

A Dream too Heroic
(The Hero of Korvalin)

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EPISODE II

TERRY (CONT'D)

Hey Dan. What's up?

DAN

I figured it out!

TERRY

Figured what out?

DAN

How the rest of the story goes
after you messed it up.

TERRY

You mean after I made it better?

DAN

Sure. Anyway, do you want to hear
what I came up with?

TERRY

Of course!

DAN

Ok, here it goes. Last we left off,
our hero ventured into the goblin
city in hopes of retrieving a
magical chalice for the king. But
after confronting a dragon, she
ended up trapped in a pit.
And that's where we pick it up.

DRAGON

(chuckles)

Stupid mortal. You thought you
could outsmart me?

HERO

Of course not, oh mighty dragon,
you are much smarter than I.

DRAGON

Flattery won't get you anywhere,
I'm afraid.

HERO

Please, don't roast me alive!

DRAGON

Begging won't help much either. But
don't worry, little hero. I won't
kill you yet.

(MORE)

DRAGON (CONT'D)

That will be for the council to decide. So be a good little human and sit tight until I get back.

The ground quakes as the dragon moves.

HERO

I can't die in here. There must be a way out. There's gotta be a way to climb out of here. Maybe I can dig my way out.

(beat)

Wait, where did that hole come from?

ROSHE

I made it.

HERO

Aaahh! Wait, are you a talking gopher?

ROSHE

You would think you'd be used to it by now.

HERO

Wait, Crumble, is that you?

ROSHE

Duh, who else would have such a deep and beautiful voice? Also, the name is Roshe.

HERO

What are you?

ROSHE

Your best chance at getting out of here. Now stop talking and start crawling before the dragon comes back.

HERO

Ok, but this conversation isn't over.

ROSHE

Let's go.

HERO

Wait, can you take me to the chalice instead?

ROSHE

That's not a good idea.

HERO

But I'm so close to my dream.

ROSHE

The dragon took it with him when he left. There's no way we can get it and make it out of here alive.

HERO

You can leave. I just need you to make me a path out of this pit, and I'll take care of the rest.

TERRY

You can't be serious!?

DAN

What?

TERRY

She's really going to try to do it by herself again?

DAN

Of course, she has to get it, or she'll never achieve her dream.

TERRY

But there's no shame in having a setback. You can take a moment to go away and come back to the problem from a different angle.

DAN

But it will only get harder if she doesn't do it now. The goblins would obviously add more security before she could come back. Her best chance to get it is now.

TERRY

She could also ask for help next time.

DAN

But it's her mission. She needs to be the one to complete it.

TERRY

It's not because it's her dream that others can't support her along that path. You should never be afraid to ask for help. It doesn't take anything away from your achievements.

DAN

Are we still talking about my story?

TERRY

Yes, but it's also true for life. You asked me to help you, didn't you?

DAN

And I'm starting to regret it.

TERRY

I can leave if you want.

DAN

No! I was joking.

TERRY

Then let me help you, and let others help your hero.

DAN

Ok. Let's get back to it.

Roshe slaps the Hero.

HERO

Ow! Did you just slap me?

ROSHE

Get your head out of your ass! I'm not going to let you go up there and kill yourself because you have some heroic complex.

HERO

I'm not going to die.

ROSHE

You totally would. You can't fight a dragon all alone. You need help.

HERO

But I'm so close.

ROSHE

That won't matter if you're dead.
For now, all you can do is survive,
and that starts by crawling through
the tunnel I made, so start moving.

The Hero struggles to make it through.

ROSHE (CONT'D)

It's a tight fit, but keep going.

The struggle continues.

HERO

I'm in!

ROSHE

Great, keep following the path.
I'll be right behind you. I just
need to collapse the hole so no one
can follow us.

HERO

I can help!

ROSHE

Keep moving, I'll catch up.

The Hero walks away and hears the tunnel collapse.

ROSHE (CONT'D)

Told you I would catch up.

HERO

Now that we're safe, I have some
questions.

ROSHE

We're not safe as long as we're
still in goblin territory.

HERO

You worry too much. We're fine.

ROSHE

I wouldn't be so sure. I've heard
some pretty terrifying tales about
what lurks beneath the goblin
mountain.

HERO

Those stories are just to scare
children. Those monsters aren't
real.

The screeching sound of a creature.

ROSHE
You were saying?

HERO
What was that?

ROSHE
Probably one of those monsters that
doesn't exist.

HERO
No. My mind is playing tricks on
me. Those monsters aren't real.

Another screeching sound

ROSHE
That sounded pretty real to me.

HERO
(panicked)
What do we do?

ROSHE
Run.

They run as the screeching continues.

HERO
How far until the exit?

ROSHE
There's still a long way to go.
Don't slow down, it's gaining on
us.

HERO
I'm going as fast as I can.

ROSHE
And that's why I don't become
human.

HERO
What?

The screeching is getting closer.

ROSHE
Don't look now, but it's right
behind you.

HERO

I don't want to die like this.

ROSHE

Watch out!

The screeching stops.

HERO

I'm still alive! How am I still alive?

ROSHE

I don't know, for some reason it stopped.

HERO

Why isn't it chasing us anymore?

ROSHE

I don't know, but let's not look a gift horse in the mouth.

HERO

Is that saying weird for you?

ROSHE

No, why?

HERO

Well, because you're also a horse, which brings me back to the point I was making before I was almost eaten alive. You owe me some answers. What are you?

ROSHE

Fine. I'm a shapeshifter if you must know.

TERRY

Wait a minute. Was the horse always going to be a shapeshifter?

DAN

Yup. That was totally planned from the beginning. It wasn't just a switch I made because you put my hero in a literal hole. Now stop interrupting.

HERO

You're a shapeshifter?

ROSHE

I thought that was obvious.

HERO

Ok, but what's your normal form?

ROSHE

I don't follow.

HERO

What's your original form? Which one are you when you don't shapeshift?

ROSHE

They're all me. Every shape I take is me. They're all Roshe. There isn't one that's more me than the others.

HERO

Oh.

ROSHE

And that's lucky for you, or you would still be stuck in a pit.

HERO

You're right. I hope I didn't offend.

ROSHE

Don't worry about it.

HERO

Well, I apologize in case I did. And I never even properly thanked you for saving me.

ROSHE

Well, we were a little busy running for our lives.

HERO

That's no excuse. So thank you, Roshe. Why did you even do it?

ROSHE

I knew you were going to need some help. So I helped.

HERO

But why help me?

ROSHE

I've been traveling with you for a while. I've seen how you help people. You're a good person. And the world can use all the good people it can get. So, I wasn't about to let you die.

HERO

I don't know if I'm a good person, but thank you.

ROSHE

I see a light up ahead. We must be getting close to the entrance. Let me head out and make sure it's safe.

HERO

No, let me take a risk for you for once.

ROSHE

No offense, but that's a stupid idea. If someone is out there, it's much less suspicious to see a gopher come out of a hole than you.

HERO

I hadn't considered that.

ROSHE

Clearly. I'll let you know when it's safe to come out.

The sound of footsteps is followed by a magical sound.

ROSHE (CONT'D)

It's all clear.

HERO

Oh, you're back to being a horse.

ROSHE

Well spotted.

HERO

Why the change?

ROSHE

Why not? I felt like it. And there's also the fact that it will be much faster for us to get out of here if I'm a horse.

HERO

Get out of here?! I'm not going anywhere. I have a mission to complete.

ROSHE

I thought we were past this.

HERO

You convinced me to retreat and rethink my approach but I'm still planning on going after that chalice.

ROSHE

Am I going to have to tie you up and carry you away?

HERO

Won't that be hard to do with hooves?

ROSHE

I knew I should have picked a gorilla. Why are you so intent on getting yourself killed anyway?

HERO

I don't want to get myself killed.

ROSHE

Then why do you keep on going after this artifact? What does it mean to you?

HERO

Nothing.

ROSHE

Then why do you want it?

HERO

Because if I do, I can become one of the king's knights.

ROSHE

That's not all it's cracked up to be.

HERO

Easy for you to say. But once I'm a knight, I'll finally matter. I won't be some nobody that nobody cares about.

(MORE)

HERO (CONT'D)

Haven't you ever wished to be known? To have a legacy?

ROSHE

That's not all that great either. Trust me. But let's say you get your dream, what then?

HERO

I become the the greatest knight in all of Korvalin. Maybe meet a gorgeous noble while I'm at it.

ROSHE

I can see that I won't change your mind. But can I at least convince you that you can't do this alone?

HERO

Fine, you can tag along.

ROSHE

You'll need more than me.

HERO

Don't sell yourself short. You can be very useful.

ROSHE

Oh, I'm awesome, I know. But for this kind of job, you'll need more than me. Traditionally, a party of heroes is formed for this type of task. You need at least four, if not more.

HERO

Where am I going to find people to help me? This may surprise you, but I don't have any friends.

ROSHE

I'm shocked. Truly.

HERO

Less sarcasm and more help, please. Where do I find allies?

ROSHE

I know a few people who would be perfect for this adventure.

HERO

Perfect, let's go get them! The faster the better.

ROSHE

I love the enthusiasm, get on.

HERO

Are you sure?

ROSHE

What's wrong? You've ridden on my back before.

HERO

Yeah, but I didn't know you could talk back then.

ROSHE

What does that change?

HERO

It makes it weird. This doesn't feel right.

ROSHE

Let me get this straight, you find it better to ride a beast that can't give you its opinion rather than me, who is giving you explicit consent.

HERO

Yeah.

ROSHE

Get over yourself, you're the one who's in a hurry.

HERO

Fine.

ROSHE

Ow, ow, ow! Not like that!

HERO

I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to. Did I get on wrong?

ROSHE

(laughs)
Got you.

HERO
That's not funny.

ROSHE
I thought it was. Anyway let's go.

HERO
Show me the meaning of haste. Hyah!

ROSHE
Did you just "hyah" me? That's
deeply offensive.

HERO
Very funny.

ROSHE
I'm not joking.

HERO
Oh, I'm so sorry.

ROSHE
Wow. You are so gullible.

HERO
This is going to be a long ride.

ROSHE
Especially with that attitude.

HERO
Where are we going anyway?

ROSHE
To find some allies.

HERO
What allies?

ROSHE
I used to be part of a very
successful adventuring party. And I
think the rest of that group would
be perfect for this job.

HERO
Wait, you were an adventurer?

ROSHE
No need to sound so surprised. Is
it because I'm a horse? You can
tell me.

HERO

I guess I should have learned to stop judging things by appearances.

ROSHE

I'll have you know that I was part of the most succesful adventuring group in all of Korvalin.

HERO

Was being the key term.

ROSHE

Yes, we split a while back.

HERO

What happened?

ROSHE

Life happened. People drift apart. The adventure just wasn't as appealing as it used to be. Take your pick. All that matters is that we went our separate ways.

HERO

Do you think you'll be able to convince them to come out of retirement?

ROSHE

Oh, believe me, when they hear of your quest, they'll jump at the chance to help.

HERO

That's great! Can you tell me a little about them?

ROSHE

Sure. There were five of us. I was the one most in touch with the natural world. We had a wizard who was the best magic user you'll ever meet. She could change reality like it was nothing. We had a brawler. Big tough guy who could take a lot of hits but dish them out as well. Trust me when I say you don't want to get in a fight with him.

(MORE)

ROSHE (CONT'D)

It's not something you do without getting severely injured. But if you did fight him, you would want help from our healer. There's no injury she couldn't fix. And finally, there was our thief. She came from a noble house but found the fun in stealing just about anything.

HERO

How did a noble end up as part of an adventuring group? Isn't that sort of beneath her?

ROSHE

She's actually the one who brought us together.

HERO

Really why?

ROSHE

I would love to ask her.

HERO

Are you sure this group has what it takes to get the chalice?

ROSHE

Back in our heyday, this would have been a cakewalk.

HERO

And when was that?

ROSHE

Oh, about a decade ago, give or take.

HERO

A decade?! Did your group split because of old age? Are you sure they can still do the job?

ROSHE

I forgot that humans are so touchy about time. Don't worry, they could all still run rings around you. They'll be fine, physically at least, I hope.

HERO

They'd better be, or this is going to end badly.

ROSHE

Not as badly as if I hadn't saved you.

HERO

Touché. Where do we go to meet these fantastic heroes?

ROSHE

That's a good question.

TERRY

What do you mean "that's a good question"? How can they not know where to find their friends? Where are they going?

DAN

I don't know yet. I'm sort of making this up as I go because someone keeps forcing me to change my story.

TERRY

Oh, stop complaining, admit it, you enjoy my interventions.

DAN

Maybe a little bit, but that doesn't mean I can't complain.

TERRY

Fine, you can complain all you like as long as you're able to figure out the next steps in your story.

DAN

Come talk to me in a week, and I might have an answer for you.

TERRY

I'll hold you to that. You'd better have something by next week.

DAN

Or what?

TERRY

That's a good question. I guess I
also have something to figure out
for next week.

FADE OUT.