

**Byakko**  
**by Jameel Gaskins**

The wind whipped across the mountain, swirling up the jagged rocks up to the Throat of the World. Azure sat atop his throne at the summit of the mountain as snow pounded against the smooth, glossy, royal blue scales armoring his large body. The elegant beast's long, slender body coiled around the base of the ancient throne with his thin, yet powerful wings relaxed against himself. A deep exhale flowed from his nostrils as the dragon's eyes slowly opened. With a grunt, Azure raised his head, looking out over the land as he stretched his great wings, blowing off the layers of snow that had collected during his slumber and then pushing himself up onto his four legs as his long slender tail



unraveled from the throne. He inhaled deeply, filling his lungs with air then let it all out with a roar that shook the mountain itself. He drew his wings back, gathering air beneath them. Then with a powerful flap, Azure pushed off the ground. He flew high into the air rising high above the clouds before tilting his nose forward and diving back down with unimaginable speeds. With merely feet left before connecting with the earth below him, Azure spread his wings causing him change directions and kicking up a flurry of snow beneath him. He flew out over a small town and once again gathered air in his chest. Below, a woman

happened to look up and see the dragon, speeding toward her and screamed, dropping all of her belongings and running in terror. With a great breath, Azure let out a storm of fire over the village, scorching everything caught in its wrath. As the people beneath fled from his fire, the dragon landed on top of a large village house and let out another great roar, shattering the nearby windows and vibrating the earth below, announcing to the land his reign of terror has begun...

Kiran stepped out of his room and squinted into the light as the bright sun shined down through the window across from his door, casting a golden light into the small hallway outside his room. He stretched with a deep yawn and ran his fingers through the dark hair that came down his face, almost covering his eyes. With a deep inhale, he took in the familiar smell of his mother's homemade hash browns and cheesy scrambled eggs.

"Morning, little Miss Sunshine!" Kiran's mother, Asha called out to him in a playful, yet loving

tone as he entered the room. "You're just in time for breakfast." She patted the stool next to her with a warm smile, inviting Kiran over.

"Where's dad?" Kiran asked, looking around the room as he lazily flopped down into the seat and leaned over to give his mother a light peck on her soft, tan cheek.

"He went out to the market for a moment to..." She looked over at him and her voice suddenly cut short with a gasp of horror and her hand clamped tight over her mouth and the other reached out to support herself on the counter as she stared at him with look of utter terror in her deep green eyes.

Kiran looked around the room to see what was wrong but it was only him and his mother in the small house. He turned back to her, "What's wrong?"

At first she opened her mouth but her voice didn't follow, cut short by her fear. She stood there for a while shaking in terror before finally muttering in a shaky voice "Y-your eyes..."

Confused, Kiran looked around the room for something reflective. Spotting a mirror on the other side of the room, he got up and cautiously walked over it, trying to anticipate for himself what he would see. In the mirror he saw his long, slim face, small round nose, tan skin and his dark hair. That's when he noticed his eyes: his originally forest green eyes were now black with bright, almost glowing, flecks of purple.

As he stood there in disbelief at the eyes staring back at him, reaching a hand out to touch the mirror, wondering if he would fall through it and suddenly wake up from a dream. As his finger connected with the cold, smooth surface, a wave of confusion hit him hard in the chest.

A few minutes later, Kiran's father Egan returned home from the market with a bag of money.

"Today's catch sold great!" he said with a hearty laugh as he dropped the bag onto the table.

"Look at Kiran's eyes." Asha gently mumbled. Egan walked over and gently cupped Kiran's chin in his large, rough hands. He tilted his son's chin and leaned down and looked into Kiran's eyes. A sudden expression of shock appeared on his face. "We need to take this to the Archmage," he said in a grim, uncertain tone.

That same day, Kiran and his family went to the castle at the highest point of the city. On the way they heard the town courier yelling, proclaiming to the people around:

"Gather 'round and listen! News straight from the king himself! The Azure Dragon has awoken and begun attacking cities. Guards will be posted around the city, willing to fight off the threat at any second. Do not fear!" A pang of fear shot through his chest as he walked faster, wishing he hadn't heard that.

When they entered the Archmage's wing of the castle, he welcomed them into the large room. He sat them down on a luxurious padded bench and pulled over a small wooden stool.

“My name is Kyros. What do you wish to ask me?” He says looking at them over his long, pointed nose.

“I need you to tell us about my son’s eyes... they’ve changed colors.” Egan said sternly. At this Kyros suddenly seemed much more interested. He leaned forward and stared into Kiran’s eyes. Upon noticing the color of them, he sparked to life, hopping up from his stool and scurrying over to a large shelf, stacked full of old books and tomes. He muttered under his breath as he scanned a finger across the books before yelling an excited “Aha!” then snatching one off the shelf and hurrying back to his stool, almost falling off it overwhelmed with excitement. He laid the old, white and black trimmed leather book in his lap then opened it before reading aloud.

“It is been long foretold of two celestial beings, representing the two opposite yet harmonious end of the Yin-Yang. Yin represented by Byakko, the white tiger of the forests and Yang represented by the Azure Dragon, who lives atop the Throat of the World and claims the Throne of Kings. No one knows where the two beasts came from. However, prophecy holds that one day this harmony will be broken and the Azure dragon will seek to consume the land in fire and destruction. However, Byakko will choose a champion to stop him. This hero will be marked with black and purple eyes.” Kyros looked up at Kiran who sat stiff in his seat in disbelief of what he just heard. “Apparently he has chosen you.”

“But why me?” he choked out but was cut short by Asha before Kyros had a chance to answer.

“Don’t worry honey, this is just a misunderstanding. You’re not fighting dragons. The army will take care of Azure.” She said in a hasty tone before nodding to Kyros then grabbing Kiran’s hand to lead him out of the castle. Kyros suddenly reached out and caught Kiran’s free arm, looking deep into his eyes with a grim expression. He spoke in a low, serious voice.

“Whether you accept this fate or not is your choice. But I must warn you that if you reject this destiny, only more grief will come to the land.” With that the mage released his grip and Asha pulled Kiran out of the room, Egan following close behind.

A few days later, Kiran decides to go out hunting in the woods. He walks through the lush forest, taking in all the earthy scents around him. He pushes through a bit of bushes into a clearing, holding his hand up to shield his eyes from the sun. Out of the corner of his eye, Kiran spots something shift. He whirls around, prepared for a conflict when suddenly a tiger steps into view. Terror shoots through Kiran’s spine and he steps back to run when he realizes this tiger was different. It was much larger than any other tiger he’d ever seen and, despite its size, much more elegant. The tiger seemed to almost glide with each step. That’s when Kiran noticed two distinctive differences. First, the tiger’s fur: it had deep black stripes over glistening white fur. Second was the tiger’s eyes matched his. Kiran stood

in awe of the great beast as realization hit that he had come face to face with Byakko himself.

Suddenly Byakko spoke. It was a deep tone, almost a purr.

“Kiran, despite the doubt that has consumed you, it remains true that I have chosen you as my champion and the savior of this land. Whether you accept the truth revealed you or not is your choice, but people will continue to fall at the hand of Azure if you do not rise up against him.” He looked deep into Kiran’s similar eye, giving Kiran the feeling as if he was looking into his very soul. Speechless, Kiran looked down at grass beneath him and shook his head, not wanting to accept the reality that had been laid out in front of him.

“Very well. However, I will still bestow my gift to you.” A golden light began to collect in front of Kiran, growing and swirling. Kiran reached a hand underneath the light when suddenly it condensed and dropped into his hand, then dispersed, leaving behind a long white blade. It was light with a thin blade, etched with intricate carvings of Byakko that went down to a golden guard and a black hilt beneath.

“I give this to you as a reminder of your title. When you chose to accept this I will be here to help you master your abilities and fulfill your destiny.” With that, he turned and was gone in a flash of light, leaving Kiran distraught with confusion.

As Kiran returned home, he noticed a column of smoke off in the distance. He breaks through a clearing and sees it’s his very own village, up in flames. Upon approach he saw the Azure dragon perched atop a house not far from his. Panicked, Kiran rushed into the village and sees his house burning. He crashed into his house only to find his parents trapped in their bedroom with no means of escape. He pulls at the burning wood, screaming in a mixture of agony and pain from the burning wood in his hands. He could hear a faint sobbing on the other side of the wreckage. It was muffled and he could tell it was his father holding Asha in his arms, and for the first time... He heard his father crying. He began tearing at the wood, hearing the foundation of the house weaken but not giving up. Remembering the blade Byakko gave him, he began slashing at the wood, easily tearing through the charred pieces of the house. Bent with rage, he furiously stabbed the door, now being able to see his parents curled up close together. “Mom! Dad!” he screamed, ripping at the door, desperate to save his mother and father.

His mom slowly looked up at him from his father’s shoulder, giving Kiran one last smile and mouthing the words “I love you” as the house came crumbling down around her and her husband. Kiran screamed as the force of the collapsing house knocked him back onto the floor. He cried out to his parents as he heard a loud crack and looked up only to see the roof above him come falling towards him. With a sudden fury, Kiran stood up, roaring with anger and tears streaming down his soot-covered

cheeks as lightning suddenly erupted from his body and blasted the falling piece of the house clear away from him. He scanned the area before spotting Azure in the distance. Lightning arced around Kiran's fist as hatred for the dragon welled up in his chest. Punching his fist out at Azure, a bright stream of purple lightning blasted from his hand, exploding against the beast's chest. Azure roared out in pain before taking off into the sky and out of sight. Kiran yelled with fury and tears poured from his eyes as he dropped to his knees in front of his burning house. As he stared into the ashes and charred wood, the world began to spin and blur, fading into black as Kiran let go of consciousness, falling over into the ash covered dirt.

When he awoke, Kiran blinked into the bright blue sky. Slowly sitting up he noticed he was in a clearing in the middle of the woods. Kiran flinched, a pain spread through the burns covering his hands. He looked down at them as a flash of his house crumbling down around his parents flashed through his head. He shook his head, desperately trying to shake the memory away. Suddenly, off to the right, Byakko slowly padded into view. The great white tiger approached Kiran, who at that moment noticed the blade lying next to him. He looked at the sword as it gleamed in the light and sighed with sorrow, wishing for this all to be over. With a sudden passion, Kiran look up at Byakko.

"I'm ready. Teach me how to beat Azure," he said looking into Byakko's deep black eyes, a newfound determination burning deep inside him, silently vowing to repay Azure for killing his parents.

Over the next short year, Kiran trained with Byakko day in and day out, vowing to beat Azure and avenge his parents. When Byakko felt he was ready, he summoned Kiran to him. Kiran stood in front of him.

"Kiran, Champion and conquer of the Azure Dragon, it is time for the prophecy to be fulfilled." When he said this, the tiger granted him a special robe that became armor when a special spell was used. Kiran stood and bowed.

"Byakko, I swear to you I will not fail." Then, with his sword strapped to his side and a vengeance in his heart, Kiran set out down the road toward the Mouth of the World.

After two long days of walking, Kiran finally reached the mountain. He stood for a second, staring up the dark clouds that loomed above the summit. Pulling the robe tighter around him, he started up into the rocky terrain. As he got higher, the weather got colder and eventually started snowing. When Kiran finally reached the top of the mountain, he stood and scanned the landscape. Around him was a wide area, scattered with jagged rock, rubble, and the Throne of Kings.

He stared at the ancient throne, wondering all the tales surrounding it when everything around him suddenly lit up. Kiran jumped behind the throne just as a blast of fire engulfed the area around

him. He exhaled deeply, clearing his head. Suddenly Azure came streaming down from above, his sights set on Kiran. Kiran rolled to the side, sneakily leaving a trap spell on the ground he learned from Byakko. As the dragon connected with the ground, he reached out, tearing away Kiran's robe before he had a chance to summon his armor. Suddenly a blast of lightning shot up from the ground beneath him. Azure roared and stumbled backwards.

Seeing his opening, Kiran shot toward Azure, sword drawn and ready to strike. He swung the blade with his aim set on the soft underbelly of the dragon. Seconds before the sword connected, Azure righted himself, slashing out at Kiran. Kiran brought his sword up, blocking the strike. One of the dragon's claws glanced off Kiran's cheek, drawing blood. He stood, gripping his blade as Azure launched himself at Kiran. The boy fired a shot of lightning that was easily dodged by the dragon who swirled to the side and closed in on Kiran. As Kiran attempted to sidestep the dragon, Azure opened his wing, slamming it into the boy's stomach the slamming him into the ground. Azure roared with a prideful laughter and looked down at Kiran, who laid beneath the dragon's wing, gasping for breath.

"Is this what the great Byakko has sent to defeat me? A mere boy!" He leaned close, his hot breath against Kiran. "I'll simply kill you as I did your parents."

At this, a rage filled Kiran's chest. He bared his teeth and gripped the dragon's wing, sending a pulse of lightning into it. Azure growled and released Kiran, who righted himself, livid with hatred for Azure.

"Don't ever speak of my parents you filthy beast!" He said spitting with rage and charging Azure again. He ducked as the dragon's jaw snapped shut, inches short of Kiran's head. He shifted to the side and sliced Azure's leg, cutting clean through the thick scales and deep into his flesh. Azure roared with a mixture of pain and fury. Suddenly his tail whipped out, completely catching Kiran off guard and crashing into his side, knocking him across the area. Kiran let out a grunt of pain as his back slammed into a boulder and he fell to the ground, coughing and clutching his side, feeling two broken ribs. The taste of blood filled his mouth as he rolled over, trying to push himself up but feeling weak and slumping back down to the ground. He looked up as the dragon let out a roar of fury before rearing back, gathering air in his chest, ready to finish Kiran with a blast of fire. Kiran looked around for his sword and spotted it not too far from Azure. Looking back to the dragon, time slowed and the flames erupted from Azure's throat. Kiran closed his eyes, unable to move anymore.

"I love you." Kiran's mother and father suddenly flashed through his head.

"NO!" He countered the fire with a fury of lightning, the two connecting and exploding into a flurry of sparks. A quick decision sent Kiran running off to the side as Azure sent another breath of fire out toward the boy. Kiran grimaced as the fire caught the back of his right arm as he slid behind a stone

column and the warm feeling of blood crawled down his arm.

Kiran clenched his fists and launched out from behind the pillar to Azure. He shot out a stream of lightning then rolled to the side as the dragon slashed a razor sharp claw out at his head. Diving out, Kiran grabbed his sword and looked up to another strike coming at him. He dodged under the dragon before rearing back and plunging his sword deep into Azure. Azure cried out, throwing his head back in pain as his blood sizzled against Byakko's blade. With a scream of rage, Kiran sent his lightning through the blade, blasting Azure with all his might. A blizzard of snow whirled up around them as Azure was consumed with a storm of purple electricity. The dragon stumbled backwards and came crashing down with a final roar before lying still.

As the snow around them settled, Kiran watched as Azure's skin lit up. The dragon shined a bright blue light as he seemed to be burning up, ashes swirling up and into the cloud before gathering into a small ball of light and exploded like a firework, showering the mountain in a golden light and clearing away the dark clouds, giving way to the clear blue skies. Kiran looked off into the distance as swirls of light suddenly engulfed him, whirling around before collecting around his wrist and solidifying into a golden bracelet, shaped as a dragon coiled around his wrist with bright blue jeweled eyes: The gift of legends given to Byakko's champion. Thus explains why tigers roam the land to this day, yet dragons have ceased to exist.

## **We Will Get Help** **by Antwaniesh Gendraw**

It was a normal day in Cavestown. The other animals were all doing their usual things collecting food, dropping kids off at school and going to work. Nemean is the biggest creature in town. His mean looks and bigness put fear in everyone around. It was easy for the lion to get his way because the other animals knew if Nemean didn't get his way, it would be a bad day for everyone.

Nemean had very few friends, Jack, Dan and Rob the lions. The friends he did have everyone knew they were his friends because they thought they wouldn't get bullied if they were nice to him. No one else could stand him. He's just so darn mean! It was so bad that some people raised their kids to think of him as a monster. The people of Cavestown called for a meeting while Nemean was sleeping.

“We will no longer stand for this!” Harry the squirrel said.

Harry unfortunately fell victim to having to work for Nemean. His job was to make sure he got

a meal every 5 hours. If it wasn't done on time Nemean threatened to eat him and his family.

“ We need someone who can take this monster down! I want to live life care free! I want to have a job that I enjoy! I don't want my kids being scared of anything, who can we call on?” The crowd of people started ranting and agreeing.

Someone then shouted out “HERCULES! The strongest man ever! I shall talk to my human friends and I'll make sure he's aware of our troubles. I'm sure he'll help us out!”

“Oh no! What are we going to do?” Rob said eagerly.

“ We have to tell him, or we'll be in big trouble and he'll try to eat us,” answered Jack

“Well, Dan what do you think we should do?” asked Rob.

“ We have no choice but to tell him! But how will we tell him?”

Jack then shouted, “ Stop the foolishness! We have no other way but to just tell him. We can not beat around the bush about it. I'll just tell him myself because you two are acting as if you're scared.”

The three were slowly approaching Nemean's cave so they quieted down. They didn't want Nemean to over hear them but it was too late. Before they could even walk into the cave Nemean jumped out at them and asked “Tell me what?” in a suspenseful manner. All three lions, jumped Nemean could see it in their faces that something was up. Not answering quick enough, Nemean asked again and you could hear the anger in his voice “ Tell me what?”

As they the both backed away Dan and Rob said at the same, “ Go ahead Jack, tell him!”

“ Uh... Uh.... Umm umm umm” Jack stuttered.

“SPIT IT OUT ALREADY!” declared Nemean.

Clearing his throat Jack ranted, “ The people of Cavestown are tired of you bullying them and they are going to Hercules to get help. Hercules is the strongest man ever. He is known for killing people with his bare hands.”

An awkward silence fell into the cave. The three lions looking at each other all confused. There was a look on Nemean's face that they've never seen before it was weird for them. Nemean for the first time looked scared and worried. Dan asked, “ Nemean, my friend are you okay?”

The silence remained for another 30 seconds until Nemean said “ This.. it can't be. This won't be easy for me. He's a human with speed! I'm so fat I'll never win, he'll catch me. He's too strong for my bites to affect him. You guys I don't know what I'm going to do!”

Nemean knew that accepting this battle could mean that he could die. The people would win and live their own lives. He said “ Who am I kidding? I am Nemean the Lion, the biggest lion I never lose. I accept this challenge. You guys, are going to help me train. I need to become faster how can I do that?”

Dan said, “ Well we're pretty fast, maybe we could run everyday?”

“ Great. Were going to wake up everyday starting tomorrow and run” said Nemean.

When the next day came, Nemean was up and ready when the lions appeared to the cave. Not knowing how tiring the running would get, he walked to the running cite proudly. As they approach the destination Nemean was already worn out from doing so much walking. He told the lions “ Guys, I'm tired already! This will never work out.I'm going to lose.”

Dan screamed “You my friend are the Nemean Lion, don't have that type of attitude! That's not like you.”

They then started their run and Nemean did not give in at all even though it caused him so much pain. They continued to run for weeks and weeks, but didn't notice any progress in Nemeans speed. Nemean decided to just give up. His confidence told him that he never had to practice before so he shouldn't have to now. So the lions and Nemean kind of just relaxed as they counted down the days until the battle.They just laid and joked around. As the days got closer to battle day everything started getting weird.There was more silence than usual. They spent more time just looking around .The city started clearing out the city. They were in fear that the battle would destroy the land and didn't want to be there to witness someone dying. Everyone gathered their important items and packed bags and began flying south. They knew they would be safe. Even Nemean's only friends, the lions decided they should leave. They wished him the best of luck and started heading elsewhere.

Nemean stayed by himself with only a week left until battle. He spent this time thinking about how he used his weight to take advantage over the people of Cavestown. He realized how wrong he was and had a change in heart. This didn't stop him from continuing to want to go to battle.

As battle day came Nemean didn't sleep at all that night. The fear still sat in his heart. (9)He had come to realize that this will his first battle that he would lose. Somehow he ended up falling asleep. Hercules had crept up on him. Nemean could hear him and woke up. His first plan was to try to run. Hercules could tell he was going to try run and said “ No sucka' it's too late to run.”

Nemean replied “Shut up you punk, you'll never beat me!”

It was too late to run now. There stood just Hercules and Nemean. Hercules stood in front of Nemean with an evil grin then threw his body at him.Nemean let out a loud roar and viciously bit him and made him fall back. Nemean turned around to prepare himself to run and tackle Hercules but as he turned around Hercules got a good grip of his neck and proceeded to choke him. Hercules said, “ Yeah you're not so big and tough now huh? All those good people, what'd they ever do to you? All you ever did was bully them. Bullies suffer the consequences.”

Hercules loosened the grip he had of his neck as Nemean's eyes closed.Although Hercules

choked Nemean out, he also died from the bite because he bled to death. Due to his honors of answering to the people, Hercules became a god. When he became a God, he made the season Spring. Spring was made to help the people of Cavestown grow out their food for the summer. The extra water from the rain made it quicker to make food. The people of Cavestown waited a week after the battle to fly back just to be sure that it had been long enough to come back. They forever praised him because they couldn't thank him enough. Dan, Rob, and Jack found themselves to be very lonely without Nemean. No one liked them because they were friends with him. They just stayed in the cave only coming out when there was no food in the cave.

### **Defeating Lamia**

**By Breyana Harris**

Lamia was walking through the forest and she was sad. She was feeling grief because her children were taken away from her. The forest was peaceful and quiet. Lamia was walking past big brown trees with dark beautiful green leaves. She sat on the ground and found a pile of flowers, every time she picked a petal off, she said her children's name and cried. She got up and continued walking and all of a sudden, she heard children laughing. Lamia set off to find the children and eat them.

Artemis was in the forest with her Nymphs. They were bathing in the forest water. Artemis was telling them about how to stay virgins and be treated like ladies.

One of the girls told Artemis, "I hear a noise. Does anyone else hear that?"

Artemis giggled, saying, "Maybe it was just an animal."

Lamia started to fear that if she keeps eating children then she may never have her children back again. Then she thought to herself that her kids were taken away because of jealousy. Lamia started to get over her fear and thought about how she would never have her children again. Lamia started to get angry and headed towards Artemis and her Nymphs.

Lamia said to herself, "If I can't be happy no one else can" She finally found them.

Artemis demanded, "Get away from us before I kill you!"

Artemis was trying her hardest to kill Lamia. She tried to stab her and even shoot her with one of her arrows, but it wasn't working. Two of her Nymphs tried to help. One grabbed the snakeskin off Lamia's waist and tried to use it as a weapon, while the other tried to choke her. Lamia got ahold of them both and she ate one of them in front of Artemis and took the other one with her. Artemis ran after her, but she had to turn back around because she was afraid that one of her Nymphs would be taken

away from her again.

Artemis kept asking herself, “Why would she want to eat humans? Why children? Why one of my Nymphs?”

Artemis went back to her house and asked her father, Zeus everything he knew about Lamia. Zeus told her a lot, but not the most important fact. Leto, Artemis' mother walked in and overheard what was being said. She told Artemis about how Lamia was Zeus' mistress, and about how Lamia was eating children because Leto cursed her and her children and took them away. She never saw them again after that.

Artemis asked her mother, “Why does Lamia eat humans? What can kill her?”

“She's a vampire. Humans is all she can eat. Only holy water and silver arrows can kill her.”

“If she's a vampire then why does she eat them?”

“She thinks that the whole body is tastier then just drinking their blood.”

Artemis grabbed her holy water and her silver arrows. She set off to find Lamia and kill her at dawn. It was a long journey to the city of Libya, but Artemis finally found Lamia.

Lamia said to Artemis, “So you think you can kill me?”

Artemis said “I know I can and I will.”

Lamia responded after laughing, saying, “I'll kill you just like I killed both of your Nymphs!” Artemis became angry and threw holy water on Lamia's leg.

Lamia begged for her life saying, “No please don't kill me!”

Artemis yelled, “Why should I spare your life? You do not deserve to live!”

“I want to be alive to see my children and see them smile once more.”

While Lamia was crying, Artemis told her that if she killed another child then she would kill her and never let her see her kids. As she walked away and headed home. 9. Lamia tried to accept the fact that she could never eat another child again. She really missed her children though. She thought that she could secretly eat kids without Artemis finding out, but she decided not. 10. Lamia went about her life trying to just eat food that the rest of the city ate. She did well for at least a month, but she then couldn't take it anymore.

Two little girls named Anna and Hailey crashed through the forest. Anna was searching through the dirt for bugs, while Hailey was searching for butterflies. Every day they did this together. Hailey saw a butterfly while Anna was sitting on the ground digging through the dirt. Hailey ran after the butterfly and became lost. Anna didn't know but she just assumed that Hailey was playing a trick on her. Little did they know, Lamia was in the forest with them also. She was picking petals once again.

Hailey laughed, “Come back here butterfly. Come back.” Her voiced started to get louder as she

came closer to where Lamia was.

Lamia walked up to Hailey and said, "You seem like a nice girl."

Anna got up and went to look for Hailey. She was searching for her everywhere.

"Hailey! Hailey? Where are you?"

She saw that Lamia was talking to Hailey so she decided to hide behind a tree. Anna gasped as she saw something she thought she would never see.

Hailey screamed, "Someone help! Please help me"

Anna started crying as she ran to Artemis. Anna was dashing through the forest as fast as she could. Later on, Lamia found out that Hailey was one of Artemis' Nymphs. Artemis heard about what happened and she went back to Libya.

Artemis told Lamia, "I found your beautiful children. I hope you are finally happy"

"I am, thank you so much! I am forever grateful." Anna stood Lamia's children in front of her.

Lamia shouted "NO! HOW COULD YOU!?"

"I told you if you ever ate another child again, then I would kill you."

"You did not have to kill my children! They did no such thing."

"They must pay the price of being your daughters."

Artemis tied Lamia and held her mouth open. She poured holy water into Lamia's mouth and killed her.

## The Griffins

By Christian Simmons

Rhipaen mountain is home to the gold guarding Griffins who are lead by King Gallus. The Griffins are lions with eagle heads and wings. The claws on the Griffins can cut through anything and their feathers can cure blindness. The Griffins have been at war with the one-eyed Arimaspians for many centuries, they have been living at the bottom of Rhipaen Mountain . The gold stealing Arimaspians are lead by Lord Aideen. The Arimaspians are one eyed monsters that are related to Cyclops. The Arimaspians are ten times stronger than humans and they always wore jewelry around their body. King Gallus doesn't know that the Arimaspians are growing stronger and stronger everyday and they will attack the great Griffins very soon.

"King Gallus, I have terrible news," said the General out of breath.

"What's the bad news?" King Gallus said in a calm voice.

“The king of Arimaspians has sent a massive army up our mountain again but this time, there is twice the amount of them and we are outnumbered.”

“We must get prepared, tell every Griffin to get ready for war and protect their gold,” King Gallus said in a demanding way.

Every Griffin on Rhipaen mountain went to their post and waited on the Arimaspians to arrive. The Griffins waited many hours for the Arimaspians to arrive. They became tired and hungry but they still waited. Then, the Arimaspians attacked with out warning. There where hundreds and hundreds of Arimaspians either on foot or on a horse.

“King Gallus! We have to evacuate the mountain, there are to many of them,” said the General with fear.

“No, we must stay and fight them, they are not getting our gold,” said King Gallus.

“We can't, the Arimaspians has taken out three fourths of the Griffins and if we stay, things will get worse,” said the General.

“Fine, evacuate everybody off this mountain. We can go to the Caucasus mountains, it will be a safe to stay there,” said King Gallus in a sad way.

The remaining Griffins left their homes and flew towards the Caucasus mountains, tired and weakend by defeat. When they got to the Caucasus, the Griffins stayed inside caves that were inside the mountain. The caves where cold , dark, and it smelled. There, the Griffins stayed and rested. This would be their new homes for now. The Griffin will soon figure out that their new home will be hard place to stay.

The next couple weeks were hard for the Griffins. The Griffins lost most of their gold from the attack and it was hard for them to find food. Things did get better but very slowly. One day, something good happened.

“Lord Gallus, I have great news,” said the General in excitement.

“What could possibly be good news right now” asked King Gallus.

“There is a nearby village with humans in it. Their leader Aku said they can help rebuild our colony with their support,” said the General.

“How do you know that the humans aren't working for the Arimaspians? Lord Aideen could have sent them,” said King Gallus in a questionable way.

“They can't be, they already gave us food,” said the General

“Okay, they can help but if you're wrong, the rest of the Griffins are doomed,” said King Gallus.

The next day, the humans came and helped the Griffins. The humans gave the Griffins food and water to drink. The humans also showed the Griffins how to grow crops, grow tasty vegetables, and

build houses they can live in. The humans continued to help the Griffins for many months. King Gallus started to like the humans more and more.

”Aku, it's been a year since the Arimaspians as attacked us. You humans have done good things for us but I ask you one more favor,” said King Gallus in a nice tone.

“What is it you ask ,King Gallus?” said Aku.

“I would like to take back my home from the Arimaspians with you and the rest of the humans. We can easily take it back in one day. And in return, you are welcome to our home and our gold if you come with us,” said King Gallus.

“I would be honered to fight by your side but first, we must prepare to take back your home,” said Aku.

The Griffins and the humans began to prepare for war. Thee Griffins and the humans came up plans and stratigies to attack the Arimaspians. It took them a week for both Griffins and humans to prep for war. Then they made the long journy back to Rhipaen mountain. When the Griffins and humans got to the bottom of Rhipaen, they waited until dark, that's when they will attack.

“Attttaaackkk!” screamed King Gallus when night struck. The Griffins attacked Arimaspians with full force, while the humans rode the Griffins with bows. One by one, the Arimaspians were going down and the Griffins were wining. Then, King Gallus and Lord Aideen finally saw each other. Lord Aideen drew his sword and charged at King Gallus. When Lord Aideen swung his sword, Kind Gallus dodged his attack. Lord Aideen kept on attacking the King but kept missing. While Lord Aideen was attacking the King, Aku came behind Lord Aideen and stabbed him from behind, killing him instantly. When the rest of the Arimaspians saw that their king was dead, they ran away with fear. Some Griffins and humans chased after them while the rest stayed and celebrated with joy.

“Thank you Aku, you helped us take back my home. You are welcome to stay whenever you want,” said King Gallus with pride.

“You are welcome,” said Aku.

From that day on, the Griffins and the humans lived peacefully together and they never saw another Arimaspien again.

**Stheno**  
**by Dereese Cunningham**

My name is Stheno and I have pale skin. My hair isn't like regular human hair. It is made of snakes. The rest of my body is normal and evenly proportioned. I got this particular hair because of the Earth getting too close to the Sun causing other people's hair to fry in the sun and changing my hair into snakes. One day, I strolled through the city of all Gorgons, walking slowly and looking depressed. I always wanted to be in a relationship with someone that was human named Dorian. I don't speak any English so I don't know how I will ever be able to talk to him. Everyday in Gorgon Park, I sit and write in my diary. "Oh, today as I was looking from the school rooftop I saw Dorian's perfectly spiked hair, with his smooth pale skin, walking. I wonder what him and his friends were talking about. What if they were talking about how horrible Gorgons were. What if all the rumors were true about him hating Gorgons. What would I do?"

I walked to school the next day with my two sisters Medusa and Euryale like I did everyday, and as we were walking the wind ran right into us. There was a piece of paper that had flown with wind hugging my leg. I picked up the paper and looked closely at it. I saw a picture of what looked like a Gorgon. The picture had a bunch of females with gigantic heads and what appeared to be snakes coming out of them. I didn't want my sisters to see because they would get mad and try to retaliate against humans. I didn't want to start any trouble and ruin my dreams of being with a human.

As I'm going about my school day, the fear of me getting rejected keeps throwing himself at me. What if Dorian hated Gorgons? What if he talks about me and embarrasses me in front of his human friends? I have to find a way to talk to him so that I can get over this fear. When I got home later on that night, my Medusa came into my room.

"Aye, What was on that paper that you found earlier? I meant to ask you earlier, but I was too busy texting Jacob back"

"Oh, its nothing."

"You're lying, It had some kind of drawing or something on it. What did it say?"

"It didn't say anything, I swear."

I immediately tried to think of where I put the note before Medusa could find it. I knew she would try to look for it soon. Where did I put it? I saw her looking around and...

"Aha, I got it." she said. Then she ran out of my room. I went chasing after her before she could open it up.

"WHAT? Those stupid humans had it for the very last time. Always making fun of us. We are just as normal as them. We just have better features...." and she went on and on.

I didn't know what to do. I never had told anyone about my wish. Medusa had no idea. I have to find a way to talk to him before Medusa beats me to their city.

At dinner, of course the topic was brought up. "So, Medusa what are you going to do?"

"I'm not sure yet, but I can't continue to let these humans make a fool out of us. They are making us look like we are some punks. We have to do something soon and stand up for ourselves, We have a voice also. So, when I come up with this plan. Who's in?"

"I am, what about you Stheno. You're not in?" questioned Euryale.

"Ummmm, well I kinda wanted to talk to you all about something."

"Well, go on spill it and hurry don't do that beating around the bush thing. Just get right to it," Medusa snapped at me,

"Don't talk to me like that. Anyways, I kinda sorta like this boy named Dorian and ..."

"And what?" asked Euryale.

"Well, he's not a Gorgon. He is human."

"How could you like someone who is against our kind?" Medusa asked as she stared at me with her evil look.

I'm not sure that he is. What if he is one of the few that actually likes us or doesn't make fun of us? Dorian is different. I just know he is, I feel it in my heart. I just have to find a way to talk to him before it's too late."

"You know they have a class that teaches English language ."

"I will definitely be attending tomorrow. It's after school right?"

"Yes Stheno. With your little thirsty selfahaha" Euryale chuckled.

Medusa just sat there looking. Her face doesn't have any type of expression. It's just blank. I didn't say anything to her because I knew there would be a fight. I got up and immediately flew to my room. I had to prepare for my first day of my new class.

The next day after my regular school day ended, I headed down the Main street to the building where my class would be held. The door had a picture that looked like a Gorgon, but it had an x on the face. It meant that we were not allowed to attend. It is a good thing I brought my scarf so that I can tie my snakes down. I really needed to take this class. I was too scared to just walk in so I walked across the street and sat on the bench. I waited and waited until somebody walked in the door so I could follow up behind them. I know for a fact that at least 30 minutes passed before I was able to get inside. I finally get settled in the class and I realize I'm the only gorgon here. There were other humans there, but they didn't look like regular humans. There were females also with headscarves on and they were draped in all black from head to toe. I felt a little bit more comfortable. I wasn't the only one there with a scarf on my head. The only thing I was worried about were my snakes. What was I going to do if my snakes came out? I would have

been kicked out and never would've gotten my chance to talk to Dorian. I kept my snakes in my scarf and when I felt that they were starting to come out, I pulled on the scarf making it tighter around my head. The instructor gave us a basic lesson and within the next week I was speaking basic English the human language. I wrote Dorian a letter explain my lust for him. "Dear Dorian, I know that you don't know me personally, but I have one of the biggest crushes on you. I know this may sound weird, but I am not human. I am a Gorgon. My Name is Stheno. I know alot of normal humans are not a big fan of my kind, but I am different. I'm not as evil as other Gorgons are. I don't enjoy turning people into stone. I know this may also again sound weird, but one day around midnight, I would like to meet you by the Big Black Gate. At that time my hair will be sleep. Dorian write me back anytime soon. -Stheno"

My letter was sent, and over a week had passed. Did he get my message? Was he ignoring me? Everyday after school I still went to my same spot on top of my building with my binoculars waiting to see him walk with his friends. Today wasn't normal. I saw his friends but where was Dorian? I waited and waited but never saw him? That night I decided to go to the Big Black Gate. Maybe Dorian was going to be there. As I thought, Dorian was there standing at a distance draped in all black. The wind drastically blowing on each of our skin.

"Hello, Dorian, is that you?"

"Yeah, um.. Stheno, right?"

"Yea. It's me. I take that as you got my letter, but why didn't you respond?"

"Yea. I got your letter, but I have to tell you something."

"Umm, Ok." I said softly.

"I'm not like other humans. I actually think Gorgons are the coolest mammals ever! I always wanted to meet one. Oh, and I understand your lust for me but I'm kinda interested in someone else."

Nothing about him liking Gorgons was left in my head, his last words were stuck floating through my head. I was lost for words. He had me thinking he would actually be interested in me. I had to say something, but words would not come out of my mouth. I sat there and just looked and looked and as I glanced in the window of the near store I saw my eyes starting to turn blood shot red. I growled like a lion then I dashed off into the cold windy night.

"Hey, where are you going?" He yelled as I took off.

My feelings were kind of hurt, but I couldn't let him know that with my words. I had to show him that I, Stheno was the one for him. Every day I watched him with his friends like I usually did, and there she was. It had to be her. There was a girl who was walking with Dorian and his friends. She was pretty, with long chocolate hair. I had a plan. I couldn't let her get what I always

wanted. I knew what I wanted, and I was definitely going to get it... hopefully. The next day,Dorian and I met up again and we talked and talked for hours. He explained how he didn't mean to hurt me in any kind of way. We shared our food together. He brought me their lunches and I brought him mine.I didn't think he would enjoy them. They were weird and hard to explain. Me and Dorian got really close over time, and I was starting to feel a connection an weird but good connection. Maybe I could have him after all. Until one night there she was again. Dorian and I hadn't talked about her ever, so why was she here? I just looked. I tried to crack a smile but it wasn't happening. We all talked for a while, and I found her name was Marilyn.. Marilyn and Dorian were sitting next to each other and I was on the opposite side from them. I was getting jealous and I couldn't control it. I got up and explained how I had to go, knowing that my time was endless. My scarf flew with the wind and one of my snakes startled to rattle. I didn't want to turn her into stone but she had to go.

“Don't look . Don't look.” Dorian yelled at her

As the clueless female, she was she looked at me dead in my eyes . I stood there and looked back at her. Then she looked dead into the eyes of my snakes. As she turned into stone, i had a grin of an evil witch on my face.Dorian ran away in disbelief. What have I done?

The next few days Dorian and I didn't talk and it was going on over a week. Each and every night, I went to the Big Black Gate where Marilyn the new stone was to see if Dorian would be there visiting her or even waiting for me. I was starting to think that maybe I had ruined things between Dorian and I. Time went on and on and I finally came to the conclusion that a human and a gorgon weren't meant to be together. Me and Dorian never came into contact again. He practically ignored all of my letters that I sent him. He never walked his usual way with his friends. He made it seem like he disappeared off the Earth, so I guess I had to make him disappear as well, out of my life.

Echidna, a Mythological Story

By Deztini Walker

In the land of the land, there was a big family who lived in a cave. They were so

different from others. Unlike many family they had some many different kind of monsters. There was 12 children along with a mother and a father. The father wasn't around that much so the mother was left to take care her children. And I, I was that mother. My name is Echidna. I am the mother of 12 beautiful but different children. All of my children came out different kinds of monsters. I am known as the "mother of all monsters." My husband is Typhoesus. Unlike any of my children I am half women and half snake. The top of my body is women and the bottom of my body is snake.

One day, my 12 children and I went hunting. Before we left the neighbors had described to us some children in our community. She to us they were different from us, she made it clear to stay away from them. Later that night we came across 2 young taste unusual children. They were very hard to resist, it was like god attracted us to them.

"Mom, who are they," said my youngest child.

"I don't know son but I think we just found taste dinner for tonight," I exclaimed.

"But mom, it won't feel right, they seem like us but they don't look like us."

"True son, but sometimes you have to make wise decisions and take risk that you won't take in life for your family. This feels like a great decision."

After the conversation end, we figured a way to snatch them. After we snatched them we quickly returned to our cave and at cave and ate them alive. It didn't really feel right but we were hungry. The next day Typhoesus returned home with gifts for everyone. Our children always appreciated the gifts, even if they were small balls.

For awhile Typhoesus seemed very suspicious but I couldn't understand why. He was staying home for weeks at a time which was very unusual. He no longer worked but he would always bring home gifts for the children when he went out for hunting. He also began to bring human food into the cave. The children noticed it faster then me but It wasn't long before I began to notice it. I really never spoke up when I came to Typhoesus because the children hated when we argued. After weeks we past I couldn't help but speak up because things were getting worst. He wouldn't let the children go out and hunt and he never seemed happy.

"Typhoesus, I am very concerned about you. Are you okay? You've never so unhappy in our time together. You've been home so long," I said.

"I'm okay, I'm just stressed. I don't like to be asked questions, so this conversation is over" he responded.

He was very hesitant when he responded but I didn't say anything.

The next day, There was roomers about a new comer to the land. They said it was a strange man. He had came from a far away land called Earth. Our land only had grass and dirt but where he came from they showed what life was. They had stars in the sky and sun that shinned bright. He was different from us all because of the way he lived.- We hadn't had a new comer in about a decade. Everyone was anxious to meet him but he was no where to be found. He was described as a huge 1000 eyed creature. When I found out about him, I quickly ran to Typhoesus to tell him.

“A new what? Big? Eyes? Not Argus,right?,” My husband quickly responded to my news.

“No one knows, Who is Argus? Why such a fright my dear?” I exclaimed.

“STAY AWAY! ALL OF THE CHILDREN, YOU AND I WONT BOTHER HIM. IF I HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT YOU GUYS AROUND HIM I WILL SEND YOU TO THE DEATH CHAMBERS,” He screamed and a loud voice.

“Okay”

I quickly ran to my children and repeated with there father said. They were frightened but they knew not to go around him.

They next few days while I was hunting, I began to see this big man around a lot. I never really payed attention to him but after I seen him 5-6 times, I thought came that I was being followed. I began to be more cautious but I had to run back and tell Typhoesus. Then it cam to me that Argus was the man that was following me. The land had been talking and one day a letter came to my house. The letter read,

“Argus is coming for you and your children. He wants to kill you. He wants revenge. You have token away his children, he will now take away your family. You must leave soon. He plans to destroy the land. He wants to take over. GO NOW! GO NOW!”

I didn't know what to do. I told my children to stay away.I began to look for a place to run to but there was no where. I was scared, I didn't think my children would survive without me if I was to leave them so I had to find a home for all of us. I didn't tell my husband because I knew he would kill.

A week later our land was destroyed. We had no where to go and I was more afraid he

would find me and my family. I couldn't stop thinking about how I would have to leave my children alone and they wouldn't be able to take care of themselves. I knew I could have at least save my children if I couldn't save myself. After we found a stable home I figured If I trained my children to take care of themselves for days, I would be able to defeat Argus alone. I began to train my children fast. I also began to train myself so that I would be able to defeat Argus. I began to do more hunting than usual and fought bigger monsters.

When my husband came to our new home, he knew I was planning something big so he began to teach me signature things like killing with my eyes. I began to practice a lot. Within a week she thought I had it down packed. After a month passed, I began to teach her children. Even though it has been awhile I still teaching my children to live on there own. A letter was written to all my children that said,

“Children I will be leaving soon, and I may not return. Take this as a privilege to show me that you are able to do things on your own. Everything I taught you will come in handy. You all are smarter than you think you are. All of you have a special talent, but you must chose to use it wisely. I love you all no matter what.” I left them all with something special.

Then I realized we really have eaten his children. I felt horrible. I couldn't tell my children because I knew I was wrong. As I ran to the land I was sickened by it. Then I came across him. It was him.

“Argus?” I said

“It is I,” He responded.

“You have been looking for me?”

“Yes, It is time I will defeat you.”

We began to fight. He slammed me about. I didn't think I had a chance because he was so huge. I then hit him once and flew. I bit him 20 times then he laid there. I couldn't believe it. I had defeated Argus.

**Hydra**

**By Henry Davis**

As I slithered down the path back from the village, I reflected on myself and what I had just done. The city lying in ruins yet again, I did not feel accomplished this time. I felt grief for those who no longer had mothers or fathers. For those who never had a mother or father who seemed to care for them in the least sense. This thought was brought to mind when I had heard a young child scream as I destroyed his house, and his older brother and father perished inside. I realized I could no longer leave families splintered like the great war had just recently left me. I realized that I am forcing upon others the pain that I myself am feeling, and I would never wish that pain upon others of my age.

I was born a hundred years ago to Typhon, my father, and Echidna, my mother. Hydra is what they called me. I, however, was left behind in this wretched marsh as they went to fight with their own offspring and brothers. The titans, the previous rulers of humanity, and the Olympians, the challengers and their brothers, sisters, and offspring. I supported their cause in every possible way I could, mainly by destroying the mortals and their places of residence. I realize how foolish I have been. The titans are tyrants. They have influenced my thinking as they had the mortals to believe them all-powerful and all-knowing. This is no longer; I shall not submit to their bidding as I have in the past. I am ashamed of my actions, and I will pay it back to the mortal families as best I can.

I was at first in denial of my thoughts that my parents and their colleagues' actions along with mine were wrong. I was a slave to their ideals, doing whatever I was told for the sole purpose of pleasing my parents. I now realize that they would not care about my actions in their favor anyway. They are only occupied with this war and who wins it, they can't be bothered with me or the perils they have caused in the past among the mortals. They are selfish and egotistical, and therefore will never see anything but their own interests as important. I have moved beyond their ways. I opened my 18 eyes instead of only using one to see. I see the interests of those I have persecuted instead of only my own.

My power-hungriness and blindness in my previous ways have been eliminated now, but the temptations of going back to the ways of the titans had been very strong in that time. Instead of succumbing to these temptations, I threw myself deep into the marsh and banished myself to a year of seclusion to overcome my old ways. I practiced meditation daily and attempted to calm my urges to destroy. At first I took out this urge to destroy on the surrounding landscape. Eventually, however, I found that this no longer gave me satisfaction, and I had overcome my nature. That is where I was left when Hercules appeared. There was a roar from the hills as Hercules stormed through the mountain. I wanted no conflict with the mortal, but I saw in his eyes that he was set on chopping me to pieces. He was, however, headstrong and foolish, and I took advantage of this. He came sprinting over the grey rocks outside of the marsh, leaving holes in the ground where he trod. When he reached the outside of the marsh I approached him.

“What business do you have with me, son of Zeus?” I said

He replied, “I have come to avenge my people. Your destruction of villages and your massacres of my people must come to an end.”

I have changed my ways, demigod. It is in my nature to destroy, but I have overcome that nature. I am no longer a threat to you and your people.”

“You lie! You take me as a jester? I do not play your games! You are the fool, for I shall slay you where you slither, you nine headed serpent!”

“My friend, you are mistaken, for I am no longer the danger. Many of my former colleagues plot against you.”

This was a half-truth of course, but he immediately perked up in a fiery rage. He said,

“Demons! Tell me where they reside before I send you back to the hell from whence you came!”

I replied, “The lion plots against you just over the hill. He is the one you seek. Find him, and destroy him.”

He stormed off in a fit of rage, and I felt very accomplished in that I had redirected this conflict. My satisfaction, however, was short lived. Hercules soon discovered my lie, and I was forced to redirect him yet again. This time, he was more easily persuaded, because I directed him toward the Hind, who was truly an evil creature. This time, I knew when he came back there would be a battle. I prepared myself for this struggle of powers.

I was stronger than Hercules, for he was ignorant to my powers. He knew that I was immortal, but he did not know about my brothers that could sprout from my body. For every head destroyed, two grew back. No matter what strengths he possessed, he would be worn out after a while, and that is when I would strike with my many brothers. I believed this fight was won before it had even begun, but my pride became my enemy. Hercules approached me, a flaming rage in his eyes. He was much angrier than previously, and he began to prepare himself for battle. He slid out his sword, and it began. At the beginning of the fight, Hercules seemed slow, and my brothers nipped at him and scratched him multiple times before he came to his senses. Then, the next time one of them stabbed at him, he sliced the head clean off.

Then, I jumped back, and I felt the newest brothers forming on the other side of my body. When he sprouted out of me, Hercules was completely startled and utterly confused. He went into what seemed like a fit, swinging his sword at random. I let him swing at all but my head, for it would only make us more powerful. When he was finished, my body was containing twenty-four necks and heads. He backed away and seemed to be astounded and taken aback by this, so I attacked. Suddenly, in the

blink of my eye, he had chopped all of the heads off, including mine, and before they could grow back, he had proceeded to burn the roots. How he did this so quickly I do not know. I realized that again, my ignorance and pride had been my downfall, and I realized that my ways had not changed at all. So now I sit here, with my head under this boulder forever.

## **SAVE ME FROM MY WEAKNESS**

**By Jaylaan Grant**

Flying around the faces of the Earth making sure there is no harm being done to mankind. As the angels walk by, they see children playing on their swing sets. Men mowing the lawns before sun sets. Women were unhooking clothes from clothes lines beginning to fold them. Suddenly, the siren rings. All the angels report to the middle of the city to begin to protect the community. Families stop what they're doing so that they can run into their homes before Melinoe and her pack of ghosts come to haunt the souls of mankind. Her ghosts are bloody, with a breath taking image. Their teeth are yellow and decayed. Melinoe feeds her ghost dead creatures from the underworld, leaving bits and pieces of creatures flesh in their teeth.

As the angels prepare themselves to protect the community, they hear a loud shriek of sorrow. It is a young woman trapped in the corner of an alley the ghosts of Melinoe are taunting her. The woman cries out loud again, begging for help. The woman is screaming as one ghost with missing teeth, and a missing eye tries to grab her to take her soul. A few angels rush over to where they hear the cries from. They grab the ghosts and begin to strike them with the arrows of kindness. The ghosts freeze up and float to the sky. They'll be locked away in the chamber of underworld creatures. The woman thanks the angels and they tell her to hurry home and instructed one of the angels to make sure she gets there safely.

Melinoe is standing from a far distance on top of a building watching as this action takes place. Blowing with steam, because one of her ghosts had failed their duties once again, Melinoe yelled, "You won't win next time!" and flees the scene. As Melinoe is running to get back to the portal before the underworld closes, she runs by a little girl. She stops to stare at this little girl wanting to stop and say hello. Melinoe feels so wonderful when she gets around children. The little girl blooming with a smile across her face, had a red bow in her hair with a small sun dress that just reached the bottom of her knees. Her only weakness is children, she loves children and their kindly hearts. She stares at the child

a few seconds longer, but notices that the portal is closing faster. She flees into the portal in just enough time before it closed.

Melinoe knew that she'd eventually have to get over her weakness for children. She had always wanted her own, but she had the fear of them growing up and she'd end up killing one of them. Melinoe once had a child, but she mated with a human when she once lived on the earth. Melinoe took the soul of her own. Melinoe couldn't resist it, how could she not take the soul of this half human half creature? When she got back to her home, she thought of ways that she would be able to fight her resistance to take the souls of a child. She thought, what if she wore a protect shield that would block off their faces. But, no that would never work she said. It would cover up her terrifying appearance. Melinoe went out to examine the underworld to see if her ghosts had gotten back from earth. She'd seen all was well, so she called one of the ghosts back into the house and talked to them about capturing mankind and bringing them back to the underworld.

Melinoe once for a second thought about not taking the souls of these innocent people, and helping the ghosts keep the streets of the earth clean but one of the ghosts talked her out of it. Melinoe giggled and said, "Yeah I don't know why I even took that into consideration ". Melinoe proceeded to walk to the nearby window and took a deep breath, still wondering about a way that she could overcome her weakness for children. There was suddenly a knock at the door. Melinoe answer them to come in. A ghost entered in quickly. The ghost answered and said that there was a disturbance by the portal doors. An angel had opened the portal door to the underworld and let the other angels in to defeat all the demons and creatures! Melinoe ran outside to ring the emergency alarm. All of the underworld creatures ran outside from their homes suited up ready for battle.

The portal had begun to open up for the rest of the angels to come through, Melinoe yelled to the other creatures, "Prepare yourself for a battle, a battle for your lives!" The angels ran towards the creatures, but grabbed Melinoe put a bag over her head to cover her face and left the portal. Melinoe woke up to be strapped to a chair in a dim room with an angel guard watching over her.

Melinoe yelled and asked, "Why am I here?"

The angel guard answered, "So that you can never harm mankind again."

Melinoe said "I'll never be on your side."

The guard laughed and said, "We don't need you to be!"

Another angel walked into the room flashing a light into Melinoe's eyes, Melinoe screamed only to feel the bright light burning her black and white flesh.

The General angel came into the dim room to ask Melinoe a few questions and Melinoe repeated once again, "I won't tell you anything."

The angels pushed into a wound that Melinoe had gotten from the angels attacking her to bring her to Earth. Melinoe screamed and said, "Okay! I'll tell you anything you want to know!"

Another angel yelled at Melinoe, "Tell your ghosts to never strike against mankind, and to never show the underworld faces on Earth again!"

Melinoe shrieked and said back, "I can't! They'll never listen to me." The angels left out of the room leaving Melinoe bleeding from the wound on her shoulder. Melinoe sat in the dark room with nothing but a chair and the mouse that was in the corner looking for food to eat.

A child walked into the room later that night. He looked to be about 12 years old. He had on a striped shirt with jeans shorts on. He tapped Melinoe on the shoulder where her open wound was. Melinoe woke up in distress from the pressure being put to her arm from this child. Melinoe kicked at the child, not noticing that it was actually a child. The child laughed at her and said, "Look at you, you underworld people gross me out."

Melinoe replied back, "And you Earthlings sicken my soul."

The young boy slapped Melinoe across her face, knowing that Melinoe would never strike back. The boy said to Melinoe, "Hit me back, I know you would love to."

Melinoe yelled back, "I can't, you know I can't!" A guard came into the room for his shift to watch

Melinoe, he sat close by to watch the young boy repeatedly torture Melinoe.

Later that night, the siren rang for all angels to come into the city, so that they could guard the community from Melinoe's underworld ghosts. The little boy skipped out the room. Melinoe woke up from the siren being rang. She lifted her head with a smirk on her face. Melinoe began to laugh knowing that her ghosts would be coming to save her from this doomed Earth. A few hours rolled by, still none of her ghost came by. Melinoe began to scream to see if her ghost would hear her, still none came by. An angel came in to Melinoe bleeding from his side. Melinoe said, "I see they've finally overpowered you Earth people." The angel rose up striking Melinoe where her opened wound was. Melinoe shrieked! The little boy came back into the room this time with a bag of tools. Melinoe asked "Why are you back?" The little boy didn't answer. He just continued to walk to the nearby table. Melinoe yelled, "I know you hear me talking to you." Once again the young boy didn't answer her. He laid the tools out onto the table, he picked up a small object that looked like a small knife. Melinoe asked the young boy what was he going to do with the object. He still didn't answer her. The guard that was in the room with them left out. The young boy walked over to her, and jabbed the knife into her opened wound. Melinoe yelled out crying. The boy began to twist the knife into her shoulder, blood spilling from the wound. Melinoe cried out, telling the little boy that she would tell him anything he needed to know. The guard

that was looking in from the hidden glass entered room.

He asked Melinoe questions about where she and her ghost took the souls of mankind. Melinoe told him everything he needed to know. They made Melinoe sign a contract saying that she would never do any harm to mankind again. She signed the contract, later on that night the siren rang for the ghosts to come. The angels looked at Melinoe and asked her if she was ready. She nodded. They uncuffed Melinoe and held onto her. When Melinoe got outside she lifted her arms, her wounded arm was somewhat sluggish. She screamed and said “stop!” her ghost froze up and flew back to the portal and it closed. An angel grabbed Melinoe and pulled her back into the dark room and slammed her into the chair. Melinoe’s back hitting the chair, Melinoe whined and said, “I thought if I helped you guys would let me go back to my home!”

The angels chuckled and replied, “Oh no, it doesn't work like that.”.

Melinoe jumped at the angel. The angel sat back into the chair and watched Melinoe try to take herself from the chairs that were attached to the chair. He said, “There's no way your getting out of that.”

Melinoe struggled herself to sleep. When Melinoe woke back up the little boy was back. She told the little boy that she had a dream that she once played in a good role with mankind. The little boy asked why wouldn't she help out mankind instead of taking their souls. Melinoe shrugged. The little boy said, “Your life would be much better if you helped instead of trying to destroy.”

Melinoe replied, “I know, but look at me, Mankind would never accept a underworld creature like me walking on Earth with them.”.

The little boy said, “Because they only see you trying to do harm to them instead of trying to be nice.”

Melinoe began to speak, but the little boy had interrupted her. He told her to hush. The little boy stood up and said, “If you try, you never know what your outcome will be.”.

Melinoe thought about it over and over again until she began to realize that the little boy was right. Melinoe swore to herself that she would never harm mankind again. If the angels ever needed help defeating underworld creatures she would be there to help.

THE END

**Medusa**

## By Joshua Goodman

Medusa was sitting in her dark and gloomy cave feeling very down about herself. She was very lonely and never felt this way before. She had gone her whole life doing everything on her own and she wanted a change. She wanted someone that could help her around the cave and to lay down with at night. The only problem was that she felt that no one could ever love her because she was an ugly monster with snakes for hair. The Holy Mixer between the gods and most powerful monsters was coming up next week and she was not in the mood.

A week passed and Medusa was still lonely and upset about not having someone to call her own. She knew she had to go to the Holy Mixer even though she was feeling down. The Holy Mixer is basically when the gods invite some of the monsters to a dinner at Mount Olympus. You can not miss for any reason or there is no telling what the gods would do. Every year, she overhears the gods talking about her hair or how she has to wear shades so she does not turn people to stone. Seeing all the men stare at the goddesses, who are some of the most beautiful women in the world does not help her self esteem. Needless to say, Medusa does not enjoy the Holy Mixer.

Later that night, she arrived at the Holy Mixer dressed in her all black dress and dark shades. She came to the table and she saw that sitting to the right of her was Thor. She had always thought that Thor was the most attractive of all the gods. Thor was most known for his powerful hammer and his lightning and thunder abilities. Medusa had always wanted to tell Thor how she felt, but was way too scared to ever say anything. At that moment, Thor looked over and saw Medusa staring at him. He began to laugh and said, "Can I help you?" Medusa responded with a simple, "NO sorry." The Siren on the other side of Thor joined in and said, "Does Medusa and all her snakes have a crush?" Medusa, very embarrassed, looked down and acted as if she did not notice. Thor then, with a laugh, said, "If you ever wanted to have a chance with me you would need to first become beautiful."

Medusa sat at the table, too shaken up to look at anyone. (Knowing she could never look good enough for Thor to be happy with her. When the time finally came for her to leave, she was walking out when she heard Thor call her name, "Medusa!" She looked back immediately and walked over to where he was standing. Thor then said, "I'm gonna make this quick, Medusa, I like you, but if you want a chance with me there is one thing you must do. There is a purple stone at the top of the largest volcano in all of the under world and this stone will grant you one wish."

Medusa responded, "What do you want me to wish for?"

"I want you to wish to be the most beautiful girl in the whole world," Thor said to her.

Medusa, being friends with Hades (The god of the underworld), she was able to learn a lot about the volcano and wishing rock. She learned that the stone was at the top of the volcano, but it was like a death trap to try and make it that far. With Hades knowledge of the volcano, she could make to the top just fine. Hades made her a map of all the best ways to take to the top, All she had to do was follow it and she would be fine. She planned to make the trip the following morning so she went to bed early to make sure she got plenty of rest.

She had been climbing for hours, when she could finally see the top. She climbed up the last ledge and finally saw the wishing rock in sight. The sun was shining off it with a purple glare. All of a sudden, she looked over and saw the Siren that was sitting next to Thor at the Holy Mixer. She looked in to Medusa's eyes and immediately turned in to stone. All of it happened so fast and Medusa was left there alone with the stone. Medusa, who never cared much for the Siren, continued to walk towards the stone. She lifted it in the air with both hands and could not believe she was going to finally become beautiful. She paused to think for a moment, when she realized something. "How could this other monster know about the stone? Thor must have also sent the other monster to get the stone," she said to her self. Medusa was furious, he doesn't like her. Thor didn't care who got the stone as long as she wished to be more beautiful then everyone else. Medusa thought about this for a while and knew what she had to do. She walked over to the stone and grabbed it with both hands. As Hades told her to do she said, " I would like to make my one wish." She then swallowed and said, " I wish for Thor to be the most hideous god Mount Olympus has ever seen.

The moral of the story is, being arrogant and putting your self pleasure before someone else's feeling will eventually come back to hurt you.

## **Griffin And The Treasure**

**Kimberly Thomas**

### **Prologue**

Sometime ago I was lonely and I wanted to be happy. In my journey to find my place amongst

humans I found so much more. I looked to find something to keep my mind off the fact that some people don't believe in me and the people that do think that I am dangerous. In the end, I found my purpose, a friend and I saved someone or something, depending on how you look at it, from themselves. I am happy.

### **A year ago**

I don't know what to do. I really want to help, but if I do then I would have to reveal myself. I can't do that. Can I? Then I would have to explain to her that she's not in danger. I was just sitting there watching people pass by, out of sight. Imagine the chaos if they could see me, hah. Anyway, two girls around the ages of 16 and 18 walked past.

"I don't know what to do. I really don't want to stay in the house all summer," complained one girl.

"Why would you have to stay in the house all summer, Gloria," the other girl asked looking confused.

"My parents left for the summer and they want me to watch my mother's jewelry. They are really important to her and not just because they are expensive, but because they have been in our family for years.

"If only there was someone you could pay to help you, but who would want to do that all summer and you can't really trust people."

I specialize in protecting treasure and I really want to help, but I don't know how to go about explaining to them that I would never hurt anyone intentionally. I am afraid to reveal who I am and that I am real because I don't want to be judged and people to be afraid of me. I am having an internal battle and I don't know what to do. On one side, I want to be able to walk among the humans, be happy and do what I was made to do and on another hand, I am afraid that they will be scared of me and if they are I wouldn't be able to be happy because everywhere I went people would stay away from me.

A few days later I decided I was going to give it a try. You never know what could have been until you try. So I sat in the same spot that I saw her last and I waited. She didn't appear back there for a few days, but when she did I almost didn't do it, but I did. I pulled her into the shadows so that no one else could see me.

"Help!," Gloria screamed

"Calm down I only want to help," I said while turning her around slowly

She blinked a few times and said, "This cannot be happening."

"Yes, this is real and I want to help guard your treasures. I won't hurt you I promise."

"But you have a body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle, that is not even possible."

"It is very possible, as you can tell and there are others out there well. I am called a Griffin and my name is Griffin, as well. I am known as the king of the sky and of the land. I have the strength of a lion and the intelligence of an eagle. You can trust me."

"How do I know I can trust you?"

"I will tell you all the ways that you can kill me so if you feel threatened by me in any way you could kill me. I can be killed like humans by weapons, being drowned, and burned."

"I could always just stay in the house and guard it myself and don't have anything to do with you," Gloria said.

"Like I said before there are others out there. There is a creature called the Leucrocottas. They has a horse's body, lion's neck, cloven hooves and a wide mouth with sharp, bony ridges in place of teeth. The Leucrocottas are dangerous and if he finds out, which he will somehow, that you are hiding a treasure he will find you, kill you and take the treasure just because he knows he can."

"Ok, I'll do it, but one more question, why would you put yourself in danger to help me?"

"He's more of a danger to you than he is to me and besides he's been my enemy for years I think it's about time I stood up to him."

The next day I met her in the same spot.

"Why did you decide you needed someone to guard your treasure? You could have always kept them in the house and no one would have know it was there," I asked.

"There have been two break ins in my neighbor hood since my parents left, I don't want to call them and make them come home and cut their vacation short," she explained.

"Ok, here's the plan, I'm going to have to take the treasure far from here and find a place to hide them. From there I will watch over them everyday until your parents come home. The day before they come I will bring them back to you."

"Why do you need to take them far and you won't be able to watch them everyday? Don't you

need to go find food to eat?”

“I have to take them far away because I know the Leucrocottas have gotten wind of this already, they are really nosy and sneaky and as long as I have a treasure that I'm guarding I don't need food, but after I am through then I will have to find food.”

“Don't you get hungry?”

“Not when I'm guarding treasure. Now, we have to find a place I can hide the treasure, but it has to be relatively close to you.”

“How about the dunes, they are not that far away, but are far enough.”

“Point me in the direction of it and I'll find it. Oh, I won't see you until the last day before your parents come back. Be safe. And one more thing, the Leucrocottas can imitate the voices of people in trouble. So if you hear something like that and you think it is a real human, don't go alone and take a sharp object.”

I found the dunes after two days of walking and it is a nice hiding spot. I went inside and put the treasures in a shallow hole I dug. Then I sat and waited and waited. A few weeks went pass without incident and I was sure that I was over reacting about the Leucrocottas, but a few days before I had to return to Gloria something changed. I wouldn't be able to tell you what changed even if I tried, but I felt like there was danger nearby. And sure enough I hear the sound of a man. I knew it wasn't a man because no one knows about the dunes except Gloria and her parents. So I stayed completely silent and waited.

“I know you're down there and I will do anything to get that treasure,” the Leucrocottas finally spoke.

“I will assure you that you will never lay a hand on this treasure,” I replied.

“Oh, but I will. I could easily kill your new found friend and then I will kill you. I mean come on did you really think that I wouldn't find out?,” he asked in a voice that couldn't be described as anything, but sinister.

This is where I knew that I had to kill him or he would hurt Gloria. I wasn't worried about my own safety, but I had to keep Gloria safe. So I thought about how I would do it and then I got an idea. I grabbed the sharpest thing I could find and exit the dunes.

Standing in front of me was the Leucrocottas named Mersin. I really hated horses, all griffins

did, but I didn't want to kill him. So I tried to reason with him.

“You don't have to do this just because it's in your nature,” I said

“I like being the most powerful and the most feared, now give me the treasure and no one gets hurt,” he said in response.

“No, now we can do this the easy way or the hard way it's your choice, but before you make your decision I have to warn you that I will do whatever to keep Gloria and her treasure safe. I know this won't end well if we fight, someone will get hurt and I'm banking that someone will be you, choose wisely,” I said as I pulled the knife-shaped stone from behind my back. He then charged at me. I stepped aside and he stumbled. I took that opportunity to grab him and hold him against the wall of the dunes.

“Wrong choice,” I said while bringing the stone up to stab him.\

The next thing I know Mersin starts crying and I mean really crying. He started telling me that he had a family who always pushed to be tough and mean and that he hated being that way. After that, I knew that he was no longer a threat and for the next few days I coached him on how to be more nice. He had his moments some days, but overall he was good. So we guarded the treasure together and the last two days we started our journey back to Gloria.

## Saving Empousa

Nylah Lassiter

I am Hecate, other known as the goddess of magic, witchcraft, the moon, ghost, and necromancy. I also have power over the heaven, earth, and sea. I am a beautiful goddess that wears knee length maiden skirts and hunting boots. I can also transform into a she dog or a pole cat. I'm also known around Greece for having the worst daughter ever. Well actually, she's a monster. She is also known as Empousa. She has one donkey leg, a bronze prosthetic leg, wears broken slippers, and lastly she has flaming hair. I never meant for her to be this way, but she is the way she is for a reason. What she actually does you may wonder? Well, Empousa feeds on seduced men while they slept and of course, she seduces them herself. She goes to Earth for

these men, even after I told them humans are not good for her. I always told her not to go to Earth but she always disobeys me. I hate the fact my only daughter does this but, whatever makes her happy, makes me happy.

Today, I am in a really good mood. I haven't had to run any errands for my father Perses and mother Asteria. Therefore, I had the day off. Since I had the day off, I stayed home and I finally decided what I was going to make my daughter for dinner. I'm going to cook her her favorite food, plasma soup. I got off the couch and walked down the long dark hallway leading to the kitchen. The kitchen was my favorite room in the house because it was gold with black accents to it. I walked into the beautiful kitchen and put a pot of water on the stove. I walked over to my black refrigerator and pulled out the blood Empousa put in there, and put it in the pot. I made my way over to the black stool where I sat, and waited for the soup to get finished.

“Help, help, help.”, I heard in the distance. I started to wonder who needed help and would I even take the chance to save them. Once again I heard, “HELP, HELP, HELP.”. This time it was louder and I knew it was my poor daughter crying for help. I rushed to cut the stove off and used my magic to teleport myself to wherever Empousa was. There, I saw my poor daughter burning to death and the man who lit them on fire standing right before my eyes. I stood in the doorway and stared at the tall buff man. He was about 6'4, with my muscles, and a bald head. I don't understand why Empousa comes to Earth to feed on human men in the first place when I told her not to. Fire is Empousa's weakness and in that case, I used my power over the sea to put Empousa out. The man spotted me and tried to jump out of his window to get away from me because he knew he had no chance against me . 8. He said not one word to me but I said one thing to him which was, “Nobody ever messes with Empousa without messing with me too”. He looked at me with fear in his eyes and that when I killed him instantly with my with my witchcraft. I picked up my almost lifeless daughter and carried her home. When Empousa and I got home, I laid her down in her black bedroom and hoped for her to heal and be just as happy as before.

A couple days later, my beautiful Empousa was back healthy and could finally talk.

“ Mother, I really appreciate what you did for me. Saving my life and killing the man who was going to kill me. That was really brave of you.”, Empousa said.

“ You are my daughter, of course I wouldn't let you die no matter what happens. But one

thing, why was he trying to kill you?”, I said with a concerned face.

“Well, we thought he was sleep. Comes to find out he was fake sleeping and humans are smarter then I thought. He captured me, told me he always heard about me, and he knew I would come to him one day. He also told me that he was going to get rid of me because I was causing so much mess throughout Earth . Thats what caused him to set me on fire.”

“I really wish you would stop feeding on these men, I told you to stay off Earth didn't I?”

“Yes, you did. I will stay off Earth because I am not going to put my life in danger again.”

Just as everything got back to normal. There was a loud crash coming from downstairs. I didn't know until Empousa came into my bedroom and asked what the noise was. As we both went to go investigate, a woman appeared at the bottom of the stairs saying, “You killed my husband, now im going to kill you all.”. There, I knew I had to jump into action immediately because I wasn't going to let my daughter be in danger anymore. As I looked at the short blonde haired lady , I told Empousa to run and hide as I took care of this situation.

“You may leave my house now or suffer the consequences I will put upon your life.”, I said to the woman.

“I guess I will face them because you killed my husband for trying to kill your monster of a daughter.”, the woman said getting red in the face.

“Killing my daughter wouldn't even be in the question because she is my daughter and I know you wouldn't let somebody kill your child.”

“Enough talking, its time for me to kill you.”

The angry woman ran towards me with a sword, but I knew that wouldn't do anything to me. As she got closer, I prepared myself to kill her instantly with my witchcraft, just as I did with her husband. She got a foot away from me and thats when I killed her. At last there was finally peace and I could finally tell my daughter something I've been meaning to tell them for a while. I walked into their room and said, “From now on, no more feeding on men on Earth because I cannot afford to almost lose you again.”. Empousa replied with a smirk, “You won't have to worry about a thing anymore mother, I will obey you because a mother knows best.”.



## ***“The Eastern Lights of A Curseful Love”***

By Shontar'e Manning

*Love is said to be perfect. Said to be joyous. Said to be everlasting. Painful was left out of that myth. So was deadly, and so was curseful. Love is small, but it blinds even the wisest of men, and beast.*



Luekrokotta had been searching for his next meal for over 5 months, and as many of his prey migrated west of Ethiopia, survival seemed to dwindle with them. Luekrokotta woke early every morning to catch the small younglings that strayed too far from their herd. He would catch rabbits and squirrels, but often still, it was not enough to conceal his hunger. He lately was hunting human men that hunted during this season. Luekrokotta would follow them along the trail keeping pace. When one of the hunters would fall behind and he would lure them far from the trail using his human like calls and kill him. Luekrokotta was broken from his thoughts as the bushes on the left of him began to rustle. As the steps of a human neared, he took his position atop a rock where he positioned himself and waited. Moments passed until he finally caught the first glimpse of the woman as she came from behind a maple tree. She wore a long blue dress with milky white pearls around her waistline. She walked along the trail picking up twigs and bending them as if to make sure they were strong enough. She stopped momentarily, right under the rock where Luekrokotta stooped in a pouncing position. The woman took a deep breath of the maple scented woods, and then continued on her way.



Luekrokotta was frozen until he realized he was still in his attacking position. As he leaped from the rock and down the trail she'd taken, his stomach dropped. Why didn't he kill her? Why was he following her? He told himself that it was to make the kill but in the back of his mind he knew that was far from the reason. He came to a halting stop as he entered a clearing. The woman was nowhere to be seen. He'd thought about going further but something stopped him. Luekrokotta walk back to his cave feeling exhausted,even though he'd only walked a short distance. He lay down and pondered on the incident that had occurred. His chest felt heavy,and as he continued to think of the women,it got heavier. *I'll find her tomorrow* Luekrokotta thought. He registered this for a moment and felt sick to his stomach. He let himself drift asleep,the thoughts falling to the back of his mind.

Days went by. Then weeks and months and every single minute,Leukrokotta spent his days seeking and watching the *beautiful* nameless women. He'd grown fond of her and he hated this. He told himself every night that the next day he'll finish her. He'll kill her and all the love he thought he had for her would go away. When that day came and he was ready to pounce, something would stop him,and he would stare her down until she was far from the reach of his bone jawed mouth. Today, Leukrokotta watched her as she did her regular routine of picking up sticks and testing them. So simple a job,but she did it with such a grace that he felt as if he could watch her for an eternity. From the distance Leukrokotta heard a voice call out too the unknown beauty. "Asteria! Asteria! It is very past midday. The sun should be setting now". He watched in amazement as Asteria raised her hand and darkness began to fall. *How could someone so beautiful possess a gift of such darkness?* Leukrokotta thought. Asteria began to walk in the direction of where the voice had come. She stopped momentarily as she

always did, but for some odd reason she turned and stared to where Leukrokotta lay. He stooped low and hoped she had not seen him. From the security of the tall grass, he peeked to see if she was still staring. She was, and for the first time Leukrokotta saw her gray eyes that looked to be made of the stars above. It was now clear. The reason he could not kill her, the reason he followed her everyday, the reason she was always on his mind. Leukrokotta loved her and the more he pushed it away the stronger his heart ached. It ached even more than his hunger and he swore it fed him. Asteria finally turns and



walks into darkness.

Leukrokotta pondered that night on how he would approach Asteria. **5** He'd change himself into a prince to hide the beast but he still did not know what he would say to her. How would he confess his love? How would he tell her that he longed to be with her? How would he tell her who he really was? Leukrokotta practice the rest of the night, planning everything accordingly. He would have to make sure that he was not in the form of the prince walking through the woods. For many dangers lurk in the dark...Such dangers as he.

Asteria walked down the path as she did each day, only Leukrokotta wait behind an oak tree. When she drew close, he came from behind the tree. She seem startled at first, but as she got a look at him, her nerves seemed to settle. "Hello" she said.

"Asteria," Leukrokotta began, "Goddess of night, woman of eternal beauty. I am Prince Zelobus and I hereby lay down my heart to you. You see, I have watched you for some time now, and I have grown very fond of you. I know you barely know me, but I ask that you get to know me by becoming my wife. For I am rich and can give you everything your heart desires."

Asteria stare with a slight smile playing upon her lips. “ A prince,” she says. ” “Forgive me but may I ask of what heir you come from?”

Leukrokotta had not expected this question, but he wasted no time. “I am son of the all great and powerful Zues and my mother is Maquilah, queen of Rome. Asteria stare with great horror.

“What?” Leukrokotta asks. “Are you not impressed?”

“Zues?” Asteria nearly screams the word and this makes Leukrokotta jump, “You are here to kill me aren't you? He has sent you”. Asteria begins to back away, looking around her but keepng her eyes on Leukrokotta.

“My lady, of whom do you speak?” Leukrokotta asks confused. “Your father is of whom I speak”. Asteria pauses to search Leukrokotta face for any clues.

She continues. “It is either you do not know or you continue to play me for a fool. Your father, the all great and powerful, continuously pursues the last of the Titans, my sister, her twins and I included. For the last year, we have successfully been able to stay out of his reach, hiding in these woods. Now, you have found me and I am sure he is not far behind. You have led him here you fool, and now we will diminish with our kind.

Before Leukrokotta even can stop himself, the words come spilling out. “I will protect you” he says, “I will beg my father to spare your lives and then...then we can be together”. The lie hung in the air and he'd known somehow he made the wrong response.

Asteria chuckles. “You really are a fool. You could not stop your father for he is too powerful and too prideful. Being his son you should know. You have already caused much trouble so I suggest you be gone and keep from my family and I.” Asteria walk away toward her sister who had just appeared. Her sister whispers something to her before she turn and they walk together. Asteria took one look back. Leukrokotta hoped that somehow she had realized she made a wrong decision, but she just gave him a look of disgust.



Leukrokotta stood and watched until they were out of sight. Hurt filled his heart but it was pushed out as anger flows through his veins. Instead of going back to his cave, Leukrokotta changed back to his regular form and did something that even surprised himself. He walk to where Asteria and her sister disappeared. He continued through the darkest part of the woods and come to a well hidden hut. He wasted no time and crashes through the door. Asteria's sister screamed and ran but Leukrokotta is quick and he grabed her by the neck, throwing her into the nearest wall. He walked on and finds Asteria in the next room with the twins. Leukrokotta grabed her and began pulling her out of the hut. Asteria sees her sister on the floor unconscious and yelps to her side.”Leto”,she cries. Leukrokotta pulled her up by her hair and flung her out of the door. When she tried to run,he knocks her unconscious as well. Hours later Asteria found herself in a cave unknown to her. She begian to squirm attempting to break the rope that bound her.

Leukrokotta sat in the corner as the prince again,“Stop your struggling” he said.

When Asteria finally noticed him,fear and anger filled her eyes. “You sick bastard!” she yelled. “Only sick with love my lady. Now I'll give you my proposal again and I bid you answer wisely.” Asteria looeds at him and then spits at his feet. Leukrokotta snarls at her revealing his mouth of fine bone. He then advances toward Asteria landing the first blow across her face. Blood spills from her mouth and Asteria cried out in pain. The hits continued and the cries of Asteria echoed through the woods.



For day, this went on and each day the hits came harder and the scars ran deeper. Asteria did not break. She just hoped her sister and the twins had gotten away. She no longer had hope of Zues finding her and killing her, for she believed that Prince Zelobus was not a prince at all, but the beast who had attacked her. Leukrokotta did not suspect she knew anything. The night before he came up with a new approach to get Asteria to answer yes. Again, Luekrokotta beat Asteria now targeting her chest area. He stops after a few moments, offering his proposal again. Asteria could not utter a word. Her eyes were beginning to swell but she saw as Leukrokotta left the cave.

Minutes passed, and then hours. (When steps near Asteria looks up) Leukrokotta entered, but not alone. Her sister Leto in his grasp. “No” Asteria manages to mumble. Leukrokotta threw Leto to the ground and she crawled to Asteria.

She examines Asteria's face and turns to Leukrokotta, tears in her eyes. “Hades will greet you well when your time comes.” Leukrokotta laughs.

“I? I will never die. You? You will die and perish along with your kind”. Leto stands and faces Luekrokotta, “Can you not see? Your anger will lead you to your death. You are sick. You are a mad man. No woman could ever come to love you.”

Leukrokotta smacks her and grabs her up by the arm. “Now,” he begins, “Let's see if your answer will change”.

“No” Asteria says a little louder than before. This did not stop Leukrokotta and as he reveals his

mouth of bone and lurches toward Leto's throat, Asteria raises her hand. Darkness did not fall upon the sky this time, but upon the eyes of Leto. Leukrokotta stopped then. Leto fell lifeless to the ground. "You will never hurt my sister. For she...she is my only love." With swiftness, Leukrokotta cut where Asteria's words had come from just seconds ago. Asteria fall next to her sister and darkness fill her eyes.

Leukrokotta thought that killing Asteria would kill the love he'd felt for her. He was wrong. It only burned with a passion, and that passion burned even deeper. He looked at the sisters. *What fools* he thought. *For what cost had they given their lives for?* It seemed they stared at him, but not with hatred. Smiles play upon their faces. Moments passed until Leukrokotta finally sees that they were not staring at him, but past him. Leukrokotta follows their gaze and see that in the east two stars appear. Stars he'd never seen before. They shown smaller, but brighter than the sun itself. The stars were so close they looked to be attached. Leukrokotta looked from the stars to the sisters, then back again. He knew exactly what it meant it and it made him feel sick to his stomach. Eternal love. Leukrokotta kicked dirt into the corpse's faces. Anger swelled up inside of him, but just as quickly as it came it went. He knew what he would do. Leukrokotta exit the cave and head to the hut...The hut where he knew Leto's twins were. He would take their lives. No, better yet, he would have Hades take their lives so that their souls would forever roam through the underworld. This would mean that they would never meet again with their family. This is what he would do before he migrated west. Leukrokotta was so much into thought that he forgot to change from the prince into himself as he traveled through the darkest part of the woods. From a far Leukrokotta heard a voice. But not just any voice...the voice of Asteria. "If you love me why would you take my life, my love?" Leukrokotta stand in disbelief. He look around and wait. A moment passed and the voice come again, "Well?"

"I do not love you" he answers.

"But you do and you deny it. Why?" "You are wrong, far wrong," he says, the only thing I deny is that you are still here". Leukrokotta advances toward the tree and stops to see if the voice replies. It does This time harsh, but still soft.

"You think of me and my sister fools but you, you are the true fool you crottan filth." Again, Leukrokotta's anger takes control of him, only for the last time. He leap to the tree from where the voice come, but had no time to react before bone sunk into his neck. He squirms but it only makes it worse as the grip gets tighter. "Stop your struggling," says the creature identical to Leukrokotta. He continues to squirm but soon realizes it is all over. As darkness sets in his sights he looks overhead to the stars, and takes his last breath.



*All love seems possible. All love seems kind. All love seems eternal. But the myth has been told that love is curseful, and so holds true. Love today often does not last long. A curse set by the foolishness of Leukrokotta. For love is small, but it blinds even the wisest of men, and beast.*

### **The Hero's Journey**

**by Tammy McSwain**

Cetea is the daughter of Porky and Keto. Porky is a sea God and Keto is a sea goddess; they all live under the sea. Cetea's parents wanted her to punish evil-souled men with her beauty even though she's a serpentine fish with long rows of teeth. Cetea's weaknesses are handsome men and handsome sea-creatures. Cetea wants to stop punishing men. Why do I punish men with my evil touch? (Just one

touch can kill them). Why do men think I'm beautiful and I'm just a large fish with long rows of teeth? Cetea was hungry so she decided to swim out of her cave, and go hunting for food. While Cetea was on her journey for food, she swam by some different things like mermaids, ghost of the sea, and other sea-creatures. Then she suddenly swam by a mermaid couple that were dating, so she gets to thinking about how lonely she is and what's going to happen if I continue to punish men?

Then one day Cetea talked to her mom Keto.

“ Hey can I talk to you about something?” Cetea said

“ Yes you can talk to me about anything.” Keto said

“ Do you think I'm a ugly fish and do you think I'll be able to find love?” Cetea said

“ No of course not! Yes you will fall in love one day with the right guy” Keto said

“ I have a few more questions to ask you.” Cetea said

“ What is it Hun?” Keto said

“ Why do men and sea-creatures think I'm beautiful? Why do they die every time I touch them?”

Cetea said

“ Well maybe it doesn't matter what's on the outside, it matters what's in the inside. Your father and I weren't going to tell you this until you got a little older but the reason why men die after you touch them is because you got a magic touch and you have to be very careful when your around men OK?”

“ Wow thanks mom for finally telling me this, but will I be able to stop punishing men and sea-creatures?”

“ I don't know about that but I'll try to find out for you okay?”

“ Sure, but I have one more question.”

“ Okay what is it?”

“ Do you think it's weird that I want to be a human so I can meet Hercules?”

“ No I don't that's what you want to do and I can't stop you from being or doing what you want, in fact I know a magic octopus that has all these different types of potions I'll see if she has one that would turn you into a human okay?”

“ Yes mom that would be great!”

One day Cetea tried to stop punishing men, so maybe they would think she's beautiful. So she went to the other side of the deep blue sea and sees a handsome water dragon. She started to stare into

his deep brown but evil eyes and tried to approach him, but before she got closer to him he swam away. Even though her goal is to stop punishing men they all continue to swim away. She ran behind him quickly but she stopped before she touched him she remembers what her mom told her about her magic touch.

#### Conversation between Rick and Cetea

“ Hey there Rick” Cetea said

“ Stay away from me, okay I'm to young to die” Rick said

“ Fine but you'll be asking for me one day” Cetea said

Over the last few weeks Cetea tries to stop punishing men but it's not working. But on the bright side she is becoming more beautiful. One day cetea went for a swim, and ran across a handsome man fish. She decided to give him a compliment

“ Hey you look nice today”, Cetea said to him nicely.

“ Please leave me alone I'm not ready to die yet so stay away from me, but thanks for the compliment”,He said swam away.

“ No wait up please I'm trying to stop punishing men!, Cetea said

“ Okay what?” ,He said

“ What's your name” ,Cetea said

“ My name is John.” , he answered

“ Nice to meet you John my name is Cetea” ,Cetea said

“ I'm surprised I'm not dead yet” ,He said

“ Yeah me too that's pretty weird”, Cetea said

“ Yeah but I have to go see you later” He said

Finally Cetea stops punishing men. Later that night Rick kilt Cetea's father, he didn't know it was her father though. Cetea found out that her father was dead and it wasn't because of any natural causes. It came to a murder, Cetea was so upset that someone so evil would do that to her father. Cetea wants to figure out who kilt her father, so she can kill the evil soul who kilt her father. A few weeks later Cetea has noticed that she's becoming more attractive and more male sea-creatures has been talking to her and has not been running away from her

One day Cetea's mom swam to where Cetea was and gave her the magic potion to turn her in to a human.

“ Here you go Hun, and remember when you take this you have to move out of the sea and I'll be here all alone by myself. Keto Said

“ Mom I know you should drink some too”. Cetea said

“ No I'll be fine”. Keto said

“ Mom every since dad got murdered you haven't been the same!” Cetea said

“ I'll be okay baby” Keto said

“ Okay but thanks for the potion can you tell me more about it?”

“ Yeah okay it takes like a day for it to sink in so if you drink it today you'll a human by tomorrow” Keto said

“ Okay I'll drink it first thing in the morning then I'll have time to say goodbye to everyone.”

The next morning Cetea woke up in excitement and drank the potion. She started swimming and saying goodbye to all of her friends. She ran across Rick the guy who kilt her father without her knowing it. Rick tries to talk to Cetea.

“ Hey there where are you headed”(10) rick said

“ Rick don't even talk to me” Cetea said

“ Okay fine don't talk to me, have you seen your dad lately?” Rick asked

“ Ha ha are you trying to be funny or something because it's not funny I'm pretty sure you know that my father is dead” Cetea said angrily

“ Oh no I didn't know” Rick said with sarcasm

“ Oh okay and when I find out who did it I'm killing them” Cetea said

“ Oh” Rick said in a worry voice

“ Do you have a clue?” Cetea asked

“ Nope I don't” Rick said in a lying voice

“ Yes you do your lying rick” Cetea said

“ How do you know that” rick said

“ Because you questioned how did I know instead of saying no” Cetea said

“ Well..

Cetea stopped Rick from talking

Cetea kilt Rick for killing her father.

Later that afternoon she was swimming, saying goodbye to some of her other friends. She comes across a nice strong man by the name of Hercules he's a nice strong man. She stops and stares for a while and he started staring at her back. Cetea wants to start a conversation with him but she's afraid that he would judge her. Hercules starts to come closer to Cetea and she gets nervous.

“ Hey how are you?” Hercules asked

“ Hi I'm I'm I'm fine” Cetea stuttered

“ That's good” Hercules said

“ How are you” Cetea asked

“ I'm fine but better that I'm talking to you” Hercules said sweetly

“ I got to go” Cetea said

Hercules tells his parents about Cetea and his parents don't like sea-creatures and they go to find her so they can kill her. While Cetea was about to say goodbye to one of her friends and they come from behind and grab her neck and puts a knife to it and tells her to stay away from their son. Later Cetea runs to the police and tells them that Hercules parents tried to kill her and they go find his parents and they arrested them. That night Cetea runs into Hercules and he says sorry about his parents. She accepts his apology and they fall in love.

## **Odysseus and Isabella**

**By Tiara Cole**

Living in a kingdom where Royalty gets richer, and the poorer gets poorer. Isabell lives in a world where she is parted between those worlds. Though she is not poor, she has a curse where people are just as disgusted with her as if she were poor. When she was young, she worked for a queen, the Queen was not very favorable, and she was mean and cruel, and not very attractive. For Isabelle, being as beautiful as she was, it was not very long for the Queen to start getting jealous. One evening a man, a sailor who worked under the Queen, gave her a tip that Isabelle was trying to flirt with King. The Queen was extremely angered. She received a

spell from a witch and put it upon Isabelle, called the Sirens curse. The curse made Isabelle kill any man with her voice when she sings to mate with them and a scar on her face so she is not as beautiful as she was before. **(Limited Awareness of Problem)**

Isabelle has been living with the curse for years now; she lives on an island, a port where many sailors sail in their ships. There Isabelle seeks her revenge for the sailor that lied on her. She uses her voice as a Siren, leading the sailors in with illusions of their dreams, making them turn their ships toward her. When they finally lower in on her island she makes her move and kills each sailor. Though she enjoys revenge, she also searches for a sailor that can withstand her horrid curse, and then she would marry him. **(Increased Awareness of Need for Change)**

On one particular evening she heard a huge sailing ship, leaded by a strong, handsome sailor that seemed to have the arrogance of a thousand Kings. He had dark hair, going along with his dark eyes. The way he was built, went along his arrogance. You could easily assume that he might lift boulders for a living the way his arms flexed without them being moved. She had a feeling it had to be the sailor that helped give her the curse. Isabella stood on the tallest rock, and began using her voice as a siren, as loud as she could, she sang, and sang. Sailors after sailors jumping ship to swim to her feet, to meet what beautiful, persuading sound, she was giving off. However, she noticed the Captain standing strong and not budging, so she sang stronger and louder. Once again, he has not moved, but actually sailed past her. Isabella smiled with glee, and knew that he was soon to be hers. **(Overcoming Fear)**

Isabella, the next day, drew over a long cloak, silky blue drape like, over her, giving her face a shadow so her scar of a Siren could not be recognized. She drew her wings out her body that came along with her curse, and flew into the inner Kingdom. There, she went to the Sailors Club, where sailors meet when they are not sailing, and talked about their travels and the mysterious Siren they tried to avoid. She entered and sat at the back, but her silky cloak couldn't stay hidden for long.

“Hey look it here, either that's a pretty man, or a woman done made her way in here.” A hefty man spoke, sitting with his feet up, chuckling at his on joke, and spiting into a can beside him.

“I was just curiously looking for one of the bravest captains you have here, in this shack” Isabella said, trying to sound as not worried to see all these sailors in one place, trying to find and kill the Siren who happened to be me.

“Well if brave is what you are looking for, then why are you still looking?”

A man stood up owning to what he said, brushing off his uniform, showing how clean and crisp it was. It was him; the man that stands her strongest and loudest siren call, the one that impressed her, and that she hoped would be her husband because of his talent. **(Committing to Change / Experimenting with New Conditions)**

“So what is your name?” Isabella said with her head up high, showing him she can be just as arrogant.

“It’s Odysseus.” He said grabbing my hand, and giving it a peck.

When he said his name, Isabella almost jerked her hand back. She heard his name in many legends. He was the strong, becoming King that slayed Sirens, because he was such a leader for his fellow sailors. Though Isabella should be terribly scared, she found it to be more thrilling that she might be taking the dangerous road. **(Preparing for Major Change)**

Isabella saw it was getting late, and told Odysseus that she must be getting home. He told her to come here again, the same time, and that he would like to continue talking.

She hurried home, filled with excitement and butterflies knowing that she might have found her love. Isabella thought about a lot of things however. She thought about all the consequences she can get into if he ever finds out that she is a Siren. She was one the monsters that murders his crew, he loves and represents so much. Though after all those thoughts, she thought if it’s true then she should be fine. **(Big Change with Feeling of Life and Death)**

Isabella met Odysseus at the Sailor’s Club once again the following day. They talked for hours, mostly him because she couldn’t tell him too much about her life, since it was all secrets and terror. She found out it was him that single handedly slayed the past Sirens. He went into great detail about how much he despised Sirens.

Isabella thought that she would have to continue not telling him that she is a Siren, because it would be no way now that she could ever tell him now. **(Accepting Consequences of New Life)**

They kept meeting with each other, at different places around the Kingdom. Even though they talked for long hours, Odysseus found himself only talking about *himself*. He asked her many questions. He began with simple questions, but he noticed Isabella was avoiding a lot of them, so he began to ask more questions that he knows she couldn’t avoid. **(New Challenge and Rededivcation)**

“Why do you keep going around the questions I ask you Isabella, I want to get to know you and love you, maybe even take your hand in marriage?”

When he said that it made her lip quiver, thinking of all the things he might do when he finds out, but she thought. If he wants her hand in marriage, and he sees that she wants the same thing, he might accept her flaw.

Isabella took a deep breath in, and began talking extremely fast.

“I’m a Siren Odysseus, I didn’t want to tell you because I thought you were the bravest and handsomest man I met, and I really want to...” She couldn’t finish her sentence because she saw how disgusted his face was, and watched it turn into hate. **(Final attempt(s) Last – minute dangers)**

He rose up from the stone which they both sat and on and could not get the confused expression off his face. He covered his chin, and his eyes got big.

“So it was you that killed the hundreds of men that was a part of crew? I can’t believe this.”

“You don’t understand, I didn’t know what I was doing, I...”

“No. You killed hundreds of men before, now that you seem to be in love with me, you think I’m going to give you sympathy? No, you probably plotted this so you can get me alone and kill me off guard.”

He walked away, and swore that he will find me and slay me. After a while of sitting there and reiterating what he just said to me, I returned to the island which I lived and sobbed.

Later on that evening, Isabella heard bells of huge, gigantic ships approaching. She assumed it was the promise that Odysseus swore Isabella will receive. Once again Isabella reached the highest peak, and waited for the perfect moment to where she first encountered Odysseus. She opened her arms wide, taking a deep breath in preparing for the loudest siren call in her lifetime.

Odysseus directed the ships to her location, pointing his sword yelling “Onward!” Isabella screamed, so loud that you could see the sound waves coming from her voice. The men ears bled, and they jumped in the water fleeing to Isabella. However though, Odysseus kept plunging toward, at even greater speed.

Isabella screamed even louder, to the point where the heavens opened up and a beaming light shined on her, beginning to transform her. She raised in the air, spinning slowly, transforming into the human she once was. Her scar that was once on her face was. Isabella slowly reached the ground again falling on her knees. She looked up and saw Odysseus still approaching, and hop of his huge ship and land on the island where Isabella still laid. Odysseus approached her, and reached for her neck.

“For all the men that you killed, I will slay you, so that you will pay for all the lives you innocently took” He said, as he took his sword, and slit Isabella throat, removing his arm from up under her neck. He noticed something different about her though. He noticed that her Siren scar was gone. That she has transformed into a human, and had murdered her.

Her loud voice has ended the curse, and he was to blind to see it. Odysseus has killed his future wife, and he killed her. He didn't believe her when she said that wasn't her attention to kill him.

Odysseus fell into deep depression, and couldn't find himself living on without someone like her. Odysseus laid next to her and forced his knife inside his chest, hoping he would meet his love of his life in Heaven. (**Mastery**)

This explains why today birds sing in the morning. When roosters sing in the morning, it is a symbol that they praising their leader Isabella. The birds try to mock her beautiful songs that she used to sing.

### **The UniCarter**

**By Tya Jackson**

As I walked through Miller Heights High School, lonely and friendless, kids walked past me making fun of me and throwing paper balls. I only weighed about 90lbs and I was 5'2. I had glasses as thick as an aquarium, my clothes weren't as up-to-date like everyone else's and, lastly, I had the biggest bobble head. I felt as if I was a character that belonged at the monster school, Beautiful Mask, two blocks down from Miller. I could smell the stench of 2 week old broccoli and cheese coming from the cafeteria. When I walked passed the girls' bathroom, I could hear girls talking about the cutest football players. I could also all smell the taste of all the cheap perfumes that they'd sprayed that leaked into the air into the halls and Mrs.Duhine's stinky locker room that smelled like sweaty gym clothes. As two football players ran down the hallway throwing a football and weren't paying attention, they pushed me down. My binder went up in the air, my papers went flying everywhere, my glasses came off, and I stumbled into the trash can. Everyone watched and laughed even louder than before. School ended. This was the beginning of the worse day of my life as everyone laughed.

I always take the long way home now because all of the kids at Miller Heights love to bully me. I usually just walk towards Mr.Douglas' shoe repair store then past Sunny Rd. and Nell Ave. and I'd be home. But now, I have to see all of the creepy creatures while I walk through Alien Small Town. I have to walk through Crystal Park that isn't all crystals. It's where all of the monsters go to the hang out and have fun. Crystal Park has bugs everywhere for the monsters that only eat bugs, and magical plants for

the vegetarian monsters. When I walked through Alien Small Town or Crystal Park, the monsters didn't bother me; it's like if as they were normal people... Well not the kids from Miller, these monsters were nice and kind creatures. They seemed like they didn't judge you and loved to have fun. Especially when I walked through their city on Fridays after school.

Today was Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and it was my birthday. I was finally 15. The bell rang for school to let out and I did my daily routine sneaking out the schools side door and go through the long process of walking home. When I got to Crystal Park, someone yelled, "Hey kid, wait up! You dropped something!" As I turned around there was a girl and she handed over my birthday card.

"Hi, I'm Bella.... We both go to Miller Heights."

"Well hello, I'm C..." as she cut me off.

"Yeah Carter.. Carter Avery, I know." I had never seen her in school before. She didn't look as nerdy but as human. I couldn't understand why she was walking through Alien Small City though.

"Happy birthday kid!"

"Thanks, but can I ask you a question?"

"You just did, but sure.."

"Why are you walking this way?"

"The same reason you are and plus I have family that lives in this town."

"Really? How is that possible?" I said so curious.

"It's easier to be a monster, than you think. One small mistake and you could be a monster for a very long time or temporarily."

"That's pretty weird but cool. Hey I have to run because I have dinner plans with my family for

my birthday, so can we catch up tomorrow?!”

“Sure!”

It was Wednesday and it was time to leave. I never did see Bella today. But as I walked through Crystal Park, I noticed something different this time. There was a beautiful, big, and creamed colored plant that was smiling at me. There was a tag attached to it, that read “Taste Me!” I looked around for a moment to see if anyone was looking but as I turned back around .and looked at the tag it said “You! It won't hurt you.” So I broke off a little piece of the plant and swallowed it. Then the tag poofed and disappeared.

The next morning, I woke up and my mom walked into my room. I had changed.

“You've grown babe! You look so muscular this morning and taller.”

“Thanks mom, but you don't have to exaggerate.”

I walked into the bathroom and looked into the full body mirror and I actually saw a change in myself.

The night I came home from the mall with Bella, my body was going through a really BIG change. I was getting white hair all over my body, my feet were turning into hooves, my butt was hurting and something was growing on top of it. I had a headache and I was so hungry.

By the morning, I was a unicorn I I could still talk like normal. My mom was wondering what was wrong with me but I couldn't tell her the reasoning because I didn't even know what was wrong. So we went to Dr.Broncos over in Alien Small Town. Dr.Broncos asked me a lot of questions and we came to conclusions that I ate the Tricky Magic Tree leaves. Dr.Broncos said that the mutations had caused this. The only thing that could change this is if I saved someone in danger around the community or if I ate only tomato sauce and French bread for four weeks straight. After this I could get a shot from Dr.Broncos to stay a monster for temporarily or forever.

Later the next day, I found Bella and I told her what had happened and she finally told me that

she was a goddess and that was another reason why she was always in Alien Small Town. I remembered that she had said, “One small mistake and you could be a monster for a very long time or temporarily.”

Two weeks passed and no signs of danger near my community made my horn light up, so I was eating the tomato sauce and French bread.

On the third week, my horn lit up and it seemed as if my nose sniffed out where the danger was. I eventually ended up at Miller Heights High School. Where I saw a group of girls picking on one girl in the center of the circle. I sensed the smell and it was Bella in that center. They were pulling on her bookbag, screaming at her, laughing at her flooded pants and yanking at her pigtails. I rushed over to the circle where Bella was crying. The girls were trying to be my friend because I was a handsome modern day horse. I declined their verbal friend request and told them that Bella was the coolest kid ever to hang around and mad them feel bad for what they were doing. I grabbed Bella and we took off back into Alien Small Town.

When Bella and I got back to the town, I let Bella step down off of my back. She looked at me with a blushing face and said, “Thanks Carter.”

“No problem Bella” I kissed her cheek. She began to smile really big and I asked her the big question that I had been thinking about since she approached me as ONLY being my friend.

“Yes, I'll be your girlfriend!” she replied. The next morning I was back to myself but very sore.

Days passed and I actually went back to Dr.Broncos and asked him, if it was a way that I could be the unicorn and the boy, he said yes and prescribed me these jelly bean looking pills. I only wanted to be this unicorn to sniff out if or when Bella was in trouble and to help others. The pills would help me maintain to be myself but have a strong sense of smell so when anyone was in danger or when my girlfriend was being picked with in my community, I could transform into the UniCarter.

THE END.

