



Posy, Attempt 4: The Battle

By Joni Kouvelis

In our last story, Sir Justin Braveheart had accepted a challenge to slay an ogre to work of the debt he owed to Lady Chastity's honor. Little did he know, the scheming Lord Anthony had sent a score of other knights on this same errand--and none of them ever returned. Thunderhoof, (aka Posy,) Justin's faithful steed, overheard the plans of treachery while a groom was exercising him. Determined that his master would not meet the same fate which had befallen his predecessors, Thunderhoof waited for a chance to warn the knight, while Justin and his page, Eldred, prepared for the coming journey.

Eldred? Oh, that's cold. What did that kid ever do to you, Clairese?

And, as everyone can see, this nosy horse is still editing the story.

Have you no manners human? Why, I wrote last issue's entire part for you! You should be more appreciative.

You stole control of my computer system and forced your ideas into my story! The only reason that text still exists, is my editor read it and liked it, and I can't explain you to anyone without sounding crazy!

Obviously the lady has good taste in literature.

Don't push it, Thundy. Disk errors have been known to occur from time to time. Truly tragic.

Justin walked around Posy, making sure the saddle was on tight, and the horse's armor was in place. Chastity's note to him, his favor, was safely tucked away in a tunic pocket. All the while, Posy was neighing and shaking his head from side to side.

"Calm down boy," Braveheart tried to soothe his mount. "We have faced more difficult adversaries."

Posy continued his discontented whining, punctuating it every once in a while with a stomping hoof, or a huge sigh.

Whining? WHO'S whining? It serves him right for not understanding a civilized language like horse! I was trying to warn the silly sap!

Yes Posy dear, we know.

"Travel in the direction of the setting sun, sir knight. The ogre's lair lies just over those hills," Anthony instructed as Justin checked the pack horse which bore his armor and weapons.

Now just a minute, Clairese. You can't have the lord give Justy directions! There's supposed to be a great quest! A journey! An adventure! Justin's supposed to find this ogre through wit, stamina, and perseverance!

Look, Posy, if Anthony has sent a dozen or so knights after Quigley the Ogre, surely he'd have noticed which direction they went when they disappeared.

But...

Besides, this is Justin we're talking about. Thanks to you he's gotten a reputation for being a little air-headed. In any case, he'll need all the help he can get.

True. Okay, Clairese, we'll do it your way for now.

Thank you. Now go file your hooves or something. Justin and Eldred rode in the direction of the setting sun for three days, stopping every once in a while for pit stops and directions from an occasional peasant. On the dawn of the fourth day, Justin reined Posy in and pointed silently ahead. Eldred followed his master's hand, and through the early morning mist he saw a great cliffside, with several caves above a narrow valley. They had found the ogre's lair.

Bah! Some quest! One whole paragraph!

Hush, horse, or I'll change the ending I have in mind for this story.

Oh? And what might that be, pray tell?

None of your business. Now if you'll excuse me, I have a story to tell here.

Quigley the Ogre looked out of his cave, and spied the little party which was nearing his domain. "Not again," he thought in exasperation. "When Anthony learn? No puny knight defeat Quigley!" He watched the nearing knight and page, then decided to try and scare them off. He took a deep breath, and let out a roar that rang off the distant mountains. The knight stopped, but he didn't appear to be leaving in a big hurry.

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Orbital Eccentricities



First of all, on behalf of Trek and Friends we would like to express our deepest condolences to T & F member, James Smith, and his family on the loss of his father, and we hope he can join us again soon.

PG: Now that official business has been taken care of...We've gotta secret.

JK: And we're not telling what it is. You'll have to wait and find out next issue all by yourselves. We will, however, give you some hints.

PG: It's about the DSE and it starts next issue. It's not exactly going to be like a traditional newsletter anymore.

JK: It will still be smaller than a breadbox. Actually, it'll be smaller than it is now, but it will look like it's bigger. It will still have the same 3 sheets of paper but it will have more pages.

PG: And our subscribers will be getting more for their money. That's always a plus.

JK: Yea, one whole staple more.

PG: We'll also be adding a table of contents and another monthly feature or two.

JK: It's new! It's improved! It's wonderful! Awesome! Stupendous! (Et cetera, et cetera...)

PG: Let's not get carried away. I don't think we can tell them much more without giving it away. Other than to say that we're both really excited about the changes and we'll see you in November. Hey Joni! Where did you say we could buy a bigger stapler?

For a good time, visit lovely Transylvania!

Players of
TSR, Fasa
JCE, Borg
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Interstellar Molecules

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Please send all correspondence to: The Dune Sea Express,

- * Star Trek: The Next Generation season #4 will begin around September 24.
- * Maniac Mansion a new series premiering on CBM in Sept. is made by Lucasfilm Television.
- * Several mail order co. are listing a book called "Travel Without TARDIS". This book is a travel guide for Great Britain designed for the Doctor Who Fan. It lists the location sites used in the series as well as other handy info. Don't be caught in England without it.
- * Quantum Leap has been renewed and NBC is moving it to Friday's at 7 PM CDT.
- * Cancellations include: War of the Worlds, Friday the 13th: the Series, and Freddy's Nightmares.
- * Producers of Alien Nation reportedly said they believe the show will be picked up as a midseason replacement, but they are looking into syndication possibilities.
- * A newly revived Dark Shadows series may be on the midseason replacement list at ABC.
- * Gates McFadden and John DeLancie both have roles in the movie "Taking Care of Business."

Posy

"It appears we have indeed found the monster's lair," Justin told Eldred, as the last echoes of Quigley's cry faded. Too preoccupied in deciding which weapon to use against the vile scourge, he didn't notice Eldred's violently knocking knees.

"Should I use my lance and my faithful charger?" Justin asked, as Eldred moved to calm the frightened pack horse. "No, no, 'tis not manly to have such an advantage over the poor brute. I'll face him on his own terms."

Eldred held his forehead, and Posy rolled his eyes heavenward in a gesture of martyrdom.

You've got that right, sister! Justy's only chance to actually pierce the ogre's hide would be the sharp lance and my running speed. Ogres have skin tougher than old leather harnesses.

"I know just the thing!" Justin declared, moving to the pack horse, and drawing his Greatsword. The brilliant length of steel measured five feet, with razor-sharp edges on both sides. "Just what I need to run the beast through," the knight beamed, testing the sword's weight with a few practice cuts. When he was satisfied, he turned to his page. "Eldred, attend me."

"M-n-me?" Eldred quaked. "Sh-should I not stay with the horses? Posy might shy at the sight of the monster."

I stepped on his foot for that one.

While Eldred was hopping around on one foot, and Justy was making his final battle preparations, Posy looked around for a way to salvage the situation. He spied a large pile of boulders on the cliff above the ogre's cave, and an idea began to form in his mind.

Justin lowered his visor and walked defiantly toward the caves, calling the ogre out to battle.

By this time, Quigley was so fed up with knights and fendal lords that he lost his temper. With another ground-trembling roar, he kicked the door off of his cave, and began working his way down to the valley floor.

Question. Would the cave have a door?

Answer. Yes. Reason, because I said so.

Justin ducked reflexively, saving himself from being demolished by the wooden projectile. Guardedly, he stood and watched as the ogre stepped out of the cave, and into the light. Justin could not suppress a small shudder of revulsion when he saw his opponent for the first time. He stood eight and a half feet tall, and was at least five hundred pounds of bone and sinew. His skin was a dead, yellowish color. The only hair on his body was downy wisps which clung to the sides of his head. His only clothing was a bearskin loincloth,

and his face was enough to make a strong man quail. Justin hardly noticed him at all. His attention was fixed on the ogre's weapon. He'd seen ships' masts smaller than the club Quigley was nonchalantly beating against his free hand.

Eldred tightened his grip on the pack horse, but wasn't quick enough to catch Posy. Muttering an oath, the page watched the charger canter away. He'd have to look for him later. Justin might need another weapon...or a first aid kit.

Quigley swung his weapon lightly, and began to advance. As the ogre neared, Justin noticed the club was liberally smeared with a sticky black substance.

Sticky black substance?

Yeah. Pine tar. It works for the major leaguers, it should work for the ogre.

Pine tar? Are you sure about this?

Yes. Baseball players can swear it no more than eighteen inches from the bottom of their bats. Quigley isn't hampered by that little restriction. It improves the grip on the bat. Capice?

If you say so.



I do.

Justin swallowed hard, gathered his courage, and advanced on the ogre. Quigley sidestepped Justin's first blow, and retaliated with a powerful swing of his own. Justin dodged the strike, and crossed himself quickly with his free hand at the sight of the three-inch hole the club made. Recovering quickly, Braveheart countered with a sideswipe, and landed a blow that would have disemboweled a normal creature. Quigley only laughed at the small red welt left in the wake of the Greatsword.

"Tickle!" the ogre said, smiling a horrid smile.

Justin, shaken by the sword's ineffectiveness didn't quite move fast enough, and Quig's next blow glanced off of him. His armor blunted the impact, but he was still thrown seven or eight feet by the force of Quigley's strike.

I had climbed to a higher vantage point and was watching from above. I shook my head, and watched helplessly as Justin arced through the air, and rolled to a stop near the cliff face.

Reeling from the blow, Justin picked himself up, and readied his sword. He favored Eldred with a shaky wave before Quigley came running up, and the battle was on once more. In a flurry of blows, Justin got inside the ogre's defense, and cut his arm.

"Blood!" Quigley screamed as the warm liquid began to trickle down his arm. With a roar of rage, he brought his club down against the flat of Justin's blade, breaking off the end of the sword, and depriving the knight of some of his reach.

Call the monster squadi

continued on page 6



Anomalous Propagation

A.K.A. assorted things that showed up in the mail.

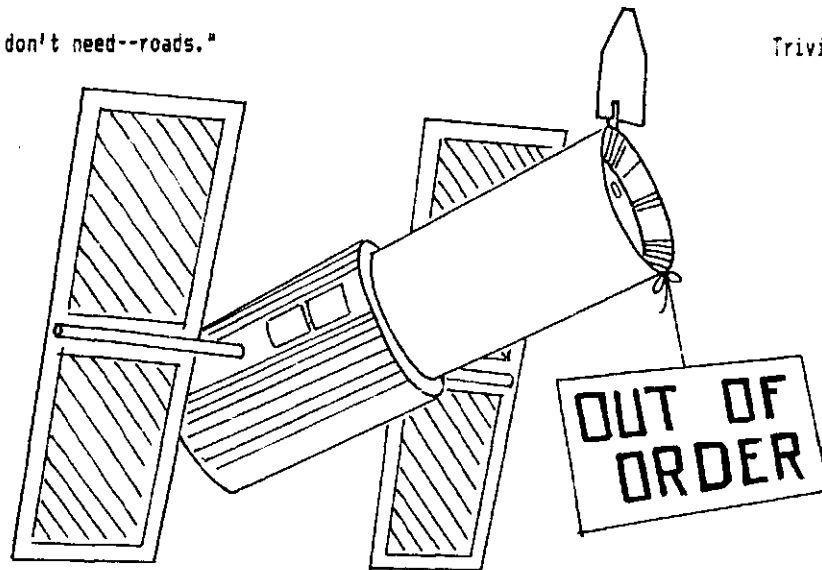


Identify the movies the following lines of dialogue came from:

1. "A commanding officer doesn't need brains, just a good, loud voice."
2. "Ninety years ago, I was a freak. Today, I'm an amateur."
3. "Sir, the truth is, I talk to God all the time, and--no offense, but--he never mentioned you."
4. "To be quite frank, Kevin, the fabric of the universe is far from perfect. It was a bit of a botch job, you see. We only had seven days to make it."
5. "I make it a rule never to get involved with possessed people."
6. "Man see--man do."
7. "A strange game. The only winning move is not to play."
8. "Roads? Where we're going, we don't need--roads."
9. "All the Universe--nothingness. Which shall it be, Pass-worthy?"
10. "I'm told that what we will hear at this end will be a high, shrill sound. That will be the Ambassador's phone melting from the heat of the fireball."
11. "This y'knows: The years travel fast, and time after time, I done the Tell."
12. "I've got four skin jobs walking the streets."
13. "I know I've made some very poor decisions recently."
14. "Quickly, Brad, there are thousands of lives at stake."
15. "What do you call the mouse shadow in the second moon?"

Answers are on the back page.

Trivia by: Ron Butler



No bones about it!

Hubble, Hubble in the sky,
 Got some trouble with your eye?
 Near of sight (or is it far?)
 Seeing spots instead of stars?
 Things like this remind us why
 Its best to test before we buy.





Checklist #1:

Doctor Who Novels: Part Three

This list of Doctor Who novels is in episodic order. the episodes that have not been novelized are included and the novels of missing episodes are noted as follows:

- 1 Missing episode
- 2 Episode that has not been novelized at this time.
- * The book title is preceded by Doctor Who and the...

Doctor Who novels are published by Target Books, the paperback division of W.H. Allen & Co. Ltd., London, England.

Peter Davidson episodes:

- ___ Castrovalva
by Christopher H. Bidmead
- ___ Four to Doomday
by Terrance Dicks
- ___ Kinda
by Terrance Dicks
- ___ Visitation*
by Eric Saward
- ___ Black Orchid
by Terrance Dudley
- ___ Earthshock
by Ian Marter
- ___ Time-Flight
by Peter Grimwade
- ___ Arc of Infinity
by Terrance Dicks
- ___ Snakeadance
by Terrance Dicks
- ___ Mavdryn Undead
by Peter Grimwade
- ___ Terminus
by John Lydecker
- ___ Enlightenment
by Barbara Clegg
- ___ The King's Demons
by Terrance Dudley
- ___ The Five Doctors
by Terrance Dicks
- ___ Warriors of the Deep
by Terrance Dicks
- ___ The Awakening
by Eric Pringle
- ___ Frontios
by Christopher H. Bidmead



- ___ Resurrection of the Daleks2
- ___ Planet of Fire
by Peter Grimwade
- ___ The Caves of Androzani
by Terrance Dicks
- ___ Turlough and the Earthlink Dilemma (part of a short-lived series of novels about the companions)
by Tony Attwood

Colin Baker episodes:

- ___ The Twin Dilemma
by Eric Saward
- ___ Attack of the Cybermen
by Eric Saward
- ___ Vengeance on Varos
by Philip Martin
- ___ Mark of the Rani
by Pip and Jane Baker
- ___ The Two Doctors
by Robert Holmes
- ___ Timelash
by Glen McCoy
- ___ Revelation of the Daleks2
- ___ Slipback (Radio episode made during the 1985-86 hiatus)
by Eric Saward
- ___ The Mysterious Planet (Trial of a Timelord)
by Terrance Dicks
- ___ Mindwarp (Trial of a Timelord)
by Philip Martin
- ___ The Terror of the Vervoids (Trial of a Timelord)
by Pip and Jane Baker
- ___ The Ultimate Poe (Trial of a Timelord)
by Pip and Jane Baker
- ___ The Nightmare Pair (episode never filmed)
by Graham Williams
- ___ The Ultimate Evil (episode never filmed)
by Wally K. Daly



Sylvester McCoy episodes:

- ___ Time and the Rani
by Pip and Jane Baker
- ___ Paradise Towers
by Stephen Wyatt
- ___ Delta and the Bannermen
by Malcolm Kohll
- ___ Dragonfire
by Ian Briggs
- ___ Rememberance of the Daleks (forthcoming)
by Ben Aaronovitch
- ___ Happiness Patrol (forthcoming)
by Graeme Curry
- ___ Silver Nemesis
by Kevin Clarke
- ___ The Greatest Show in the Galaxy
by Stephen Wyatt
- ___ Battlefield2
- ___ Ghost Light2
- ___ The Curse of Fenric (forthcoming)
- ___ Survival2

Have you tried the local Blood Bank?

This list only covers the novels. It does not include any of the non fiction books in print. More detailed information can be obtained from the Doctor Who Programme Guide by Jean-Marc Lofficier

List compiled by Pamela Girard
NEXT ISSUE: Checklist #2 begins listing the Star Trek Novels.

NOTE - The following is an updated list of novels that will be released hopefully before the end of the year. The month indicates the approximate time each book will be released.

- ___ Mission to Magnus (August)
- ___ Battlefield (September)
- ___ Ghost Light (October)
- ___ Survival (November)
- ___ The Curse of Fenric (Nov)
- ___ The Pescatons (December)



Suggestions for the Spacefaring Insomniac



by Sandra Provence Steele

The Pandora Principle by Carolyn Cloves
2 out of 5 possible stars.

The Pandora Principle takes place in the time before the first Star Trek movie and after the series. The Enterprise encounters a distress signal from a Vulcan ship. Spock and a group of Vulcan representatives journey to the tiny world called Hellguard. It is here that they discover a band of children who are the offspring of forced mating between Romulans and Vulcans. The children are violent in nature but the Vulcans decide to offer them a place with their families on Vulcan. One child didn't want to go but Spock convinced her that she should leave with them. Saavik is raised by Spock on another planet until she is of an age to join Starfleet.

Meanwhile, back on the Enterprise, Spock makes a decision to rescue an abandoned Romulan Bird of Prey. They tow the ship and its deadly (unknown to them) cargo back to Earth. The trap involves some very pretty boxes that have the potential to destroy all life on Earth. If you want to know more than that you will have to read it yourself.

Ms. Cloves overall style is very readable and it flows nicely. She has fairly solid characterizations and tends to tell the story through action and dialog rather than introspective characterizations. Her overall story concept is reasonable if you can forget that many parts of this story have been seen before.

So if I like it, why did I give it a two? Well... Ms. Cloves has a nasty tendency to ignore pre-established Trek history. Spock can't make up his mind about what rank James T. Kirk holds, and the title makes no sense.

The title "The Pandora Principle" has to do with a reference made to the legend of Pandora's box. Saavik, upon learning of this story, is still confused about the "hope" at the bottom of the box. The problem is, that in this story, there is no hope at the bottom of the deadly box. So what is the Pandora Principle? I don't know and I read it five times looking for the answer.

The Pandora Principle is entertaining for a light read the first time, but don't bother with the repeat reading, you could get lost in one of this story's gaping holes.

Answers to this months "Anomalous Propagation":

1. Forbidden Planet (Dr. Morbius)
2. Time After Time (John Leslie Stephenson [Jack the Ripper])
3. Ladyhawke (Phillipe the Mouse)
4. Time Bandits (Randall)
5. Ghostbusters (Peter Venkman)
6. Planet of the Apes (Dr. Zaius)
7. War Games (Joshua)

8. Back to the Future (Dr. Brown)
9. Things to Come (Oswald Cabal)
10. Fall-Safe (The President)
11. Mad Max--Beyond Thunderdome (Savannah Nix)
12. Blade Runner (Bryant)
13. 2001: A Space Odyssey (HAL)
14. Close Encounters of the Third Kind (Roy Neary)
15. Dune (Paul Atreides)

Necks R Us!



Posy

On the defensive now, Justin began to retreat, looking for an opening. The ogre was swinging wildly, aiming for his head. Unable to get inside Quigley's defense, or to get away Justin soon found solid rock at his back. Quigley had backed him into a sheer rock wall.

Eldred gasped in horror, practically hugging the pack horse now. If his master failed, he would be duty-bound to try and complete the mission. The page muttered heartfelt prayers, and tried to still his knocking knees.

I groaned and shook my head, unable to believe the predicament Justy had gotten himself into. I swear that guy can't help a little old lady across the street without me there to make sure he does it right.

Butt out, horse. You're ruining my setting. Justin nervously watched the club, as Quigley swung it into the cliffside. Dodging the blows as nimbly as his armor would allow, the knight searched for an opening.

"Hold still little fly," Quigley ordered, growing more frustrated by the minute. "Quigley smash you!"

"That," Justin thought, "is what I'm trying to avoid." Adrenaline spilled into his system, bringing fresh strength. Braveheart struck a vicious cut against his opponent's leg, drawing blood, but not enough to severely impair the ogre's mobility.

A lucky shot.

With another howl of rage and pain, Quigley brought his club straight down on Justin. In a move of desperation, Justin raised his sword to ward off the

attack. The Greatsword flashed brilliantly in the sunlight, and extracted just revenge on the club. Quigley brought his weapon down on the sharp edge this time, and found his weapon cut in two.

Another lucky shot! Jeez! I'm gonna have to take this boy to a gambling house.

"Clab!" Quigley said in an accusatory tone. "Little flea break!" His face twisted into an ugly snarl. "Now Quigley break you!" he growled, balling a king-sized fist, bringing it down on Justin's head, and leaving a large, ugly dent in the knight's helmet. Justin slumped senseless against the cliffside.

Eldred watched fearfully as Justin fell. He had neared during the fighting, just in case Justin could get another weapon. Now the ogre was pointing at him. The page dutifully retrieved another one of the knight's swords from the pack horse, but when Quigley turned his pointing hand over, and beckoned him forward with it, his nerve broke, and he fainted.

Quigley watched the other man fall, shrugged, and turned his attention back to Justin. He'd eat twice as well now, with half the effort since Eldred had saved him the trouble of fighting. Taking the sword from the knight's slack hand, he turned the device over, looking at it, and trying to decide if he could make some sort of can opener out of it. Knights tasted much better after they were shelled. He stood the sword up on its pommel, and fingered the shattered end, testing its sharpness.

So where's the part where I come in?

Right about now, Mr. Inpatient. While all this had been going on, Thunderhoof had been carefully working one of the boulders over to the cliff's edge. Quigley's banging had loosened the rocks, so this was not a difficult task.

I beg your pardon! That stone was twice my size, weighing at least a thousand pounds!

Sure, Posy. Tell us another good one. The boulder he selected weighed a good fifty pounds. Carefully he edged it to the lip of the cliff. Quigley was right under his! It was now or never!

So I kicked the rock on him already! Get on with it! Sheesh!

Okay, okay! The boulder flew over the side of the cliff, hitting Quigley square on top of his head. Just as Anthony had said, the monster was killed instantly by the blow. Lifeless, the ogre fell forward onto Justin's broken sword, impaling himself, and slumping by the knight's side.

Hey! You didn't say anything about that! Now everyone's going to think I just did it!

The editors have gone batty!



Well, that's show biz, Thandy.

Eldred revived a few minutes later, and stared in disbelief at the scene before him. Quickly, he ran to the fallen knight, and raised his visor. Justin was still dazed, but otherwise unharmed. Shaking his head in disbelief, Eldred carefully removed some of the knight's armor, and waited for him to recover his wits. "What happened?" Braveheart mumbled a few minutes later.

"You did it sir," Eldred replied excitedly, "you felled the beast."

Justin stared at the dead ogre for a few minutes, then said, "I guess I did at that." Brightening, he continued, "We must return to Lord Anthony's this very day, so that I may claim Lady Chastity's hand!" He leapt up only to fall dizzily back against the cliffside.

"Nay, sire. You're in no condition to ride," Eldred argued. "Besides we haven't explored the ogre's cave as yet. There might be treasures or prisoners--"

"Prisoners?" Justin echoed. "By the gods, yes! The brute might have fair maidens trapped in yon cave!"

Posy, who had worked his way back down to everyone, just shook his head and sighed. Justin would never learn.

Later, after everyone had rested, and the ogre's cave had been thoroughly scoured, Justin and Eldred came upon a shocking sight. Armor, no less than ten sets of it, was stacked in a little niche in the ogre's cave. Quigley had obviously kept the armor as a trophy of sorts whenever he defeated a knight. Justin picked up a breastplate, admiring the craftsmanship that had gone into the piece, only to frown a minute later. There was a piece of paper tucked inside. Curiously, he unfolded the note, and gasped at what he read:

"Sir Knight, I wouldst appreciate the pleasure of thy company..."

Justin put his hand over his tunic pocket where his own note from Lady Chastity was stored. "What is the meaning of this?" he demanded, turning on Eldred. "Did Lord Anthony set up all these poor wretches just to have them die trying to gain his daughter's hand?"

"Most of these knights were upcoming Lords who would displace him," Eldred said sadly. "Others were like you, sire, only pawns in his game."

"Then we must ride back and confront him with his treachery!" Justin declared, walking toward Thunderhoof and preparing to mount. "And I must claim my bride."

"No, Sir Justin," Eldred explained patiently. "For Lady Chastity is not Anthony's daughter, she is his second wife. If you returned to claim her hand, the archers would kill you in a 'hunting accident.' You'd be well advised not to go back there. The ogre is dead," Eldred coaxed when Justin looked doubtful. "Any debt you might have owed has been paid in full. Let us ride away from this place, and seek other lands and lords. Perhaps someday we can return and deal with Anthony."

You rang?

"I'm glad to see at least one of your heroes has some sense!"

Pleasant Night of the Wandering Souls...

"Perhaps you are right, Eldred," Justin mused as he scratched Posy behind the ears. "But this matter is not finished. Anthony must be punished for his crimes."

"He will be," Eldred promised. "But we must be better prepared. In the morning we can ride and seek those who would topple Anthony."

"With you as my squire?" Justin asked.

"You have my oath of loyalty," Eldred said.

"Something Anthony never earned."

Justin smiled and clasped his newfound partner's hand. "So be it." He raised his flask of wine to Eldred. "To all the battles to be fought," he toasted. Eldred touched Justin's flask with his own, adding, "And all the roads to be traveled."

Finis!!



Happy

Halloween!

