

## Power

Deep breathing, right next to me, or was it? Deep breathing, my deep breathing, voices, not mine, whose then? I felt heat all around me, CRACK, what was that? The voices again, but this time there was a name mixed with them, not just a name, my name. My eyes jumped open, I felt dizzy, but why, what was happening to me?

“Jason!”, a voice said, “Jason they're here!”.

“Huh?”, the word didn't come out though, just the sound of the fire crackling around me. Then I found my legs lifting me up, off of the feeble excuse of a bed I had been sleeping on, or was it my legs? No, my legs were gone, I knew that, or did I, did I know anything?

“Jason, Jason get up!”, said the voice again, “JASON!”. I snapped out of the darkness I was falling into and sat up trying to make sense of the surroundings my panicked eyes were looking at. First I looked down, realizing that my legs weren't gone, there was just a support beam laying on top of them, it must have fallen from the ceiling, that must have been the cracking noise. Laying aside that problem, I looked around more and realized the tiny room I had been sleeping in was on fire, and I was trapped in that room with a wooden beam that for all I knew weighed a thousand pounds trapping me on the bed. Not knowing what to do, I panicked, I mean wouldn't anyone if they were trapped in a burning room? Something happened though while I was panicking, the beam trapping me on the bed was getting pushed off me by something, but what could it be, who would risk their life to save me? All I knew was that the fire was getting closer, the flames licking the walls and floor, hungry for more.

“Jason”, they seemed to be saying. What could I do? There was no way I was escaping death for the third time in the past five days, but I did. “Go!”, the voice said. The weight on my legs was lifted and I could move again. The only escape from the small room was blocked by fire, looking around for something of use, I noticed the tiny window in the wall behind the bed I had been sleeping on. Within a matter of seconds, I was out the window and down the street.

\*Him\*

SMACK, more blood, SMACK, even more, “How did you let him get away?”, the man said.

“Master, i’m...i’m sorry, someone helped him, but I don’t know who... please.... I... I beg for forgiveness!”.

“You don’t deserve my forgiveness.” “Kill him.”, and with a gesture of the man’s hand, he was dead. “It’s your turn Zhang.” Zhang nodded and picked up his bow, disappearing out of the door. “If Zhang can’t kill this kid, nobody can.”

\*Jason\*

The birds were chirping in the trees above me, and the creek I had taken refuge next to was peacefully sliding down the river bed of beautiful round pebbles. It seemed like everything was having fun besides me, even the wind winding through the trees was laughing playfully as it did it’s jumps and flips. I pulled out the little sac I had made from deer hide in which I stored some dried fruits and jerky, although I wasn’t hungry, with Him after me, strength at all times was a must. About to take a bite out of a strip of jerky, something whizzed past my face and stuck into the tree next to me. An arrow.

I dropped the food in my hand and dove behind the tree closest to me that would provide any sort of cover. “Can’t I get a break?”, another arrow streamed past the tree making a whistling noise. “I’m dead.”, I thought, “Theres no way I’m going to escape this time.” But of course I did, in the exhilaration of the moment, I looked up and saw the branches above me, I jumped up grabbing a thick one and swung my leg over it.

I heard twigs snapping on the ground from the other side of the tree I was currently climbing up, the person trying to put an arrow through me was coming closer, not a good sign, for me at least. “Whhhssssss”, another arrow came from... the other direction?

“Run lad, run!” said a voice I had never heard before. I clumsily leaped out of the tree and run I did, without looking back until I was out of sight. Instinctively I reached to my side with my hand grabbing... thin air... my bag was still beside the tree where I had taken cover, and so were the two people I had just ran away from.

Sneaking back through the forest on light feet, I arrived at the tree, “So far, so good.”, I thought. My bag was right there, sitting among the roots of the tree, not seeing any signs of life, my feet carried me to the tree, I grabbed the bag and got out of there, fast.

\*Him\*

“HOW DID YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, NOT KILL HIM?” Zhang said nothing. In fact, he was more silent than silence itself. “I’m not going to kill you, yet, you are far more useful to me than most of these dirtbags. But I will have to punish you somehow... break his bow!” The guards came up behind Zhang and ripped the bow right off his back, causing Zhang to trip backwards, the black tipped arrows in the quiver on his back slid out and clattered to the floor. “Don’t let this happen again. Out!”

\*Jason\*

“Here ya go young’un, treat her finely.”, the rather timid looking farmer said as he handed over the rope tethered to the feeble little horse that would be carrying me the next couple of days as I headed over to Riverwood, a small fishing village along the Mithril River. I was heading there because my father’s dying words had told me to find ‘The Bearded Man’ there. This trip would be dangerous with all the people hunting me, but I had to do this for the sake of curiosity. I had no idea what he could possibly be talking about. Last I remember, there was no one in my family who lived in the tiny village along the river, all that I could do was go and find out.

\*A Few Untroubled Days Later\*

I reached the fishing village and realized that it wasn't much. When I stepped into the town inn to get ready for the night, I asked the lady running the small but cozy place, known as, Catfish Inn, if she could bring some food up to my room and headed upstairs. When I stepped into my room, there was already a man sleeping on one side of the bed, this was normal for inn's everywhere. I took my jacket off and laid down on the opposite side of him. When I woke up in the morning, the man was gone, and the food I had asked for last night was sitting on the nightstand next to me, freezing cold.

"Today is the day I find out the truth", I thought to myself, I stood up and pulled my boots on.

Stepping out of the inn, I noticed the air was cold, very cold, and my breath freezing in the air told me this. The small town I was in had very rugged gravel paths leading through the tiny buildings scattered around the riverbank.

"Where could he be", I muttered out loud.

"Who?", a voice behind me said. I jumped, not expecting someone to answer. Once I realized there was just someone standing behind me, I said, "The bearded man.". The strangely familiar man standing behind me had a beard, a long beard that reached past his waist.

"Do I know you?", I asked. The strange man said no and walked away. I wondered why the man seemed so familiar to me and walked down the path looking for someone so I could ask about him. As I walked throughout the village, I realized that it was basically deserted, besides the strange man of course. I turned out of a small alleyway and saw the strange man again, this time walking towards the docks. I followed and attempted to talk to him again, as I moved, I thought that my feet were getting heavier and heavier. "What's happening?", I thought. I attempted to call out to him but my mouth was frozen shut and suddenly, darkness was eating up everything I could see, my mind stopped working and I fell forwards. I was helpless and blind, the last thing I felt before I blacked out was someone gripping my arm.

\*In a Dark Place\*

I woke up from my disturbing slumber and realized that I was in a small room with iron bars across the only window. I stood up on wobbly knees and tried to move, my back was oddly sore in the spot below my neck.

"I see you've woken up.", said a deep voice.

"Who are you!; why am I here!"

"Jason, you know who I am."

"No I don't, I don't even know who I am anymore."

"Jason I am, well used to be, your."

The man stopped speaking, I tried to yell out but my mouth was frozen shut again. I couldn't move anymore either, everything was jumping around in front of my eyes. Suddenly, everything was flipped upside down and I heard a new voice.

"Mom, the power is going on and off!"

And that was the last thing I heard before darkness.

"Mooooommm!"

"Honey you'll have to find something else to do, the rain must have made it go out!"

"But I didn't get to save!"

"To bad!"