

# Starlina

By Ana Bolina

It was a cold, windy night when the monster was born. Born from the wings of the winds, born from the frost on the flowers, born from the misery of the people in the village nearby, the monster was here to destroy. The monster was hungry. It was ready to feast....

Meanwhile, in the village, there was a girl named Starlina. Starlina lived in a house by the woods with her parents and her older sister, Dawn. Everyone stuck together, for these were dark times. Life was hard for the family, and just when they thought that nothing could be worse, the monster took Dawn. The family was distraught, and didn't know what to do, except for Starlina. She left on one dark night. Thunder roared, but Starlina traveled on. After many days and nights, Starlina arrived at the palace of the Wind. She knocked on the door. A loud, thunderous voice responded, "Who are you, and what do you want?!" Starlina's voice was brave, but inside, she was scared. "My name is Starlina, and I am here to see the Wind!" The door creaked open, and Starlina could see the towering shape of the Wind. "Why do you want to see me?! Why is it so crucial you must wake me from my sleep?!" Starlina responded in her brave voice, "The monster took my sister. Have you seen her?" The Wind glared at her. "If you wish to know, you must answer my riddle." Starlina nodded. "You can see me, but never touch or hear me. You can approach me from afar, but I will always be the same distance away. What am I?" Starlina thought for a minute. "The horizon," she said. The Wind nodded. "They went that way. If you truly want to find her, take these gifts." And he handed her a golden knife with sapphires inlaid in the handle and a small leather pouch. "The knife slays any beast if told to. The pouch can carry anything you choose. Use them wisely." Starlina thanked the Wind and continued on her journey.

Eventually she came to a large cave, the home of the stars. The largest star flew out to greet her. "Hello, young Starlina. We know your heart is noble and we wish to help you." The star took Starlina to a spot in the cave where the path broke into two directions. One of the paths was filled with jewels and treasures, the other was a rocky road. "One of these paths will lead you to your sister. The other will take you back where you started. Choose wisely." Starlina looked toward each path. The golden one would be easier and smoother, but she had a feeling that wasn't right. So she started up the rocky road and came to a dark room. There were bars on the windows and the floor looked like it hadn't been washed in years. And there, in a corner was Dawn, all huddled on the floor. "Dawn!" Starlina ran towards her sister, pulling her into a tight embrace. "Starlina! I missed you!" For a minute the two sisters hugged, then they heard a deep growl. Then it became obvious why the Wind had given her the pouch. "Dawn, you have to get in here. Quick!" Dawn looked confused for a minute then stepped into the pouch. Just then, the door opened and the monster barged in. Starlina threw the knife at the monster, not knowing any better plan. The knife flew over the monster's head. The beast caught it and stabbed Starlina. Starlina screamed, expecting to feel pain that never came. Then she remembered what the Wind told her, "The knife slays any beast if told to," Now she knew what to do. "Knife, I

command you to stab this monster in the heart!" The monster roared with agony as the knife pierced its tiny heart. The screams echoed the room as the monster fell down, dead. "Dawn! Come out!" Her sister came out of the pouch, surprised. "We can go home now. The monster is no more." And so the two went home, where Starlina was greeted as a hero. And so the town lived happily, with the monster gone.

The End