do you say?" The Princess thinks for a moment then she has a thought. "Let me just say goodbye to my brother." "Lawson" The two walks down the long hallway toward the east wing of the castle. They stopped half way at a set of stairs on the right. Then the Dwarf started down the stairs to the courtyard.

Outside its mid morning and the Suns are starting to show daylight. The trees whistle with the leaves falling like little bombs from the sky. The Princess continued on until she reached a room at the end of the long hallway. The Princess walked into the room where an older man was busy polishing his sword handle. "Lawson!" He sits the sword down on the table next to him and he turns around to notice his younger sister. He stands up and puts a crutch under one of his arms for he only had one leg. He lost his leg in a wagon accident saving a small girl from a runaway wagon. The Princess walked towards him stopping in front of him. The two embraced, and then pulled back, arms still around each other. "I'm glad you came to see me before you left," Lawson pulled a dagger from his belt. It glowed with a blue shine. It was silver with green runes engraved on the blade. There was blue jasper stone in the hilt. "This is a gift to you, sister. Fight well, and this will help you stay safe. It's magical; it will deactivate any kind of a spell." The Princess took the dagger from her older brother, who helped her learn so much about fighting, along with Joanna.

"Thank you, brother. Guard the palace, and please take care of Father," Says the princess. A tear welled in one of the Princess's eyes. "What is that? No tears! A warrior does not cry, and you, my sister, are one of the fiercest warriors that I've ever trained," Says her brother. "Thank you for your confidence," Says the princess. "I feel that I will need it." "Blessings are with you, my sister. Let the Elders grace you with their faith," Says her brother. She then left the room. The Princess walked out of the room, down the grand staircase, and into the courtyard. Waiting with two horses one short and the other tall Joanna held the reins waiting for his princess. Smiling the Princess grabs the reins and takes a step then leaps up into her saddle. She takes in a deep breath of fresh air and sighs. Her horse bobbles his head a little as to wondering where it was they were going then he starts to move forward ready for a chance to gallop. The Dwarf being so ample in size lacked in height, had to use a small foot stole to mount his steed. One leap of faith was all it took and Joanna was on his horse. With a growl of disgust, he gives his horse a kick with his feet.

Dwarfs don't like Horses, especially short ones. The Princess Giggled. "Having Problems old Mighty Champion?" Then she trots off out of the Castle. "Grrrrr." Joanna growls. Then he takes his reins and follows in a fast gallop after the Princess. The Princess Laughing all the way out of the castle Dwarf trailing behind. The two go to meet their destiny.

Two Join the Quest



Chapter 12

They made their way through alleys and past the small homes to the marketplace outside the Castle. As they slowed down so not to trample anyone over with the horses a little elf boy approaches them and stepped in front of their horses, blocking them from moving on. "You two are on a magical journey, I can smell it. The boy pulls out a small dagger and jousts it into the sky. My grandfather tells me it's important he says you need warriors. Where are you going? Are you going to save the Realm? I want to go! Can you take me with you? I can help. I am a thief I can get anything. Let me come with you," Says the elf. The Dwarf stares at him with amazement that a little elf boy would want to journey into such danger. The Boy did not have a clue where he was going or fighting. Joanna looks over at the Princess. "Well..." says Joanna.

"Please," says the elf "The Princess with no expression just sits there and is thinking." "Why in the world should we let you come with us?" The Dwarf huffed in the boy's face. Joanna rolled his eyes. So many children had asked to accompany him on dangerous journeys; he just was tired of saying no. "A thief could be good to have around, since they're always trying to steal something anyways," Said the Princess. "What is your name?" She asked. "Tooc, I am Tooc," the boy replied. Joanna looked at the boy, trying not to laugh, "That is your name?" "Tooc, I am Tooc," the boy replied. "Tooc", hmm Tooc what rimes with Tooc? Said the Dwarf "More Like Took, I think he meant took." as Joanna Smiles with laughter, The Princess Smiles and chuckles at the boy. "Don't mind him he's fickle." She says. "HaHa." Such a funny little man said the Elf boy. "Alright you can come," says the Princess. "He can?" Questioned the Dwarf." The Dwarf with ease and quickness reaches down and snatches a flask out of the thief's hands, as he was about to take a drink. Where did you get this flask? That is mine, Exclaimed the Boy.

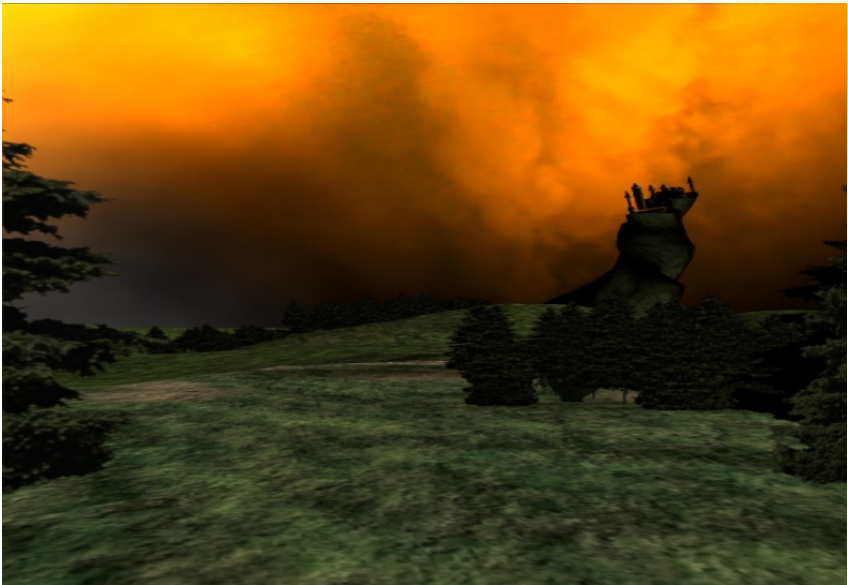
I don't think this flask belongs to you for he revealed a White Cross on a Red shield. The Dwarf turned it around for all to see and Under the Cross-was the Initials S.J.C. That stood for Sir John of Caroline. Ah, I was going to give that back Honest. The Boy Said. The Princess took the Flask from the Joanna and handed back to the Boy. We are on a quest to rescue Sir John and to save the realm. I think you should give this back to him your self after you help us rescue him. Tooc then said in a loud happy voice. "Ah... ok Great!" Let me get my horse!" The boy goes to the nearest horse and looks it up and down. It was a small brown sugar horse, just a little skinny but with a nice evenly straight body. The horse was tied to a post, saddled and had a small pack on the side. Tooc thought to himself, a little shorter then my normal catch but this will do. Then he hops on. The horse is a little startled for a moment but then reacts to the slight nudge in the ribs from the elf's boot to start trotting. The elf trots over to where the old magician was sitting. The Old Magician slowly opens his eyes and looks up to the Elf boy. "On another adventure are we! Say's the Old Magician."

The Elf says with a smile and hurries. "Yes Grandpa, we must hurry or a White Knight will surely die." says the Elf boy. "Very Well," Says the Old Magician. The Old Magician then slowly stands up and takes his cane and plants it firmly on the ground to gain a straight posture. He then reaches out his hand to the Elf Boy to help him up on the horse. The elf Boy proceeds to help old magician up onto the horse. "Woo, we didn't say anything about grandpa too, just you." In an unclad tone said The Dwarf? "Come on, please," Says elf boy." "He knows magic, really and he said I couldn't go without him," the elf boy pleaded. The elf turned to his Grandpa and winked an eye. The little magician just smiled. "Well alright, let's go," the Princess said." The Boy just smiled. "I think your getting soft," Says the Princess as she pulls the reins on her horse to a gallop. "Bah... Bah I am a Warrior we never get soft, screeched the Dwarf. 'I just think four swords are better then two," Says the Princess. Once again, The Princess kicked her horse, and Joanna did so as well. They were off. The thief and magician were close behind.

As they rode away, a drunken patron stumbled out of the pub, scratching his head, standing where he thought his horse had been tied. "I thought I brought my horse...?" says the drunken patron. "Hmmm. Guess Not." Says the drunken patron as he starts walking home.

At a fast gallop three horses carrying a Princess, Dwarf, thief and a Magician left the marketplace and were fast in Gaining to the countryside. The four rode until the trees had no leaves, the rivers ran dry and the sky was dark Gray.

The Dungeons of Dead Valley Mountains



Chapter 13

"This must be the land of the Black Knight," Tooc said, his voice wavering. "You're right," said the princess. The party dismount their horses and tie them up to a nearby tree. The Dwarf Pulls out a map and researches there exact location. As the Moons come out from behind the clouds the moons light gave shadow to a nearby castle on a side of a mountain. To make the rest of the trip would require going up the side of the mountain thru the woods, or straight up the winding trail to the front gate. Trying to take on all the guards at the front gate would be impossible so they choose the going up the mountain side. "We must watch our step and keep our voices low," The Princess whispered back. "My grandfather can cast a spell to make us invisible!" Tooc exclaimed. "Hush! What did the Princess just say?" Joanna said harshly. Tooc lowered his head, and whispered sorry.

"Invisible, huh, well that will certainly make it easier to slip past the guards." Magician can you do this?" The Princess said. Grandfather's face lit up and he pulled a wand from his sleeve and began to wave it frantically. "Sight unseen, sound unheard, make us invisible, by my word!" a puff of smoke came from his wand then a bright flash. They were invisible. Joanna looks around and said where did everyone go? Princesses are you there?

Then it is quiet for a moment then a pleasant but firm voice broke the silence. "Wow, I'm impressed. Glad we brought you, Magician." The Princess said in amazement. "It worked. In an exciting amazement said Tooc." "You're surprised," muttered the Dwarf. "Ah, No, I new he could do it," Said Took in Disbelief. Then all those who were invisible begin to have a light blue glow around them for each other to see their locations something the magician added to his spell. Tooc Poked the Dwarf in the back and Joanna turned around seeing just an outline of Tooc's body. Then he turned and could see the Princess as she walked up close to him. "Are you doing ok my Champion," Said the Princess."

"Ah... um... you're invisible too... Sure I am... I am ready to fight," Exclaimed Joanna. Joanna and the Princess look towards the Magician as he is sitting down on a small tree stump. "Spells take a lot out of him; he will be ok in a moment," Said Tooc. The Dwarf turned around. "Well, he's your responsibility, you best watch him, and don't let him get behind! The quiet thing still stands, even though we're invisible." They where invisible and without horses there was almost zero noise now they had the element of surprise. They press forward thru the wilderness. Stopping every now and then to get there bearings the Dwarf looks at his trusty map. "Well it looks like it's just thru this thicket to the East," Said the Dwarf."

As the band of warriors walk out of the woods as a castle loomed above them on a hill. It was most hideous. Black towers shot straight up into the sky. High Stone Walls surround the castle. Green moss and vegetation is scattered about on the walls revealing small cracks in the blocks from old age. Many Orcs patrolled the turrets and walls around the castle.

The moat water surrounding the castle was almost red in color as the moonlight shined down from the moon. Dangerous creatures are stirring about underwater. In front of the Castle in camp is a massive army awaiting orders. Light flickered in one the windows of the castle between the towers. A dark figure walked out of the doorway next to the window and stood on the balcony just above the main gate. The Dwarf quickly ducks back into the woods. Psssst! Princess.. Princess.. the Dwarf frantically called for her. She turned around. Joanna did you forget that about the invisible spell. Hum. I mean ya. Maybe it wore off.. Oh ya Princess. The Dwarf darts out of the woods axe drawn and back up to the side of the Princess. "The Shadow splits into two dark silhouettes above the main castle gate. The Princess and her party can make out the silhouettes, one the Black Knight and another is one of his soldiers. The time is coming again, My Lord," an Orcs captain bowed to the Black Knight. The great leader did not turn. "Don't you think I know this?" as he hissed. "I know that you are stupid, but I don't understand what makes you think that I am.

I am not an Orc, I am a Knight, and we are not dumb like you." "I'm sorry, sir. I do not know what I say. I am stupid," the captain stared at the ground as he spoke. "What shall we do to prepare?" The Black Knight turned to the Orc, his face that of a human, a human that gave up on human way of life a long time ago and said. I have the claw! Interrupted by a raspy voice out of the shadows a third silhouette appears. We have the claw, Knight!" As the Dark Lord walks up behind him as if he were drifting across the floor like a leaf in the wind. "If it weren't for me, we'd be nowhere, The elves would restore the balance and my chance to vanquish their realm would be shattered. All those lives we have taken, their voices would ring in our ears, Shouted the Black Knight." All of the evil we have spread in the world would turn to," he paused, and shut his eyes. "Good," with an air of disgust, said the Dark Lord." "That would be terrible, My Lord as the Black Knight responded. I want to see that look on the face of their King as we kill all his people leaving him to last to watch. They both turned to the other side of the balcony and walked into the door where there was a fire lit in the center of the room.

The Dark Lord walked to the fire. Suspended in the fire was the dragon claw. "Ice Candara, you were such a great beast. It's a shame they had taken your life you had served me well. He spoke to the claw. "You will protect us; you will keep my army strong," How about the other parts of the scepter?" The Black Knight spoke. "You will go and retrieve the other two parts to the scepter and I will take the Dark army to the Kingdom of Pathonas Said the Dark Lord. I will make sure that the castle and all those who fight against me will be destroyed, just like the White Knights, "And what of the last White Knight Sir John," Said the Black Knight. The Dark Lord opens up his hand and a small mist forms in his palm. A quick glance to the Dungeon in a small dark cell with a man chained to the wall with little hope and half starved. "Let him rot in the Dungeon," Rapped the Dark Lord. He closes his palm into a fist and the image disappears. You will go and retrieve the other two parts of the scepter and bring them to me. Tomorrow I will Start the siege and break their defenses down. And when you arrive in two days with the final two parts to the scepter I will merge the pieces into the most powerful scepter.

Then I will crush there puny castle and destroy them once and for all. The Dark Lord gives the locations of the missing pieces to the Black Knight, and then the Black knight departs his Castle with hundred of his best Orcs heading towards Palace in the Valley of the Half lings. Then shortly after the Dark Lord flew out of the castle with his Dragon as the Dark Army followed behind. This leaves only a handful of Orcs to protect the castle. But that was too many for the group of four to face alone. So they had to be stealthy and sneak inside with out alarming the guards.

The Back Way in



Chapter 14

Joanna looks at the Princess. Then he asks for best strategic Plan to get inside the castle and free Sir John.
"Hmm, The Princess thinks a loud."

-Stone path road leads right up to the front door of the castle? Says the Princess with question.

"Nope, There are many guards in front of the main gate we will be overrun, Says the Dwarf."

-Main gate is a large stone door with iron braces to hold in on the wall? Says the Princess with questions.

Natta, Unbreakable.

-Castle walls?, Says the Princess with questions.

Not a chance. Not even remotely scalable even by rope,
barks the Dwarf.

-The Two tall towers in the front of the castle? Says the Princess with question.

Not an option. That Way is Too Visible. No cover many casualties will come from the arrows showering from the towers above, the dwarf barks yet again at the princess.

"Ok now I am fresh out of Ideas Dwarf? Now what? Says the Princess." The Dwarf sitting on a Log bounces his axe from hand to the other. I don't know. He Claims. The Princess Looks at her Champion and the magician they all look at each other clueless and shrug their shoulders.

"Water!!!" blurts out the Thief.

"Water how can you think about water at a time like this the Dwarf sighs." The Princess takes heed and Looks at Tooc. Water? What are you talking about Tooc? "I heard from a friend of a friend of a friends Father that he had escaped once from the Black Knights castle, He escaped out a waterfall." "Ok. I'm listening, Says the Princess." On the backside of the Castle is a waterfall.

Behind the waterfall is a drainpipe that leads to one of the lower dungeons in the castle, There are no guards there his father said." The Dwarf stands up. "Yes now that's a good Idea, How do we get there? Says the Princess as she grins." Yes. How do we get their Tooc? The Magician Smiles. "I dun no," says Tooc.

"Listen, The Dwarf whispers." They all stop and listend The Dwarfs ears perk up then he started walking, then stopped and turned around. I'm a Dwarf if anything I can find water, I smell it. Then he started walking again East about two hundred feet thru the woods. They followed. They came to a small clearing in the middle of the woods and could see nothing either way up or down but trees.

"Well there is a cliff to the East of the Castle. Follow the cliff down to the base of the waterfall and there we should find some way behind the waterfall to get into the pipe, said the thief." This way the Dwarf said as he headed south towards the end of the clearing. At the end of the clearing there was a huge oak tree laying on its side and covered with moss.

There was a narrow path leading out from it into the woods. The Dwarf follows the small path till he reaches a dead end. Thin small blades of grass were doused with water just below there feet. There were patches of water all around. Large stones line the end of the path with only one way to go. They stop as the Dwarf Kneels down stooped over with an ear to the ground while his axe lays flat under his hand keeping him from falling over. "Aye!" "This way," "I hear running water coming from the South East." Says the Dwarf. Up, they went and over to the other side were many dead pine trees stood. They continue on as they pass all the dead trees. A Large wall surrounds the castle boundaries and they have just reached this stone wall when suddenly there was a drop in the earth. The Cliff was found. Look as the thief shouts. There it is. About two hundred yards away and about a hundred foot down there was a waterfall. They started to follow the cliff until it stopped to what appeared to be a ramp heading down towards the waterfall and the river. A small river ran down the backside of the castle for miles. The only way to cross was behind the waterfall.

Tooc was the first down the ramp, then The Princess, the Dwarf, The Magician, and then the Guards. As they reach the bottom of the Ramp they were right in front of the Waterfall. On one side of the river was a wall of stone and the other was tree roots and some long lost fallen great oak trees. Tooc finds a way behind the waterfall and tells the others to follow. It is Dark, Damp, wet, and filled with a nasty smell. They lit their torches and continue in. At the far end of the Waterfall there was a doorway blocked by iron bars. At the bottom left side there was a break in the bars and two were missing. Tooc said I will go but I am not going first its dark in there. The Dwarf grabbed a torch from his backpack and catches blaze from one of the other torches. Along with Tooc they fit thru the break in the iron bars and disappear into the darkness.

Some times passes by and they return. Princess there is a large drain shaft that leads up towards the castle the Thief blurts out. The Iron Grate that was on it has fallen broken says the dwarf. It is dry and does not appear to have been used in a long time.

It is possible to climb up through the shaft. Everyone follows the Dwarf into the Tunnel and he leads the group up through the winding cavern. After an hour of climbing they arrive at the other end of the tunnel and Come up through a broken metal grate that lay in the stone floor.

As the Dwarf removed the metal grate covering from its place a small gust of wind comes through the tunnel blowing out all the torches. The Dwarf quickly jumps out of the tunnel and lights another three torches and throws them down on the ground. The room starts to fill with light and the rest of the group ascends out of the tunnel into the room. Several Black chains with cuffs hang on the wall up high off the floor. Straw covers a dirt floor, with a few Small rocks and stones placed mysteriously about. Decaying Bones and skulls of captive victims lay silently on floor. Old metal armor with dents and scratches sit about with no body to cover. This seemed to be a center point in a lower dungeon surround by twelve small cells and one corridor heading upwards. Small round holes or windows are in each of the outer walls of twelve cells covered with black iron bars.

A single cell with no window had scratch marks in the wall under where the window had been filled in with stone. Long black iron chains drape down from the ceiling fitting tightly into a hanging hook in side of the wall. This must be a torture chamber said Tooc. "Yes, indeed," Says the Princess." "They will probably keep the Knight up higher in the dungeon so as to check on him daily to see how much suffering he is doing, Said the Dwarf."

"Yes, says the Princess."

We must continue up to the upper dungeons. The group re-lights their torches and they start up the corridor. After a few corridors they come to the main Dungeon. Blocked by a big wooden door there were five Orc guards and a goblin jailer on the other side. There is a single white candle half burnt in the center of the jailers table along with a half eaten piece of bread and a small empty wooden bowl and spoon. Torches on the walls outside the cells give just enough light each cell. There is movement in most of the cells. Joanna sizes up the door. He Pulls his axe too his side and then to his shoulder.

The Princess looked at Joanna. "And just how much noise do you plan on making their Dwarf?" the princess asks. "Well I was going to just make a little noise, Says the Dwarf.' The Princess interrupts in a childish charm. "Hmm. Now I wonder how hard that door could be to unlock, Just look at that old rusty lock on the door." "Wow it must be at least two tumblers in there." She says, to the thief. The thief after doing a quick browse into his belongings for a quick inventory clears his throat and says. Ahmmmm... Princess I can do it." "What might those little fingers do with this lock?" the princess says as she turns around. The Thief pulls his hand out of his backpack sets it down on the ground then pulls out a small bag from his waist belt. Then pulls out his lock pick set and grins. "Well it should not take at least three cockcrows and no more," says the thief. Then he quickly zips over to the door and starts twirling and twisting his lock picks in the old lock. The Princess turns to the Dwarf and gives his arm just a nudge for a hint for him to lower his axe to his side. And so he did. The thief was whistling and muttering to him self.

And Just moments later a small click could be heard then the big wooden door became a jar. "Done, Said the Thief." The Axe came up quickly into both hands as the Dwarf slowly pushes open the wooden door with his shoulder. It creaks some then opens. The rest of the group arm themselves.

Outside Wolves are creeping through the thick bramble that surrounds the cliffs of the waterfall. An Owl hoots as other night flight creatures fly about through the trees. The wind is picking up and Light is being extinguished by darkness as Night arrives. Still invisible, the Princess and her heroes are about to surprise the Orc Jailers. "Did you hear something?" One of the Orcs stops the conversation about the White Cross Necklace the Goblin was holding. "Yeah, I heard GE-Ob over there was not going to share in the goods." an Orc responds. GE-Ob is a little upset by this comment and attacks the Orc who said this. Soon all ten Orcs and the one goblin are fighting each other, hitting each other in the face, clawing, scratching, and chewing.

The Goblin is biting one Orc on the arm. "I have a feeling they won't notice us," The Princess whispered. "I think you're right, Said the Dwarf," The Princess whispers back. "Let's go." They stayed close to the wall of the inner main Jailers room until they reached the furthest corridor on the other side of the room. They reached the corridor and then followed it to a large door at the end. This door had a sword and a suit of White Knight armor all piled up on a table sitting next to it. The three crept by sleeping Orc door guard to reach the destination of yet another locked door. This door appears to be locked from the other side. The Dwarf suddenly became visible, then the Thief, then the Princess. "Wow that didn't last long, Said the Dwarf." "Yes indeed," the Princess said. "But we did get inside, said the Thief." "So How, how, how are we going to get in that room? Tooc asked nervously." "How are your climbing skills The Princess asked?" Already noticing the small ledge above the door where there was a small window Joanna throws up a rope with a grappling hook. Joanna gives a light tug on the rope to make sure it was secure.

As Tooc began to scale the short rope up and over the door he went finding footholds in offset stones. There was a loud crashing coming from the other side of the door then three smaller thuds. The Princess and the Dwarf hide in the shadows. The Orc door guard opens his one eye half way and takes a quick look around. Seeing nothing he then turns over to his other side and goes back to sleep.

Not even a minute went by then the door unlocked and crept open with a small shadow on the other side motioning to come this way. The Princess and Dwarf walk through. The Dwarf asked what the loud noise was. The Princess was in silence until they reached the doorway. A table was smashed to unrecognizable wood pieces scattered all about. There was food and wine splattered on the walls and wooden plates and Goblets where in the mix. Chairs where broken flipped over and three Orc guards where lying unconsciously on the floor. There where three surprised Orcs when I came over the door so I jumped and made a dive bomb for the table and the Orcs broke my fall. Beat from the climb up and the jump down Tooc catches his breathe as he smiles.

The only thing not smashed was a single candle lying on its side dripping wax onto the floor as its flame flickered on in the densely lit room. There were two cells one on each side of the room. Both Cell's had black iron bar doors on them. The one cell's door was open and it was very dark inside the other was dimly lit by the moonlight coming in thru its window. The Cell's door was shut and locked. Coming from the cell on the left side you could here the faint sounds of two people talking. It startled the Dwarf. "Who's here with us?" Felix whispered loudly. Sir John says "I'm not sure." Maybe the Orcs came back to torturer you some more? Ha very funny John. The last time they it took them two hours to argue over who was going to take you to the torture chamber and they forgot all about it when they were done fighting. "Yes, that was pretty lame. They are probably fighting over the gold cross that you always wear, said Felix." "Yes I'll get that back sir John grunted as he tried to loosen himself from the wall. "Sooner then you thinks." Someone speaks up from the other side of the cell door.

Then Out of the shadows a single flickering candle was help up to the cell door a small Dwarf and a little elf boy are standing there. The thief starts working on the cell lock. Have this open in a jiffy. Then the Dwarf lowers the candle to spread light over the lock so the thief could do his work. Click, Scrap, Scratch, and Click, Click, for two minutes then a loud POP and then the door sprang open. The Princess takes the candle as she enters the cell. Are you ok Sir John she asks? Yes we are fine, Thought you would never come, says Felix as he rejoices. Hello my Brave Knight I have come to free you says the Princess as she smiles. How did? Where Was? What the Devil? Felix Squirms in his chains as he notices the Princess, Elf Boy, The Dwarf, And the Magician. Just as Felix was complaining a weird clicking sound was heard from over his head and chain came loose and he was released. As he fell down to his feet Tooc started unlocking the iron cuffs around his hands feet. Felix was checking his wrists for they where hurting from the shackles. Who all came with you Princess? The Knight asked. "Tooc," Whispered the Princess."

Another clicking sound and the Knights Shackles fell to the floor. Then Tooc appeared out of the shadows while putting his lock picks away. Yes princess, I am here Says the Thief. "Our little Locksmith thief, says the Princess. "Joanna?" A loud wind comes hurling by the faces of The Princess and The Thief as an axe comes gracefully flowing in an arch down to the ground below them with a loud thud. Perfect and precise the Axe Cuts a large black iron shackle into two. "This here shackle with a three foot chain attached to a five hundred pound ball has no lock and can not be picked so I deprived our Knight here of it, gasping for breath, the Dwarf said." "So Yes I am here Princess, Says the Dwarf." The huge shackle falls to the floor and the Knight steps out of it. "Are you all right? The Princess asks." The Knight is on one knee and is standing up. He starts to slip a little but regains his balance. "Don't worry about me, I will be fine," Sir John Expressed.

The Princess turns to the knight and the two walk out of the Cell. The Knight starts putting his armor back on and Felix his Squire helps.

Tooc disappears for a few moments but reappears with Sir John's Cross. The Knight puts on his last piece of armor and tightens the straps to it. He then puts his sword in its sheath. Sir John bows his head as Tooc puts the cross back to its rightful place. The Knight notices his favorite wine flask tucked in the Thief's sash then remembers the boy at the marketplace. Then stands up and flexing his muscles turning his head side to side stretching all the muscles. The Knight heads to towards the main door and takes a torch off the wall and lights it. The Thief runs up to the Knight and starts to pull the Wine Flask out of his sash. "Sir John I want to return this to.... Sir John turned his head sideways with torch in hand and smiled. Its ok you keep it, thanks for getting my cross back. And Sir John pulled his sword out of its sheath and continued thru the door way. Will he be ok, asks the Dwarf. He will be fine he is White Knight, The Princess shushes him. 'Do you know where the Claw is being kept, Says the Princess." The Knight thinks for a moment. "Yes I know how to there from here, follow me..."

The Knight carries the torch and Leads followed by the Squire, the Princess, the Dwarf, the thief, and trailing is the magician. Felix stops at the wooden table just outside the room picks up his leather armor and puts it on. Looks around and finds his sword among others lying on a weapons rack. Upside down on the ground being used to hold old rags and used garments he finds his Sir John's shield.

After dumping out the old rags he puts the Shield on his back. There I am ready now. He catches up with the rest and the hero's start down the corridor as the Knight leads the way. They reach the end of the corridor the Knight comes to a stop. About two feet from him was a single goblin standing their mouth wide open and ajar. He was holding a shinny brass fork in his hands in front of him. The Goblins eyes where glossy and big as boulders and he was shaking lizard skin boots. The goblin was weapon-less other then the gold fork. The Goblin was starring at the cross around the Knights neck. Hey that is mine, give it back. I demand it the Goblin shouted. The Knight Leaned over the goblin ruffled his armor and flexed.

The Goblin was sweating bullets and just sinking in his stance. The Knight Grinned and shouted Boo!!! The Voice echoed through the corridor. The Goblin was so scared he fled the opposite direction with his feet barely touching the ground. He left the gold fork almost suspended in mid air. The Knight quickly caught the golden fork before it fell to the ground. On the side of the fork was an engraving of Tooc's name. Wonder where he got that. The Knight Smiles and everyone are staring at the Thief. Tooc Walks up and snatches the fork out of the Knights hand. "Don't even ask, he muttered." the White Cross Necklace around the Knights neck glistens as the thief stares at it for a moment. "Ahh, says the Knight. "There," Says Tooc. The Dwarf speaks up. "Can we go now?" The Knight and the Princess Chuckle and giggle at the Dwarfs comment. He is eager for battle the Knight says. Yes I think he is says the Princess. The group arrives at the main jail just shortly after the Goblin does. Ten Orcs surround the goblin trying to make out weather he is lying about humans and dwarf being in the corridor past there group.

The goblin stops for a moment in mid sentence. He starts to shake in his place then the Orcs turn to see the White Knight Grinning from ear to ear with sword in hand. Two of the smallest Orcs armed with clubs lunge forward towards the Knight, only to be met by the Thief and the Dwarf. The two Orcs are surprised by the thief and the dwarf and crash into each other trying to stop. Another Orc bigger then the other two dashes around them and makes his way to Sir John. The big Orc comes barreling through with an unstoppable speed swinging his axe high aiming for the White Knights head. The Knight half grins as the Princess steps out from behind and she dives forward in a sweeping motion like a battering ram aimed at the Big Orcs feet. The princess crashes into his feet and the big Orc is knocked off his feet striking the ground in a loud and hard crash. The Princess stands up and unsheathes her sword. Sir John steps over the Large Orc and charges the remaining two Orcs. "Common big fella," The Princess eggs on the Orc. Show me what ya got. The big Orc shakes his head and clears his brain and gets very angry. He tries to regain his feet while the Princess stands there waiting sword in hand.

Then three more Orcs come out of know where flood the tiny room and charge at the knight along with the two remaining Orcs. One by one they try to tackle bite or grapple the knight. And one by one he sends them flying in all directions not even taking any hits. One the Orcs goes flying through the air and lands head first into a cell causing it to open. The inmates start beating on him with water cups and wooden buckets. The Orc screams as he is stuck in between bars. Another Orc crashes into a table breaking it into many pieces and is knocked out cold. Three of the Orcs grab there weapons off the ground and scan for the Knight. The Knight is standing right in front of them Sword point into the ground and he is leaning on it checking his nails for a broken one.

The Princess sees this and yells at the Knight. Hey Mr. Perfect! We don't have time for this. Remember save the world, chivalry, and honor so fight now, gloat later? Ah yes Chivalry, Says the Knight. He charges at the three Orcs and swings methodically and there is a cloud of dust surrounding them.

The Dwarf defends himself gracefully for the no-match Orc. He disarms his Orc of his club and gives him a chance to run away and he does. Bumping into the Felix the Thief is running for his life for he struggling to get his sword unsheathed as an Orc is chasing him swinging an axe vigorously nearly hits Felix? Felix, who has been trying to find a weapon annoyed at the Orc finally picks up a table chair and smashes it over the Orcs head disarming him. Then Felix picks up a large branding iron that was suddenly revealed to him by the table. The Orc is looking for his Axe and Felix comes crashing in with his branding iron bending it into half and knocks the Orc down on top of a table to the ground next to his weapon. The Orc stares at his Axe. Then Felix says, DON'T really loud. The Orc laughs then reaches for his Axe, and Felix picks up nearby over turned table closes his eyes starts swinging it crazily whacking and smashing at the Orc. Blood squirted everywhere. Wood splinters and parts where flying all over. When all was said and done the Orcs remains was unrecognizable and lying on the floor. Tooc stops, His sheath falls to the floor revealing a very sharp sword.

Finally puts his sword into the air turns around. He Yells come on I've got ya now as he looks at the mess Felix made. Smash, crash, and bang as Felix lets the Orc have it a few more times until there is only one leg left of the table. The Thief stands there in disbelief and is motionless. The Dwarf catches his arm before he goes to swing again and tells Felix to open his eyes. Felix does, and stops his swing, and looks down to the eyeballs popped out, tongue hanging lifeless outside of the mouth Broken Orc lying there. "Boy I gave him a beaten didn't I," Said Felix. Ill say said the Dwarf. Oh Yes, Yes Stutters Tooc. Startled by a shriek the dwarf is looking over his shoulder as his undefeated foe comes at him with a dagger. Tooc saw this as a golden opportunity to try out his new boomerang and loops it at the Orc. You can hear a whistling sound, a crack, and then a smash to the ground as the Orc falls lifeless from the blow to the head.

The boomerang fell to the ground after impact. Tooc came over picked it up mumbled something about two gold pieces and it didn't even come back.

He quickly and selfishly throws the boomerang behind his head and hits another Orc sending out a nearby window and then the boomerang comes returning back as the Dwarf catches it. Well I guess you will keep it now. Tooc Just looked in disgust. Ya you I'll guess I will keep it now. The Dwarf Grins, here you go. Tooc tucks the boomerang in his belt and turns around to stare at Felix again. Felix and picks up a piece of cloth from the ground and wipes off the blood of his new weapon. The big Orc finally gets up and is standing over the princess. I will crush you he yells. She stands there's and waits. The Orc picks his Axe up above his head and comes down with all his might. At the last moment she side steps the swing of the Axe and swings her sword into the arms of the Orc taking them off at the elbows.

At disbelief the Orc tries to pick up his axe but his hands are not working. He gets very, very mad and starts screaming out of control and runs at the princess. She ducks as he passes by swinging his arms sporadically all over and catches him in the back of the head with her sword taking it off at the neck.

His body stops and falls over as his head rolls around on the floor for a moment. As she puts back her sword in its sheath she looks for the Knight. The Dust has settled and the knight is camped sitting upon a hill of six dead Orc corpses. Limbs, legs, and torsos are stacked upon each other. The group stops as they breathe heavily. Then all of a sudden you could hear it plain as day a screeching of a horn. A sound so hideous it could only mean one thing. The goblin had mad it to the outer guards and has sounded the castle alarm. We better hurry before they figure out where we are and come for us the Knight shouted. The Princess agreed.

The Escape



Chapter 15

The Dwarf, Thief and Felix trailed behind as The White Knight and the Princess led the way. They were all running and with quick speed ascended up through the levels of the Dungeon. The group reaches a large corridor on the inside of the castles main floor. Standing there awaiting the group was a large mass of troops, Orcs and goblins with weapons of all sorts. Rusty old swords, clubs, wooden boards with nails, and the biggest ugly old Orc you had ever seen. Armed with chain and a iron ball attached to the end of it he stands there waiting.

Fifty Sixty, Said the Dwarf as he pulls his battleaxe from his shoulder harness. More like Forty Fifty once you reach them after me. "Says, the Princess as she pulls out her sword with one hand and a dagger with the other and a large grin across her face."

The Dwarf eager for battle paces waiting for the command from the Princess. Sir John, Felix, and Tooc will go and retrieve the Claw, while we finish these Orcs off. I believe what the Princess is saying is let us be getting A move on, says the Sir John. Right you are says Tooc. Sir John and Felix start running the opposite way of the Orc Horde. Tooc walks up to the Dwarf and whispers into his ear something then runs off giggling following the Sir John and Felix. "More like too many he says." The dwarf repeats what the thief says in a whiney voice. Bah... Dreaded thieves the dwarf thinks. More like a scared goat ling if you ask me thinking out loud as the Dwarf chuckles to him self.

Joanna.... Long pause.

Joanna... Short pause.

In a real frantic tone the Princess loses her composure and calls out his name. JOANNA! She speaks practical screams. Ah, Hmm, Yes my lady As the Dwarf Replies. Are you ready? Says the Princess. I am. The Dwarf replies in a more confident tone.

The Princes and the Dwarf's eyes fixed on the Orc Horde pause for a moment. The Orc horde was indeed fifty in all Thirty Orcs plus a giant Ugly Orc and nineteen or so goblins. Standing there waiting for the two to move the Orcs start chanting a war cry. Ku TA pa, Ku TA pa, Ku TA pa, Ku TA a... (*Which means time to die*) Then they start to march towards them. The Princess yells out a large war cry and advances towards the Horde at a medium jog.

The Dwarf lets out a loud war cry and advances towards the horde at a faster jog trying keeping up with the princess. After reaching half the distance to the Orc Horde the two let out another very loud war cry and speed there jog to a fast run. Orcs on the left, goblins and the Big Orc on the right says the Dwarf. You take the goblins and the big one Joanna she screams. The Dwarf yells out. I am already on it my lady. Then the Dwarf hops once, twice, then three times into the air he went diving into the crowd of goblins. The Dwarf was heading in the direction of the Largest Orc in the Horde, slashing and hacking his way past the Goblins.

The Princess runs right up the middle ducking, turning, sliding, and jumping over blades of the Orcs. She reached what seemed to be the middle of the Horde and there was opening about twenty feet. She stopped there and stood starring at the Orcs from behind. She was unharmed and had not even a single scratch on her. Surprised that she was still standing the Orcs looked dumb-founded and confused. The Dwarf had a small group of goblins following him along with some Orc stragglers until he reached the Big Orc. Then they stopped way behind him as they saw the Big Orc. The Big Orc was sitting down on a stool finishing up some kind of food meat on a bone. He throws the bone down on the ground and picks up his ball and chain. That ball alone must weight at least four hundred pounds the Dwarf thought to himself. The Big Orc then stands up and grins. The Dwarf comes to a sliding stop about ten feet away from the Big Orc. Oh you're a big one. Aye, bet ya fall down just as fast as you stood up there. The Big Orc Leans over and grins at the little dwarf. Ha, Ha, the Big Orc starts too laugh. "Such a puny dwarf wants to fight me", as he scans the crowd of goblins cheering him on.

I will crush you Dwarf like I have done all the others. Then the Orc picks the ball in one hand and threw it up in the air and starts to whirl in around his head.

Not only are you the biggest Orc I have ever seen, you are the Ugliest goat smelling, not bath taking, front teeth missing creature I have ever set eyes on. And frankly don't ever want to do it again. This makes the Big Orc extremely upset and his eyes squint looking for his target. He tosses his Ball and chain while still holding on to the end at the chain at the Dwarf. The Dwarf stands still waiting for the ball then at the last moment he dives and rolls out of the way of the ball. The ball crashes into the ground and is about half covered in dirt. The Orc through the ball so hard that it had lodged it's self in the ground. As The Big Orc frantically tries to pull the ball free from the ground, he struggles and leans back putting all his strength into pulling. The Dwarf just smiles and hops up onto the Ball and starts to scale up the chain. The Big Orc pulls harder and harder and is frantically trying to free his weapon.

The Princess yells at the Orcs, come and fight me unless you're scared? She smiles. They do not. The Orcs grew very angry and they all rushed at her at the same time. As they approached she used her training and killed them all fast and quickly. First one came in with axe gloating overhead lost his hands then his head. The next few were textbook parries with the dagger, blocks with the sword and then straight cuts to the vital organs and dropped like falling leaves from a fall tree. The Orcs changed their tactics and started in on her one at a time trying to outsmart the Princess. The Orcs pick up a nearby table and run at the princess trying to knock her down. She jumps up and flips over the table coming down with a swing with the sword cutting it into two. "You're going to have to do better than that she shouts." The two Orcs fall and hit hard to the wall as they are knocked half conscious. One after another the Orcs try to get a good swing on the Princess. One by one they go falling, fleeing or tumbling in the other direction. There was a quiet moment where all the remaining Orcs stood still trying to regain their strength.

The Princess smiles as she scans the Orc crowd. "Next, as she taunts them." The Dwarf Continues up the Chain. The chain is made of black metal iron and is attached with a metal shackle around the Big Orcs neck. The big Orc sees the Dwarf walking up the chain and he starts to go crazy and screaming and yelling trying to pull the ball free from the ground. All the Goblins run up to the where the iron ball lay in the dirt and start digging around it trying to help free the Big Orc. When the Dwarf gets about half way he flips his axe a few times in his hand and he shouts at the Big Orc. What was that you were saying about us crushing us Dwarfs?

The Orc Crowd was getting smaller by the attack. Broken arms, large gashes in torsos and even some missing limbs. This was what half the Orc Horde had taken from the Princess. Not even a single scratch on the Princess. Breathing heavily the Orc Horde looked at each other. Then all at once they ran, leaped and even crawled at the princess. The first two had no weapon and no chance. "Dead," The princess said.

Then She Turns while Ducking and provides a sweeping fatal blow cutting deep into the stomach of two passing by Orcs. "Going to be dead," the princess says. Four more Orcs with Axes come running up from behind her and she jumps into the air doing a summersault over the heads blocking all the axes. As she comes down behind them she stabs the first with her dagger in the neck and he goes down. She side cuts the next Orc and pulls free the first Orc by pushing him down with her foot freeing the dagger. The other two Orcs turn sideways and stop. The Princess tucks her dagger into the midsection of the first Orc and runs him through to the next Orc. She lets go as they fall over. Throwing their arms and feet all over the place they try to get up she walks over top of them and sends her blade down deep into the center of their bodies. They lay there lifeless and dead. She leans down to pull her dagger free. Then with a quick thrust and back move she thrusts her sword into the midsection of the last Orc standing behind her. With a growling noise of disappointment he falls forward dead with his axe falling down towards her. She tries to get her dagger free but it was too late.

The Big Orc rants and raves while still trying to get his iron ball free. When he sees that this is doing no good and the Dwarf is almost at him he begins to pull at his neck trying to get the shackle a loose. The goblins give up on digging and climb up the chain in pursuit of the Dwarf. The Dwarf turns around and sees the group of goblins closing in. He starts running up the chain and jumps up into the air and pulls his axe back ready to strike. The Big Orc falls down to one knee and leans forward putting his hands in the air trying to catch the Dwarf. At his last grasp of air he finally manages to catch the Dwarf.

The Knight stood there quietly looking through a window at the Claw. The only thing between him and the claw was a small wall. Sir John moved to a crack in the wall where light was filtering through. He saw a shadow of a man standing in front of a fire it was the Evil Sorcerer, an evil with the face of a human. "There he is! Then the thief and squire pop out of small vent shaft just on the other side of the room. Felix and Tooc crammed next to him to try to get a peek.

"Where's the claw of Icecandara, is that it? That is what we came for," Felix told Tooc as he pointed at the claw suspended over the fire. The Evil sorcerer paced about the room, looking at the claw and looking at the wall. He focused on the crack that John was looking through, and smelled the air. "You are here, aren't you? Here for what you think belongs to you. Well, come and try to take it puny human!" And With that, the wall came crumbling down to the ground, and the White Knight was standing behind the rubble, the invisibility cover of the wall was broken. Sir John rushed at the Evil Sorcerer, and Tooc and Felix ran to get the claw. Sir John drew his sword and swung his blade and the evil sorcerer blocked it with a large candle stick holder and pushes the knight back a few feet. "I come for the Claw evil sorcerer" Shouted the Knight. "You Challenge me? Evil Sorcerer screeched." Did you think I could not sense that you were near?" I will crush you like a bug Knight. "I will rid this realm of you and your white knights. The Evil Sorcerer exclaimed. John snarled through clenched teeth and swung his sword again. "We'll see about that!" The Evil Sorcerer drew his sword.

The swords clashed and lighting crashed out the window. Tooc and Felix were creeping towards the fire when Evil Sorcerer turned and cast a magical knife and through it at Felix's head. The Thief put up his hands and closed his eyes and whispered some words. Then the magical knife stopped in mid air and flew back at Evil Sorcerer. Felix's eyes widened as the blade pierced the Evil Sorcerer cloak disappearing into thin air. "So you have a little of your own magic, do you? Well, it will do you no good, the claw is mine, and the Mystics have willed it. No small boy's magic is a challenge to mine." With that a few words mumbled out of the mouth of the Evil Sorcerer and Felix sat on the ground, stunned. Tooc had disappeared. "Fight me you babbling fool, for I am taking the claw with me," John said as the two struggled. Sir John was blocking all the swords play that the Evil Sorcerer threw with his sword. Sir John lowered his sword and bear hugged the Evil sorcerer. At that moment, the Evil Sorcerer looked at the fire while pulling out a dagger and ran it through John's armor barely missing the flesh. Sir John looked at Tooc and nodded the go ahead.

The Evil Sorcerer saw too but it was too late the thief had already lifted the claw and was halfway out the door. The Evil Sorcerer's Magic is no match for the cunning of a thief. He was too distracted by his would be triumph over the White Knight Sir John, for he did not see Thief sneak up into the room. Sir John picked up The Evil Sorcerer and threw him over the fire onto the other side of the room. He quickly tipped over some tables and threw down some wooden statues and the room caught fire. The Evil Sorcerer dropping in mid air reached the wall at a fast speed and slowed himself down to a feather drop by magic. He was standing up while casting another magic spell. A fireball of flame came out of his fingers heading straight for the door that the White knight just shut and escaped. The Fireball exploded into the door and the door shattered into flaming pieces all around. Another magic spell was cast and the flames in the room turned into snow putting out the flames. Felix had regained his strength back and had already left the room and was heading down the corridor following the Thief.

The Evil Sorcerer quickly turned his head towards the fire to see that the claw was gone. The Evil Sorcerer went to the balcony and yelled. "Guards, Guards." At that moment, the Orc guards came into the hall As Tooc and Felix past them up followed by Sir John came smashing past knocking the Orcs out of the way. "Get the boy! Get the boy he has the claw!" The Evil Sorcerer shouted and the Orcs ran down the hall after them.

The three heroes followed by the Orcs head back down to the main floor to meet up with the Princess and the Dwarf. The Dwarf is captured in the air. The goblins jump into the after the dwarf and crash into the Big Orc. The big Orc takes a beating of goblins crashing into his face. The goblins slide down and catch his collar and hang there for there dear lives. Then he looks back at the Dwarf who was waiting for the big Orc to turn around so the Dwarf could let him have it right between the eyes. So he did and the Orc tries to pull back and receiving a large axe right square in the middle of his head.

This send the Orc falling backwards releasing the dwarf and freeing the iron ball from the ground, he stumbles back and falls down sliding against the wall. The Axe had caught him in his Helm and split it into two. The goblins go flying up into the air into the walls as there crushed by the force. This large blow from the Dwarf was enough to knock him off his feet.

The Big Orc pulls the Axe free and throws it down to the ground. The Big Orc smiles and starts to get up then has a frown. He then stops as he is met with the Iron ball smashing his head into the wall along with his upper body. The Big Ugly Orc and the goblins all gone say the Dwarf as he picks up his battle-axe.

The Dwarf looks around and sees no life at all. Then he walks over to where he last saw the Princess. My lady, my princess where are you, Exclaims the Dwarf. The Dwarf looks around moving dead bodies and searches for survivors and in his amazement all the Orcs where dead, But no sign of the Princess. But one of the Orcs was moving and groaning.

Hmm the dwarf sighs as he approaches the dead body. Then notices the Orc had a sword sticking out of his back. A little more groaning, pushing, pulling and tugging as the Princess frees her self. She then turns sideways to pull her sword free and stands up. Covered in blood and dirt the princess manages to wipe her eyes clear. She tries to focus and pulls her sword back to swing at the Dwarf Orc object in front of her. Don't swing my princess it is I Joanna. The Princess smiles and says what a relief that they're all dead. Shall we get going says Sir John as he walks up behind handing the Princess a cloth covered object. She uncovered the Claw and marveled over the markings of ruins carved on it. Then she quickly covered it up and put in her backpack. They the Knight, the Dwarf, the Thief and the Squire await her commands. Ok let's go. The princess says. The fastest way out would be through one of the windows over in the front by the main gate. We will never make it back down for all of the Orc guards, Says the Knight. They head towards the front of the castle and find an open window by the main gate. The Dwarf looks out and down and says there's nobody there.

The guards are gone. Barely missing the dwarf's head, two grappling hooks lodge just below him on the ledge. As he looks down he can see the Princess's soldiers and horses just below. Ok then as the princess stands up on the ledge. Down we go, says the dwarf as he jumps up on the ledge also. The two slide down. What? Says the Knight still left with no clue what was going on. The Knight looks over and sees the ropes and that the group has already started down. Felix starts down leavening only Tooc and the Knight. Tooc was about to get into the window when Sir John grabbed him as he jumped to the side of the window. Then a fireball hit the window taking out about ten feet of wall with it. Ropes, Rocks, Wood and the escape route went down in fire. The fire vanished leaving a great gapping whole in the wall. Tooc struggled to his feet, and Sir John rushed to his side. They crept to where the window was. "Not so fast! I am not finished with you!" the evil sorcerer shouted. John looked at Tooc, "Let's hope Grandfather didn't forget about us." The two jumped out the window into the night air below, and low and behold, Grandfather's flying spell had worked as the magician said a spell.

They floated to the ground safely and landed on their feet. Tooc had slumped and held his side. Sir John had taken the recognizable water flask from Tooc's side bag and offered him a drink; Tooc frowned then took a swig then passed out in John's arms. The Knight did not put the flask back in his own belongings, for the knight knew that the thief had more need of it. The Orcs could be heard in the distance. "Let's go, Sir John," the Princess yelled as he was running down the hill from the castle and Tooc over his shoulder with Orcs not far behind. "The Orcs will be here soon," Shouted the Dwarf. The Magician chanted a spell when Sir John reached the group and they all vanished. Moments just after the Orcs arrived at the same spot looking for the group. They had a puzzled look on their faces. The Princess and the White Knight had disappeared. The companions traveled for the Sphere located to the East of the Black castle. Along the way they found a place for shelter. Hidden high up in the forest treetops was a small Elf Village called Winlowsouf. The group stopped here for the night. It was far enough away that they did not have to worry about the Evil sorcerer and his Orcs.

Tooc had been hit by some of the flying debris after the fireball from the Evil sorcerer took out the wall in the black castle. The evil magic was soaked into his body causing him to get sick. Tooc would need some time with the healer to regain his health and would be able to travel on the second day to come. The second scepter piece the golden rod was in the Dwarves City a few days ride away. The Princess knowing that the Dwarves city would take two days travel and the Halflings City only one day to travel decided to part ways with the Dwarf leaving the group behind so they could leave after a days rest. They head out for the under ground Dwarves City Called Ladamer. The Dwarf gave his Golden City Key to Sir John to gain entrance to the Half Lings Gate.

The Palace in the Valley of the Halflings



Chapter 16

After a day of resting Tooc lying in a bed wakes up all alone. Sir John had been up for an hour at least and was out on the landing of the first hut next to the healer's talking to the Healer elf. Tooc heads out onto the wooden deck. Outside on down below the hut Felix looks up at a large figure leaning over the railing. "Sir John the Horses are geared and ready to when you are." Felix yells up to Sir John. While stretching Sir John Mumbles and groans as he pounds on his chest a few times, yes I will be right down. Hey Tooc how are you feeling? The knight says as he walks over to where Tooc was standing. It was on a nearby railing staring up through the trees. These trees are beautiful, and yes I am feeling much better thank you and Thank you for bringing me hear to the elf healer. The Thief Smiles and pulls out something from his pocket.

He then hands back the wine flask he borrowed from the Knight. The Knight nods then he grin as he tucks the full wine flask back into his armor. After Two days of traveling, Sir John, Felix and Tooc arrived at the gates of the half lings. Sir John looked down at his chest. "I guess that this is where this comes in," he pulled the key from under his breastplate. Sir John looked at Felix. Both were confident, this was the easy part. "Well, let's go, we need to get the sphere so we can save our Realm. What are we waiting for?" Tooc Smiled. Hmm I like the "we part," Makes me feel like you care. Your not getting soft on us are you big guy as Felix nudged him. Sir John Grumbled with a half smirk then he put the key in the lock and turned it, the gates opened with ease. Once inside, the three rode their horses through a forest where the trees seemed to look at them. "Do you feel like someone is watching us?" Tooc asked Felix. "Don't be silly, we're alone." As he said this, a small creature went running past. Half lings are strange little creatures. Good natured, they are a mutt bread of humans, dwarfs, and elves said Felix.

They keep to themselves and are guarded by the Nomad, who watches over them from the Great Palace, where the sphere is kept. "What was that?" Tooc said. "That was a pixie, Said Felix. You've never seen one before?" Felix asked. "No, I haven't." Tooc had never actually seen a half ling before but Sir John and Felix have seen a few on their travels. "Well there are Pixies and there are Fairies. Because they look so alike it's hard to tell with out asking, "Interesting." "They won't hurt us, this should be pretty easy." Sir John says.

Out of the woods, three more pixies flew up to the Knight. They stopped and stared at him with awe. "He's so shinny," one pixie girl said. "Why are you so shinny," she asked the Knight in wonder. "Well, I am a White Knight. But being a White Knight isn't the only thing that I am. I am a warrior, and I am on a quest with my friends," Sir John told the pixie. "Do you know where I can find the Great Palace?" "Of course we do, we can take you there, if you would like," the pixie answered. One of the boy pixies spoke up, "For a price that is."

He gave the girl pixie grin. The Girl Pixie gave a dirty look to the other Boy Pixies. "Well, Tooc looked in his bag, I do have this pretty little trinket," he said, pulling out a Shiny bottle cap. The three Pixie's eyes got even wider, "Oooohhh..." they gasped. "That's pretty. It must be magical." "Yes, very magical," Tooc said. "What does it do?" the Boy Pixie asked. "Well, if you show us to the palace, I will tell you," he answered. The three Pixies looked at each other once again, and seemed to make strange signals by wiggling ears and noses. "Ok, we'll take you," the girl Pixie announced. "It will take no time at all." "Let's go," Sir John took charge. "We need to get there as fast as possible." The Pixies started down the path as fast as they could fly with the three horses galloping behind. Around the winding path of twisted oak trees sometimes on the trail sometimes off and up a small valley and over a low flowing river they came to the end of the trail. They reached the palace in less than an hour. The wind rushes through the hair of the White Knight as he takes off his helm to get a breath of fresh air and to inspect the Palace.

The Pixies were practically falling over each other waiting for their reward. The palace was beautiful, white, with a pearl sheen to it. The moonlight reflected off the shallow river surrounding the palace. "This is where the great one lives," the girl pixies said. "We brought you; now give us the magical cap impatiently the boy pixies requested." Tooc handed them the bottle cap, and gave the female pixie a piece of shinny string. Now Pixies this is what you do. "If you punch a hole in the shiny cap thing, and thread this shinny string through, it will make a great flyer," Tooc told the Girl Pixie with the string. The Pixies smiled and yelled "Thank you!" and disappeared in a hurry with their treasures. Sir John turned to Tooc, "Let's go." All three kicked their horses and they galloped up a long winding road that circled around the Palace. They reached the front door of the palace in about ten minutes. The Palace stood elegant and tall and was very narrow in width. They slid off their horses and turned to great doors. They were about twenty feet tall, made with white oak and had shinny gold hinges. A single Half moon shaped handle made of gold was attached to the each of the doors.

Do you think we should knock?" Felix asked the Knight? At that moment a quiet gust of wind came about as the doors swung open slowly. Coming out of the Palace a very small old man greeted them. This man in blue robes has a warm aura about him that with his friendly eyes made you feel safe around him. He had Silver hair and his face was wrinkled, but with dawned with a youthful smile. His eyes were as blue as the sea, and his smile as wide as the waves that ride it. "Welcome," He shouted out in a loud voice. "Come in," the man said. "I knew my children would bring you to me. As they Follow him into the palace Tooc Blurts out. What children the Pixies? The pixies are your children? Tooc asked. Yes they are, all the creatures in the forest here are my children and they call me the Nomad, I am their protector. The Nomad starts to float across the floor and the group can barely keep him in site as they are almost running to keep up. As the group walks through the palace they see that palace is bigger then it appears. Up and down stairs through a long hallway lined with stone columns.

Across a shiny stone bridge that cross a small stream that flows through the middle of the palace and into a small garden they went. There were flowers planted along the path. Purple and Yellow Flowers align the walkway and are backed by small shrubs with green and yellow leaves covering them. It makes it very easy to see the stone path ahead. When the flowers ended there was a small shrine with a flight of stone stairs leading up to it. A small cluster of large marble stones surrounds the shrine in a half circle. Nomad stopped at the stairs and bowed his head and then glided up the stairs like he was flying. The group followed him. Up and About twenty feet off the ground they were up inside the shrine. It was empty except the large portal windows that surrounded room with small pedestal that sat empty. I am the holder of something that you are looking for The Sphere." As the group stand there out of breathe. "Yes." The Knight said. The sphere is one of the three parts we need to complete the scepter of balance." Yes I know, The Oracle told me," the Nomad replied. The Knight was puzzled.

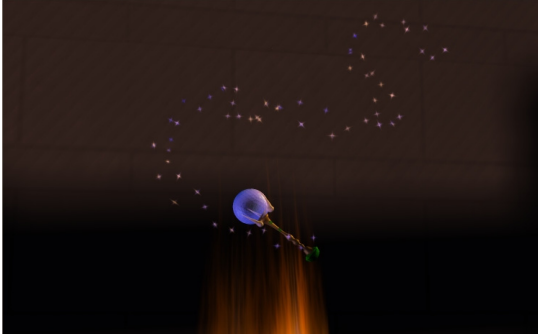
"She came to me in my dreams, telling me that this great White Knight and his friends would come to get the sphere to save our realm. Your Kingdom has been a great ally and friend to us, and I wish that we could be of more help. We are a peaceful people here." The Nomad put his hands together and chanted some words and the sphere appeared sitting on the pedestal. "This is what you are looking for, and I must say, the Oracles description of you hardly does you any justice, you are a Marvelous Knight." The Knight Grinned and a glistening sparkle appeared on his teeth. The Thief began to get aggravated and said "Hey mister Marvelous yadda, yadda camblama, we need to get a going-a." We have a realm to save. "Thank you, dear friend. I hope the rest of our journey will be this easy proclaimed the Knight. The Oracle appeared in front of them. Then in a calm voice says. "Once you get all the pieces, you must travels back to your kingdom; there you must put the pieces together." "How will I do that?" The Knight asked. "The Princess has the power to put the pieces back together. You must hurry.

Time is running out, the moons are almost aligned and full. That is when the scepter must be completed, if you want to defeat the Orcs and save your kingdom." The Oracle conjured an orb and in it they saw the King and armies defending the Castle of Pathonas. The Knight gasped, and his eyes got wide. "They will be ok for now the Oracle Said." "You need to complete the scepter to defeat this army; the Orcs are powerful and out number your Kings army three to one." The Princess will get the golden rod and meet you at the castle of Pylons. The Knight turned to Felix and Tooc, "We must go, now." He turned to the Oracle, "Thank you for all that you have showed us." Then turns to the Nomad and says bids farewell." The Knight hands the Sphere to the thief and asks him to hold on to it. The thief placed the sphere in his leather satchels. The three ran back down the path of the flowers and down the long hallways until they reached the front doors to the palace. They reached their horses and the White Knight mounted his horse. Felix was right behind him. The Thief was nowhere in site. Sir John yelled for Tooc.

Tooc where are you? As he said this he could see Tooc hanging from the outside of the two doors on the brass half moon golden ring. He was pulling with all his weight. His feet propped on the door hanging upside down trying to free loose the door of its brass handle. I will be right there as he pants loudly out of breath. Sir John yells out in a loud voice. "Come on Tooc leave that, you don't need that gold handle. Hurry we don't have time for that." The thief shouts back, "But he has two of them he won't miss the other." The Knight kicks his horse and the horse gallops off down the path away from the Palace. Thief's, I will never understand them. Sir John thinks to himself. Felix jumps off his horse and runs over to Tooc. Come on Tooc. He pulls on Tooc but he is not letting go. Tooc you won't be able to sell the brass if we don't have a realm to go back too. Felix pulls very hard and Tooc lets go. Felix is dragging Tooc by the back of his color and Tooc drags his feet with his arms crossed with a sad look on his face. Once the Thief reached the horses Tooc Spoke, "Well I guess your right. But right after we save the Realm I am coming back here to get my gold."

"Felix chuckles, then he replies ah Ok then mounts his
kicks his feet into the sides of the Horse sending the
horse galloping in the same direction of the White Knight.
The two catch up with the Knight. Around the windings of
the thin narrow cobble stone road they ride hard and fast.
They descend thru the mountains down to the Great Plains.
They need to cross the Great Plains to catch up with the
Princess and the Dwarf. They will meet at the castle to
complete the scepter.

The City Of Ladamer



Chapter 17

The Princess and Joanna had reached the Mountain of Ladamer in less than a day. The City was buried very deep in the mountain and the main entrance was on the other side. It's been a while since I have laid eyes on this mountain Joanna says. The Princess looks and smiles. That is a big mountain. How do we get around it? We don't. The Dwarf said. We don't. Then how do we get there, Exclaims the Princess. We go under it, as the Dwarf hits the side of the Mountain with his axe triggering a mechanical device that starts a large rock to move and reveals a passage leading down into the mountain. Oh Says the Princess. As the two lead their horses into the opening the princess inspects the place where Joanna struck his axe. It was a stone rod of some sort disguised as a tree root growing out of the side of the mountain that was placed inside the rock to be used as a key.

When they reached the inside of the opening the Dwarf pulled a lever located on the wall inside and two giant doors just inside the opening crawl open. After walking inside the door way the two doors come together closing the opening and then the rock slides back inside of the mountain. The light slowly vanished as the opening closed. The princess looked in the direction of the dwarf as all the light was gone.

"Ok now what." The princess exclaims.

Five, Four, Three, Two, one and Walla. The Dwarf said. A small spark could be seen down the corridor and then all of a sudden you could hear a mechanical noise. Then one by one small oil burning torches came to life on the walls lighting up the corridor far as the eye could see. "Hmm that was impressive dwarves think of everything said the princess." She leads her horse down the corridor. "Yep," Says the dwarf as he follows." An hour has gone by and they come to the end of the torches and where the path ends. "The Dwarf squeezes by, let me see."

The Dwarf reaches out along the dark wall and feels around then he sighs. "I found it exclaims." He finds a lever then pulls it down. For a moment it seems like nothing happens. Then a loud noise whistled through the air as a horn blew very loud. Then a loud clicking of metal against metal started clanging in a repeatedly sound. "Joanna?" The princess said in an upset voice as she pulls out her sword. "Oh Aye, Sorry he says then he pull's another lever. All of a sudden torches came on all around them and the path was no longer a path it was a huge abandoned mine leading down. Looking down the princess sees long steel cables with mining carts on them traveling up down and into different caves. This must be an abandoned mine said the Princess. Yes this mine has been emptied for many years of all its precious materials. There are several hundred working mines in this mountain so they don't even bother with the little materials left in this mine once they reach a certain depth. The Dwarf points down and about a thousand feet you can see a large doorway light up. "We need to go there."

The princess looks down and turns her head as she asks how. The dwarf steps back a step or two and as the princess looks up a large elevator closes in on them and stopped in front of them. Brakes on the cables made a loud screeching noise as the elevator stopped. The Elevator swayed a little then it came to a complete stop. The Dwarf opened the two metal iron gates and led his horse into the elevator followed by the princess. The dwarf closed the two gates then pulled three levers. Then the small elevator tilted down a little. Are you ready? The dwarf said. The princess looked at him and grinned and said ah ok. Then he pulled a big lever that was twice his size. A loud click and then a spark came on the cables above as the breaks released. Then down the elevator went. Very fast it was traveling down as the two held on to the railings. The horses where moving about and making noise of being startled.

Down and down they went for a few minutes, and then the lights at the bottom of the mine seemed to come very close. "Hey Dwarf are you going to slow this thing down the princess said."

The Dwarf looked at her and smiled don't worry It will slow itself down. "I hope," as he let out a small gulp. The both of them grabbed onto the safety straps on the mine car and held on. The mine car came down and started to level out then passed some type of mechanical device with a bar sticking out. It hit so hard that the bar that was protruding from it broke in half. There was a loud clanging noise as the bar flew back nearly hitting the Princess. Whoosh... As the Princess brings her head back up. What was that Joanna, Sounding a little concerned? That. That. The Dwarf stutters while trying to speak. "That was nothing." The Dwarf sinks down a little into the cart. The Princess looks ahead at the opening in the wall closing in very fast. "Nothing I bet." She thought to herself. The Princess closes her eyes. "Princess, Princess, My lady," the Dwarf shouts at the princess. Then he pokes her in her side with a small stick. The Princess opens her eyes a little disoriented. Then she stares up at the Dwarf smiling. She smiles, am I dead? The Dwarf looks down at her with a hand stretched out, not yet. The Princess takes his hand and stands up.

She looks around and notices she is not in the cart anymore. Where are the horses she asks? The Dwarf Black smith has taken them to feed them and get their horse Shoes refitted. The Dwarf explains that the cart came to a quick stop like it was supposed to but one of the bolts holding the rail that Princess was holding onto came apart sending her and the rail flying through the air to crash in a bail of hay. As the Princess turns around she sees the huge bail of hay behind her and the rail lying next to where the Dwarf was standing. "The noise was so loud that several Dwarfs came a running to make sure everything was ok, the Dwarf explained." There was a Doctor here too and he said you would be fine. You must have knocked your head on the rail when you landed because you have been out about twenty minutes. The Princess followed the Dwarf and they exited out of the Mineshaft into the back of a horse ranch where there were several horses grazing about. As they made there way to the front of the ranch a small town came to view. There many shops and small houses. "Let's go, Joanna, where is this brother of yours? The princess exclaimed." We need to find him fast," she demanded.

Joanna looked a little hurt, but he knew that Princess was worried about her kingdom and time was short. "Over here, this is the pub that everyone hangs out in," Joanna pointed to a ragged door with a small grate window. Just over the door way was a small wooden sign that read "Dwarfs Lair." The Princess was walking towards the door already. She turned to Joanna, "What are you waiting for, and invitation? I hear you're good in these kinds of places, Joanna the "Hammer." Joanna hurried up and joined the Princess. "They call me that for a reason, you know. I can hammer down a mug of ale like nobody's business," he smiled at the Princess. Joanna was reading the sign up above the door and tried to stop the Princess but she was already walking in the door before he could stop her. She missed the "Dwarfs only" carved in small letters under the words Dwarfs Lair. The Princess walked into the bar, it was very quiet and everyone in the bar was looking at her. Joanna walked in behind her, shaking his head. "Who here can tell me where I can find Joanna Hammer's brother?" The Princess yelled with authority.

A husky dwarf walked up behind her, arms crossed. "What do you think you're doing in here, girly?" The Princess whirled around and landed a left hook across the dwarf's face. A right knee to his groin doubled him over in pain; a foot in the chest knocked him to the ground. She spun around, and the bar was stunned. "And don't call me Girly. Now where is Joanna the Hammer's brother?" she yelled once again and the entire bar pointed towards a booth that was poorly lit and two figures sat there in the darkness. She walked through, and Joanna followed her, grinning and somewhat embarrassed. "Hey Joanna, who's the elf?" one patron yelled. "Does the Hammer have a body guard now?" another shouted. That was the last straw. "All right, Joanna shouted." "I have had enough. Joanna turned to the dwarf and said, "I've been itching to kick some butt," as he grabbed the dwarf with the back of his belt removing him from his stool, and threw him against the wall. While he was lying on the ground, dazed, Joanna took his full mug of ale and gulped it down then he slammed it down on the bar like a hammer. "Now the little lady asked a question.

So I want an answer and I want it now, the Dwarf Barked" The Princess picked up a lit lantern from the end of the bar and sat it down on the table. She plopped down in a chair in front of the booth where a very big Dwarf passed out and a smaller dwarf sat. On the table at the booth an empty mug sits on its side and a strange wooden object on the other. "I need to speak with you," as the Princess lifts up the Dwarfs head. "How did you get in here?" the little dwarf demands. "Never mind that, now scam or else I'll show you," the Princess said as she slid into the booth. The smaller dwarf gets up while Joanna walks up. "You heard what she said," Joanna told the little dwarf and he scurried out of the booth. Smiling and trying to keep composure Joanna sits down beside the large dwarf. . "Hello, Luca, how have you been?" Joanna asks as he picks up the mug and sits up straight. The big dwarf starts to pick his head up. "Brother!" he says. He sits up and the looks at the princess then turns his head towards Joanna. His eyes where bloodshot and he was definitely hung over. "I've been great, things are great said Luca.

Wow, it's been forever, huh?" Luca said cheerily. The Princess wasn't happy, having her question not answered. "Hey, over here, are you the Brother of the Mighty Hammer. Both Joanna and Luca Look at The Princess Puzzled. Then Joanna steps in. Oh ya. Hey Brother we need some help. There is something that we're looking for, a certain gold platinum scepter, Kind of weird looking. I was hopping you might know where it is or someone that does," the Princess got closer to Luca. Yes that is my question too. "You're awful pretty, you know Said Luca. Such a pretty girl shouldn't be in a place like this." The princess motions for the bartender to come to the table. He turned to Joanna, "What are you doing bringing such a helpless and pretty girl here?" he asked him. "You better answer her questions, brother, or else she will show you how not so helpless she can be." Joanna Grinned. "Shish. The bartender comes over with a pot of coffee and pours into the mug. Everyone has to be so touchy about this golden scepter thing," he says as he sips on his coffee. "What do you mean everyone?" Princess asked. "I mean the guy I sold it to being all secretive about it when he bought it."

"You sold it, who did you sell it to?" at this point, Princess had Luca's collar in her hand, and her grip was getting tighter. "Whoa, down girl, if aye let me breathe, Nearly Spilling his coffee all over himself, I will tell you." She let go of his collar and backed off. "I'm sorry, you just don't understand, my kingdom is in trouble." "The man who I sold it to lives in the last house on fourth-street in the under-town. He said he needed it for some spell or something, was going to conjure something with it," The Princess was already on the way to the door. Joanna started to turn and then thought. Hmm there are many last houses on the end of Fourth Street because when it ends there is a row of ten houses at the end. So Joanna quickly grabbed his big brother by the arm and gave him a good yank nearly spilling half the cup of coffee. Come on brother we need you to show us the last house. Then Luca barely grabs a hold of his coat and slides out of the booth following Joanna. "Good seeing you, hammer..." A patron from the bar whispered. The Bartender yelled who is going to pay for this ale? Then Joanna flipped a gold coin up on to the bar as he Lucas walked out.

The Princess asks how far this fourth street is. Well about an hours walk or if you have horses then about fifteen minutes. Joanna turned towards the princess. Yes we have horses, and they headed to the blacksmiths. After putting saddles on the horses they mount and then head out towards Fourth-Street. They arrived at Fourth-Street and follow it to the end and just like Joanna remembered there were ten houses of various colors in a single row at the end. So Luca do you remember what color the house was said the Princess. "No." But I remember he said there was a white picket fence in his yard. They looked and each yard had a white fence surrounding it. Ah he said there was a mailbox on a wooden pole in front of his house. They looked around and all the yards had a mailbox in the front yard and they where on little poles. The Princess looks at Luca do you remember anything else. No, not that I can recall, let me think about. Joanna sets his axe down and leans it against white fence. He then pulls an apple from the only tree growing in the yard of one of the houses. Joanna then prepares to eat it.

Luca interrupts him in the middle of his first bite. APPLES! Luca exclaims with a smile. Apples the Princess says with a puzzled look as she starred at him. A-p-p-le? Said Joanna as he started chewing with a mouth full. Yes. Apples, the guy loved apples. Every time I see him he is eating an apple. Both the Princess and Joanna were staring at the only apple tree in the yard of the third house from the right. All the other yards where bare except some dirt or straw spread about. The house was yellow with a pale blue door. Wow how did he get an apple tree to grow in a mountain? Its magic Luca said. Just then Joanna stopped eating and spat out the apple pieces from his mouth and then dropped his half-eaten apple. Magic Huh. Don't want any part in that as Joanna picked up his axe and proceeded through gate in the middle of the white picked fence. The Princess was already at the door and the Princess started knocking on the door.

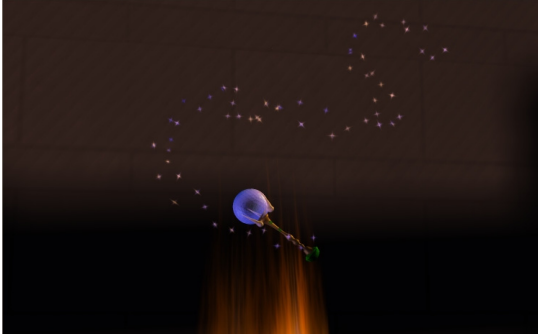
A tired dwarf opened the door, and she pushed past him into the house. I need the scepter. He looked at her, confused. "Scepter?" he said groggily. "Yes, made of gold platinum looks like a scepter.

Do you have it?" He started tooling around, looking under papers. Joanna caught a gleam of gold under a newspaper on the table and pointed. The little Dwarf picked it up. "Is this it?" he asked the Princess. "Yes! That's it!" as she quickly grabs it out of his hands. They turn and ran out of the house, the man still half asleep wondering where they went. "Dang thing never worked anyway," the man muttered under his breath. They ran right past Joanna's brother. Joanna yelled goodbye as they ran to the horses. Luca smiles and says goodbye then looks at his empty mug. Well back the pub to something better tasting then this day old coffee, he thought to himself. He watched them leave.

Silhouetted in the moonlight the two mounted their horses and started to gallop out of the town. As they rode, the trees seem to push them along, the wind lifts their horse's steps higher, and a whisper came about them. You must hurry back to the castle, you must hurry." It was the Oracle's voice. "We need you." At that same time, Sir Jonathan and his group were making their way to the castle of pylons.

From the nothing a whisper spoke into their ears. "The Princess and Joanna are on their way to the castle. You must hurry; the Orcs will begin their siege soon." These whispers made them ride faster and both groups arrived at the same place at the castle borders just hours afterwards. Out of breath, the Princess yelled out to them. "Sir Jonathan! We must hurry!" Jonathan turned to Tooc and his Grandfather, "You stay here, for you have done enough." Grandfather spoke for the first time, "Nonsense, boy. We are coming. This is our world too and we will save it." Jonathan shrugged. "But we will be careful." The Knight agreed. "Don't worry, we'll protect you." Tooc said to the Princess, "Ok Let's go!" the Princess yelled.

Saving the Realm



Chapter 18

The group came to a sudden stop when they reached the outer farmlands near the castle. Another Two miles and they would reach the other stonewall. This wall separates the farmland from the castles. It is four feet tall in some places but mostly ten foot tall in the rest. This walls purpose was for marking the area of the farmlands and had no strategic use. The Princess and The Knight ride up ahead of the group to the one section of the wall. "Look you can see the siege has begun, said the Princess. "The Castle is under siege! Tooc blurts out as the rest of the group arrives.

The Castle walls had large cracks where the Orc catapults had launched barrages of stones into it. There where burn marks on the sides as well from fire ballistae.

These machines launch tree size arrows on fire into the walls. Some thatched roofs have broken out into flames and are beginning to smolder. The Castle is billowing smoke out from its insides. Some buildings had structural damage where the roofs caved in. Grumm, Grumm, Grumm, Grumm, this was the deep sound of Orc War Drums echoing over the castles walls as they march forward. Thousands of Orc's were advancing forward unto the castle. Castle archers ready there longbows, and the pike man, the swordsman and the crossbowmen prepare for battle. Then when the Orc's where within range hundreds of fire lit arrows where released into the oncoming army. Many arrows hit the Orc's killing many and catching others on fire. This was not enough to stop them for there where thousands of Orc's and they were approaching fast.

A stream of dark red water surrounded the castle. In its moat bodies of goblin and Orc's where floating lifelessly. Archers move about on the wall shooting flaming arrows into the goblins and Orc's killing many. Soldiers and pike men fight ladder climbers and try to keep the walls as clear as they can.

Many Orcs and goblins are dying but keep on coming. Princess, Sir John! A voice shouts from along side the wall where they were standing. The look about and see nothing. "You must come now, Princess. Come, save your kingdom!" the King's voice came again, but this time it was close and very clear. Just some feet away from them a hidden passage was opening and The King along with twenty palace-guards appear out of a the wall. Just as this was said Joanna, Felix, Tooc and the Old magician dismount there horses and walk up to the Princess and Sir John.

The King approached the Princess he was shouting you must follow me through the escape passage to the inside of the castle. The castle main gates are blocked by the Orc's. The Orc's will soon breach the first set of gates into main court yard and try to take control of the second gate. If they gain control of the main courtyard gates then the castle will be lost. The Captain of the Guard along with the Swordsmen and a few pike men are in the main courtyard and they will try to hold the Orc's back as long as they can.

Sir John we need you to help keep those front gates closed and take back control of the main court yard shouts the King. "Now is the time to fight my King, Said Sir John then he looked at Joanna. You Felix, Tooc, The magician and the Princess go ahead and follow the king and get to the tower and I will go with the palace guards and try to regain control of the court yard. Ok said the Princess. The king tells his guard to follow the White knight and to help him close the main gate. The King leads the e princess and her group into the passage closing it behind them. How are we going to regain the main court yard Sir John, Felix asked? I have an idea just follow me and do as I do. Sir John and Felix followed the wall with the palace guards trailing to the front of the castle. Before they reached the Orcs they gathered disguises from the dead bodies of the Orcs. They where dressed in Orcish clothes and just filtered in with the Orc's massing in front of the castle. The next wave of Orcs along with the disguised group stormed through the two wide-open front gates to the inside main courtyard. The second gates had not been breached yet. Sir John's group went unnoticed.

Sir John could see a handful of Palace guards and the Captain of the guard frantically holding back more than three hundred Orcs. The Orc's were at the main courtyard gates and they where starting to gain ground. Sir John charged in sword drawn still disguised as an Orc. With a loud war cry he slashed his way to the middle of the Orcs taking out about twenty of them along the way. The slaughter went unnoticed until one of the Orc's turned around and stared at the knight. He started screaming. "A-A White Knight, "Look a white knight let's get him, kill him as another yelled. They yell war cries. Another Orc turned and stared at Felix then started screaming here is another one, kill them. Sir John shed his disguise and started into the group again towards Felix. Felix unveiled himself and pulled out his sword. The Captain of the Guard saw the Knight and proceeded to push his soldiers towards the Knight closing the gap. Forward men push your way towards that Knight said the Captain. The Sergeant standing next to the kings twenty palace guards looked at the outnumber group of soldiers in the middle. Then he turned towards his men.

"What are we waiting for, Charge." Joining Felix the group charged from the rear of the Orcs slashing and hacking their way towards the White Knight. The King opens the entrance to the passage and the Princess, Joanna, Tooc and the Magician follow out. This is the south side castle wall. As the passage closes back up they walk up a small flight of stairs to the main level of the castle. Thru a few corridors and down a small hallway they come to a courtyard. This courtyard is filling up with Orcs. A small hole had been made through the side of the castle by means of a battering ram. They're hundreds of Orc's coming through a sergeant said as he stopped in front of the king and took a knee. Well go and try to stop them the king demanded. The sergeant jumped to his feet and barked orders to about thirty swordsman and they charge the on coming Orc's. Dwarf you stay close to the Princess Lorraine and get her to the top of that tower. Tooc and Magician can you clear a path for them? The King said. Yes Tooc said as they trotted off in the same direction as the soldiers. The Magician climbed upon a piece fallen castle rock and chanted magic words.

The ground shook and the earth rumbled. Immediately out of the ground arose five stone guardians. They turned to the magician and waited for orders. Clear the way the Magician commanded the creatures. And clear the path they did. The King looked at the five Guardians. These stone creatures were very tall and had stone hammers in hand. "That should do as the King Smiles at the Magician." Just as he was turning away the Princess Turns him around and gives him a welcome back hug. The Dwarf turned to The Princess, who was looking at the castle, stunned. "My home, what have they done to my home?" She had one small tear in her eye. "What did I tell you about the tears? A warrior never cries spoken Calmly by The Dwarf. You are stronger than this, my Princess. You are stronger than anyone I have ever known. Now get up there and kill some Orcs. Just like the old days. The King would not have put his faith in you if you were not the one to help save our world. Now go!" The Princess looked at the Dwarf and smiled, wiped the tears from her face. She then said what are we waiting for then."

While the stone guardian's were smashing Orc's and tossing around there body's clearing space the princess and the dwarf try to get thru. Tooc used stealthy skills and managed to take out a few of the Orcs. And the Magician Used magic missiles to kill the rest of the fleeing Orcs. The Princess and the Dwarf made their way through the stone guardians crushing the Orcs to an open clearing. A group of Orcs ten in all where blocking their way to the great hall with the only way into the tower. Protecting the three pieces of the scepter that would save her world the Princess drew her sword and charged in. The Dwarf followed shortly after with Axe in hand shouting a battle cry. Finally, The Princess and Dwarf reached the Great Hall. This would be the new resting-place for the scepter. The thief looked back before entering the great hall and the guardians had crushed the last of the Orcs in the yard. The Magician made a command and two of the stone guardians close up the whole in the wall with there bodies and to return back to the earth. The wall is repaired now let's hope Sir John can take care of the gates said the magician as he followed Tooc into the great hall.

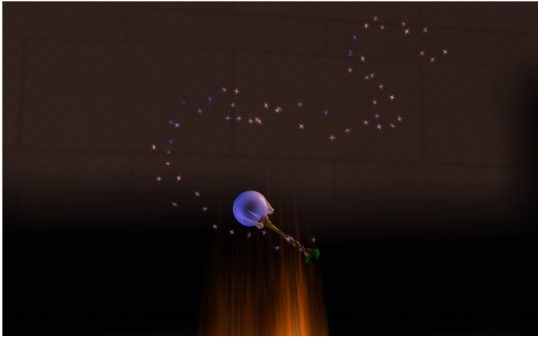
A chamber filled with hundreds of candles and pictures of the ancestors on the walls and the seal of the Eldens where painted on the floor. The Princess had no idea what to do next. She turned to Joanna. "Do you know what to do?" she asked him. He looked at her, and shrugged. No "Don't you?" he asked. The Princess began to panic. No one had ever told her what to do with the pieces of the scepter once she got them together. Her father never told her anything about this. There were no instructions on the side like every other thing any other being has ever had to put together. How was she going to figure this out! As she asked again! A man stepped out of the shadows. An Older man the head advisor to the king and was smiling. "Why is there a sad look on your face princess All is not lost. What are you smiling about?" The Dwarf groaned. "Princess, you are not only just a warrior. But you are the future of our world. Love lies in you. Your strength is not just physical. Your strength is your love for your people, your great mind and your ability to see what others can't."

The advisor removed the helm from the Dwarf and revealed ears that had points, Ears that only elves have. The Princess was stunned. "I thought you were a Dwarf," she gasped. "You knew I was not just a Dwarf. You knew that I was something more. More, what do you mean more? What. Who are you she said. I am the spirit of the Eldens they live inside me the dwarfs says warmly. Sure, the world sees me as a Dwarf when I hide my ears; the world sees me as an elf when I don't. If I want, I can even shrink my body to look like a Pixie. I am made me to be part of all that is good in the world. I am the key Princess; I am the answer to your question. I am what the key that holds the scepter together. The Keeper of the Eldens stood before the Princess. "You and I are the ones to restore the balance. Now let us finish this combining of the scepter. He was calm. The Princess could not believe that this was the Dwarf who she had known all her life. Not knowing he was protecting her, his whole life. Then Joanna held his arms out and his hands began to glow and he closed his eyes and began to chant.

The princess closed her eyes and listened to the chant and was feeling comforted by Joanna. The Head advisor just looked in awe. The White Knight, Felix and the captain of the guard are finishing up the Orcs trapped in side the gates. The outer gates start to move and Sir John looks up. A giant Stone Guardian closes one gate as another Giant Stone Guardian closes the other. The Giant stone Guardians then proceed out of the castle crushing all the Orcs along the way as they head towards the siege engines. One by one the Giant Stone Guardians smash and bash the catapults and trebuchets until they were all gone. As thousands of Orcs take on the Giant Stone Guardians they where met by either stone hammers or were being tossed. One Guardian removed a tree from the ground and cleared hundreds of Orcs with a Yankees home run motion. Tooc had chased down two fleeing Orcs trying to escape his mad yelling and wild swords play and they met their doom. Then the thief caught up with the Magician and they met in the Great Hall. Sir John, Felix, and the Captain trying to catch there breathe.

The guards and swords men where regrouping and forming up. They watch the Black Knight followed by fifty plus Orc's enter the main courtyard thru the gates. Sir John took in a deep breath. We need to go and help the princess. They turn and charge at the group of Orcs.

The Last Moment



Chapter 19

A smile comes across the Princess's face. Then she turned towards Joanna picked up the helm from which he had always worn and returned it to him. As she did, something slammed against the door. It did not distract her though; The Wizard was standing in front of her. She handed him the golden rod. The walls started to rumble. As he held the golden rod in his hand, energy started to radiate from the first part. Next, she placed the claw on top of the rod, which seemed to come to life as it came in contact with the rod. The claw flexed and opened, waiting for the sphere. The door began to break, and fear was starting to take over the Princess' heart. "Don't be afraid, princess," Joanna told her. "If you are afraid, you cannot heal the scepter!" The Princess looked at her friend, and then looked at the door. She thought about all that had become of her beautiful world, and it overcame her. She began to cry, the tears streaming down her cheeks and landing on the sphere.

As each tear landed, the sphere in her hands began to glow more and more. Then it levitated out of her hands and stopped right above the claw then merged into the claws as the gripped it tightly. The princess takes up the scepter into her hands as a Queen holding her scepter. "It is time now, for the balance to be restored!" the Princess yelled. She pointed it into the Sky Yelled out the words; Almighty Eldens grant me the power of the Scepter so that my people and I shall be rid of the Dark Evil Orc forever. She then commanded that the spirits come back together for love and peace of her realm to save her kingdom. The Sphere orb started glowing then it was full of sparkling white snowflakes the Sphere came to life. With Red fireworks, yellow lightning bolts, and blue swirls of wind danced on top of the sphere then dropped into the sphere. The Room lit up like a thousand bright candles and the light engulfed the room. The scepter grew as bright as the sun and there was an explosion. Then with the force of a hurricane the Princess and Joanna were thrown back, against the wall.

The scepter spun in the middle of the room with its point towards the sky. Then a great beam of light shoots of it thru the roof at the moons, which were aligned above them. This happened, and then the face of the moons changed into three colors, red, yellow and blue. The men and creatures fighting in the hallways were distracted by the great light and looked up. When the soldiers looked down, the Orcs were running away screaming in agony. The walls that had started to crumble came together again. The floor, which had cracked, mended itself, the doors, which had begun to fall down, went back on their hinges and swung closed. All that was undone in the kingdom was repaired. The room was silent and the princess lies there silent unconsciously. The door on the other side of the hall bursts open and the Dark Lord hovers in. Another door just to the left of the Princess bursts open and the Magician and King appear. The King runs over to the Princess and he looked stunned. The magician walks over to where the Dark Lord was. The scepter, still spinning, came to a halt and floated down to hover between the Magician and the Dark Lord.

The Dark Lord laughs and makes fun of the magician. You want to fight me old man. You can't even stand up straight. You're too frail to face me. You will certainly die against me. The magician drops his wooden cane and stands up straight fixing his posture. He then takes down his hood and removes disguise revealing a very powerful wizard thought to have vanished a long time ago. The dark lord screams out, You. It can't be. He looks at his hands and shouts at the powerful magician this is what you did to me. The magician folds his arms over and stares into the mind of the dark lord. The dark lord closes his eyes for an instant. Then flash back memories of the dark lord as a young mage apprentice magician along with the powerful magician as an a young apprentice in a lab. The young dark lord was mixing different lab chemicals together in a large glass. The young dark lord poured the contents into a mixing glass and stirred it with a wooden spoon and it began to fizz. His goal was poor the contents on the young magician's cat turning it into an evil grey-white troll.

He then pours the contents of the mixing glass into a small vial then sits the mixing glass down. The young dark lord goes to pour it over the small white cat sleeping on the counter when the young magician walks in the room. The young magician screams NO and charges at the young dark lord knocking him off his stool down onto the ground while dropping the vial on the counter. The cat wakes up startled and runs across the counter knocking the vial over causing it to spill over the side of the lab table onto the young dark lord lying there on the ground. The young dark lord trying to cover his head with his hands but the chemical poured all down his hands and then on his entire head. The young magician leans over the lab table asking if his friend is ok. The young dark lord jumps to his feet and is screaming look what you did. The young magician looks at the young dark lord and his hands and arms are grey white and all the hair has fallen off leaving it bare. His face started to take on a shape of another creature but not completely. He begins to claw at him self and tearing holes into his clothes then he ran out of the lab screaming insanely.

The Dark Lord opens his eyes screams out some meaningless words and casts a large fireball at the wizard. The wizard puts up one of his hands and says r-i-reflecta and the fireballs blasts into the side of the wall leaving a huge burn mark. The wizard grins then puts his hands together as he enchants. Ice-of-storm-wind-o-releaseia then with palms facing out an instant sparkling white shard sphere releases from his hands at the dark. The dark lord frantically shouts r-di-shield-a and a small invisible shield surround his arm blocking the shard sphere knocking him back to the wall. The shards hit the ground and the wall surrounding him leaving black burn marks of there existence. The wizard goes to reach for the scepter but is met by the dark lord leaping in the air hands first at his throat. The two fall into the path of the scepter knocking it down on to the ground and rolls into a corner where they land. The two roll around fighting for the scepter. The dark lord rustles to the top of the wizard pinning his arms down with his body. He then reaches for the scepter before the wizard could get his hands free.

The dark lord picks up the scepter and whirls into the air. I will rid your existence from this world wizard. He pulls back to strike. It was too late the Dark Lord had already taken control of the Scepter into his hands. The Castle stopped repairing itself and the grounds started to shake. The Dark Lord starts to make enchantments while weaving the scepter around in his hand. *Combust-r-end-of-olly-* as the wizard frees one his hands. Then Out of the shadows Tooc charges in pulling a magical dagger out of his leather satchel. He throws the magical dagger past the king towards the dark lord then dives over the princess into a ball and rolls to a stop at her feet. The dark lord ducks and the dagger hits the wall bounces back and falls beside him and the wizard. The dark lord continues his enchant and rears back to hit the wizard with the scepter but is met with piercing force to his side. The Dark Lords yells out in screaming agony then turns around with the dagger sticking out of his chest. He releases the scepter over his head and the wizard finishes the enchanting. - *death* he shouts loud then rolls out of the way.

As the scepter lands on the dark lords head he bursts into a blue flame and combusts into nothing leaving the Scepter floating in the center of the room once again. Then suddenly from behind a door you could hear a blood-curling cry of an Orc meeting his death. Then door bursts into pieces and shards of wood fill the room. Two large Orc's follow the pieces and are hurled into the air past the wizard. First Sir John came gallantly charging in yelling a war cry and having his sword held high and bearing his shield on his left arm. Then Felix the captain of the guard and a few of the king's guards followed thru. They all came to a halt as they see the King kneeling down next to the princess. The Knight lies down his sword and shield and picks up his princess who laid there quietly a sleep. She can't be dead. My princess is strong he screams. He holds her close to him and rocks back forth. The wizard walks over to them with the scepter in his hand. He is glowing and so is the scepter. He mumbles a few words, *arcania-to-life-princess* and then taps the princess on the forehead with the scepter. The princess opens her eyes then she began to move.

Her eyes get big as wall nuts and she lifts her arm and points behind the wizard. As a wisp of wind came from behind the wizard the black knight whirls his sword into the King. The white knight grabs the princess and rolls her to the side and rambles to get up. The black knight then twists back and lunges his shoulder into the surprised wizard knocking him off his feet. As he falls to the floor he loses his grip on the scepter and it falls to the floor then begins to roll. The black knight puts his foot on the scepter stopping its roll. He then picks it up and walks over to the open doorway. Felix and the captain of the guard chase after the black knight. Then four Orc's burst into the room. The black knight orders them to attack. They leap forward at Felix and the Captain of the guard. The king's guards surround him. Taking his last breath the King falls over and says gaspingly don't let Evil prevail my daughter. As The King falls to control his balance a great shriek comes from the Princess. "No" Oh NO Father No. The white knight jumps to his feet shield and sword in hand. He lunges after the black knight.

The black knight points the scepter at the white knight and a burst of energy is released hitting the knight sending him into the air crashing down on a table obliterating it to pieces. The Dwarf runs at the black knight in full charge reaches around his back to pull his weapon. The black knight points the scepter towards the dwarf and shouts STOP and then Dwarf freezes like a block of ice before he has a chance to pull his axe out. Then the Black Knight points the scepter at the palace guards. He shouts the words SLEEP, and they instantly collapsed fall down fatigued with sleep. The Black Knight walks up to the princess who stands up with tears in her eyes and she doesn't move. He Picks up the white knight by the throat and lifts him into the air. Your time has come knight. You will die by my hands just as your king has. As Tooc and his the wizard run up hurriedly to say words of magic or help they are hit with a big ghastly storm breeze coming from the scepter as the Black Knight points the scepter at them and shouts BACK. Swiftly they are hurled through the room in to the ceiling where they are trapped as they are pinned to it.

Felix and the Captain of the guard finish killing the last of the four Orcs. They run over to where the black knight was holding the white knight by the throat. The captain of the guard runs to the king's guard to help them. Felix rushes over to the dwarf. He shakes the dwarf and the freeze wears off. Dwarfs help the princess while I help the white knight. Then Felix runs over to the Black knight and lunges forward with his sword. The black knight turns side ways with the scepter and blocks Felix's sword then uses the scepter to throw Felix against the wall. He hits the wall and passes out as he slides down the wall. The dwarf runs to the princess and is trying to talk to her. He yells at her. Snap out of it princess. Your white knight is in danger. Help me he says. He then raises his hand removes his glove and smacks her in the face with his glove. She opens her eyes the crying stops and looks down at the little long red haired long bearded dwarf holding her sword. He has a huge smile from ear to ear.

He says, "Hi ya princess you lost this as he hands her a sword." The Princess drags the sword behind her and walks over to the Black Knight. The White knight is suspended in midair by the strength of the black knight. The white knight is unconscious hanging there lifeless. "The Princess comes to the white knights Rescue, How Daring; I shall take pleasure of killing you after I Take care of him." The black knight scours in a hateful manner. The princess shouts at the black knight. I have had enough of your evil black knight. This realm only has room for one knight." She then swings her sword with both hands as hard as she could. The back knight blocked the blow with the scepter with both his hands while releasing the white knight to the ground. The Black Knight falls backwards tripping over the unconscious white knight loses control of the Scepter dropping it. The scepter falls to the floor and it rolls a few feet then stops. Felix quickly tries to catch both Tooc and the wizard while they are falling from the ceiling. He softens there landing nearly almost killing himself.

The Dwarf runs up behind the princess and stands next to her with his axe pulled. The black knight stands up and pulls his sword out. The black knight growls in disgust and beats his chest. Then shouts, I will kill you girl, then starts towards her. Ah. Ha and quickly in a flash the white knight jumps in and steps in between the black knight and the scepter. This is my fight princess get the scepter. The Princess and the dwarf run over to the scepter then picks up the Scepter jumps out of the way and runs to where Felix, Tooc and the wizard were standing. Sir Jonathan lays down a few good slashes from his sword and gives quick thrust. The Black Knight to which is no fool for swordplay quickly puts in his own slicing and dicing of Swordplay. As the Black Knight steps back he knocks over some nearby candles to block the Knight. Then cuts down some Draperies and pulls them down in front of the white knight. The White Knight gets tangled up but quickly gets free. The draperies catch fire from the candles and force the two out the doorway to the balcony. Sir John then lunges at the Black knight Swords clashing the two fights out onto the balcony.

Sir John charges into the black knight knocking him down and then Sir John dives onto the black knight and there swords get tangled up. The black knight knocks the sword out of sir johns hand and sends it sliding down the stairs to a small landing where it stopped. Sir John slides down the side of the stairs trying to stand up with the black knight trailing. He picks up his sword and quickly blocks a wide sweep from the black knight's sword. The two grapple and fight for position and then the black knight punches Sir John with his sword hilt. Sir John then bear hug the black knight and head butts him twice. The Two fall down the second flight of the stairs to the next balcony. They rustle on the ground then start rolling around. The black knight picks up large plant bowl and tries to crush Sir Johns head with it. He misses then the two roll over side to side and Sir John on the bottom grabs both the black knights arms and puts his leg up and catapults the black knight down the next flight of stairs the black knight grabs sir johns armor while falling and drags him down the stairs with him. The both of them loose left their swords up top.

Tossing and turning trying to regain there balance and the two jab at each other with closed fists. The black knight mist Sir John by a good foot but Sir John got a counter punches one just under the chin. The Black knight bent over and charged at Sir John like a NFL player and picks him and slams him into the wall. Sir John balls fists and pounds on the neck line of the black knight till he let loose his grip a little. Then he grabbed the black knight by his ears and head butted him three times. The black knight let of sir john and held his forehead while bending over in pain. Sir John Rears up his knee into the black night chest sending falling backwards to the ground. Sir John runs up the flight of stair to the upper balcony. He passes the black knights sword at the edge of the stairs and about five feet way from there stuck in the stone banister was his own sword. He leans over to pick it up. He gives it a good pull but it does not release. He turns around to see the black knight running up the stairs. The black knight with blood dripping down from his fore head yells as he picks his sword. He swings his sword above his head and charges at Sir John.

Sir John still tries to free his sword from the stone banister. The black knight two feet away jumps in the air and brings down his sword as Sir John ducks sideways pulling his sword out. The black knight's sword hits the stone banister breaking it into two and he drops it over the side. As he is doubled over the banister he then stands straight back up and turns around and is met with a haymaker from Sir John. Sir John steps up to the black knight plants his feet and swings his sword blade sideways at the black knight's torso. This connects and sends the Black Knight up and over the railing backwards falling over the balcony side down to the nothing. Sir John waits for a moment to regain his breath. Then as Sir John looks over to see if his foe fallen and died to his surprise the Black Knight reaches up from under the balcony and pulls the White Knight over the railing and the two fall down two balconies to the last one. This balcony was all but big. It was very narrow with no rail at all. They're where some flower pots and statues of creatures and such.

As Sir John fell over the balcony he was able to catch the end of the Black knights shoulder armor and place the black knight between him and the stone floor the lies a head. This slows down his momentum while crashing down upon the black knight on the smaller balcony. The Black Knight pulls out a dagger from his armor and lunges at Sir John. Sir Johns reaches for his sword sheath and his sword was gone. It was on the upper balcony and no way to get to it. Sir John sidesteps and sends the Black knight into a flowerpot. The black knight staggering head first into the pot totally obliterates it to pieces. Sir John turned around leaned over to pick up the black knights broken sword. Then the Black Knight quickly jumped onto his feet with dagger in hand charged at Sir John. With Eyes of confidence and mild grin Sir John slowly picked up his opponents broken sword then turned it around and thrust it backwards behind him with all his might meeting the Black knight in air. As the Sword Pierced the great Black Knights armor you could hear a thud as it hit bone on the backside. Sir John stood up and pushed it in further.

Then he walked with the sword pushing the black knight in agony he drops his arms to the side and stands there lifeless. Then Sir John pushes the Black Knight over the end of the balcony. The victorious Knight Sir John walks up the stairs to the second balcony then bends down to one knee exhausted from the battle picks up his sword and slowly rises to his feet. After putting his sword back into his sheath he walks back up to the top balcony and leans on the railing. The princess had been standing and watching on the balcony. She smiles at him. He smiles back. She looks him over. He has dents and scraps on his armor. His left Spaulding was missing and one of his bracers was gone too. There he stood with blood dripping down his arms and forehead. The princess's face turned a pale shade of white then her Shouts Sir John look out. Just as Sir John turns his head the Black knight slowly rises up behind him climbing onto the railing. With his dagger in hand he lunges up to strike most certainly into Sir John's heart through his back. Then out of nowhere a small blur runs past the Princess the Dwarf pulls his axe from his back and throws it over his head as hard as he could.

All Sir John could hear was a loud Whoosh in the air as a huge battle axe flies past his head. Barely grazing his shoulder missing him the battle axe landed its mark right in the Center torso of the black knight. From the force of the heavy weapon hitting the black knight so hard he is lifted into the air dropping his dagger on the rail and is thrown backward. The black knight's foot is caught on the railing and he turns side ways slips and falls down to the next balcony standing on the rail. Sir John turns around and looks over the railing next to the magical dagger. Then the princess and the dwarf walk up and look over the railing. The three watch as the black silhouette waves his arms and hands back and forth trying to counter balance the weight of his armor from falling off the railing. Then sir john felt a tug on his armor as Tooc Climbed up the side of Sir John and jumps to the railing. Tooc looks down to the next Balcony below and shouts downwards. "Won't you just die already BLACK KNIGHT?" Then Tooc looks just to the left of Sir John. "AH there's my dagger he picks it up and puts I tin his teeth."

A loud thud could be heard and a sharp push on Sir Johns head as Joanna Lunges off Sir Johns shoulder and dives forward into a forward summersault about ten feet down landing just square of the axe on the Black Knights shoulders sending the Black Knight flipping into the air and off the balcony and into the nothing that lies below. The Princes runs down the stair and rushes up to the Dwarf on the railing. As you see the black knight disappear gasping for air a sign of relief came over the princess Face as she grabs the Dwarf by the collar to keep him from falling off the balcony as well. Along with the Sir John the rest of the party gathered around the top of the Balcony including the King and what was left of his army. "You did not let us down, Princess. Nor you, Sir John," the King spoke and both bowed back at him. "This scepter holds the balance because it is a balance. The sphere possesses the powers of wizards; the claw is that of Ice-Candara, the dragon, and the scepter the enchantment of the dwarfs. It is the balance of our world, these things. Now that it is restored, it will ward off evil and all that is bad in this world.

For that, I thank you, the realm thanks you all." And the King bows to the knight, the princess, the dwarf, the thief, the squire and the wizard. The princess took the scepter and went to the great room. There was a small fire built in the center of the room's wall. And above it was a cradle hanging from the wall. The princess went to set the scepter in the cradle but it flew up in the air and suspended it self. The scepter was not done yet. The Great Room was soon washed in white, the floors turned to pearl white marble. Then one by one the Eldens materialized into the center of the room. Princess and Joanna were dressed in robes now, and the scepter fell to Princess' feet. She picked it up and kissed it, the tears that she had cried for her people still dried on her face, in trails of glitter. "I believe this belongs to you," she started to say as she was handing the scepter to the Joanna. He held it for a moment smiled then turned around and put it on the wall. "NA, it will be just fine sitting right here. He walks over to the princess. Besides I wont have no reason to come see you if I hang onto it princess. "Ok, says the princess as the start walking out the chambers door."

The Princess elbows the dwarf in his side as she passes thru the door." Don't start with me princes as he says grumbling under his voice while walking."

"Joanna the hammer, he who has defeated many Orcs, and many of goblins. How about we also add that you lost your axe in the last battle. The princess pulls out her sword slashes at Joanna and runs down the hall. Now what will you fight with?" Sir Joanna looks around and picks up a single candlestick. Then he waves it at her. She stops keels over and starts laugh. "Did I tell you about the time that I had once defeated five Orcs with a single broom stick?" Says the dwarf as he runs after the princess yelling and shouting with laughter. Joanna the hammer will get you. The Princess smiles and burst out with laughter as she sheaths her sword and runs from the dwarf.

The End

Meet the Characters

Sir John



The Thief



Felix the Squire



The Goblins



The Evil Sorcer



The Black Knight



The Princess



The Dwarf



The Orc



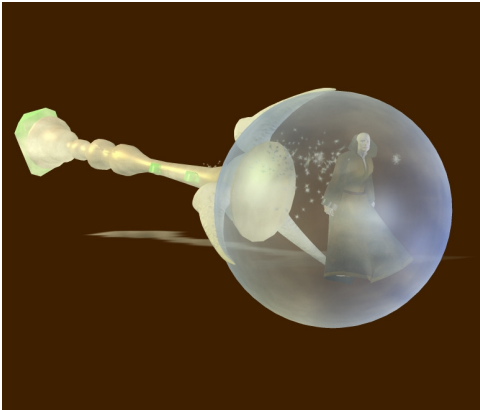
The King



Brothers Garci and Joci with the swordsman



Misc Photos



More photos to come.

The Stone Warriors, The Magic Old Man,

The Little Girl, Kristian, White Knights Serek the archer

Ractor the man with the military training

kingdom of Pathonas, the whole realm

The Elders surround, Eldens

Scepter of Psylion, Kantara Realm

The Lord Rathix Mullan

The White knights Coralline Family Crest

the Old Magician, the dragons