

courage of the heart chapter one take one

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"Hey shining?"

"Yes?"

"Are you sure this was a good idea? I mean the everfree forest isn't safe and i'm sure the center is the worst part." not to mention i hear

timberwolves out there" and who knows what other pony eating monsters are out there i think shuddering.

"crystal im sure we'll be OK after all we prepared for just about anything. Nothing is going to get us."

"if you say so"

for a while we walked in silence or at least as close to silence that the everfree forest gets. all the while i'm thinking of all the thing that are supposed to live in

here, like timberwolves ursos even manticores and who knows what else! its all i can do not to scream at all the strange sounds i'm hearing cant do anything about the

shaking in terror though of how silly shining must think i'm being its not like theres a

SNAP

LETS GET OUTTA HERE!!

"really crystal, its a wonder you ever leave the house if a stepping on a twig sends you in shrieks of terror." anyway look there a clearing up ahead we can rest there

have dinner ok? its going to be ok."

and indeed there was i was so focused on what might eat me that i hadn't noticed that it was get lighter till she pointed it out yeah dinner sounds good" "it's settled

then dinner then we can continue and we will be out here in no time.

indeed sitting down in the moonlight and eating help calm my frazzled nerves somewhat and we had such a wonderful view of the sky. for a while we sat and watched the

stars, then all of a sudden i saw a flash out the corner of my eye/ whipping around i search the forrest trees around the clearingbut couldnt find anything out place.

"um crystal what happened the mare shape on the moon?"

"huh? dont be silly you probably just aren't looki- wait your right. I don't see it, thats strange." maybe that was what the light was? but no the light came from the

forest. wait there it is again! this time i saw that it was coming from deeper in the forest but i also saw something else.

shining its time to go..... shining we have to now. panic was starting to show in my voice. dont be silly crystal we just got here. yeah but so did they. i said

glancing over her barral.

looking over what she saw stopped her dead in her tracks "you know i think your right lets go."

SNAP

"RUN!!!!"

We had to leave the supply behind as we ran from the timberwolves. Quickly we lost the path. Running in blind fear with the trees stretching our coats and crashing

through the brush we didn't see the cliff until it was too late. screaming we tumbled down the cliff face huging eachother and hoping nothing bad was at the bottom.

WHAM! Ah my old friend the ground we meet again! hello to you too listening i could not hear the pack so must have lost them at the cliff

"ok i think we are sa-" and there it was again, that flash of light

"what is it crystal?" "something flashed over in that cave, do you think it is the crystals we came for?"

"I dont know but we should get outta here before something else comes along"

ok okay it will only take a minute just gotta go in grab a few crystals and get out right?"

i went in without even giving her a chance to answer forcing her to follow. i am greeted by a wondrous sight

the cave was huge! it could have fit 10 of my shops inside and there were crystal covering the walls in every color or the rainbow somewhere the size of a pebble some were the size a pony and the moonlight coming in through a hole in the ceiling was lighting them up even more. from the gasp behind me i guess shining found it wonderful

also. and yet nowhere did i see the light that had brought me here.

ironically it was shining who found it.

crystal what about this one?" she said point to one the size of my hoof that was softly glowing. oh thats what i saw! can you grab it real fast im going to get a few

other from over here"

suddenly i hear screaming i look over to see the most horrifying thing i've ever seen. Shining has her hoof on the crystal and can't seem to let go. A mist is flowing from

her and into the crystal which is glowing more brightly than ever. Her eyes are glazing over and she seem to be turning grey, sobbing i'm trying to pull her away from the

thing, and then with a almighty boom we are blown backwards and I hear all the crystal shattering and crashing down around us as i am slammed into a wall. Darkness

takes me.

=====Edit
of original

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"drip" "drip"

I hear the water dropping off the stalactites and falling into the pools of musty water. "clip clop" "clip clop" the soft sound of my hooves on the cold cave floor. My progress as I search for what I have come for, they crystals "Snap" My head whips around at the out of place sound. "Shining is that you?" I call out. Something is off, not right about this cave. But I can't put my hooves on it. And that worries me. Worries me more then anything about this ill gotten night.

"Snap"

That sound doesn't belong in a cave.

"Shining if you're in here, be careful."

Im starting to think that we are not alone in here. The way that the air moves as if by its own accord. Back and forth, back and forth. The out of place sounds. The feeling of a malevolent presence here, like i'm being watched.....

And then, i see it. the detailed carving of a dragon. I move in for a closer look, entranced by the details, it almost looks as if it might pull itself off the wall at any moment.

And then I see it.

The crystals I've found them!

i light a torch and give light to the Crystals lying at it feet.

"shining come here, i've found them."

"oh you did? where are they shining ask? for that matter where are you? i'm lost.

follow my voice shining i'm over here.

"of there you are and oh whats that carving holding?

Just another crystal shining, lets get the ones at its feet no need to get that one"

and then it flashes and before i can stop her shining reaches for the crystal and makes contact.

in an instant her eyes glaze over, and she starts screaming. she can't seem to move i rush over and try pulling her from it but its no use her hoof seems to be glued to the crystal and then i hear a clicking sound. looking up in fear i see the dragon carving opening its eyes "snick" a fiery red and orange orb of malice pears down upon me.

I feel like a little filly again. cowering under the bedsheets at night, after my father told me stories of dragons and their treasure hoards. Of the cruel things they did to those that dared try to steal from them. I am unable to move as my worst nightmare peels itself away from the wall and advances upon me. its wings dwarfing a ponys in size and power. The rage in its eyes at what it sees me trying to do. And as it advances upon me, an inferno at its heart, my courage breaks and I collapse upon shining. maybe if it eats me it will leave her alone i think, then again maybe not

My only hope of escape is in the smaller tunnels around, but i can't leave shining to this monster. I can feel the heat above me as it moves in closer, i can imagine it looking at me with hunger, just another pony sized snack.

For the love of Celestia, why was there a dragon in this cave? "Why do i even care anymore?"

Well if i have time to talk to myself i mustn't think i'm in too much trouble here.

Suddenly I can feel the dragon behind me, ripping away at the rock, trying to get out. seems it want to get out of here also. and then with a ear shattering boom we are thrown back from the crystal and the shattering sound of crystal sounds out around me as the wall shatter and the ruins of the crystal rain down upon us.

but i do not see this as i've been knocked out.