

My roar shook the ground as I spread my scaly wings and took to the sky. Fellow dragons with their riders flew beside me as the storm clouds brewed. Below, soldiers were ripped to shreds, fire burned the trees, and friends became enemies. The once green field was stained with shattered bones and torn limbs, every ounce of strength draining drained from the men, elves, and gruesome creatures of the Underworld.

**Commented [KM1]:** Possibly need a more powerful word here? Ex. extended

**Commented [KM2]:** Is this a cliché? Consider describing more of the battle (individual fights, images below).

**Commented [KM3]:** Consider splitting this into two sentences.

“Sapphire!” a familiar voice shouted.

**Commented [KM4]:** You might be able to cut this. With the following sentence, it might be repetitive.

I closed my eyes to sense the location of my master. He called my name, but I could not find him. Swooping towards the ground downwards, I then dug my claws into the dirt to halt myself. I swung my tail at a group of demons from Hell with charred skin and contorted faces. I directed my flame at their bodies. The creatures squealed as they flew across the field and evaporated.

**Commented [KM5]:** Again, this might be repetitive with the dialogue line above.

**Commented [KM6]:** You can't simultaneously swoop down and dig claws into the dirt. Consider rephrasing.

Brianus of the Light zigzagged through the trees, heading my way. In his hands, he held a large orb with a sparkle that could only be created by its own energy. A horde of goblins nipped at his legs and climbed the trees to leap at Brianus. He slashed his sword and somersaulted away from the attacks.

**Commented [KM7]:** Since the dragon just directed the flame at them, I would rephrase this in relation to melting.

**Commented [KM8]:** Consider mentioning his name earlier if he is the master.

**Commented [KM9]:** Cut this? It's implied that he's using his hands by the word held.

Roaring, I lunged forward and picked him up with my claws before rising to the clouds. “I’ve got it!” he exclaimed, “I found the Crystal of Hibaz. With this in the King’s hands, our people will be saved!”

A whistling noise floated through the air, then a pinching pain stung my wing. More whistling erupted, and the pain increased. I shrieked and spiralled down. Before I crashed, Brianus jumped off and stuck his sword into a tree to land. He sheathed his sword and ran back to me. “You’ll be okay!” He pulled an arrow from my scales, and I felt the poison dripping through my veins.

I tossed around, screeching. Brianus hopped onto my belly and stroked it gently. “The crystal can save you.” I felt the cool orb roll over my body. I spewed out the last bit of fire I could muster in protest. “I know that we can use this to save the kingdom, but if you die, then I die. We are bonded. I know that’s worth something to you.”

**Commented [KM10]:** Consider describing how the orb feels on the skin.

*Don't be selfish, I told him, this kingdom may be in ruins, but hope is not lost.*

"We can find another way to save the people."

*Don't you dare!*

"Listen to your dragon," Adelard emerged from the shadows, "Hand over the crystal, and I will provide the antidote."

"The City of Sonova cannot be trusted in your hands," Brianus said, "I would rather die than let you become ruler."

Trumpets sounded and a troupe of the King's Guard galloped up the steep hill holding spears and banner flags. They surrounded us as the King and his dragon flew above.

**Commented [KM11]:** Consider cutting this or describe more about the King and his dragon for more impact.

*Do it!*

Brianus looked at me with a sweet farewell as Adelard drew his sword.

**Commented [KM12]:** What does that look like?

"I command you to throw me the crystal!" King Gaurnier said.

*Do it! I will see you in the next life.*

Adelard swung his sword to entice him into a duel.

Brianus gripped the orb. "Goodbye, Sapphire," ~~he whispered and~~ He tossed the orb into the air.

The king's dragon created a ball of black fire and blasted it at the crystal. As the poison sucked out my life force, the world was covered in a blanket of light. The curse was lifted and my duty was complete.

\*\*This sample is not connected to any existing book, it was created for the purposes of my portfolio.