

The Chosen One

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KAT

(exhausted)

We're... here...!

After a two weeklong hike, a young woman, KAT, and her small dragon companion, JAY, finally arrive at the Altar of the Winged Lion. The stone lion faces towards the edge of a cliff that veers over an unending ocean. KAT and JAY's village believes this sacred place to be at the end of the world.

KAT

We've made it to the altar!

JAY

And look!

JAY points a small claw at an opening on the back of the winged lion.

JAY

That must be where you put the rock!

KAT takes the precious stone out of her sack. The glossy rock reflects off the setting sun, giving it an angelic look.

KAT

I think you're right! I guess it's now or never, huh?

KAT

The village trusted me to return the stolen stone to the altar...
They said it was my destiny...

KAT

(elated)

And I can't believe it's finally about to be fulfilled!

KAT walks with pride towards the altar of the winged lion.

JAY

(pondering)

I mean, it's your destiny if we trust the village.

KAT hesitates.

KAT

Why would you wait until *this* moment, after two *long* weeks of hiking *quietly* side-by-side, to say that?

JAY

(thinking aloud)

I'm just saying! We don't know why the village chose you! We haven't ruled out that this is all some kind of trap.

KAT

(to herself)

...I have been wondering why they chose me.

KAT

(to JAY)

Could it be dangerous? To return the sacred stone to the winged lion?

JAY

Maybe it'll blow up.

KAT

BLOW UP?! No, that's ridiculous...

Kat collects herself for a moment.

KAT

..Unless a trap door opens and sends me off the cliff into the edge of the world where no one will find my body..

JAY

See Kat, this is simply too great a risk!

JAY takes the stone from KAT's hands. He flaps his tiny wings to the altar.

JAY

As your best and bravest friend, I'll just do it!

JAY holds the stone above the opening on the winged lion's back with confidence. However, he too hesitates.

JAY

...Do you think the lion will come to life and eat us?

KAT

I guess! I don't know!

JAY

Ok, ok, we need a new plan.

KAT and JAY are now a safe distance away. JAY attempts to throw the stone into the opening, which he misses with a THUD.

JAY

NOOOO!

KAT retrieves the stone and returns.

KAT

That wasn't even close! But watch this -

The stone hits the winged lion's butt and bounces off.

KAT

WHAT!

We watch a few more attempts to throw the stone in the opening to no avail. Each attempt the stone lands with a THUD.

KAT

Ok this isn't working.

JAY

Maybe we can just... Drop the stone into the opening? That way we're not ACTUALLY touching the winged lion.

KAT

Ooooh, ok!

KAT approaches the altar of the winged lion holding the stone. She hovers her hand above the opening and drops it.

The stone bounces off the winged lion and rolls onto the ground towards the cliff.

KAT

AH!

KAT dives for the stone but her THUD to the ground shoots it off the steep rock.

JAY flies off the cliff in chase and nabs the stone!

JAY

GOTCHA!

But not before hitting a few rocks on the way down.

JAY

AH- OOF, UGH, ACK!

JAY, covered in twigs and bruises, hands the stone back to KAT.

KAT

Hm. Do you have any honey? Maybe we can stick the stone to a stick and-

JAY

Maybe... We should just put the rock in the hole.

KAT

Yeah, you're probably right.

Kat approaches the winged lion altar, and with a sigh, presses the stone firmly into the opening.

The sky grows dark as a flash of light envelopes KAT. JAY shields his eyes as KAT slowly raises to the sky.

KAT

AH! AHHHHH! WHAT'S HAPPENING...!

The head of the winged lion appears to talk with KAT. He spoke calmly, though his eyes were a soulless white.

LION

Kat. You have done well to return the stolen stone.

JAY

Aaaaand Jay!

Lightning snaps out of the lion's eyes - barely missing JAY.

JAY

Mmmmm I'll be quiet.

LION

I see all. I am all. And I have watched you too, Kat.

KAT

...

LION

I've seen your bravery. I've witnessed your confidence, and your unshakable faith. I'm the one who told the village to send you here, and why I'm speaking with you now.

KAT

Gosh, uh, thank you so much Lion I-

LION

However. Upon arrival it took you and your tiny friend there an hour and a half to actually insert the stone into the altar.

KAT

I mean it didn't FEEL that long we-

LION

There's the saying 'Do it scared,' but perhaps you did it a little TOO scared.

LION

I was prepared to give you sick god powers too. Just absolutely mindbending stuff at your disposal. But perhaps my understanding of you was incorrect.

LION

Thank you for inserting the stone. Goodbye young one.

LION

(glancing at JAY indifferently)
And goodbye, talking worm.

The head of the winged lion disappears and the sky returns to normal. KAT is dropped to the ground with a THUD.

KAT collects herself and looks over at JAY.

JAY

I mean, is being a god really that great?

KAT

Don't talk to me for the next two weeks.

THE END