Moving on or Death?

By

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The cabin had that eerie feeling to it. That could only mean one thing.

Laying in bed, Harden had the nightmare that felt all too real. It was the nightmare about when the sea monster that blended in with the night sky with its eyes and tentacles the only seen as it stomps its way through the village, picking up unfortunate victims and eating them or throwing them to the side like an unwanted toy. Harken had watched in horror as the sea monster picked up his family and watched their blood spray out as they got eaten.

It made Harden sit immediately up in bed with sweat covering his body. After taking a few deep breaths, he stood up and got ready. He walked out of the bedroom to the wall that would be known as his trophy wall. Most men would cover the wall with animal heads or trophies they won. Though when you lived on the coast, men hung something different.

He stared at the sea monster heads as they stared back at him, the ones who could, almost judging him, asking the

question, “why did you kill me if I wasn’t the one you wanted to kill”. The man didn't answer. He wouldn’t answer.

The heads were lit up by the candles on the wooden shelf below. The shadows covered the top of the heads with the light shining underneath.

Each head was unique in their own way. None of the heads looked the same: long or short mouths, no eyes, eyes in different patterns, long ears, tiny heads, large heads. Each one having their own story, as well as their own glorious fight.

Unique, he thought, just as unique as the people they must have killed.

The middle of the wall was left bare. This was intentional. Harden saved that spot for his sea monster.

Harden closed his eyes then punched the wall. It made the whole cabin shake. His shoulders drooped. Nothing fell from the wall because Harden made sure it was sturdy when he built the cabin himself.

As Harden walked to the front door the floor moaned underneath each step. He opened the door and looked up at the sky. His eyes saw the gray cloud covered sky, which indicated to him that this would be his lucky day. His ears heard the sound of the ocean with its waves crashing against the sandy shore and

the cliff. Harden took a deep breath, taking in all of the scents.

Today will be the day, he thought.

As Harden went back inside his cabin went into the other room that held his gear. There was a fishing pole made of wood from a tree on the side of a mountain that couldn't break because of wizard's spell, a suit of armor, and a large sword. He put on the suit of silver armor, grabbing both the fishing pole and the sword. He also made the sure a piece of cow meat was on the hook. A sea monster would eat any type of meat, as long as it was fresh and bloody. The helmet was put on last.

When he stepped outside, Harden made his way to the cliff to the west of his cabin. While making his way to the edge of the cliff, he thought about how long sea monsters have been alive, which was for a thousand years. They were like the dinosaurs that once roamed the earth, but unlike the dinosaurs, the sea monsters didn't go extinct. Instead, they flourished, tainting the waters and killing those unfortunate to get too close to the water.

He placed his sword next to him as he sat down with his feet dangling off the edge. Harden made sure the piece of meat was secured on the hook before casting it into the ocean below.

As he stared in front of himself, he saw nothing but the ocean with the sandy shore he could see just below his eye.

Harden waited and waited. It didn't take long before the fishing pole gave a tug, which was when he pulled it back as he reeled in the line. He then got up on his feet as he continued to reel it in, struggling to because of the weight of the thing. Harden noticed that the thing was reeling itself in, instead of him doing it. The sound of something emerging from the water filled his ears. He looked down the cliff.

Soon enough Harden saw the sea monster he had been hunting down for so long.

The sea monster had looked different than any he had ever seen. It had three faces. One in the front and one on the sides. Teeth and eyes stared at him. A smile formed on each of the mouth filled with sharp needle like teeth. Somehow the eyes, the color of the sun, smiled as well at him. The whole body was covered in bright purple scales, though there was a shimmer of blue with what little light there was, with tentacles along its neck, moving and wiggling around. The sea monster began to climb with his long sharp claws digging deep in the surface of the cliff.

Harden immediately picked up his sword then got ready to swing it at the beast as soon as it stood on top of the cliff. The sea monster was able to dodge the swing with its long neck. The sea monster attacked back at Harken, making him take a few steps back. Harden then took a swing at the legs, only to have the sea monster try to stomp on him as well as his sword.

Since Harden noticed that the sea monster had the high ground, he decided it would be best to have them be on the same ground level, so he made is way down on even ground with the sea monster stomping close behind him.

The battle would continue on even ground a bit north from his cabin. He continued to swing at both the legs and the neck, which he was able to leave a mark with its blue blood starting to seep out of the cuts at a slow rate.

Harden realizing that the sea monster was kind of holding back. That made him question what was wrong with it. Though the sea monster never tried to flee. It tried to use its tentacles to grab the sword out of Harden’s hands, but he was able to cut off some of the tentacles. They fell onto the ground like worms, and the holes started bleeding out light blue blood. The sea monster let out a loud roar.

He just barely could hurt the sea monster because of how smart and fast it was. He would swing his sword to the side then do an uppercut. His swings would create cuts in the sea monster's neck and the cutting off of more tentacles. Harden would roll as he swung at the body, creating even more wounds. The sea monster still fought hard against him. This was the longest battle Harden ever had with a sea monster, which meant it would make for a great story and putting the head on his wall would make him even more proud.

Eventually, he was able to weaken the sea monster to its knees. The sea monster's body was almost covered in their blue blood with their tentacles not wiggling anymore. This was his moment to kill the sea monster that destroyed everything.

The sea monster wasn't smiling anymore. Instead, it stared at Harden with acceptance.

Just as he was about to cut off the head, Harden heard five things splash out of the water. He saw the family of the sea monster. Some stood on the sandy shore with the rest in the water watching him. They looked exactly the same before the wounds Harden had created on the sea monster. They has three faces with their mouth full of needle teeth. Their bodies covered in purple scales and a tint of blue.

That was when he put himself in the situation, of his being the one laying on the ground bloody as his family watched, seeing if he would get murdered or live.

That was when a part of him started to regret for what he was going to do, for what he wanted to do.

He slowly lowered his sword.

Harden then saw it. These children will watch their parent get killed and would want Harden's head in revenge. He never thought about the sea monster having its own family. He dropped the sword. The revenge he once had pumping through his veins was gone.

The sea monster watched Harden as he walked back to his cabin.

It roared at him.

"Just go before I change my mind," Harden said as he closed the door behind him.

For the rest of the day, he kept saying how sorry he was to his family.

Harden took all of the sea monster heads off of his wall. He then buried them and as he did, he knew he was burying the the past.

It was time to move forward.

From the water, the sea monster and its family watched Harden.

When he turned towards the sea, he saw his wife and family look back at him.