

## **The Treacherous Climb - Tom, Year 4, QLD**

As I clutched the leathery reins of my horse, I looked back from a rolling hill towards Caronar.

Caronar is my beautiful and majestic home. It is in southern Europe, in a humble town, but also mighty. At least it once was. It was the prettiest town in the world because there was a magnificent river that mouthed out to the ocean with the most vibrant and brilliant flowers, and the scariest and spookiest forest imaginable. In between were interwoven cobblestone paths and tiny wooden rooftops where small boys and girls, and even toddlers, were playing all sorts of games using their creative imaginations.

My heart churned and ached to go on this adventure because I might not ever come back to Caronar, but I quickly discarded that thought. As I turned to my right, I stared Will straight in the eyes and said, "Are you ready for this Will?"

He replied, "Yes, definitely. We are going to crush it, Sam!"

I gracefully jumped onto the horse and gently pulled on the reins, then I left to go on our journey, and we never looked back.

The date was 10th of May 1639.

As the days rolled along, we were getting weary but then suddenly, a weird and curious thought occurred to me, then I remembered! That is why I was on this fantastic journey; it was because I needed to get the green shining gemstone! I was going on a journey to Brajawa, and it is a mythical, exquisite, and vibrant utopia.

As the hours rolled along it was getting dark and gloomy, so we decided to set up a tiny little camp just to sleep until the morning.

"Hey, Sam! I think that this flat plain would be an excellent place to camp, would you agree?"

"Yes! I think that this spot would be an amazing spot to camp!" I said.

It was a small, tiny plain in the wilderness with only a few scattered trees here and there, but it would have to do. As the hours rolled along it was getting dark and harder to see, so Will suggested that we make a fire.

"Yes! A fire is a great idea!"

We propped up the traveler's tent, but before we went to sleep, I quietly and quickly took off the saddlebags from both horses. I also let the horses graze on the fresh green grass. Then finally, together we went into the tent, and we got some much-needed rest.

We woke up from a quiet, relaxing slumber. I was feeling content, but then suddenly, we heard an awful noise, like a distant vibrating screech. It was coming from across the plain and the sound caused shivers to run down my spine. After that encounter with the noise, I felt wide awake, so I got up and out of the tent.

To my surprise, last night it must have rained so it was wet and drippy but worst of all the saddlebags had got saturated.

"Sam! You forgot to put the saddlebags in the tent!" Will cried.

"I am so sorry Will," I replied. "Damn it!"

"It's ok, but next time make sure you put the saddlebags in the tent!"

We packed up the tent and extinguished the fire. After we had done all the preparation to pack up, we put the saddlebags back onto the horses. We left the campsite and never looked back or returned.

A day rolled along, and I was getting tired, and my body was aching. The orange burning sun was glistening on my burned neck and I was looking for a sign of hope that we were heading in the right direction. Just then, I looked up and saw a gigantic white misty mountain, with streaming light and bursting clouds trying to escape.

Suddenly, I knew that this was Brajawa and I had to get up that mountain. But how...

My mind was racing, and my limbs were turning numb, as I thought about how I would get up the treacherous mountain.

Will suggested, "How about we use the ropes and the pickaxe from the saddlebags to get up the mountain!"

"Great idea!" I replied. "I'll get them right away!"

Just as I was getting the equipment from the saddlebags, we heard another vibrating shriek coming from over the misty mountains.

"What was that?"

"I'm not sure, but it sounds scary. Let's get moving as quick as we can!"

With that we started plundering through the snow all the way to the start of the misty mountains, but we were still 100m from the base. I was getting weary because taking every step felt like it needed a never-ending eternity of energy, but I managed to push on all the way to the base of the mountain.

As we stared back up, I was looking terrified and so was Will.

“Hey Will, are you ok?” I asked.

“Yes! I am ok. Really,” Will replied.

But inside I knew that he was not ok at all, and it was because he did not want to leave his horse behind.

We started by using the pickaxes to get up the mountain. Will was a better climber so we decided he would go first, then when there was a cliff in the mountain, Will would go and climb over the cliff and drop the rope, and I would grab it and use the rope to climb over the cliff myself.

It took a day, but it was worth it. Staring at the summit just 10m away, it was beautiful, and exactly how I had imagined it.

With light piercing the mountain and the fluffy white clouds trying to burst through, it was breathtaking. It was like heaven bringing down Jesus Christ or God himself. It was extravagant, beautiful, and vibrant. With luxurious green grass, trees, and glistening waterfalls, it was paradise, and a utopia even. At the top of the trees there were fluffy, milk-smelling tufts and at the bottom of the tree they grew juicy, tender, and soft fruits that burst in your mouth. The waterfalls were breathtaking and as you looked at the water you could see it glistening, with specks of light trying to pierce the water’s surface. The grass was so rich, thick, and moist and it gleamed as the radiating sun was shimmering down on the grass. It was truly exquisite.

“Hey Sam, I think I can see a glowing green light coming from that cave over there! Let’s go down and take a look.”

“Yeah, let's go.”

We went carefully down the misty mountain and then started to make our way towards the glowing green cave. As we were approaching towards the cave, we saw a dragon flying overhead and land on top of the cave!

“Did you see that?” Will called out.

“Yes, I did, and that thing was absolutely massive!” I replied.

“Let’s go and follow it!” suggested Will.

A day had passed along, and we were getting more tired by the minute. But then we saw curious footprints in the dirt, massive footprints the size of a whole tree trunk. I realised this was the dragon’s footsteps and he had come past here. They were still fresh, so we tracked him down by following his footsteps.

When we arrived at the cave, we saw the dragon and it was humongous! We quickly snuck around him and into the cave. But just as we had done so, there was an avalanche of rocks, leaving us trapped inside!

Luckily, we had matches, so we created fire and then followed the light all the way to the green shining gemstone! At the same time, Will and I both touched it, and we got teleported back to our village.

When we got back, we both looked carefully at the gemstone, and it said whoever had the gemstone will be granted 3 wishes.

First, we wished for our horses to come back. Then, we wished for our nation to become mighty. Finally, for our third and final wish, we wished to have a king.

In the end all the wishes came true, and the king was King Will the 1st.