

The World beneath the Laces

Josh trudged along the rough rugged road and winced as the sharp pebbles penetrated his soft skin. His weary face grimaced as the scorching sun blasted down upon him. As he returned home, Josh brought the few coins he had earned from the market and went to his loving mother. She forced a smile and hugged her son. "We will get out of this, I promise." she whispered.

Josh ventured out of his clay house and dawdled down the ridged road. A gleaming light was glaring at his pale face, and he shut his eyes tightly. As the light diminished, Josh peeked through his calloused fingers. A golden-brown shoe fit for a king stood sturdily on the dusty sand on the edge of the road. Josh's eyes widened. His heart leaped like a pony as he thought of how rich he was about to become. He reached for the shoe as fast as thunder. He had found hope.

His body was experiencing excruciating pain. His flesh burned as his skin stretched. As he was about to let an ear-piercing scream, he a cold gust against his neck. He slowly turned to meet a large grasshopper, kindly greeting him.

A bloodcurdling screech emerged from his mouth. A sea of insects rampaged and surrounded him. "It's a human!" one shrieked. "The one who harmed our brothers and sisters!" another one yelled. Before Josh could comprehend what was happening, four heavily armoured wasps grabbed each of his limbs. "Throw him the dungeon." the largest and most experienced one ordered. They marched in sync to the stone staircase leading to a dim room full of massive and terrifying beasts inhabiting each cell. He was thrown into an empty cell coated with a foul smelling paste emitting a terrible odour. As he rose up, a large, old, grey spider glared at him. His hairy body scared Josh. His eight yellow eyed stared into Josh's soul. The gold nameplate on his cell wall read Aragon.

Aragon was running through the streets as a child, frolicking with the other spiders. His playfulness with the other insects was in complete secret however. The arachnid clan were thought to be mindless barbarians that pillaged other kingdoms. All the insect kids would love to play with Aragon, but they were hidden between the laces of the leathery home. They would crawl out of their safe enclosure and sanctuary to play between the laces, without the knowledge of the adult arachnids and insects. One day, after playing for a vast time, Aragon got careless. He crawled out to play when Chochnid, the king at the time spotted him, and he was locked away in his dungeon.

Josh was determined to escape, and with Aragon, wrongly imprisoned for an idiotic reason, would return and live in peace. Josh schemed and discussed with Aragon, who grunted and laughed. "We'll never escape from this, son." he said gloomly. Josh continued on and eventually convinced Aragon that they could escape. Aragon began to pick the lock with his arm.

The dungeon door swung open and Aragon opened Josh's cell as well. Josh was ecstatic and leaped on Aragon's back. The two raced out of the old dungeon.

Aragon sprinted into town, knocking down building with his brute strength. He kicked the ones who wrongly treated him. He was a beast, as free as ever. A now retired Chochnid shrieked at the top of his lungs at Aragon who was running down the road. The light from the opening was streaming into the glamourous shoe. Aragon leaped out of the shoe.

Aragon was free. He thanked Josh for helping escape and for freeing him from his chains. Aragon leaped onto the outside world to live the rest of his life. Josh returned, staring down at the shoe. It's magical essence floated from the shoe. He kicked the shoe with his barren feet onto the road. Suddenly, a rich man strolled down the paved road, and vigorously thanked Josh for returning the shoe. As Josh walked his mother was ecstatic. She exclaimed to Josh that a man dropped a shoe at the front of the decaying house, and she sold it for a large bag of money. Jubilance raced through Josh. "I wonder what was in that shoe?" Josh thought as he raced to his mother.