

The Boy and the **Dragon**





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A detailed illustration of a green dragon's tail and leg, rendered in a textured, painterly style. The dragon's tail is long and segmented, with a lighter green band around its base. The leg is thick and muscular, also showing some banding. The dragon's scales are a vibrant green, and there are small blue spikes along its back. The background is a warm, yellowish-tan color with some brown speckles.

WRITTEN BY ERIC ODE
ILLUSTRATED BY JIM HARRIS



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To Tavin, strong, wise, and brave—E. O.

To Houston, fixer of gadgets and problem solver par excellence. If anybody could fix a dragon's wagon, you could.—J. H.

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This is the tale of three knights and a boy.
It's a thrilling adventure I think you'll enjoy.

Simon the Wise was the smartest of men.
Bogsworth the Strong had the power of ten.
Randolph the Brave led a life filled with glory.
And then there was Saul,
so quiet and small.
I guess you may wonder why *he's* in this story.



One cold autumn morning, these knights traveled east
in search of a horrid and hideous beast:
a green, scaly dragon with leathery wings
who gobbled up villagers, peasants, and kings.
And so, with a shout,
the three knights set out,
while Saul tagged along to carry their things.



Folks cheered and waved to these noble companions
as onward they traveled toward marshes and canyons.
Randolph the Brave, he lifted his chin
and shouted, "Hoorah! There's a battle to win!
We'll search high and low,
and we'll sing as we go!"
So Saul strummed along on an old mandolin.

*"We're three fearless knights!
We're strong, wise, and brave!
It's danger we seek—
it's adventure we crave!
That dragon had better
beware and behave.
We're three fearless knights!
Hoorah!"*



They marched through a valley. They hiked up a ridge.
And then, at a river, they came to a bridge.
There stood an old wizard, a beard to his knees,
and Randolph said, "Sir, step aside, if you please.
We're three fearless knights—we have places to go."
The old wizard scowled and said, "No."





“Perhaps,” replied Randolph, “you’d move if you knew I’m Randolph the Brave! I’m not frightened by *you*.”

“I see,” said the wizard. “But how about this?”

And then, with a flash, and a pop, and a hiss, that wizard turned into a great, beastly bear with lightning-bright stripes in his blue, shaggy hair.