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The King's Daughter

Once upon a time, there lived a great king who had an even greater kingdom. The kingdom was called Atheen and was known for its many battles won by the king himself, who proved to be a generous and kind leader off of the battlefield. The king had three sons and a daughter. His first son, Edward, was gifted with strength. His second son, William, was gifted with intelligence. His third son, John, was gifted with courage. The king loved all of his sons equally, however, he was most fond of his daughter, Florence, who possessed all three of these gifts. The king knew his health was failing and that the law would not allow his youngest child to take the throne, who he knew would rule the kingdom the best.

One night, he called his children into his room, "Children, there takes a lot more than being the rightful heir to rule a kingdom. To be the next ruler of Atheen, you must prove yourself. Whoever travels to Phantom's Cave and takes out the dragon, Solomon, will be the kingdom's new leader."

All of the children thought this to be fair, so they set out on their journey together. Though they encountered many goblins and trolls on their journey, they each made it to the cave safely. The night before, the three brothers grew jealous of their sister who was able to face

every foe on her own. They rose early the next morning and tied their sister to a tree so that she would no longer be any threat to them. Florence twisted and turned but no matter how hard she tried, she could not free herself. With nothing else to do, she resigned to watching her brothers enter the cave.

Edward was the first to enter the cave, he believed he could use his strength to take the dragon out. However, he soon was thrown out of the cave with such force that he was never seen again. William went next, and decided he would trick the dragon into ending his own life with a riddle. However, the dragon successfully solved the riddle and, since fair is fair, ended William's life with his fiery breath. John was the only son left, and since he had courage, he entered the cave but was almost immediately tricked into wandering further into the cave. It was then that Florence noticed that the rope holding her had been burnt enough to free herself. Florence entered the cave and knew exactly how to do as her father asked when she spotted the chain around the dragon's neck.

“Solomon, I do not intend to kill you. I see that you have been forced to stay here, and I would like to free you as long as you can provide a safe passageway back to my father's kingdom.”

Solomon graciously accepted the girl's offer, who used her strength, intelligence, and courage to take the dragon out of the cave. Florence rode upon his back as they travelled to Atheen, where her father was overjoyed to see her. The following week, Florence was pronounced the queen, which she continued to rule as with Solomon by her side.