

THE SQUIRE RULES

By Eddie Zipperer

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CHARACTERS:

KNIGHT: An overweight Knight.

SQUIRE: A small squire.

PRINCESS: A beautiful princess with long hair.

SCENE: Outside a tower.

TIME: Whenever.

SETTING: Outside a tower with a window.

AT RISE: *A KNIGHT enters with a SQUIRE. THEY BOTH have green gook all over them. The KNIGHT is considerably larger than the SQUIRE.*

KNIGHT: That was disgusting.

SQUIRE: Tell me about it.

KNIGHT: How am I supposed to get all this dragon blood off my armor?

SQUIRE: Bleach I guess.

KNIGHT: Bleach? Are you joking? This is an Armani!

SQUIRE: I didn't know they made armor.

KNIGHT: Now that we smote the evil beast, we have to find the princess so I can rescue her from the tower... if she's hot.

SQUIRE: If she's not hot, you're not going to rescue her?

KNIGHT: Well, not personally. I won't just leave her there. I'll give the police a call or something. Or you could rescue her! Might be good practice. After all, you're not going to be a squire forever, and homely chicks are great practice for a real princess. Remember rule number 12 of *The Guide for Squires*: "If she's a 10 or a 9, then she's all mine, 8 or below you run the show." Are you writing this down?

SQUIRE: No.

KNIGHT: How many times do I have to tell you? Write down everything I say! I assure you every word is brilliant.

SQUIRE: Sorry.

KNIGHT: What's wrong with you?

SQUIRE: Can I be honest?

KNIGHT: Not if it will hurt my feelings. Otherwise, I welcome your honesty.

SQUIRE: Okay. Never mind.

KNIGHT: Well, go ahead and say it now.

SQUIRE: I don't want to hurt your feelings.

KNIGHT: Then you should have kept your mouth shut. Now I have to know what you're thinking so I can explain why it's wrong.

SQUIRE: Forget it.

KNIGHT: I order you to tell me, squire!

The Squire Rules - Page 3

SQUIRE: Okay. It's just I feel kind of bad for that dragon.

KNIGHT: What! It was kill or be killed! We escaped by a thread. If I had hesitated for a fraction of a second we'd both look like burnt toast. You should be on your knees thanking me for my valiant course of action! You've seen me kill a thousand dragons. Why do you suddenly feel bad about that one?

SQUIRE: I guess because he was sleeping.

KNIGHT: Go on.

SQUIRE: He was asleep, and you just kind of made me sneak up on him and stab him in the neck.

KNIGHT: Right.

SQUIRE: That doesn't seem wrong to you? I mean one second he's waking up going, "did you hear that noise?" The next second, he's dead.

KNIGHT: I don't follow.

SQUIRE: It wasn't a fight. I guess I feel like I should have woken him up, so he could defend himself.

KNIGHT: You never wake a sleeping dragon! Rule number 33.

SQUIRE: I know. I just...

KNIGHT: Is this about the credit?

SQUIRE: No.

KNIGHT: You think that you should get all the credit because I waited outside the cave?

SQUIRE: No.

KNIGHT: Because it was my idea to kill it.

SQUIRE: I know.

KNIGHT: You came out and said, "it's sleeping, what should I do." And I said, "tip toe up, and stab it in the neck." Didn't I?

SQUIRE: Of course. I'm not arguing that you...

KNIGHT: It's still my victory. I just delegated.

SQUIRE: I know.

KNIGHT: A good knight delegates.

SQUIRE: I know.

KNIGHT: Rule 41 says so.

SQUIRE: Forget I said anything. Thank you, sir, for slaying the dragon.

KNIGHT: Don't thank me. I just did my duty to God, my country, and all the 9 and 10 princesses out there.

SQUIRE: Speaking of princesses...

KNIGHT: I'm one step ahead of you. This must be the tower that the dragon locked her in. Let's call out to her.

SQUIRE: Okay.

(The SQUIRE reaches in his sack, pulls out a megaphone, and hands it to the KNIGHT who speaks into it.)

KNIGHT: *(Through Megaphone)* Princess! Come to the window immediately!

The Squire Rules - Page 4

(The PRINCESS comes to the window. SHE rubs her eyes as if SHE just woke up.)

(To SQUIRE) Looks like she's a 10. I'll take it from here. *(Into Megaphone)* Princess, I have killed the dragon that imprisoned you!

Please proceed carefully down the wall, so that I may claim my prize.

PRINCESS: I can't! It's too high and it's slippery. I've tried before. You'll have to come up!

KNIGHT: *(To SQUIRE)* I thought she said it was slippery. *(Into Megaphone)* I thought you said it was slippery!

PRINCESS: You're a brave knight aren't you?

KNIGHT: *(To SQUIRE)* I've just downgraded her to a 9. *(Into Megaphone)* I'm coming.

(The KNIGHT tries to climb the wall, but it's too slippery.)

(Into Megaphone) I can't climb the wall. Looks like some sorcerer put a spell on it or something. Go back inside and close your eyes. I'll reverse the spell and climb up and save you.

(The PRINCESS moves away from the window.)

(To SQUIRE) Okay, go get her.

SQUIRE: Yes, sir.

(The SQUIRE goes to the wall, and HE tries to climb, but it is impossible.)

It's too slippery, boss I can't do it.

KNIGHT: You're so useless.

SQUIRE: Maybe it's the spell.

(The KNIGHT rolls his eyes.)

KNIGHT: I'll refer you to rule number 58. No excuses. Take your defeat like a man.

SQUIRE: Sorry. It's too slippery.

KNIGHT: Let me get on your shoulders.

SQUIRE: Are you sure?

KNIGHT: Yes.

SQUIRE: Maybe I should get on *your* shoulders.

KNIGHT: So you can touch my princess? I think not. Remember rule 88.

SQUIRE: Sorry. I was distracted by the rules of physics and anatomy. *(HE sighs)* Hop on.

KNIGHT: *(Into Megaphone)* Here I come, princess!

(The KNIGHT is about to get on the SQUIRE's shoulders. Their size discrepancy should be enough to scare the audience.)

PRINCESS: No! Don't do that! Here, I know a way to help you climb up.

KNIGHT: *(Into Megaphone)* What is it?

The Squire Rules - Page 5

(The PRINCESS drops her hair down. It is so long it reaches all the way to the ground. The TWO MEN are stunned.)

Is that her hair?

SQUIRE: I think so.

KNIGHT: Gross! *(Into Megaphone)* Why is your hair so long?

PRINCESS: I've been in this tower for a long time.

KNIGHT: Still. It shouldn't be *(Into Megaphone)* How old are you?

PRINCESS: 26.

KNIGHT: 26! She's old!

SQUIRE: Aren't you 30, sir?

KNIGHT: Yeah, but I'm not a princess. 30 is young for a man, but it's ancient for a woman. Rule number 74.

SQUIRE: I think she's beautiful.

KNIGHT: What? Seriously?

SQUIRE: Yes. You say she's an 8, and I'm going to find a way up there to save her.

KNIGHT: You've got to be kidding me! She probably has split ends that are two feet long.

SQUIRE: I don't care about that. I think she's beautiful.

KNIGHT: That's because you're too far away. She probably has an inch of makeup on to cover the Grand Canyon wrinkles on her old face. She's not an 8. She's a 3.

SQUIRE: If it's all the same to you, I'm going to climb up there.

KNIGHT: Why?

SQUIRE: I want to save her and marry her.

KNIGHT: Why?

SQUIRE: Because she's beautiful!

KNIGHT: What's beautiful about her?

SQUIRE: She was going to let you climb up her hair so that I wouldn't have to put you on my shoulders!

KNIGHT: I don't follow.

SQUIRE: You were going to break my back, and she saved me.

KNIGHT: I wasn't going to break your back. Sure, I have a couple pounds of muscle on you, and you haven't fully developed into manhood yet like I have. Wait. What's this got to do with beauty?

SQUIRE: She has inner beauty.

KNIGHT: Inner beauty is just code for outer ugly.

SQUIRE: Get out of here! Find yourself a new squire.

KNIGHT: Whoa. This is a dangerous line you're crossing.

SQUIRE: Just get out of here!

KNIGHT: No, I've got to save the princess and marry her.

SQUIRE: What!

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