

A Dream too Heroic
(The Hero of Korvalin)

written by

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EPISODE V

DAN

Hey, Terry, are you ready for the next chapter of the story?

TERRY

I guess, but I don't really see what there could still be to tell. The quest ended last time,

DAN

That's what you think.

TERRY

Why was it a false chalice or something?

DAN

No, nothing like that, but there are still elements to resolve. You'll see.

TERRY

Well, get started then.

DAN

Last we left off, our hero, after failing her quest to steal the chalice from the goblin mountains, recruited a famous adventuring crew to help her deal with the goblins and the dragon. The assembled legendary heroes made short work of the task. We now find them on their way to see the king and deliver their prize.

HERO

I can't wait to meet the king! I'm so excited! Have you ever gotten to meet the king?

ROSHE

I have.

HERO

Of course you did. I should have guessed. You were famous adventurers after all. I bet that's not an experience you forget.

ROSHE

You're not wrong.

HERO

Do you think it will be easy to get a meeting with him?

HAREEL

Just show the chalice, and he'll come running.

HERO

Why is it that important to him?

HAREEL

Why don't you ask him?

HERO

Do you think he'll mind?

HAREEL

No. He does love talking.

HERO

Are you going to ask him any questions?

HAREEL

I won't be going with you.

HERO

Why not?

HAREEL

I've met the king enough times.

HERO

Can you ever meet a king too many times?

HAREEL

I don't want to steal your big moment.

HERO

Nonsense. We did all of this together. You all deserve to be there.

GABRAURRE

Sorry, but mon ami is right, we've already achieved so much, we don't want to make your big moment awkward.

HERO

None of you guys are joining me?

GABRAURRE

Well...

HERO

Come one guys. I want you there.
Please.

ROSHE

If it's that important to you, I'll
join you there.

HERO

Thanks, I really need someone there
with me. I'm excited to meet the
king, but also really nervous,
almost more nervous than facing a
dragon. Is that normal?

HAREEL

I know which one I prefer.

ROSHE

It's totally normal; being so
close to your goal can be
nerve-racking.

HERO

Do you think he'll like me?

HAREEL

I wouldn't care too much what
he thinks.

ROSHE

I'm sure you'll make a great
first impression

HERO

Really?

ROSHE

I'm positive.

HERO

Thanks.

ROSHE

I hope you're ready because we're
almost there.

HERO

Whoa, that city is huge, and those
walls are massive.

GABRAURRE

That's not a city, that's the
king's castle. The city is down
that hill.

HERO

It's gigantic, I've never seen so many houses.

HAREEL

I've seen bigger.

HERO

There's gotta be more people in that castle than in my whole village.

GABRAURRE

Many more, I'd wager.

ROSHE

Are you ready to go, or do you need a minute?

HERO

Wait, I still haven't quite processed what I'm seeing

HAREEL

It might take you a while. I can't imagine a country bumpkin would have ever seen anything like it.

HERO

I'll have you know I've seen some pretty amazing stuff.

HAREEL

If you say so.

HERO

It's not that impressive compared to the beautifully complex, wonderfully unfathomable natural world.

DIRZAW

I agree. I've never liked the city. It's overrated.

HERO

Yeah, it's not that impressive. I'm ready to go.

GABRAURRE

Well then, this is where we leave you. It's been a pleasure.

HERO

Thanks!

DIRZAW

You've certainly proven more useful than anticipated.

HERO

Thanks.

HAREEL

You weren't a total waste of time.

HERO

Thanks?

ROSHE

That's as high a compliment as you'll get.

HERO

You're still coming with me, right?

ROSHE

Don't worry, I will. I'll just quickly change my form if you don't mind.

HERO

Are you taking your human again?

ROSHE

Why would I do that? No, I'll turn into something much better.

HERO

And what's that?

ROSHE

You'll see, just give me a second.

Magical sounds.

HERO

A dog?! You're right, that is much better.

ROSHE

Before we go, just know that not everyone is as cool as you are with shapeshifters, so you'll have to do the talking.

HERO

Are you sure?

ROSHE

Don't worry, you'll do great!

HERO

If you say so. Wait, where did the others go?

ROSHE

Oh, they left while you weren't paying attention.

HERO

Strange, I feel like I should have noticed that.

ROSHE

I think you're still a bit distracted, but that's ok, let's do this.

HERO

You're right, it's time to make my dreams come true.

ROSHE

Let's head to the castle gate.

GUARD

Halt! Who goes there?

HERO

Oh, hi, I'm an adventurer, and my name is...

GUARD

State your business.

HERO

I wish to see the king.

GUARD

(laughs)

Is that it? Would you like a tour of the treasury as well?

HERO

No, just the king.

GUARD

I was being sarcastic.

HERO

I realize that now. But I wasn't joking.

GUARD

What makes you think the king has any interest in seeing the likes of you?

HERO

Let's just say I have something he's looking for.

GUARD

Is that the chalice? Follow me, the king will want to see you at once.

HERO

Can my dog come as well?

GUARD

I suppose, but hurry up.

Sound of walking.

SOLDIER

Who approaches to see the king?

GUARD

Open the doors, an adventurer has secured the king's chalice.

SOLDIER

Straight away.

Sound of doors opening.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

You may enter after I announce you.

HERO

Please go ahead, my name is...

SOLDIER

My liege, an adventurer has arrived bearing your chalice.

KING

Bring them in.

SOLDIER

In you go.

KING

You are invited to kneel.

HERO

Of course, my apologies, your majesty.

KING

I heard you brought me my chalice.

HERO

That is correct, your majesty.

KING

And what would you ask in return for this gift?

HERO

I would only ask that you make me one of your knights, my king.

KING

Is that all?

HERO

That's all I've ever wanted. I want to serve my kingdom. I hope my deeds prove I'm well-suited to the task.

KING

If that is your wish, it shall be granted. You have done more than enough to deserve it. In fact, I dare say you deserve more after defeating a goblin army and a dragon on your own. I should raise you to the rank of nobility.

HERO

That's very kind of you, my liege. But I must admit I did not do this alone.

KING

Who else do I have to thank for this gift?

HERO

That dog to start off, now this may sound strange...

KING

It can't be.

Magical sound.

HAREEL

Surprise

HERO

Where did you guys come from, and why are you holding a knife to the king's throat?

GABRAURRE

We followed you invisibly. As for the knife, let's just say his majesty owes us. Trust me when I say it's for the greater good.

HERO

I can't believe you used me.

ROSHE

I wanted to tell you, but we couldn't say anything, or you might have blown our cover. We needed someone who genuinely wanted to meet the king, so we could find a way into the palace without suspicion.

KING

Traitor!

HERO

No, my king.

KING

You have to free me. They're going to kill me.

HAREEL

Shut up!

ROSHE

Please, you have to believe us when we say the king isn't who you think he is.

HERO

I don't...

KING

Please, get help. I can make all your dreams come true.

HAREEL

I said shut up!

KING

Help me, and I'll make you one of my personal knights.

HAREEL

That's enough! Or do I need to remove your tongue?

GABRAURRE

We don't have much time if we're going to do this. Is the spell ready?

DIRZAW

I'm working on it!

HAREEL

Now, your majesty, all I'm going to need is a little blood. How I get it is up to you.

The sound of doors opening.

ROSHE

Where do you think you're going?

HERO

HELP!!!

HAREEL

Somebody stop her!

GABRAURRE

On it!

HERO

HELP!

GABRAURRE

Come back here!

HERO

Where did all the guards go?

GABRAURRE

We took care of them.

HERO

HEEEELP!

GABRAURRE
Stop yelling and just come back
with us. We'll explain everything.

HERO
Never! I'm bound to find some help
in this castle.

GABRAURRE
Don't open that door!

Door opens.

CAPTAIN
Who are you?

HERO
Are you all soldiers?

CAPTAIN
These are the soldier barracks.

HERO
The King is in danger.

CAPTAIN
Where?

HERO
In his audience hall, a group of
villains captured him.

CAPTAIN
Men, to me! The King needs us.

Sounds of men moving around and getting weapons.

HERO
I just hope we're not too late.

Sound of jogging.

HAREEL
Almost there.

CAPTAIN
In the name of the law, put your
weapons down and step away from the
king.

HAREEL
No!

GABRAURRE

Put your weapons down. There are too many of them. Even for us.

HAREEL

NO! No! No.

GABRAURRE

It's over. We failed.

HAREEL

Not again, I can't fail her again. We were so close.

CAPTAIN

Take them away.

Sounds of movement.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

My king, are you alright?

KING

I'm fine.

CAPTAIN

Your majesty, you're bleeding.

KING

It's just a flesh wound. How did you know to rescue me?

CAPTAIN

We have this young woman to thank.

HERO

I was just doing my duty.

KING

You truly weren't part of it.

HERO

No! I would never conspire against you, my king.

KING

I see that now. For the service you have done for this realm, you will be made a knight, but not just any knight. You shall be one of my personal guards.

HERO

You're too kind, majesty. This is beyond my wildest dreams.

KING

I need people I can trust around me. Clearly, your predecessors failed. You won't fail me, will you?

HERO

No, I will do whatever it takes to protect you.

KING

That's what I like to hear.

HERO

May I ask what those villains wanted with you, majesty?

HERO (CONT'D)

Maybe I should go question them.

KING

You shall do no such thing!

HERO

Apologies, my king.

KING

Sorry, I'm still on edge after this attempt on my life.

HERO

I'm not sure they wanted to kill you. If that were the case, they could have done it at any point.

KING

Are you questioning my judgment?

HERO

Of course not.

KING

Those vermin were just taking their sweet time. I overheard them talking about how my death would be part of some ritual.

HERO

Even more reason to question them.

KING

I dislike repeating myself. If you are to join my guard, you will learn to heed my orders.

HERO

Of course, I meant no disrespect.

KING

I know you did not. You saved my life after all. But I saw how they manipulated you. I think it's better for everyone if you never see them again.

HERO

I can handle it.

KING

I have others to do such things. I want you near me.

HERO

I'm honored.

KING

But for now, I need some rest. Tomorrow we shall have a grand ceremony, and you will be sworn in as one of my personal guards.

HERO

I can't thank you enough. This is more than I hoped for.

KING

You've earned it. But for now, go get some rest. Tomorrow will be a big day.

HERO

I'm not sure I will be able to get much rest, but I will do as you ask. Where are my quarters?

KING

The captain will lead you there.

CAPTAIN

Follow me.

HERO

Of course.

Sound of walking and a door opening.

HERO (CONT'D)

Woah. I'll never get used to how big things are. You could fit my whole house in here.

CAPTAIN

Enjoy your evening.

HERO

Thank you!

The sounds of steps retreating.

HERO (CONT'D)

What do I do now?

DIRZAW

I don't have long. You're in danger. The king isn't who you think he is. Come find us. We'll explain everything. Please trust us.

HERO

How am I hearing you?

(beat)

What's going on?

(beat)

Why should I trust you anyway? You tricked me!

(beat)

Yeah, that's right. I made the right decision. I got everything I could have ever dreamt of.

(beat)

But what if I was wrong? They were becoming my friends. Well, two of them were at least. Do I even really know the king?

(beat)

What am I saying? He's the king. And I don't really know the others either. Heck, one of them pretended to be my horse for who knows how long. That proves they're not trustworthy.

(beat)

It couldn't hurt to hear them out. I know the king said not to, but if I'm going to be his guard, I can't be scared of a few prisoners.

(MORE)

HERO (CONT'D)

I'll just quickly go see them and
then leave all this mess behind me.

Soun do the door opening and footsteps

SOLDIER

Where are you headed, ma'am?

HERO

Oh, soldier, I wasn't aware you
would be here.

SOLDIER

I'll be here all night if you need
anything, ma'am.

HERO

I do need something, actually. I
need directions to the dungeons.

SOLDIER

The dungeons, ma'am?

HERO

Yes, I need to question the
prisoners.

SOLDIER

The King said no one was to disturb
them.

HERO

He changed his mind.

SOLDIER

Nobody told me this,

HERO

I'm telling you now. Or do you need
me to go and wake him?

SOLDIER

Of course not, ma'am. Sorry, ma'm.
Let me lead the way.

HERO

No!

SOLDIER

Ma'am?

HERO

Directions will suffice. Don't make
me repeat myself.

SOLDIER

Of course, you'll want to head left to the stairwell and go to the lowest level.

HERO

Thank you. I'd better be going.

The sound of walking, which fades away.

DAN

And that's where we'll leave it for today.

TERRY

Wait! No! Just 10 more minutes.

DAN

Sorry, but that's it for today.

TERRY

Fine.

DAN

Don't worry, next time you'll hear the rest of the story, all of it.

TERRY

It better be good.

DAN

Well, you seemed to enjoy the latest episode. I couldn't help but notice you didn't interrupt me. Not once.

TERRY

Well, I couldn't think of anything.

DAN

You mean you got too invested.

TERRY

Maybe.

DAN

Admit it, you like the story.

TERRY

Don't get cocky. You still need to land it next week. Making a satisfying ending is the hardest part of any story.

DAN

No pressure.

TERRY

I look forward to hearing it. See
you next week.

FADE OUT.