

A Dream too Heroic
(The Hero of Korvalin)

written by

Christopher Belin

Christopher.mc.belin@gmail.com
+1 (678) 427-0993

EPISODE III

TERRY (CONT'D)

Hey, Dan, it's been a week. You promised me you would have an update. Did you finish the story?

DAN

Not quite, but I have the next part figured out in case you want to hear.

TERRY

Wait, give me a second to prepare myself.

(beat)

Ok, I'm ready. Ready to make more heroes fall into pits.

DAN

Please, don't.

TERRY

I can't promise anything.

DAN

I won't start until you promise not to.

TERRY

Fine, I won't make anyone fall into any pits. Happy?

DAN

Very.

TERRY

Now get started, I'm getting impatient.

DAN

Here we go, last we left it, our hero fell into a trap trying to retrieve a magical chalice. But her horse came to save her in the form of a gopher.

TERRY

A totally normal sentence.

DAN

It is if the horse is actually a shapeshifter.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

Anyway, the shapeshifter convinced the hero to flee the goblin encampment and go search for other allies before coming back to retrieve the chalice once more. We come back in with our hero on horseback.

We hear the sound of a horse galloping.

HERO

So, who's the first mythical hero we're going to meet?

ROSHE

She's a wizard.

HERO

Ooh, fancy, does she live in some big tower?

ROSHE

Um, actually, I hate to break this to you, but she lives in the jungle we passed through on our way to the mountain.

HERO

You can't be serious. How could anyone live there? It's a death trap.

ROSHE

She seems to enjoy it. She says it stops people from visiting her.

HERO

We don't really need her, do we? Surely there's some other wizard out there who could do the trick. Preferably one who doesn't live in a deadly jungle.

ROSHE

There are none as good as her. She's the best wizard I know, and I've known quite a few in my time.

HERO

Do the others live somewhere reasonable?

ROSHE

Look, we have to make our way through the jungle anyway, so might as well take the opportunity for a short detour to visit her. What's the harm?

HERO

That we could end up monster chow.

ROSHE

For someone who was willing to face a goblin army and a dragon on their own, you worry too much.

HERO

You may have noticed that I'm the nonconfrontational sort. I try to avoid fights.

ROSHE

And I like that about you. But if we're going to complete this quest, we'll need the courage to face danger head-on.

HERO

I would rather face it from behind.

ROSHE

In any case, unless you would like to walk. You're headed to meet the wizard.

HERO

I wish I were a shapeshifter.

ROSHE

We're arriving at the edge of the forest. You can close your eyes like last time if you want.

HERO

I didn't close my eyes. I took a second to compose myself.

ROSHE

Sure. Let's go with that. You can compose yourself again if you want.

HERO

I won't need to this time. I've done it once, it's not so scary now.

We hear beasts growling.

ROSHE

How are you holding up, tough guy?

HERO

Can you go a little faster?

ROSHE

Don't worry, we're almost there.

HERO

Worry? Who's worried? Not me.

The growls get louder.

HERO (CONT'D)

Ok, I'm worried. Please hurry up.

The galloping gets louder, and the growling fades away.

HERO (CONT'D)

What happened? I don't hear the growls anymore.

ROSHE

That's because we made it.

HERO

This is where she lives? There's nothing here.

DIRZAW

Your eyes can deceive you. Learn to look beyond that, young one.

HERO

Aaah!
Where did you come from?

DIRZAW

I was here the whole time.

ROSHE

It's good to see you, Dirzaw. This is...

DIRZAW

I know who she is and why you're here. The chalice was found hidden with the goblins, and you want my help retrieving it.

HERO

Wait, how do you know that? Are you a witch?

DIRZAW

I prefer the term wizard. Witches get such a bad reputation.

HERO

Oh, sorry.

ROSHE

Will you help us?

DIRZAW

You know I'll help you. We both want the same thing. What I don't understand is why we need her. She doesn't look like much.

HERO

Hey!

ROSHE

Weren't you just telling her to look beyond what you see?

DIRZAW

Pff. I know what I said, and she's nothing special.

ROSHE

We need her.

DIRZAW

I doubt it.

ROSHE

You may not think highly of her. But she dreams of becoming a knight, so she'll do anything to bring that chalice to the king.

DIRZAW

She'll take it to the king?

ROSHE

It's the only way.

DIRZAW

Fine. She can join. When do I need to get there?

HERO
You're not coming with us?

DIRZAW
I'd rather stay home as long as possible.

HERO
I can't imagine why.

ROSHE
Don't worry, Dirzaw will be there when she needs to be. I'm getting the gang back together, and then it will be time.

DIRZAW
I'll be waiting.

ROSHE
Let's go.

HERO
It was nice to meet you. Wait, where did she go?

ROSHE
Don't worry about it. We have a team to assemble.

HERO
Where to next?

ROSHE
We're headed to the city.

The sounds shift from those of a forest to the sounds of a city.

HERO
Whoa, there are so many people here.

ROSHE
Haven't you ever been to a city?

HERO
None this big.

ROSHE
This one isn't even that big. You should see the capital.

HERO

That's the dream. If everything goes well, I'll see it soon.

ROSHE

Well, we'll never get there if you keep gawking at everything you see.

HERO

What's that building? It's beautiful.

ROSHE

That it is. It's the biggest library in all the kingdom. And it's also our destination.

The sound of the city fades away.

TERRY

Wait a minute, I don't know how your world works, but isn't it a little strange to have a horse enter a library?

DAN

I had thought of that and was about to address it, actually.

TERRY

My bad, carry on.

HERO

Are they going to let a horse enter?

ROSHE

Don't worry, I'd thought about that. Let me take my human shape.

A magical sound.

ROSHE (CONT'D)

How do I look?

HERO

Well, that's disconcerting. I forgot you said you could become human. It doesn't seem right.

ROSHE

Well, it's not my favorite shape either. But it will do for now. Do I look fine?

HERO

Yes.

ROSHE

Let's head inside.

LIBRARIAN

Welcome to the library. Can I help you?

ROSHE

I'm looking for a friend, I believe he's the head librarian.

LIBRARIAN

And who should I say is asking for him?

ROSHE

Just tell him his friend who likes horsing around is here. He'll know what it means.

LIBRARIAN

Just give me a minute.

HERO

Really, a horse pun?

ROSHE

What? I thought it was funny.

HERO

Don't panick but there is a massive mountain of a man with a bunch of scars heading right for us. I think he looks like trouble.

GABRAURRE

Viens ici, mon ami métamorphe! Mais qu'est-ce que tu fous ici?

HERO

Let them go, or you'll regret it.

ROSHE

Put me down, you big oaf! You're cracking my ribs.

GABRAURRE

Désolé. Mais ça fait du bien de te voir. C'est qui la gamine?

ROSHE

That's part of the reason I'm here.

GABRAURRE

Et moi qui croyais que tu me
rendais visite pour une fois.

HERO

Can someone tell me what's going
on!

ROSHE

This is the friend I told you
about. Meet Gabraurre.

HERO

This is the guy we're meeting. He
doesn't look much like a noble.

GABRAURRE

A noble?
(laughs)
There's nothing noble about me, my
new friend.

HERO

But I thought...

ROSHE

He wasn't the noble of the group.
This is the brawler, he's the best
fighter I've ever met.

HERO

And he's the head of a library?

ROSHE

You're being very rude.

HERO

Sorry, it just seems strange is
all.

GABRAURRE

Don't worry about it. You're not
the first person to think that my
physique doesn't match my job. But
what can I say, I love books.

HERO

How did you become a librarian?

GABRAURRE

I used to adventure with your friend there. But at one point, it stopped being fun. I had to find a new path that could bring me joy, and I've always loved books, so I thought, why not become a librarian.

HERO

Don't you miss it?

GABRAURRE

Not really, people's goals change over their lifetime. But I suspect that mon ami is here to ask me to return to that life.

HERO

You don't have to join if you don't want to.

GABRAURRE

What's the quest?

HERO

We're stealing a chalice from some goblins.

GABRAURRE

The chalice?

ROSHE

Yes.

HERO

I need to bring it to the king.

GABRAURRE

Well, if we can get it and get close to the king...

HERO

You'll do it?

GABRAURRE

Yeah, I'll do it. Of course. I have a few affairs to tend to before I can leave, but let me know when and where to show up, and I'll be there.

ROSHE

Go find Dirzaw when you're ready,
and she'll get you there. It was
good to see you, my friend.

HERO

Nice to meet you.

GABRAURRE

You too.

Sound of walking.

HERO

He seemed nice.

ROSHE

The nicest guy you'll ever meet.

HERO

I'm glad he decided to come. He
looks like he can take care of
himself.

ROSHE

You have no idea. Well, onto the
next one.

The walking fades.

TERRY

Is this the story now? Them jumping
around from one ally to the next?

DAN

Be patient, there's only one left.

TERRY

Only one? But when Roshe was
talking about the adventuring
party, he mentioned four other
people.

DAN

Hey, you were actually listening,
well done. But don't worry, you'll
soon find out why there's only one
more. As soon as you stop
interrupting the story.

TERRY

Sorry, carry on.

HERO

Ugh, what is this place, and what is that smell?

ROSHE

Trust me, you don't want to know. As for this place, well, it's a bar, believe it or not, that also serves as a fighting ring.

HERO

And we're supposed to find one of your friends here?

ROSHE

This is where she was last, I checked?

HERO

This isn't the sort of place I would imagine finding a legendary hero.

ROSHE

Let's just say we all hit a rough patch when we disbanded.

HERO

Didn't you say that was a decade ago? What kind of rough patch lasts for a decade?

ROSHE

The really rough kind, and ten years is a blink of an eye for an elf.

HERO

We're meeting an elf? In there?

ROSHE

The best elf I know.

HERO

Let's head in then.

ROSHE

No, wait here.

HERO

Wait? Why?

ROSHE

It's better if I head in alone.

HERO

What if you need help?

ROSHE

Don't worry, I won't need that kind of help, and it will be easier to convince her if I'm alone.

HERO

Are you sure?

ROSHE

Trust me.

TERRY

So what did they do once they got inside?

DAN

Oh, no, you don't get to find that out.

TERRY

Why not? Is it because you haven't figured out what they're talking about?

DAN

No, it's because this is a story from the point of view of our hero. You only get to know what she knows.

TERRY

But if you know, you could still tell me.

DAN

I think it's more helpful for you to critique it if you only have the information another reader would have.

TERRY

You're enjoying torturing me, aren't you?

DAN

A little bit. But I promise it's better this way.

TERRY

Fine, let's head back to the story so I can find out what's going on.

HERO

I can't believe I have to wait like this. Unbelievable. And I thought we were friends. What are they even doing in there? This is just plain rude. Maybe I can wait a few minutes and then head in. That's probably fine, right?

A door opens.

ROSHE

Who's there?

HERO

Just me.

ROSHE

Strange, I thought I heard somebody talking.

HERO

That is strange. How did it go?

ROSHE

Pretty good all things considered. Are you ready to meet Hareel, the best healer in all of Korvalin?

HERO

Oh, that makes more sense. She was in there to heal people.

ROSHE

No, she was actually the one doing the fighting.

HERO

Wait what?

ROSHE

You should have really learned to stop making assumptions by now.

HERO

But a healer is supposed to...

HAREEL

Can I come out?

ROSHE

Yes, it's safe here.

HAREEL

So, you're the hero who wants to become a king's knight?

HERO

That's what I've dreamt of since I was a kid. Do you have any advice?

HAREEL

Pick another career path. It's not what it's made out to be.

HERO

Does that mean you won't be helping me?

HAREEL

Of course not! I can't wait to get started.

HERO

But you just said becoming a knight was pointless.

HAREEL

And I stand by that, but this quest isn't about getting you a knighthood. It's about reuniting with a friend.

HERO

That's nice. But you'll also help get the chalice right?

HAREEL

Don't worry, we'll be taking the chalice from the goblins in no time.

ROSHE

Well, now that everyone is acquainted, let's get going. We have a mission to complete.

HERO

Are we picking up the others on the way?

ROSHE

Don't worry, they'll be there when we arrive.

HERO

How will they know when to get there?

ROSHE

They have their ways.

HERO

Are you going to transform into a horse again?

HAREEL

A horse? I don't know why, but I was expecting an ass.

ROSHE

Your ass will be hurting if you don't keep your smart mouth shut.

HAREEL

Touchy.

ROSHE

Let's just get going.

HAREEL

Lead the way, boss.

Sound fades out.

DAN

And there you go

TERRY

What do you mean, there you go? What happens next?

DAN

You'll have to wait until next week to find out.

TERRY

You haven't figure it out yet?

DAN

Oh, no, I have. I'm just starting to enjoy this weekly format.

TERRY

Enjoying tormenting me, that is.

DAN

That's just an added bonus. Same
time next week?

FADE OUT.