

## Wildlife

“What a bad day for a nice holiday?” sighed Arthur, waking up from a warm bed and looking at the window. It was raining cats and dogs outside, with lightning and thunder roaring and howling angrily and flickering and flashing intermittently. Walking downstairs from his bedroom, Arthur was stunned to see the door of his house broken. Claw marks could be seen clearly on the broken pieces. “What kind of beast can do this?” He stared at the muddy footprints leading to the kitchen. Hearing the noise of breaking dishes, Arthur grabbed the baseball bat placed near the door and trembled with fear along the footprints. The mysterious sound sent shivers up and down his spine. Standing at the entrance of the kitchen, he saw two red spots sparkling in the dark. He then got frozen and turned on the light with his shaky hands.

“Jesus Christ!” seeing a lion appearing in his kitchen, Arthur couldn’t help screaming out loud. The baseball bat dropped on the floor. “Humans..... are..... Evil!” The lion stared at the man shaking in fright in front of it with a loathing face. It growled loudly with his gigantic mouth and pounced on Arthur. “Wait, I’m not evil at all. I’m a good man! Please don’t eat me!” He cried like a baby when the lion reached him. “You..... you can understand..... what I say?” The lion stepped back and asked with an uncertain face. “Of..... of course,” replied Arthur, sitting on the ground and relieving. “You are the man in the prophecy,” the lion speculated when making its way outside, looking at the forest not far from the house. “What are you talking about?” Arthur stood up and followed the lion, wondering what he just experienced. “Now I must tell you a story about the prophecy.” The lion closed its eyes and memories came out of the mind.

Time chased back to half a year ago. Led by the owl hiding from the falling trees, the lion hid itself in a small cave. Seeing its friends being locked in cages and homeland being destroyed by those workers, it was furious that it could do nothing but close its eyes and feel the despair. “They are going to find us. It’s just the matter of time.” Owl the sage murmured when it was observing the tree-sawing workers. “Here take it, Leon. You must find a man who can communicate with you. He owes the power of saving our land. This scepter will sparkle if you find the right man. Now go!” Handing the scepter to Leon, it flew out of the cave and drew the workers’ attention to another side of the forest. Leon glared at those workers who cut down the trees massively for

building modern towers and buildings. It put the scepter on its back and tightened it with strings. Then it ran as fast as it could and headed to the city.

“So you mean I am the man in the prophecy?” Looking at the scepter glowing on the back of Leon, Arthur asked. “That’s what I mean. So will you help us?” Leon looked in his eyes and said. “If those men really broke your homeland into pieces and I had the power, I will definitely take that responsibility and help you.” Arthur looked back at Leon in its eyes and went into the house to get ready. After packing his backpack and stood up, Arthur followed Leon and arrived at the forest. Most of the trees had been cut down and transported away for building. It used to be full of crowds of animals and fruitful bushes. However, what only left here was dirt and silence. “Leon, give me the scepter and wait here. I will head to the base and save your friends.” After that, he took the scepter and went to the base.

Arriving at the base, Arthur hid himself in the bushes around the base. Military soldiers could be seen guarding outside. He then picked up a small rock nearby and threw it away from his location. After drawing most of the soldiers’ attention, he then sneaked to one of the opened windows and climbed inside the base. He quickly crammed into the interior of the base. Discovering the secret door at the corner, he opened it and found a staircase leading to the basement. He walked carefully downstairs and knocked the guards down. Cages were found placing there and Leon’s friends were all locked inside those heavy cages, including the owl. Arthur took out the scepter and read out the spell Leon said to him previously. “Laser beam, laser beam, give me power and destroy the dim!” He aimed the scepter to the locks and shot them.

When the cages were unlocked, it triggered the alarm system and all soldiers came inside and surrounded them. The captain reported the situation to the boss and got the permission to fire. “Open fire!” Commanding the solders, all of them aimed their machine guns at Arthur and other animals and fired. “Shield, shield, shield! Wield around us and get us healed!” Arthur threw the scepter to the ceiling and shouted. The gem on the scepter glowed and shield was formed around them. Bullets hit the shield and fell on the ground. Not soon, the soldiers were all out of ammos. Then Arthur held the scepter in two hands and ordered the animals. Rhinos and elephants ran towards the soldiers and bumped into them. Leopards and tigers rushed towards them and tore them into pieces with their sharp teeth. After taking all soldiers down, Arthur blasted the front door away with the scepter and led the animals back to the forest.

“Repair, repair! Bring this forest again with fresh air!” Arthur put the scepter in the middle of the forest and said. The trees went back to normal and the forest became peaceful once again. “Thank you for what you’ve done. Here is your present!” The owl took a pair of glasses out and gave him. “You can use it to look for secret animals hidden around the world.” Then what he heard lastly was the joyful voice sung by the birds.