

Writing Sample – Epic Fantasy

The Adventures of the Dehmon

Jolahd watched as the world around him seemed to spin in a violent blur. Shaking his head, it seemed to move in a motion mixture of pain and slow yelling. Ally grabbed his shoulder, dragging him behind the stone gravel of the Dovish wall.

Jake held his shield over Jolahd's head as the molten fire spewed out above them, the heat painfully searing his exposed skin. Jolahd yanked himself up on his oak staff to look at the behemoth dragon besieging the Dovish kingdom.

Ally began firing arrows rapidly to distract the dragon as Jolahd opened the leather-bound tome to speak the blood written spells. The dragon turned its head at him, the acid dripping off of its teeth as its bellowing snarl blasted across Jolahd's face.

Jolahd's hand rose in the air as the words flew from his mouth, "Darkness fall upon this unworthy creature. Dehmon, slay this beast as I have commanded it."

Dark clouds began to swirl above them as the dragon's head bent slightly upward, watching for what would be an opponent worth killing. In a blast of lightning strikes and dragon screams, a beast fell from the sky. Before it landed, the beast grabbed the throat of the dragon with its massive hand and sliced through it with a swipe from the claws on its other hand.

The dragon fell to the ground in a rumbling quake and the Dehmon breathed heavily as it looked down at its new masters.

"Why didn't you call Dehmon out from the beginning?" Ally nonchalantly said as she picked up the arrows that were left from the fight off of the ground.

Jolahd glared at Ally, "Calling a Fae-walker requires a price. I now owe that Dehmon one undeniable favor."

Jake smiled, "I owe a lot more than just a Dehmon, just ask the women in our last village that I hope I'll never see again."

Jolahd was not amused by the joke and continued to glare at them both, "A Source User owing a Dehmon a favor is like taking the other world's contract and throwing away the restraints."

Jake looked over at the door, "Well, could he at least remove the... *whatever* barrier."

Dehmon looked down at Jake and bellowed in laughter. Then with one giant swing, the Dehmon blasted the door into dust and then levied its head low towards Jake. Its voice was deep and laced with a heavy Gaelic accent.

“Anything else little one?” Dehmon said with a wide smile.

Jake nervously shook his head.

Dehmon swung its towards Johald, “Now about that favor. I would like to collect before you become useless.”

Johald made a heavy sigh, “Yes, Dehmon. What favor would you collect?”

The Dehmon smiled brightly, “I would like to become your... *familiar*?”

Johald’s mouth dropped, “That’s it? You don’t want your commandment restraints removed?”

The Dehmon scratched its chin, “I suppose we Dehmon have a tainted image in your world. However, there are many from our world that guard this world’s deepest and most tantalizing of secrets.”

Jake laughed, “Ain’t that the truth? That’s what we’re paid to find. One treasure may save our need for gold in life but the challenge is what we live for.”

The Dehmon smiled as he used a finger to pat Jake’s head, “That’s what I crave as well.”

The Dehmon stood up and looked down at the headless dragon, “Do you know what type of dragon this is?”

Ally groaned heavily, “There are types?”

The Dehmon nodded, “We call these Nesters.”

Johald’s head swung low, “Oh Nexus.”

Jake laughed, “So there’s more than one, eh? Good and I thought we’d be excavating.”

The Dehmon laughed, “Oh no, these little creatures make it very easy finding what shiny and baubles there might be left in a place. You also don’t want to be caught in the nest though.”

The Dehmon turned its head back around to look at Johald, “Becoming a familiar in such a fashion would indeed have its weight unmatched.”

Johald looked at the Dehmon, “Please reconsider your favor.”

Jake looked at Johald as if he was insane, “Why in the world would you refuse such an offer? This guy could blow away dragons with a sneeze.”

Dehmon burst out laughing, “Your little friend doesn’t discuss Source agreements much I’m guessing. A Source user ties his life with a familiar.”

Ally mused, “So he becomes immortal... basically.”

Johald sneered, “Immortality is a curse.”

Jake raised an eyebrow, “A curse?”

Dehmon got on his knuckle’s on the ground to look Johald in the face, “I will not rescind my favor.”

Johald watched as the ghost shackles raised out of the ground and clasped themselves around his wrists. Johald looked down at the with fear.

“I’m being generous. A familiar can leave on the agreement of the caller. You can relinquish immortality when the time is right but if you deny my favor. You know what happens.” The Dehmon smiled as a chasm of twisted fire slowly opened up in between them.

Johald shakily placed his hand forward and the Dehmon gently shook it, “Glad to do business with you. Shall we get going?”

Johald sighed in relief as he watched the chasm and the shackles disappear from sight. The Dehmon walked through the open doorway, not bothering to wait for the group to follow it.

Jake began walking after him throwing back a smile at Ally and pointing at the Dehmon, “I like this guy.”

Ally shook her head as she followed them, “I don’t ever like it when we travel with someone Jake *likes*.”

Johald snickered as he followed them inward, “Indeed.”

The hallway was dusty and it smelled heavy with decay. Bones were lying around the entrance but every step Johald took, sent a pile of dust into the air. No one had ever made it past the dragon before and the group was now walking in uncharted hallways.

“Jake!” Ally screamed as she tackled him on to the floor.

Just as they fell, a wooden log came swinging down over them, missing them by just a few inches. Ally let out a grunt as she yanked herself off of Jake.

“How many times am I gonna save you from obvious traps? That was a twine thread that I saw when we entered. How blind are you?” Ally said as she helped Jake up.

“Hey, there’s a reason why I have a big shield okay? I couldn’t find my other sword.” Jake said with a quirky smile.

Ally made a swift kick to his under regions and as he groaned in pain, she continued, “Pay attention half-wit.”

Jake began to crumple to the ground, “Yea... talk... dirty... to me.”

Ally made an irritated grunt as she continued walking after the Dehmon. Johald grabbed Jake by the arm to help him up.

“You know it’s a bad idea to make her angry.” Johald said.

Jake smiled as he limped with pain, “It will be the death of me.”

As they made their way closer towards the end of the long hallway, Johald could hear what sounded like thousands of screams of torture. The Dehmon put its ear gingerly against the doorway and shook its head.

“You’ll want to go hide somewhere...” The Dehmon smiled uncomfortably, “master.”

Johald nodded and they all hid near the pockets of space in the door hinges. The Dehmon nodded, bursting through the doorway at the greeting of an enormous roar of shrieking screams. The Dehmon bellowed and charged in past Johald’s sight.

After a few moments, the shrieking began to quiet down. An eerie silence hung over them for a moment before the Dehmon appeared in the doorway, extending its hands towards them.

“Get on. We must move.”

Ally hesitated before she followed the other two, “Do we really need to get on the back of you?”

The Dehmon chuckled, “You can’t run fast enough.”

Ally held on to the straps of back hair the Dehmon had, “What’s coming after us?”

The Dehmon bolted into a run to make it out of the ruin, “Their mother.”

All three of them looked behind to see a massive snarling dragon almost ten times as big as the one that had been guarding the entrance coming at them with an open jaw.

“You don’t need to eat any more!” Jake yelled as he flung a powder bomb at the mother dragon, “Eat powder! Closest thing I have to rice on your new diet!”

As they burst through the door the powder bomb went off with a massive explosion. In succession, explosions around the entrance followed suit.

Ally’s mouth dropped, “When did you plant those Jake?”

Jake smiled, “Subtle hands baby. After we kill this fatso, I can give you a personal lesson.”

Ally glowered at him for a few moments before she realized the dragon was still coming after them. Jahold smiled as he looked at the other two, whose eyes went wide with worry.

As the Dehmon stopped to let them off once they got to a safe distance. Ally and Jake went to find some place to hide because they had seen that look on Johald's face.

Johald began to rise in the air as a torrent of rock began to whirlpool around him and flames began to engulf his body as the whirlpool gradually began to move towards the mother dragon. The Dehmon cracked his knuckles and grunted.

“Let's kill this beast!”