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Robert and the Gate to
the Dragon World

THE FOX KNIGHT

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Chapter 1:
The Book of Dragons

Robert, the once brave fox and knight, found himself in the luxurious but surprisingly boring halls of the palace.

Since he had defeated King Pelegat, life at court had become rather monotonous. Princess Luise had gone to live with her aunt at Drakenstein Castle, and the longing made Robert's days even darker.

His loyal friend, Timo the hamster, was the best example of the dullness of farm life. The once nimble and cheeky hamster had become rounder and more comfortable after discovering the royal supplies.

"You look like a fluffy ball, Timo!" Robert said laughing as he tried to tease the hamster.

"And you look like a bored, rusty knight!" Timo countered as he treated himself to another sunflower seed snack.

To escape the oppressive feeling of boredom, Robert decided to visit the local market.

Robert strolled through the narrow streets of the medieval market.

The air was filled with the smells of freshly baked bread, exotic spices and the sweet scent of honey.

Vendors loudly shouted out their wares while jugglers and musicians entertained the crowd with their performances. Children ran around the stalls laughing, and the clatter of coins and the shouts of vendors could be heard everywhere.

Despite the hustle and bustle, Robert felt strangely calm. It was as if the hustle and bustle of the market offered a welcome distraction from his otherwise monotonous knightly routine.

He loved exploring the different stalls, haggling with the vendors and hearing the stories of the travelers.

As he continued strolling through the streets, a particular stall caught his attention.

An old man with a long white beard and a hood sat behind a table full of old books and scrolls.

Robert stepped closer and began browsing through the books. His eyes fell on a particularly striking book.

The book was large and heavy, with a leather cover decorated with gold and silver patterns.

At the center was a sparkling red gemstone that glittered in the sunlight. Robert couldn't resist and carefully opened the book. The pages were yellowed and written in a strange script he didn't recognize.

"Are you looking for something special, young knight?" the old man asked in a rough voice. Robert looked up and nodded. "This book... there's something magical about it.

What is its story?" The old man smiled and replied, "This is a very old book, and so far no one has been able to read its writing."

Robert looked at him confused. "But everything is clearly written." The old man looked at Robert deep in the eyes. "If you can read the book, then it is for you. It contains a powerful spell."

Robert was fascinated by the book and couldn't wait to go home to study it.

Timo, who had followed him, snorted disparagingly: "You and your fantasies, Robert. It's probably just a recipe book for roast dragon."

On the way home, Timo never missed an opportunity to gossip about Robert's childish fantasies.

"You may be a king, but sometimes you act like a little boy who dreams of fairy tales and legends," the hamster mocked.

"You should really grow up and not be distracted by some charlatans with useless books." Robert, usually patient with Timo's teasing, suddenly stopped and pulled the book out of his bag.

"Read to me!" he challenged Timo. "Then we'll see if it's just a scam or if the old man was right."

Timo tried to decipher the characters on the page, but they didn't make any sense to him.

He looked at Robert in disbelief. "And you're trying to tell me that you can read this scribble?"

Robert put the book back in his bag and answered confidently:

"Yes." He continued on his way to the castle, with Timo following close behind him, his curiosity now piqued.

When they reached the reading room, Robert sat down in his favorite leather chair.

Timo deftly climbed onto his shoulder, his little eyes fixated on the book, excited about what they would discover.

Robert gently ran his fingers over the old page and his eyes fell on the title written in ornate letters:

"The Gate to the Dragon World".

He read the title out loud and felt goosebumps run down his spine. Timo, who was usually not easily impressed, also seemed moved by the significance of the title.

"The gate to the dragon world?" Timo repeated thoughtfully.

"That sounds like an adventure that even makes me curious."

Robert smiled and began reading the first lines of the chapter.

The words seemed to jump off the page, drawing the two into a world full of magic, mystery and of course dragons.

The pages of the book were old and crackled with every movement.

Drawings of creatures and magical symbols decorated the edges.

After a few moments of browsing, they came across a page that caught their full attention.

It was a detailed illustration of an impressive dragon.

It was written under the picture:

"The Guardian of the Gate to the Dragon World."

Robert continued reading:

"This mighty dragon guards the entrance to the magical world".

A world where legends come true, where dragons cross the sky and mythical creatures like dwarves and elves live in harmony.

But be careful, because they all protect a vast treasure so powerful that it can change the fate of worlds."

Timo's eyes widened in amazement. "That sounds like an adventure that could get even me back in shape!" he squealed.

Robert looked at his little friend with sparkling eyes.

"What do you think of this, Timo? Should we try to find this hidden world and maybe the treasure too?"

Timo grinned mischievously.

"Well, since I don't seem to have any cheese around anymore, why not? A little dragon hunting might be fun!"

Knowing that they were preparing for a great adventure, Robert knew they had to be well prepared. He went with Timo into the palace's huge armory.

It was an impressive place, filled with shining armor, shining swords and all sorts of other weapons.

Robert began carefully polishing his armor and oiling his weapons. Every piece of his equipment gleamed in the candlelight of the chamber.

"It's important that everything is in top condition," he said. "You never know what awaits us in the dragon world."

Timo was busy packing various items into a small bag.

It was amazing how many things he could fit into this seemingly small bag: from small vials of mysterious liquids to tiny tools and strange artifacts.

Robert watched him with raised eyebrows.

"Where did you get this bag?" he asked curiously.

"I never noticed before that you fit more in there than there should be room for."

Timo paused and looked at Robert with a mysterious smile. "This is an 'End-Never' hamster bag," he declared proudly.

"They date back to a time long gone and are passed down to hamsters from generation to generation. Unfortunately, many of these bags have been lost or stolen over time.

That's why it's better not to spread the word that it's one of those. You know how many thieves are around."

Robert laughed.

"Oh, you mean crooks like you who would even steal their cheese from children?" Timo looked at Robert indignantly, but then paused and nodded with a grin.

"Yup, that's exactly what I mean."

It seemed like he was putting everything he could into it, even things that at first glance seemed completely useless.

Robert watched him with an amused smile. "Are you sure we really need all of these things, Timo?"