

The Forbidden Land.

By Audrey Stringer.

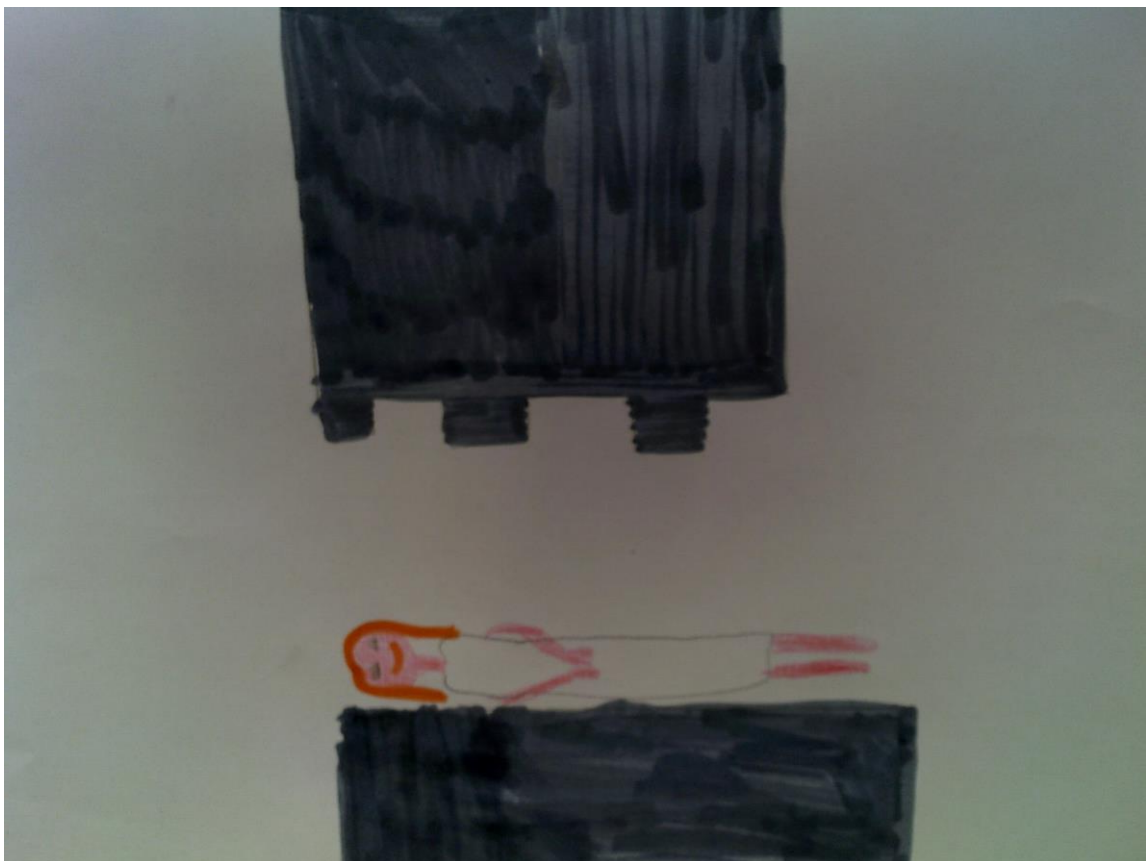
As the figure travelled over the rocky mountains in the middle of the dark night only seeing his path in the light of the moonlight he noticed, out of the corner of his eye, a white eagle with grey dappled on his wings perched on the branch of a mossy, dying tree. The traveller's eyes were the brightest blue and as big as the biggest sapphire and his ginger hair whipped against his pale face in the gusts of wind. The magnificent eagle guided the determined traveller through the Forest of Gloom where the most deadliest insects lived. The traveller followed the eagle through murky swamps and vast, grassy hills where the rain poured and lashed in his pale face. Finally the eagle had guided the traveller to a vast, old temple. In the magnificent courtyard there was a great building with intricate carved stones. Suddenly, out of nowhere, there was a blinding golden light.

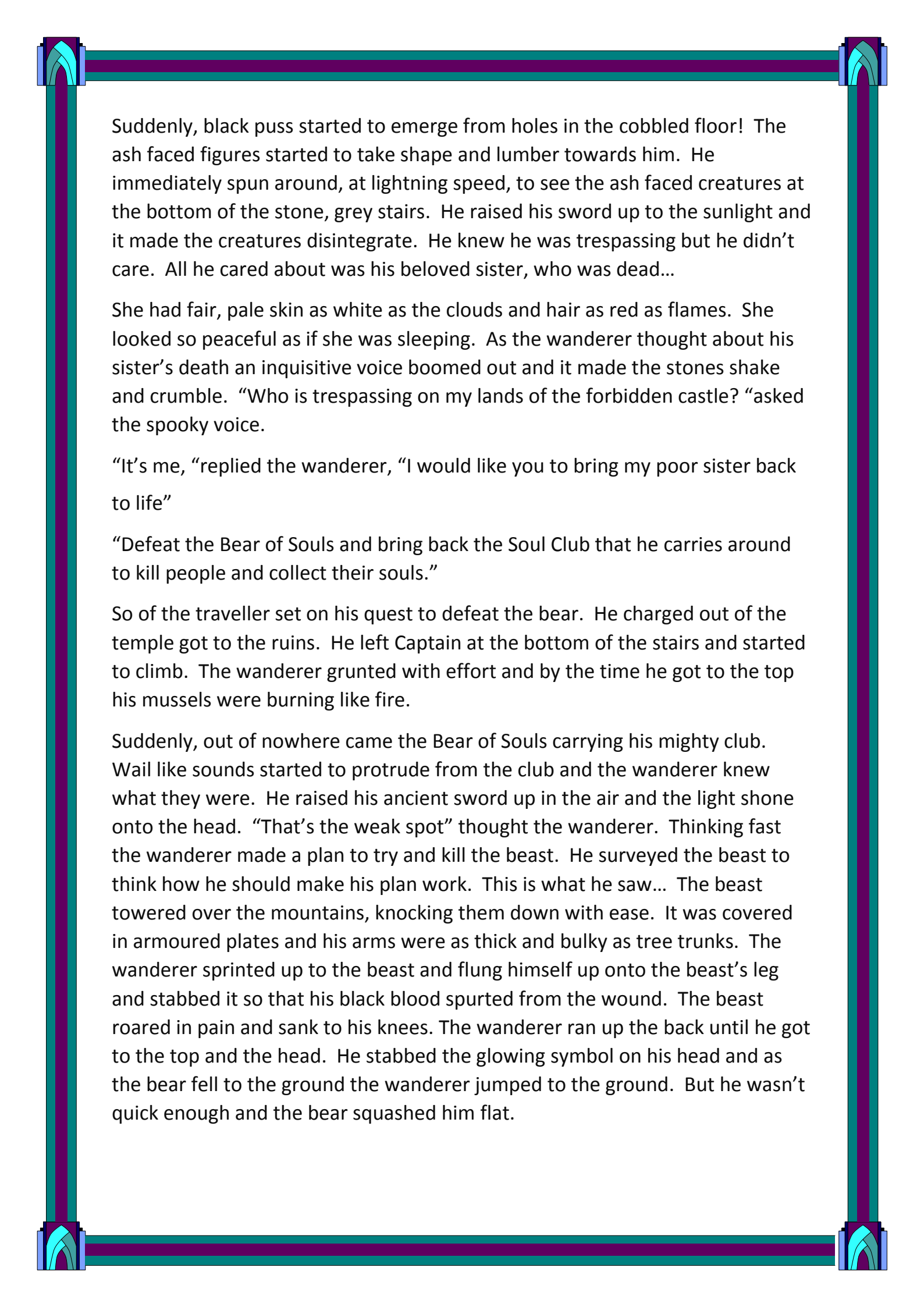


Against the bright light the figure saw a long, narrow bridge with arches that looked like the ribcage of a giant mammal. Each slab of stone was perfectly carved with an ancient symbol. As the figure looked down he saw the deserted land below him. The arches holding the bridge looked like the spindly legs of a giant spider. After fighting his fear of heights he managed to reach the stone door on the other side of the thin bridge. There were eagles circling the top most tower. They glided through the air effortlessly as if searching the clouds for prey.

With a clunk and a clank the silver grey door opened to reveal a spiral staircase. At the sight of it the horse, Captain, whinnied but the traveller steered him back on track. They went down the winding staircase and went around a pool of water with spikes around it. The water was crystal clear and the spikes were as sharp as daggers. Ahead of him was a holy altar and a shimmering beam of light cascading down from the hole in the domed roof.

The figure took a bundle of clothes of Captain and approached the holy altar. He placed the bundle of clothes on the altar and swiftly removed it to reveal his long-lost sister. He looked at her with tears in his ice, blue eyes and wondered if this would work or if it really was just a legend.





Suddenly, black puss started to emerge from holes in the cobbled floor! The ash faced figures started to take shape and lumber towards him. He immediately spun around, at lightning speed, to see the ash faced creatures at the bottom of the stone, grey stairs. He raised his sword up to the sunlight and it made the creatures disintegrate. He knew he was trespassing but he didn't care. All he cared about was his beloved sister, who was dead...

She had fair, pale skin as white as the clouds and hair as red as flames. She looked so peaceful as if she was sleeping. As the wanderer thought about his sister's death an inquisitive voice boomed out and it made the stones shake and crumble. "Who is trespassing on my lands of the forbidden castle?" asked the spooky voice.

"It's me," replied the wanderer, "I would like you to bring my poor sister back to life"

"Defeat the Bear of Souls and bring back the Soul Club that he carries around to kill people and collect their souls."

So of the traveller set on his quest to defeat the bear. He charged out of the temple got to the ruins. He left Captain at the bottom of the stairs and started to climb. The wanderer grunted with effort and by the time he got to the top his mussels were burning like fire.

Suddenly, out of nowhere came the Bear of Souls carrying his mighty club. Wail like sounds started to protrude from the club and the wanderer knew what they were. He raised his ancient sword up in the air and the light shone onto the head. "That's the weak spot" thought the wanderer. Thinking fast the wanderer made a plan to try and kill the beast. He surveyed the beast to think how he should make his plan work. This is what he saw... The beast towered over the mountains, knocking them down with ease. It was covered in armoured plates and his arms were as thick and bulky as tree trunks. The wanderer sprinted up to the beast and flung himself up onto the beast's leg and stabbed it so that his black blood spurted from the wound. The beast roared in pain and sank to his knees. The wanderer ran up the back until he got to the top and the head. He stabbed the glowing symbol on his head and as the bear fell to the ground the wanderer jumped to the ground. But he wasn't quick enough and the bear squashed him flat.

So the wanderer never completed his quest and he never bought his sister back to life. But he was always determined to try and complete his destiny.

