

KNIGHTHOOD for BEGINNERS



FLYSDOLAN

"...a laugh-out loud triumph."—Daily Mail

THIS IS FOR MOUTHWASH, SNAKES AND
LADDERS, ANYONE WEARING A SPECIAL HAT,
AND EVERYONE WHO'S AS DYSLEXIC AS I AM.



Silver Dolphin

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FROM THE
SUPER CRAZY MIND OF

ELYS DOLAN



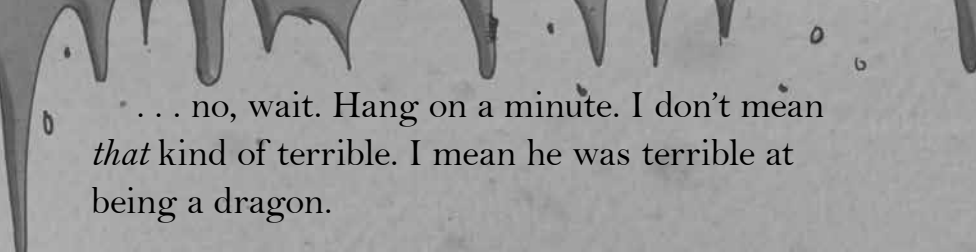
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Prologue

There was once a dragon. A dragon called Dave. He lived high in the mountains surrounded by the bones of those who had dared to trespass near the dragons' caves. He was the most terrible of dragons, with scales, and teeth, and horns, and feet ...



... no, wait. Hang on a minute. I don't mean *that* kind of terrible. I mean he was terrible at being a dragon.

You see, all dragons must abide by Dragon Lore.

A dragon must hoard gold, gems, and all riches.
He must manage it wisely and keep it tidy.

- A dragon shall tell riddle after riddle with vigor!

A dragon must feast on nothing but villages.

A dragon must knit, because of all crafts,
knitting is the fiercest..

To be honest, no one really understands about the knitting thing, but they do it anyway because that's the way it's always been.

Every dragon must master the Lore by the time they come of age and take their Dragon Test. When he's passed the test a young dragon will receive his certificate and become a fully licensed dragon.

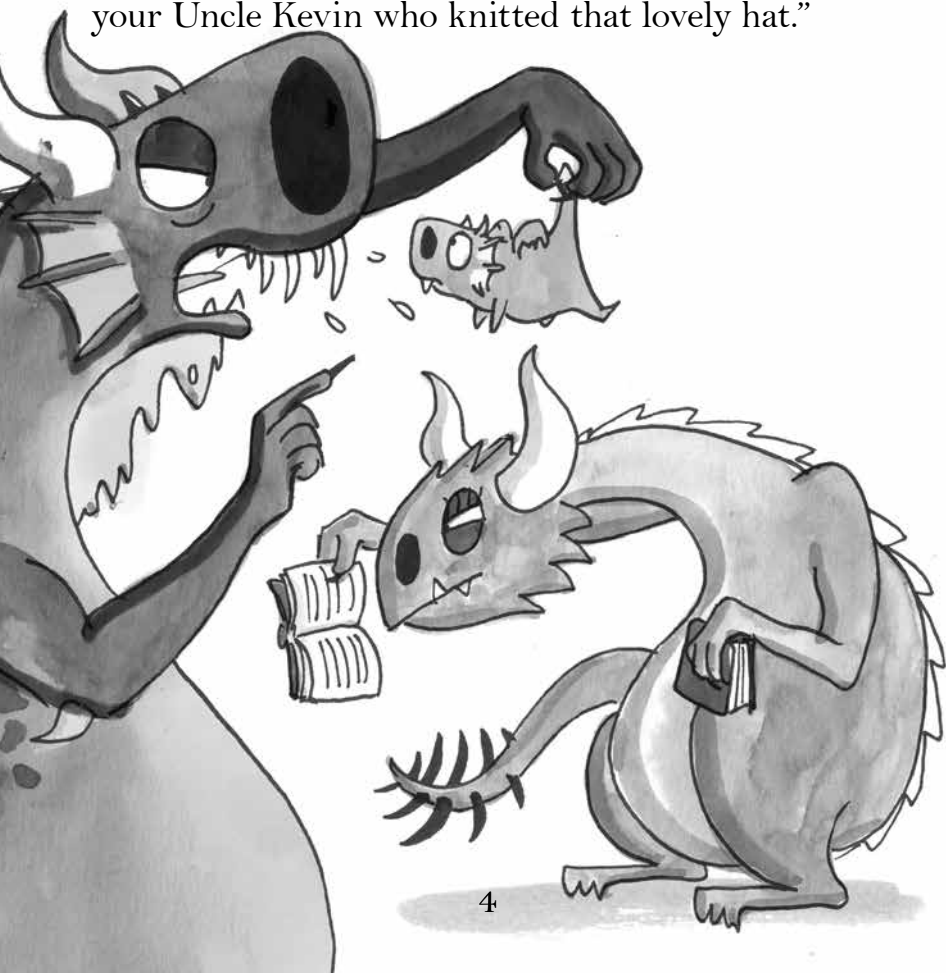
No one has ever failed.
But Dave might be the first.

He'd been up all night studying, and first thing
that morning Dave's parents came in and said



they needed to have a “serious talk.”

“Listen Dave,” said his fearsome father. “As you know, you come from a very old dragon family. We’re a proud line of the most dragony of dragons. There was your grandfather who had the biggest hoard since records began, Cousin Myrtle who once ate six villages in a row, and your Uncle Kevin who knitted that lovely hat.”



“What we’re trying to say,” said Dave’s massive green mother, “is that you’ve had the finest education, the best knitting tutor a gold hoard can buy, we’ve taken you to gourmet villages, and taught you our most cryptic riddles. We’ve tried our best to make sure you’re ready, but your father and I both know you’ve never been the most talented dragon.”

“You spend too much time reading those books and not enough time actually being a dragon!” said Father.

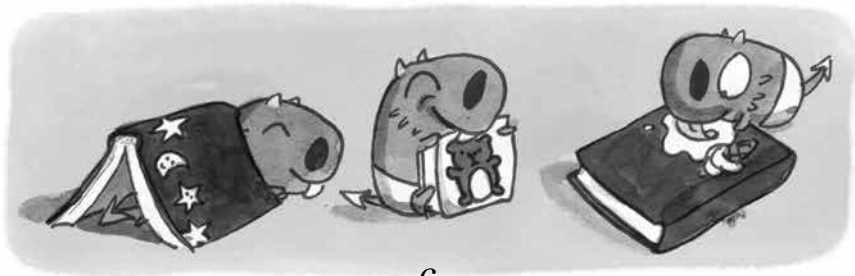
Dave has a thing about books. It all started when Dave was a baby and his parents went on a village-tasting tour. They left him with his Great Aunt Maud, who was a librarian. (Even dragons need librarians.)



That's it Dave, you get your teeth stuck into enough books and there's nothing they can't solve.



It had a big effect on him.



And ever since then, Dave feels about books the way everyone else feels about their favorite teddy bear. If they're not a dragon.

Dave's father bent down and looked him in the eye. "When did you last set fire to anything?! Have you eaten a single village? And you never even finished knitting that pom-pom hat..."

Mother shot Father a stern look. "Now, Rupert, we said we were going to be calm about this. David, today is your Dragon Test and it's very important to us that you get your certificate."

"Get out there and eat a village, son," said Father.

"And don't forget your yarn!" said Mother.



Lunge and stretch
and lunge and ...

I always
do my
squats
before
knitting.



“Assume your positions!” yelled the Dragon Test examiner.

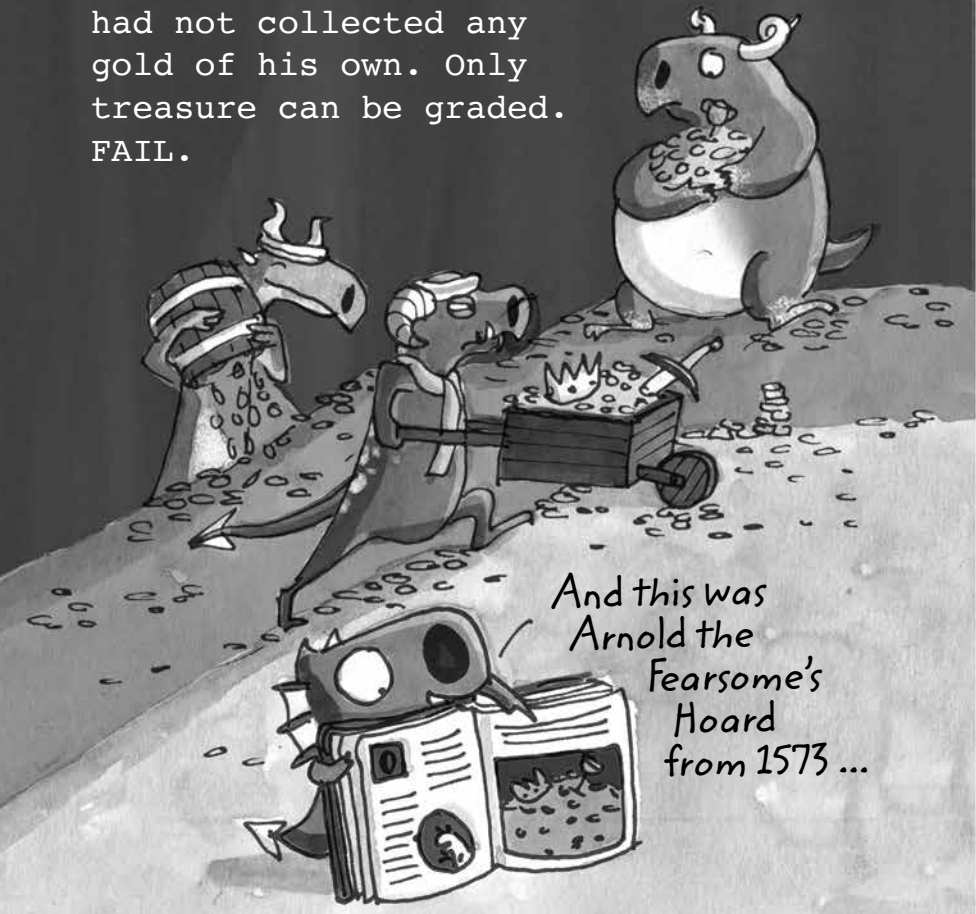
Yes, I did knit
this leotard
myself just
this
morning.



Dave looked at the other dragons. Maybe I don't have much experience, but I've read EVERY book there is, he thought. How bad can it be?

It turned out to be pretty terrible. Here are some snippets from Dave's report card:

Hoard Management: Dave was very well informed about hoard history but had not collected any gold of his own. Only treasure can be graded. FAIL.



And this was
Arnold the
Fearsome's
Hoard
from 1573 ...

Basic Knitting Skills: Dave's attempts were enthusiastic but ineffective.
FAIL.

Riddling 101:

Dave was unable to say his riddle due to stage fright. He was asked to get down before he had a little accident.

FAIL.



Village Digestion: Dave did not manage to eat any of the village despite parental encouragement.

He commented that "it made him feel sick." FAIL.





Pah! This is disgusting!
you eat this stuff?!

Just one bite Dave!

David if you don't eat your village there'll be no dessert!

And so Dave became the first dragon ever to fail to get their Dragon Certificate. He was devastated and so were his parents.



Dave had never felt so ashamed. Or so hungry. (There is no dessert if you don't eat all your

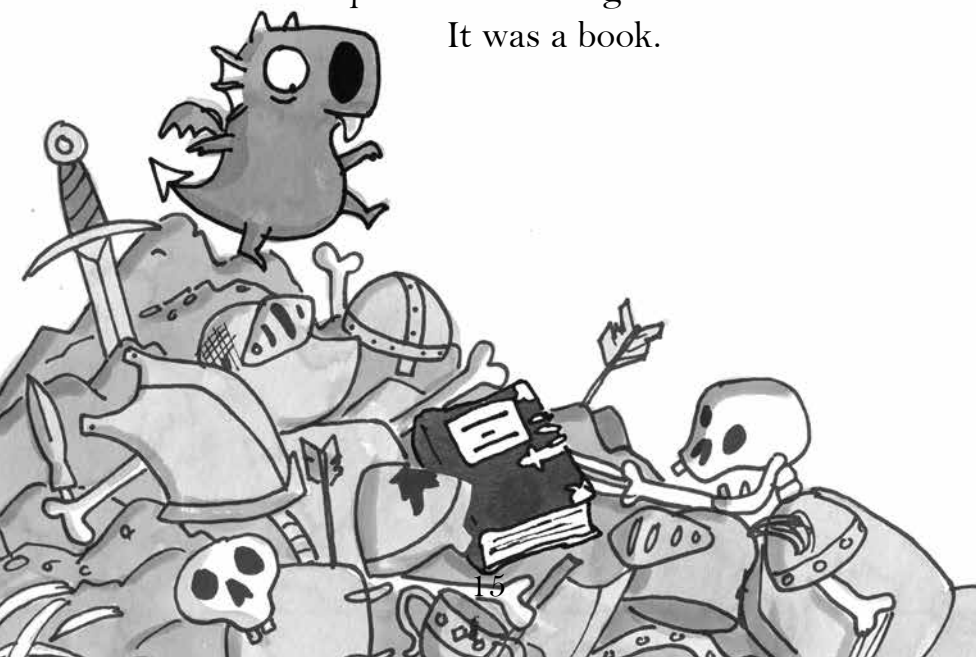
village.) Dave knew an uncertified dragon cannot remain in the dragons' caves, and because he wouldn't be allowed to retake the test, he would have to leave the mountains forever.



Dave bid his parents a goodbye that was both teary and snotty in equal measure, and made his way down, over the bits of discarded armor and charred bones of people who had foolishly tried to climb the mountain to the dragons' caves. He was just kicking away another helmet covered in tooth marks when he spotted something in the rubble.



It was a book.





KNIGHTHOOD
for
BEGINNERS

**50%
OFF**

We hope you enjoyed the beginning of **Knighthood for Beginners!**

Pick up a copy of the book and read the rest of Dave and Albrecht's journey!



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