

A Tale of Three Monsters

Deep in the forests of Brockley, lived three young monsters. They truly were a sight to be seen, one blue with curly red horns, one orange with fat green claws and one white with long purple toes. All were small and fuzzy and all loved the internet as much as the next.

They had been friends since they were tiny and everyday, before and after school, they met online to play, chat and conquer the missions set out for them in each level of the best game ever - "Forest Fury!"

The only thing preventing them from completing level 13 was the Bridge of Cries, carefully guarded by the sea serpent. Now everyone knew that to cross the bridge you had to ask the sea serpent to grant you a wish, a wish that both player and serpent would be happy with. The folk of the land also knew that the sea serpent had been held under a curse, put upon him by the selfish sorcerer and hence the serpent had a terrible temper!

The three monsters thought carefully and the first one made his move. "What can I grant you and how will it help me?" asked the serpent crossly? "I would like to steal all the gold coins from every player, so that I am the richest player in the game - and in return I will share half of them with you!" "Your wish is granted" replied the serpent and off the monster went. The monster chuckled to himself, "I'm not going to share them, I'll be the richest player ever and finish the game fastest."

The second monster stepped cautiously onto the bridge. "What can I grant you and how will it help me?" asked the serpent crossly? "I would like to have unlimited ice powers please" said the second monster "and in return I will make sure that your river never freezes." "Your wish is granted" replied the serpent and off the monster went. The monster smiled to himself, "I'm not going to help him, I'm going to freeze every other player so that no one can catch me and I'll finish the game fastest."

The third monster crossed the bridge and faced the serpent, “What can I grant you and how will it help me?” asked the serpent crossly? “I would like to have a robe of invisibility, and when I lend it to you, your enemies will no longer be able to see you through the water!” “Your wish is granted” replied the serpent and off the monster went. The third monster grinned to himself, “I’m not going to lend it to him, when I’m invisible no one will stop me and I’ll finish the game fastest.”

The three monsters were pleased with their character’s choices and soon it was time for school. The day came and went and they were eager to get home and continue playing... only four more levels to complete!

The first monster arrived home and a terrible sight met his eyes. “Why are you crying?” he asked his mum. “I am so sorry” she said. “There will be no food for dinner tonight and no breakfast tomorrow because someone stole my money during the day.”

Meanwhile, something strange was happening at the home of the second monster. He rushed inside and was very confused. There, in the kitchen were mum, dad, his brother and sister all frozen to their seats like giant monster icicles. Even the cat and dog were frozen to the floor, mid chase!

This wasn’t the only house where things weren’t quite right. The third monster walked through the door, dropped his things on the floor and rushed to see his family, but no matter how hard he tried to wave or shout, or jump or yell, they simply couldn’t see or hear him... he was invisible.

The three monsters really were not happy at all, this was NOT how things were meant to turn out. They logged on to cheer themselves up and met online to play Forest Fury. On the other side of the bridge they started to chat straight away... “This is awful”... “Really

terrible”... “So upsetting!” they all agreed. “If only there was someone who could help.”

A rustling in the leaves caught their attention and as they turned around, a young boy came scrambling out from between the trees. “I’ve finally found you” he said, out of breath. “I’ve searched high and low, far and wide, over land and sea - thank goodness I caught up with you. I suspect I may be able to help.” The three monsters, astonished, looked at the boy and asked “But who are you?” “I, am the intrepid Internet Adventurer” he replied grandly, “summoned to help when your game takes a turn for the worse.”

The monsters looked confused but listened intently, the Internet Adventurer continued “And the three of you REALLY need some good advice. When you crossed the bridge and made your wishes, you only thought of yourselves. It can be very exciting, and great fun, to win a game but you made promises you weren’t going to keep, you were going to take things that weren’t yours to take, and most of all, you were going to ruin the game for each other and for all the other players. Would you ever do that in the real world?”

The three monsters blushed and shuffled their feet. “Oh dear” they mumbled, and as they told the Internet Adventurer all the things that had happened at home that afternoon, they realised their wishes had come true. “When you’re online, it’s not just about you.” The Internet Adventurer advised, “Do what you can to make every player happy.”

The Internet Adventurer left them alone to plan their next move and the monsters made a decision. They chose to finish the game together, working as a team; it was much more fun and far quicker too! They shared their coins and armour and during the last level, the game took them back to the Bridge of Cries - crossing back over was the last move to make. The three monsters stepped nervously onto the bridge and were amazed to see a beautiful mermaid swimming underneath. “Where’s the sea serpent?” they called over

the edge. "It's me!" The mermaid replied. "I was a player just like you; my wish to cross the bridge was thoughtless and selfish, just like yours. I was cursed by the selfish sorcerer who used to guard the bridge. He grew tired of people wishing for things that would make this game an unpleasant place to be, I was turned into a sea serpent and have been stuck under here ever since, which made me mad! I've waited all this time for an act of kindness to turn me back. When the three of you worked together and helped each other out, it was enough to free me from this dreadful spell, and I've certainly learnt my lesson, thank you!" The three monsters, who had now finished the game, gave everything they had left to the mermaid so that she could continue.

Back in their bedrooms, having logged off the computer, everything was back to normal. The first monster's cupboards were full of food, because the money had mysteriously returned. The second monster's family had fully defrosted and the dog was still chasing the cat, and the third monster was so happy to see his family again that he wouldn't leave them alone - in fact, they almost wished he was invisible!

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