

The Mountain of the Ages – Part 1

Triger warning: mentions of death

Ophilia looked up at the large, impossible mountain. Raya, her travelling companion, gasped at the size. Ophilia knew the climb would be near impossible, for they had come to the largest mountain in all the lands, the imposing Mountain of the Ages.

After a few hours, Ophilia and Raya, had climbed many miles up the mountain. Already, Ophilia's chest was burning, aching exhaustion filling her body. Her mind was clouded with a mist of boredom. She was regretting her choice to climb the Mountain, instead of voyaging through the Silver Strait, even if the boat trip would have taken a few days longer.

Finally, Raya, who had barely talked to her all day, called out that it was time for them to sleep. They found a small, secluded cave and Ophilia quickly fell asleep.

All night she was plagued with bad dreams. She relived the day her father had disappeared, the day her sister had died. She dreamed of the Queens of Darkness, the terrible witches who she was destined to defeat, conquering the lands, killing everyone she held dear. She dreamed of a terrible, scream like roar echoing across the realms.

Only the last bit wasn't a dream. Her eyes snapped open. Her nose filled with the smell of ash. The terrible howl sounded once again. Blearily, Ophilia climbed out of the cave. The sky was pitch black, and a shape shifted across her vision.

Suddenly, her eyes adjusted to the darkness. She let out a silent scream of terror. A dragon, larger than any creature she had ever seen smothered the horizon. Its eyes, each the size of a small village, glowed almost as bright as the torrent of flame spewing from its colossal jaws. The glaciers stretching across the kingdom of snow began to melt, revealing long forgotten forests and fields, uncovered after thousands of years of imprisonment deep below the ice.

Ophilia watched in horror as villages she had travelled through were burnt to ashes. She thought of the thousands of innocent people the dragon was killing. Then, with a sinking feeling of horror, she realized the dragon was headed directly at her.

She ran back into the cave, screaming at Raya to wake up. He sat up groggily, before he saw what was happening outside. He leapt to his feet. Hand-in-hand, they ran deeper into the cave, weaving through tunnels as the beast tore off sections of the Mountain, screeching for her blood. She wondered in the back of her mind, why it was she the dragon was looking for?

In her distraction, she did not notice Raya suddenly halt, and not hearing him call out to her to stop, she went flying off a ledge, disappearing deep into the darkness, the speed of her seemingly endless fall stealing away her consciousness as the world went to black.