

Pitchfork Freddie

In all fairy tales with dragons, there is a lot of violence. But dragons have feelings too. They don't want to be killed, and they also need love. Too much violence is not the answer; we can have a fairy tale with a dragon, which ends well for everybody. Isn't that nicer? ☺

Once upon a time there lived a king, Bartholomew, who had a gorgeous blonde 20-year-old daughter, Wilhelmina. The king wanted Wilhelmina to find a nice husband because he wanted a lot of grandchildren, but Mina didn't want to get married. She said she would rather play with her computer and hang out on social media sites with her mobile (she had the latest iPhone). King Bart was angry but couldn't do anything. Nevertheless, suitors kept coming to the palace: princes, dukes, heads of state, billionaires, politicians and mafia chiefs because Mina was absolutely gorgeous—she really looked like an angel—but she was not interested in any of the guys, even though they were quite good-looking.

However, one day a large dragon came and moved into a big cave on top of a mountain 22 kilometres from the royal palace. His name was Jeremy. Next to the mountain was the largest river in the country. Jeremy was single and he took it into his head that he would marry the king's daughter. 22 kilometres was no great distance for Jeremy because he could fly. He flew high above the king's palace and looked down. He flew so high that the people in the king's court couldn't see him. But he saw everything because he had very good eyes, like an eagle.

When he saw the princess go out of the palace for a breath of fresh air, he swooped down and snatched her. He took her to his cave, which was actually quite comfortable—it even had a hedge in front of it. Mina, of course, squealed like a piglet but to no avail—Jeremy didn't stop. When they arrived, Jeremy told her why he kidnapped her: “From now on, you will be my wife.” Naturally, the princess threw a tantrum, saying she didn't want to live in an ugly, filthy cave and how on earth she was going to play with her computer and mobile, and anyway, she didn't want to get married. Jeremy was getting fed up with all the complaints and thought he should do something. He had collected a great deal of gold that he had stolen from various places. He had about ten tons of gold altogether, worth more than 560 million Euros. He always carried the gold with him when he moved to a different place. It was a little cumbersome to fly with ten tons of gold but he didn't move very often. He thought he would have a small palace built for the princess and have electricity installed so that she could play with her stupid computer games and mobile phone. He sent a message to the king asking him to send workers, engineers and architects to build a nice palace for the princess—he would pay them decently. He also asked the king to send Mina's computer and mobile phone. The chick had a screw loose because her favourite game was Postal II (not the original 2003 version, but the upgraded 2015 version, which doesn't even have to be installed and has loads of new weapons and the many crazy cheat codes can be activated through a menu) but a princess doesn't necessarily have to be completely sane either. The palace was built, Mina played with her stupid game day and night but she didn't do any housework—poor Jeremy had to do everything. She couldn't cook either, so they had food brought to the palace every day. Mina loved pizza so she ordered it almost every day. However, Jeremy was getting bored of it.

In the meantime, King Bart announced that anyone who defeats Jeremy and gets Mina back can take her hand in marriage. He said he didn't care if she didn't want to get married—the hero who defeats Jeremy will be Mina's husband. Wow! Hundreds of good-looking and strong boys (and some girls as well ☺) went to Jeremy's palace and called him out to fight to the death. The dragon came out each time and asked politely: “Look son (daughter), can you see that big tree over there?” Then he blew such an inferno from his mouth that only a handful of ash remained of the tree. Because, like all

decent dragons, he was also able to breathe fire. Then he asked the boy (girl): “Would you perhaps like to end up like this tree?” The fact of the matter is that all heroes became so terrified of the dragon when they saw this that they all soiled their pants big time right on the spot, and ran away like mad, albeit with strange shuffling steps. They didn’t go back to the king in shame, but all went home, where they were cleaned up, and never went near the royal palace again. There were not many trees left near the dragon's palace and the dragon had to walk further and further with the current hero for the demonstration.

The king was very sad that he might never get his daughter back, but don't worry, the story will have a happy ending.

There was a peasant lad in the king's country, whose name was Pitchfork Freddie. He did not know about the challenge, because he lived quite far from the king (33 kilometres away). No one in the village knew about it either, because the king's messengers didn’t go into such a small village. But he somehow found out because the godmother of one of the village boys, Aunt Celestine, worked in the royal kitchen and told her godson the great news. And he told Pitchfork Freddie, or PF, as everybody called him. But why was PF so special? Well, because he had superpowers. First of all, he was very fast, almost as fast as the Flash. And secondly, he was very strong, almost as strong as the Hulk (you know, that big green chap). And third, he had amazing stamina. He amused himself by throwing a bale of hay over a wagon, running to its other side, catching it, and then throwing it back. He ran again very fast to the other side of the cart and caught the hay again. He played with this for about six and a quarter hours straight, but he didn't get tired after that, just bored. Sometimes, if he wanted a change of pace, he would throw the wagon full of cart up to a height of 5 meters, catch it and throw it up again. However, he usually got bored of this after four and a half hours. He also aimed very well with his pitchfork (which he sharpened as a hobby). For example, if a fly annoyed him in the summer because it kept coming back to him, he would get angry and stab the fly with his pitchfork in one lightning-fast stab. He once stabbed four flies with his pitchfork simultaneously.

Needless to say, PF was single. He always dreamed that he would marry an extremely beautiful girl, but there weren't such beautiful lasses in the village. He was already 23 years old—it was time he got married. When he heard that the princess had to be saved, he was very happy (because he had heard what a gorgeous chick Mina was) and started jogging towards the palace. He was there in about an hour.

In the palace, the king entertained him well, like the other brave heroes before him. PF didn't waste any time, he filled his face. He wolfed down enough food for 3 people, but he didn't drink wine, brandy, rum, vodka or such drinks (unlike the other heroes before him), because on the one hand, he was a teetotaler, and on the other hand, he hated booze. He only asked for peach juice and mineral water (without bubbles). As soon as he had had enough, he ran with his pitchfork to Jeremy, 22 kilometres away, and shouted for him to come out so that he could beat him to a pulp.

Jeremy came out and tried to scare him, he also put his nose clip on his nose (because the hero boys/girls stank like blazes after pooping their pants) but Freddie told him not to bother, he wouldn't be scared. The dragon did not want to hurt him, but since Freddie insisted on fighting, he breathed a huge inferno at him with a big sigh. However, Freddie was fast, in an instant he ran behind the dragon's back and stuck his pitchfork hard into the dragon's butt. The dragon howled in pain and took a huge leap into the air. As he fell back, he tried again. Again, he got a pitchfork deep in his ass. He roared even louder and jumped even higher. Now he got angry, he ran at Freddie and wanted to crush him. Freddie, however, stabbed his behind so hard (much harder than before) that poor Jeremy jumped two kilometres high. There, a huge storm raged above the clouds and blew the poor dragon thousands of kilometres away, all the way to Egypt. And there he splashed into the Nile. As he stuck his head out of the water, he heard a soft female voice: "Who are you, you handsome hunk?"

In the meantime, Freddie sauntered into Jeremy’s palace and looked for the princess. He felt his heart was beating faster. As he saw her, his jaw dropped. Mina was really the blonde bombshell she was

dreaming about. He was so astonished by her beauty that he couldn't say a word. Mina was very surprised too, because she had never seen such a handsome hunk before and she was sure that if he asked her to marry him, she would say yes. They slowly recovered from their astonishment and started chatting. They chatted for two hours about themselves, the world, galloping inflation, the conflicts in the world, Covid lockdowns and the wonderful humanitarians of the world, big drug companies (Big Pharma for short), which have an unblemished reputation and whose leaders are honest to a fault, and the American elections. They also talked about the unimaginable, deadly dangers of climate change and how it will soon mercilessly wipe out mankind. They panicked like good citizens for a few minutes and then sent a message to the king saying that everything is okay, the dragon is incapacitated or rather, he took flight, so they were leaving for the king's palace. They lugged the computer (and the mobile) home, except Mina got tired after walking for 175 meters, so Freddie picked her up and ran to the palace with her and her stuff. Barely 40 minutes passed and they arrived at the palace. They had a huge wedding the country had not seen before—they also invited Freddie's whole village.

But what about Jeremy? Who talked to him? Whose was the soft female voice? Well, the lady was a ginormous Nile crocodile, who had not found herself a husband because she was so big and strong that all the boy crocs were afraid of her. Well, they were right because Gertrude (this was her name) was ten metres long!

They didn't take long to get acquainted. Jeremy liked Gertrude very much. They got married right away and Gertie soon lay ten nice big eggs. The proud parents waited excitedly for the eggs to hatch. After some time, ten beautiful little winged crocs hatched out of the eggs. Gertie and Jeremy were very proud of them! Then they decided to move to Jeremys palace near the big river, where the crocs could play and swim. And of course, Jeremy's gold was also there. Freddie was honest, he didn't nick Jeremy's gold, and other people did not dare to approach Jeremy's palace.

As they moved home, word got to the royal palace that they were in Jeremy's palace. PF invited them to the palace for a big party. Freddie and Mina also had children: beautiful twin girls, Heather and Stephanie, and a boy, Matthew, of unusual strength (but they were planning three more children). Well, they had a party the palace hadn't seen before, which lasted a whole week, and the children became really good friends with the little dragon crocs. Everybody enjoyed the party so much that they decided they would come together regularly, and the next party would be in Jeremy's palace in a month's time.

And they lived happily ever after.