

The Book Rescuer

I roll over on my side, and I see three books on my dresser. It's strange - these books seem lonely. Faded. My name is Cassandra Lemere. My 13th birthday was two days ago, and my parents bought me "Harry Potter," "Where the Mountain Meets the Moon," and "Warriors" as gifts. They said the bookstore was strange...

"Weirdest thing," said the bookstore manager, "One moment I'm selling brand new books to people, the next moment, the books seem old and faded!"

"He's right," I think as I stare up at the ceiling. "These books do seem weird..." Suddenly, "Harry Potter" opens, and I feel myself being sucked into it! I latch on frantically to the sides of my bed.

I begin to shrink and get trapped inside the book. A wooden stick pokes me in the side, and I'm startled to see two puzzled faces looking into mine.

"Where am I?!" I say, feeling rough sand beneath my fingertips.

"You are in Hogwarts," says the boy, helping me stand.

"Well, what used to be Hogwarts," adds the girl, tears running down her cheeks.

I blink, and I realize we are in a purple, desolate, sandy void. "Who are you?" I ask.

"I'm Harry and this is Hermione." "We'll explain everything on the way to the next book," he adds as we walk under the purple sky:

Long ago, there was a kingdom called Agorana ruled by Queen Mohiana. She had an enchanted book she used to fend off raiders. But her jealous brother, who was locked in The Room of Mazes, broke free and challenged Mohiana to a duel. She lost and was locked in The Room of Mazes along with her magical book. Because the book was a source of power for other stories in the world, and was now locked away, other books began to disappear. To this day he is known as the Book Slayer."

"So, we're going to free the queen and destroy her brother?" I ask.

"Bingo!" says Harry, waving his wand. We step into the next book and are met by a girl wearing an embroidered jacket and a massive, red dragon!

"Hello!" says the girl, tossing me a peach from her pocket.

"Thanks!" I say as I bite into the juicy, sweet peach. "Who are you?"

"I'm Minli and this is Dragon," says the girl. "C'mon - let's get to the next book!" We are soon at the cover of the next book, which is decorated with a bluish-gray cat and a dark gray cat. As we enter the book, the cats from the cover are before us.

"Greetings," says the blue-gray cat, nodding her head. "I'm Feathertail and this is Stormfur. Follow us."

As we walk through the Void, Stormfur tells us firmly to be quiet. We finally reach a palace and move stealthily through the halls.

Suddenly cracks appear on the ceiling and the roof gives out! Through the blinding dust, I see two large, evil eyes.

"Who's there?!" I shout. The dust clears and the eyes I see belong to a giant purple bull!

"I'm the Book Slayer, and you are trespassing," bellows the bull.

"We are here to restore the lost books," I say, looking into the Book Slayer's fierce eyes.

"Well, you'll have to get through me first," sneers the Book Slayer.

The battle begins, and I dash off to find the queen. I open the first door I encounter and surprisingly, I find myself in the Room of Mazes.

"Who's there?" screeches a voice.

I gasp as I see the Queen rise from a pile of forgotten books. I'm astounded by her faded and gray appearance.

"I've come to get you out!" I say as I extend a hand to help her up.

"Please grab the enchanted book!" pleads the Queen, pointing to a lightly shining book. I do, and we leave the way I came in.

The queen holds up the book, and there is a great rumble before the Book Slayer disappears.

“Thank you,” says the Queen. “You broke the door to the maze and set me free!”

“You’re welcome!” I say as she uses the enchanted book to lift me out of the Void. I say goodbye to my faithful companions.

Poof! I’m back on my bed. “What on earth was that?!” exclaims my mother’s voice as she comes into my room.

“Oh,” I say smiling sheepishly, “I was just looking at books you bought me! They are quite adventurous!”