

Conquering the Creature

By Keenan Wong

It was a dark gloomy night, I received a metal circular thing in my old rusty wooden hut. I knew I was a magical wizard on an ancient mission. Or was I? I slowly stumbled toward the odd looking circular scroll with curiosity. Slowly, I reached down to claim the scroll, lying on my color drained carpet. I twisted the silver shiny cap and a long sheet of clean white paper slid out, along with a map. It read, In an odd castle, a gleaming Magical Gem lies on a white pedestal guarded by a creature. The map showed that the castle would be somewhere in the northwest. I shouted bravely, "I will get the gem!" as I snatched my wand and sword from the marble table. Soon enough, I sprinted out the doors.

I dragged my heavy sword along my back, following the map. I had been weary searching for the castle for days. Suddenly, I collapsed exhausted, breathing the crisp fresh air of the morning breeze. I felt the prickly green grass rub against my skin and I heard trees rustling. "This is the most wonderful thing I have ever seen, felt, heard, and smelled," I whispered to myself. I pulled myself together and continued my journey, now curious what the Gem would look like. I walked for a few minutes, those minutes turned to hours, and the hours to tiring days. At last, the odd looking castle was in sight. The brick stacked fortress had two blood red banners that had a yellow fearsome dragon in the center of the banner as a mascot. Each sign stood as tall as the castle itself. One strange feature that the stronghold contained was that it had three towers, one on the right, one on the left, and surprisingly, one in the middle. I assumed that the middle one was the entrance to the dark mansion. "Usually, castles only have two towers. This one has three towers. This must be the dark odd safehold," I spoke quietly to myself. I unsheathed my wand and walked towards the delicate wobbly wooden bridge that lead to the castle. My dark mahogany wand was five inches and was very sturdy. It had two moss-green parallel vines creeping towards the end of the wand in each side. I reached the end

of the wooden bridge and took one step inside the castle. I whispered, "Lights," and my viney stick made a sphere of light on the tip of the wand. It illuminated the dark path and I jogged into the castle.

I counted my steps around the screw designed stairs until my final count reached two thousand three hundred and nineteen stairs. Just when I reached the end, I heard a deadly screech coming somewhere close to me. It damaged my ears and echoed around ten times until it was dead silent. I turned as fast as lightning but darkness was all to be seen. I paced up my speed sprinting forwards making sharp turns until I felt safe. But still my mind kept telling me, am I safe? After twelve long seconds nothing was there. I continued the twisty path until I caught something in the corner of my eye. It was a mysterious shadow coming in front of me. It was two-hundred times the size of me, with razor sharp teeth and a gigantic tail following the huge body like a snake. Just when I blinked the shadow disappeared like mist in the air. My mind was covered with fear and my wand light dimmed slowly but went back to normal. I started to wonder if the castle was being haunted by a creature? But I didn't expect it to be that large. Without thinking, I stepped on a stone that wobbled and collapsed and an arrow dispenser on the right wall shot out an arrow that whizzed past my shirt. It hit another stone and the wall swallowed the arrow making me fall another level below.

My ears rang from the fall that I just took and I dusted myself off. I slowly stood up and right before my eyes was the colossal creature. It looked more terrifying up close than its shadow. It had gleaming white sharp spikes along the top of its head, down its spine, to the bottom of its tail. The hue of the dragon was a perfect shade of navy blue. The creature resembled a dragon. When the thoughts left my mind the dragon growled as if saying, "Yes, I am a dragon." Behind the dragon was the magical gem reflecting swirling colours ranging from blue to purple all over the dark cave. A moment later, the reptile roared with power and swung its enormous tail at me, breaking the majority of a stone pillar, making pieces of the ceiling

crumble. I quickly rolled to the right avoiding the explosive impact. I drew out my glittering sword and charged for the dragon. But then it breathed out infernal red orange flames that interfered with my plan and I rolled to the left. The heat from the dragon felt like I was in a blazing hot springs. Then, I swung my sturdy metal sword at the humongous beast's tail. The dragon screeched with pain and fury. It threw its tail at me and it made me fly into a cracked rusty stone column. It felt like ice slicing through my back ever so slowly. The circular pillar cracked a bit more. All of a sudden, the dragon appeared out of nowhere in front of me and prepared for a devastating blow. The dragon's talons were as sharp as ten knives combined and they were gleaming from the gem's vibrant reflection. I grabbed my shiny sword as the dragon swung its mighty claws at me. The dragon's talons banged on my sword and the weapon shattered into millions of deadly metal shards. Majority of the shards pierced through the dragon's tough hide, the cruel creature stumbled and at that moment the ceiling started to crack some more. Pieces started to fall on the beast, one big piece collapsed on top of the furious dragon. It let out one final piercing roar before dust gathered in the filthy dungeon. I coughed and tried to fan away the tiny molecules of dust with my hand. Could this be it? Did I defeat the deadly reptile?

I tiptoed towards the mystical blue and purple gem lying on the plain white stand. On one half of the gem it was mystical blue. The other side had an enchanting purple colour that made you seem to be hypnotised at the purple. In the middle, it had a nice mixture of the two colours mashed together. I heard a faint hum coming from the legendary gem. The hum grew louder as I came closer to it. I picked up the gem and the hum stopped all of a sudden. I slid my wrinkly hands on the smooth mineral slowly and a sharp edge cut my hand. "Ow," I whispered shaking the crimson liquid on my hand up and down. As soon I took a tiny step back, the unstable castle started crumbling. As soon as one stone dropped all I saw was darkness and a couple of sparkling stars. The first thing I saw was my ancient rusty hut, the same hut my adventure began.

I sat down on my rocking chair and rocked myself, ignoring how loud creaking of the chair was. I couldn't forget the dragons razor sharp claws ready to destroy me. I shivered at the thought that I was almost dragon food. "This is the last adventure I am ever going to do for a long period of time," I said to myself. I stood up and checked the front door. "Great, another scroll. I wish I could keep going but I refuse to do this". I threw the scroll on the ground as hard as I could and the capsule shattered to a ton of splinter like pieces and I abandoned the paper lying on my hut. I walked to my puffy soft bed and laid down staring at the empty top of my hut. Soon enough, I drifted off to sleep peacefully for the first time in a very long time.