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IN THE KINGDOM OF CO

lived Princess Revé.

It was her job to write reports for the king so he knew how the kingdom was growing.





When Co was small, it was easy. Princess Revé would walk through the village talking with her village friends about the food, the iron, and the potions. She would write her report, deliver it to the king, and then she was free to do as she wished.

But as Co grew, the King needed to know more and more about the state of the food, the iron, the potions, and all the new goods the villagers were making.





Princess Revé would send messengers to get the numbers from the villagers, then spend days writing and drawing tables and charts for the King. She had less time to see her friends in the restaurants and shops. To help her gather information, and to keep her writing reports, the King put a threeheaded hydra in front of her door. The hydra believed the King's reports were so important that Princess Revé should work around the clock, never leaving her chamber.

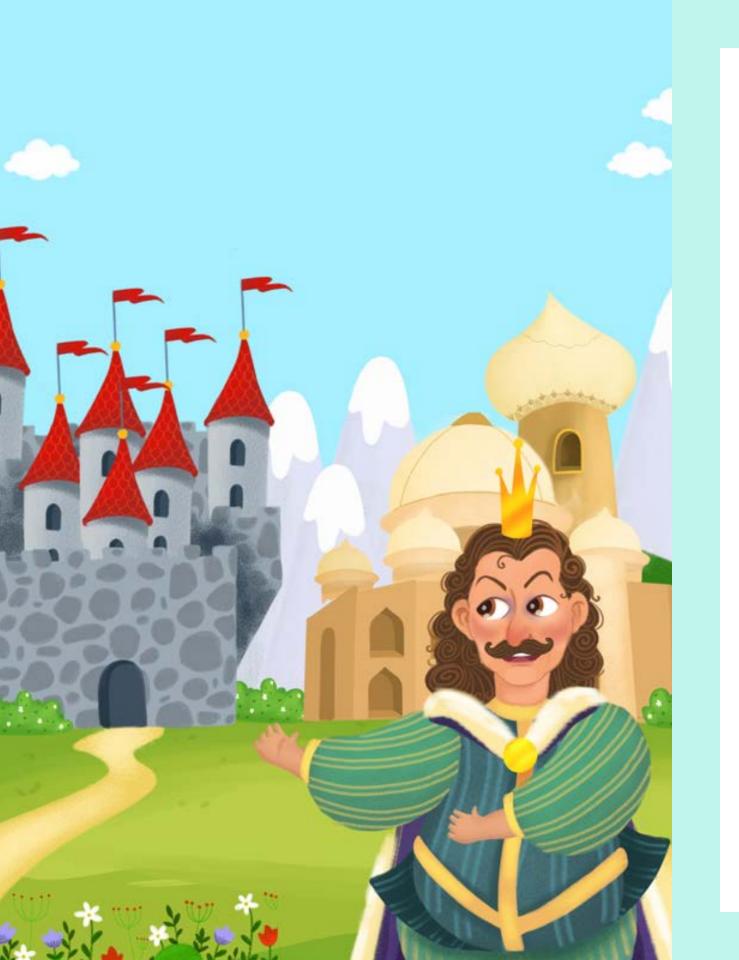




While one head guarded the door to her chamber, making sure Revé stayed inside writing her reports, the other two heads snaked through the village, gathering counts of food, iron, and potions, and roared at the villagers when their reports were late. It wasn't fun to deal with the hydra, but they had no choice. Princess Revé was exhausted. Her hands ached. Her clothes were smeared with ink. Most of all, she missed her friends in the village.

But the King needed the reports.





In the summer season, Co merged with a nearby kingdom, and the King needed to know how his empire would grow with all the new goods from his new villagers. The hydra slithered over the country-side, knocking over villagers, crushing crops, and scaring the children. There was always a hydra head coming or going, bringing more reports to her chamber door, growling on its way out.

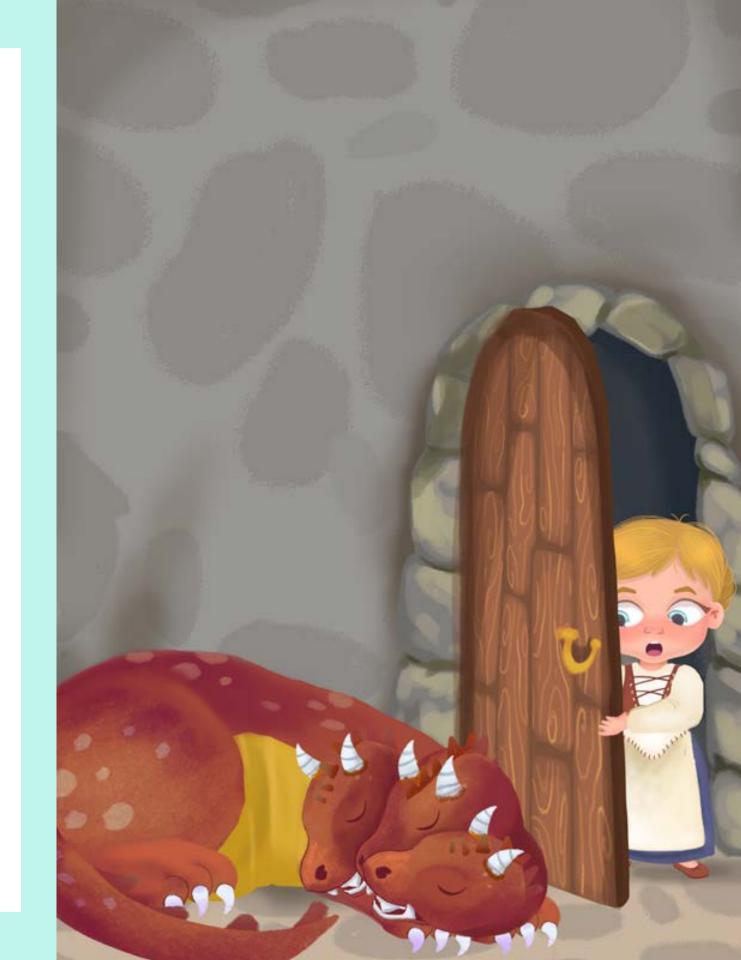




Princess Revé worked longer and longer hours calculating, writing, and drawing the king's reports. Each time she finished, one hydra head would snap up the report to take to the king and another head would drop an even larger pile of papers at her feet. She couldn't continue on like this. There had to be something that could help her.

Late one night, after finishing the Winter Season reports for the king, she peeked out her door to find the three-headed hydra snoozing.

Even he would shut down under the weight of all the reports.





Revé slipped past the hydra and went to see her friends in the village. Her first stop was the Wizard.

She told him of her late nights, writing and rewriting reports, trusting her intuition when the numbers made no sense, and blaming the villager's counts when results weren't as promised to the king. The Wizard walked over to a cabinet on the wall. He jingled his way through a massive keyring until he found the key he needed.

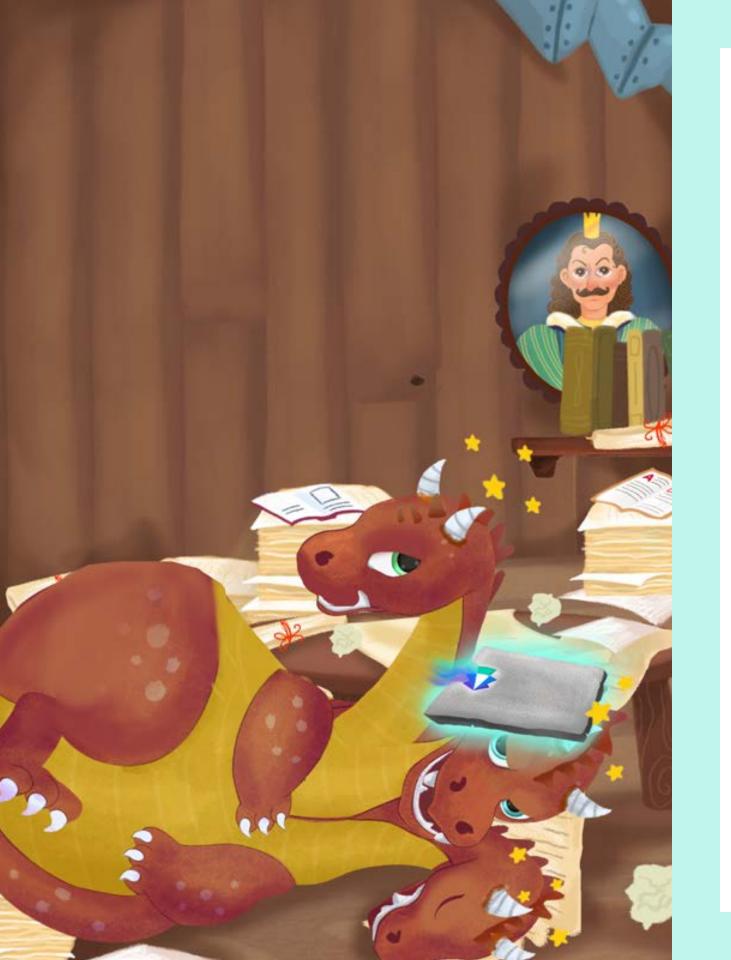




Unlocking the cabinet he pulled out a glowing teal stone tablet.

He told Princess Revé of the power of the Tablet of Clarius, and its ability to take all the villager's reports, make sense of them, deliver them to the King, and even show her what the future of the kingdom might hold.





Princess Revé took the tablet of Clarius back to her chamber. The next day, when she went to gather the mountain of reports from the hydra, she did as the wizard told her. She placed the tablet atop the head of the hydra. The mountain of pages began to flutter, flapping into the air, and sorting themselves into neat piles. Some pages disappeared entirely, others corrected themselves, and the most important pages shifted and turned into one sheet, showing all the information the King cared about.





Then the magical tablet appeared so villagers could put in the counts of their food, iron, and potions. Most surprising of all, the three-headed hydra began to shrink.





It got smaller and smaller until it was the size of a house cat. Its roar became a squeak. Scooping it into her arms, Princess Revé walked down to the King to show him the magic of Clarius. She showed the King how she no longer had to toil over messy reports for hours, and how the King could now see the fate of his kingdom early in the season instead of just as it was ending.





And best of all, she was free of the threeheaded hydra and had the time to see her friends and enjoy all the kingdom had to offer.

THE END