

THE WIZARD'S RETURN



The Wizard's Return
(Sequel to The Wizard's Revenge)

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A children's booklet to introduce 'The Wizard's Return', a mathematical adventure program for the BBC range of computers.



Many miles off the coast of a famous seaside resort there is a mysterious island. It has a scorching desert and gurgling swamps, but it is very beautiful with its high mountains, deep blue lakes and shady forests.

It is a very special island because few human beings have ever been there. The island is inhabited by a race of dragons - not the fierce aggressive type, but gentle happy dragons who love their island home and their king.



One day the kind and wise Dragon King was sitting in his cosy arm-chair thinking about the time when he had been put in his own dungeons by the wicked wizard. He remembered how the wizard had been helped by some terrible monsters who had changed Dragon Island into a dark and ugly place. Fortunately, the King had been rescued by some human children, breaking the wizard's spell, and Dragon Island was once more beautiful.

The wizard was never caught and the Dragon King worried in case the wizard should make trouble again. However, as time passed by and nothing more was heard of the wizard, the King thought the wizard must have left the island and he stopped worrying. In fact, the wizard was still on the island in a safe hiding place, spending his time turning toads into princes and back into toads again and practising magic spells.



The Dragon King shivered when he thought how cold, damp and nasty the dungeons were, and he decided to have them filled up with cement so that nobody would ever be locked in them again.

This would have been the end of the matter if it were not for the mice! When they heard of the King's plans they were most upset because they liked living in the dungeons, and they came out to protest in their hundreds. Some mice carried pictures of poor homeless mice and others carried banners saying "Save our homes" or "The King is unfair".

The mice were soon joined in their protest by the beetles, spiders and cockroaches who also lived happily in the dungeons.



This protest made the King realize that although the dungeons were cold, damp and nasty for dragons, they were home to many other creatures and it would be unkind to fill the dungeons with cement. Instead, he had all the cell doors taken off so that nobody could be locked in ever again.

Then he said that he was very sorry to all the creatures and told them that they could return to their homes and live in complete safety. The lorry drivers were then asked to take the cement up into the mountains and tip it into the deepest hole they could find.



As the lorries were trundling up into the mountains, the butler informed the King that there was a telephone call for him. The call was an invitation to tea from Captain Jim Ladd, a pirate who sailed his ship in the seas around Dragon Island. The pirates were almost human and lived on Pirate Island just a little way from the King's island and although they looked quite fierce, they were really good natured and good friends to the dragons.

The Dragon King was delighted to be invited, as he would be able to try out his new sailing boat to go to Pirate Island. The King was usually wise, but on this occasion he was very foolish, because, against the advice of his butler, he set sail for Pirate Island on his own and without his life jacket!



Soon after the King set sail, the cement lorries arrived at the Longfall Caves and started pouring their loads of cement down the deepest hole. Unfortunately this was the very place where the bad tempered wizard was hiding. All was peaceful when SPLOOSH! SPLAT! SPLOOSH! the wizard was covered from head to toe in sticky quick setting cement. If it was at all possible this made him even more bad tempered, and he rose out of the hole to make somebody pay for spoiling his lovely curly beard.



The wizard was so angry, he climbed aboard his magic carpet which carried him high up above the clouds. As he soared through the sky in a tremendous rage he decided to turn the lorry drivers into caterpillars.

Then he forgot about the lorry drivers for he spotted the Dragon King alone in his sailing boat and realised that this was the perfect opportunity to make the Dragon King his prisoner once more! Only this time he would make sure that the poor Dragon King would never be seen again.



The wizard muttered a wind spell and turned the gentle breeze into a howling gale, and a water spell that turned the calm sea into huge waves. The little boat was tossed and buffeted until finally it overturned and sank, leaving the Dragon King struggling in the stormy sea.

The wizard chanted his last spell and the Dragon King was enclosed in a large bubble of air, which drifted with the changing currents as it slowly sank to the bottom of the ocean.



Above the surface the wind dropped and the sea calmed and all was peaceful as before, except that the Dragon King and his boat had vanished.

For once the wizard was almost happy! The Dragon King was once again his prisoner and this time could not be rescued because no one even knew that the Dragon King was alive. However, this was not quite true. Two little dragon children had been skin diving when the artificial storm had blown up and they dived below the surface for safety. There they had seen the Dragon King sinking in his bubble, but where the bubble had finally drifted to they could not say.

Has the wicked wizard finally won? Will the Dragon King ever be seen again?

Further copies of this booklet are available
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