

Heather and Will

Part One

Green Devil's Keep

Heather glanced up at the door. It was foreboding, made of solid black iron and covered in carvings Will assured her were harmless.

"You're actually serious, aren't you?" she asked, looking back down at the key.

"Oh, something like that," Will said cheerfully. "If you want, I can help push the door open. Now go on," he said, gesturing at the key and making a "put it in the door" motion. "We haven't got all day. I certainly don't know any time-travel magic. What do you think this is, *Fire Emblem*?"

"I don't know what the hell you think you're talking about, so we're clear."

"Don't have to. Just put the key in."

Heather groaned loudly, just in case he was curious as to what she thought of his idea. Then she picked up the key and fitted it into the door. She turned it to the left. Nothing happened.

"Try turning it the other way."

"Oh. Right." After she took his advice, the door swung open with ease. She pocketed the key and glanced at Will, who shrugged. At least she didn't need his help opening it.

The two entered Green Devil's Keep, but as soon as he walked in, Will stopped in his tracks and turned around. The door had begun to swing closed on its own, as he'd suspected, but it stopped as soon as he looked at it. He walked a few more feet, turned around, and saw it had finished closing.

Heather seemed to be ignoring Will. Instead, she kept walking, moving past a suit of armor as she did. Shortly after, it came to life and raised its axe above her head.

Will casually blasted the armor with a fireball before it could do anything. "Oh, man, I *have* to comment on how cliché that monster is. I mean, animated armor? What's next, an animated rug?"

Scratch that, I'm going to animate a rug myself and wear it like a suit of armor. Then it'll be both animated armor and an animated rug."

"Do you think random nonsense will make your imaginary audience like you more?" asked Heather as she peered around a corridor to make sure there was nothing on the other side.

"That's the hope, I guess." Will pulled out a piece of paper, or something vaguely like it. "Say, have I mentioned to you that I already had a map of this place?"

"You *what*?"

"Yeah, I got this map from a powerful mage who chose to retire and become a merchant."

"Give me that." She motioned for the map, and Will handed it over. "This seems to be a coupon for... McDonald's? Who's McDonald?"

"Oh, wait, wrong pocket, sorry." Will reached into a bag attached to his belt. When he took his hand back out, it was missing. "Hm! That's new. Hey, next time, remind me to make absolutely sure I bring the enchanted bag and not the cursed bag. And don't even bother with a Black Knight joke. I'm sure this will be well and truly awful for me when the shock wears off."

With that, he collapsed to the ground.