**The Beast**

The village sits in peace, for the time being. In the countryside of Europe during the middle Ages, a small village on a hillside with tall flowing grass and seemingly endless pastures is in harmony with its surroundings. This little inconspicuous village is a place of farming and livestock. Although this village is at peace with itself and others, a monster comes every 28th day to take the livestock to its monstrous cave in the mountains. This horrific act happens each and every month and the people are reluctant to fight against this beast because of the last few who had attempted to. Each person that had tried was never seen again. This fact is the driving force to be kind to the beast by selecting there finest animals and placing them in a pen at the edge of the village.

When a report of the average livestock from this village had reached the king, he sent three of his best knights to uncover the lack of animals. When the knights had finally reached the village and heard the news, and waited for the horrific event to unfold when the terror arrives from the mountains. When the time came on the next attack, the knights were determined to follow the beast back to its cave. Once inside the horrific cave, that had pitch-black spires ejecting out of the cold hard ground where the beast made his home, they discovered, before they were devoured alive by the monstrous beast, a small hut in the rear of the cave that the beast is not functioning alone.

Some years later three young boys lived in the same village that had no issues but a monstrous beast that comes and eats the livestock from the pastures. The three boys would tolerate this torture of watching their animals be taken each month. Finally, the boys had enough and decided to fight against the menacing beast.

When they were in the midst of their planning George made a good point.

George said, “Hey guys we have no weapons to fight the beast*”*

“How will we get the weapons?” asked Arthur.

“We could forge them from used horseshoes and anything else we could find.” said George.

“We could get them from the king, as long as he knew we had the proper means and reasons.” interjected Robert.

Set with a plan to get their weapons they headed off the next morning to the kingdom to retrieve the supplies. With not enough provisions to last more than three days’ time, they hurried to the castle.

During their trip, they had set an even pace at a slow jog stopping only for meals. They had only encountered roadside animals like rabbits and prairie dogs rushing past to find food, and it was this way for the majority of the trip up until the encounter with **the wolves**. These are no ordinary wolves, and they stand five foot tall at their backs and have long shaggy gray and black hair that outlines their horrific features that envelope their face. The teeth none like them white, whiter than you have ever seen, with a snout of enormous length with a nose that could smell a jack rabbit poop in the woods from a mile away. These beasts migrate of the lands following the legendary elk. No man has ever found an advantage on these animals and lived to tell the tale. With no weapons and no cover to sneak around the wolves, Robert decided to attempt another tactic. He walked straight up to the alpha wolf, with fangs bared and in a defensive position ready to attack at any moment, and told it to sit. Infuriated at first the wolf growled and began to become aggressive with snarling and bared teeth growling and ready to attack at any offense when commanded again in a more dominate tone he reluctantly did as he was told.

When they finally arrived at the castle, they were amazed at what detail the tall spiraling towers held with their engravings so accurately portrayed by a master crafter suspended hundreds of feet in the air. When they were stopped by patrolling guards with huge bulky armor and spears no less than six feet in length, they were commanded to state their business Robert stated the reasons.

“Were here from an outlying farm village next to the mountains, and every month we get attacked by an outrageously huge monster.”

“What do you need here?” asked the guard.

“Well we need some weapons to fight the monstrous beast that terrorizes our village we must see the king immediately!” responded Robert. Once the guards had escorted them into the keep of the castle, they told the king of their journey and how they planned to fight the monster by them-selves with only swords and shields. After a long while of try swords and shields, they could not find any that fit them and are well balanced, and then they went to the king and he searched for what seemed to be hours until he found his personal stash of swords and shields and made them try those. Once they had try the balance and weight they accepted the gifts, and rejected the king’s request to send troops along with them because they would make too much noise. With their weapons and some more provisions, they left the keep

*“Farwell friends, I wish you the best of luck with your quest.”* Exclaimed the King. Now on their way back to their village with more provisions then necessary they could travel at an easier pace than before. Once they realized what time of the month it was they had to hurry to get back to the village before the beast’s monthly visit.

Back in the village again, the other villagers would avoid contact and communication with the three boys in fear of losing them; no relationships with them meant that they would have no mourning. It was still a matter of days until the next attack, but the boys had to prepare for their assault on the cave. Lots to prepare, their attack plan, how they will get there undetected and much more. In their preparations, Arthur had asked.

“Hey guys how are we going to get into the cave?” They pondered the question until Robert said,

“We could kill three livestock and hide in side them until we reach the cave, that way he would never know he was being followed.” They all agreed that this was the best way to the cave being undetected.

Now with a plan in mind they finished their preparations with a day to spare. With that much time left they decided to practice their combat skills, they were terrible but who else would do the terrible deed of slaying the giant, red eyed, scaly, massive monster that terrorized the village and ransacked their food.

When the time came, they climbed into their carcasses and waited until the beast came and carried them away with his enormous paws and mouth. They had already said their farewells to their closest friends and family, or any one that would still talk to them as if they were with the plague.

Thump, thump, THUMP, they could hear the footsteps ring louder as the beast approached.

“Hold on tight guys.” said Arthur in a voice so quiet, only Robert and George could hear him.

All of a sudden the footsteps stopped. Up, up, and up they went rising nearly thirty feet in the air. Then, a rocking motion began sickening at firs but then became quite relaxing, the only thing keeping those boys awake was the continues THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, now louder than ever were the footsteps of the beast. This motion and noise continued for a long while.

Next, the sound stopped and the boys instinctively became alert, listening for the smallest of sounds, the only thing they could hear was the beast’s breathing, in and out as if the wind was rushing past the entrance to the cave. Once they had been set down on the ground, Robert had decided that was as good a time as any to give the call sign.

“MOOOOOOOOO.” said Robert. From there they made their way out of the carcasses and into the cave. The labyrinth of rock twisted and turned into tunnels that led to other tunnels. In one of the side tunnels, they saw a strange light at the end and went to it knowing the sun was behind them they were naturally curious.

Once at the end of the tunnel they had to maneuver around one more rock to get a better sight, once their they saw a hut with a wooden fence creating a pen for live animals and in that pen was exactly that.

“No beast could have made that,” said George “right.”

“Agreed.” Stated Robert.

“Than what did make it?” asked Arthur. From deep in the shadows of the hut an unsuspecting pair of deep red eyes watch the boys with deadly interest.