

## **For Lovers of Words it is Easy to Get In** **~By Kaden Cheung**

Jake III was a very bored boy who was sick and tired of the pandemic destroying all of his fun. He got so bored that he was even sick of video games. He did not know what to do with himself all summer because he couldn't play with any of his friends. More than anything, he wanted adventure and magic in his life. But today, he was stuck in a library trying to find interesting books to read. But none of them stood out, none of them gave him that magic feeling when he touched their spine. After giving up, he decided to go home and hang out in the attic.

When he got up to the attic, he sat down under a massive box fort that he created when he was just five years old. His grandpa left the old boxes full of weird stuff at his house a long time ago when he was still a baby. His grandfather used to be an explorer, but now he was believed to be dead. His parents never spoke of his grandfather except to say that he had disappeared on a trip to California.

Then, he noticed one of the boxes started glowing in the dark since it was only February and still dark at five o'clock. As he approached the box, he found strange particles swarming around him as if they were leading him towards the box. He walked over with caution and opened it. There he found an old book that was falling apart, and on the cover, it read, *Intruder*, which he thought was an odd name for a book. Inside was a little note that says, "*For lovers of words it is easy to get in, but hard to get out.*" He thought it was a quote by some famous person, but little did he know that his grandfather had been stuck inside the book for eight years, and only left the note as a clue.

Without knowing anything about his grandfather being stuck in the book, he opened it and began reading. On the first page was a monstrous drawing of the Cyclops, and a terrible description of how the Cyclops would destroy everything and everyone in his path with his giant club and giant, crushing feet. As he read about the Cyclops, the book started to shake and the whole attic started to fill with smoke.

When the smoke cleared, he was inside a strange world. The place was quiet and peaceful with little rabbits and foxes prancing by. Then, the ground started to shake, then the whole world got dark, the little creatures squawked and ran away. All the animals were running scared of the danger that might lead them to death.

Then a big beast, Cyclops himself, whipped his big bat and smashed the ground, leaving a crater. The ground shook. Spikes shot up from the ground which destroyed everything in their path. He tried to run away as fast as he could but he tripped and hit the Cyclops. He picked him up and slowly raised him into his rotten egg-smelling mouth. His giant round, bulging eye glared at him like daggers and his teeth were like broken swords, which had greenish saliva sloshing between them. Jake squirmed and gagged. His head was about to get swallowed when, in an instant, an arrow flew through the air and struck the Cyclops in the eye, and he was dropped to the ground with a crunching thud. He felt his body being grabbed and someone stood him up. The two of them ran, his heart stopped while his legs dropped, pounding the ground to get away from him.

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He woke up to the sound of wood scraping on the floor like a knife sawing over bone.

When Jake opened his eyes, he got up and he saw a very old person who said, "Hello grandson," and he didn't know what this gray-haired was talking about. Then he realized that he was his grandpa. His grandfather said, as he sat down and peered into his face, "We have to kill that beast and free the book, then we can get out. Because of my age and my back I cannot do it myself."

Jake told him, "Sure but how are we going to kill him?"

The grandfather gave him a stone that could summon any beast to help fight, but sadly his grandfather could not use its power because he was not the chosen one, and that's why he had never returned.

Grandfather said, "Here's a sword and shield. Go charge at the beast, distract him while I fire the stone at him. But you must activate the stone first."

He and his grandpa were walking through an alley, right into the beast's lair, where he saw the beast sleeping like a bee. Jake approached it quietly, then the beast woke, roared, and swung its bat at him. He blocked it with his shield and the grandpa went back and shot the beast in the ear. Jake was shocked to see his grandfather climb on its bat and stab him in the eye with the stone. Did the activated stone give him youthful powers? Then the beast shook and poofed into dust. The dust formed a portal that led to the attic.

He and his grandpa jumped inside the portal and then the portal closed.

Later, he woke up in bed with the book in his hand then realized it was all a dream and his grandpa was probably in California. But then he saw the bat laying on the ground beside the bed and he realized his grandpa might be downstairs.