

“Well it's official; the engine is shot... And with the sails shredded after our last encounter with that monster I'm afraid we're not going to be going anywhere any time soon.” Feena said with a sigh, looking over to her other travel companions.

“Really not making me regret joining up with you guys.” Rapp said, picking his nose. “Not at all.”

“Aw come on you guys!” Justin said with a grin, wrapping an arm around each of his friends. “This is all part of being on an adventure! Are we going to let a little setback like this get us down?”

“We don't have much of a choice.” Feena said, though a rueful smile still rose to her lips. “Unless you have a spare motor in your bag.”

“Hah!” Justin said, hands on his hips. “I AM the new engine! It's finally time to use THIS!” He lifted his right arm into the air, a gold bracer glinting on his arm.

“Hey! Where did you get that?” Rapp shouted, trying to grab at the bracer while Justin easily evaded his reach.

“Got it from a peddler in the last town!” Justin said, taking off his hat and kicking off his shoes.

“Pffft! Wow, fell for that, huh?” Rapp said with a snide grin. “Guess you other side of the Wall folks really are that gullible.”

“What is it exactly Justin?” Feena asked, concerned about what her excitable friend was about to do.

“You'll see! Check THIS out!” Justin said and, without another word, leaped off the side of the boat.

Both Rapp and Feena ran to the side of the ship, shouting Justin's name, the water already glassy and calm again like nothing had happened. Before they could formulate any kind of plan, the boat rocked violently to the side, something big knocking into the underside of it. Both travelers almost lost their footing, Rapp bracing himself against the side railing, catching Feena as she fell into him. Once the boat righted itself they looked over the edge, a dark shadow visible below that was rapidly expanding and rising to the surface. Both readied their weapons as they prepared to face whatever was coming, both worried about Justin's safety. Within seconds the surface of the water rose up in a dome, holding the shape until the tension broke, a cascade of water flowing into the side of the ship, nearly knocking it over once again. The water slowly drained away from this enormous object, allowing Rapp and Feena to see exactly what it was.

“JUSTIN?!”

“Heeeey guys!” Justin said with a grin, his head rising up out of the water, followed by his shoulders and then chest. “Good thing this lake isn't too deep, huh? I can reach the bottom easy with this thing!”

His voice was familiar but greatly amplified, booming out over his friend's, forcing them to cover their ears to shield themselves from the boisterous volume. Feena was the first to recover, gripping the railing at the side of the ship and shouting, “I can't believe you just did that without telling us what would happen! We were worried about you, you know!”

Justin rubbed the back of his head, looking a little sheepish. “Awww, come on! Surprises like this are

way more fun than just explaining everything beforehand like a lecture! You gotta admit this is REALLY cool, right? It's called the Giant's Bracer! Anyone who wears it can make themselves grow bigger! I'm pretty sure this isn't even my limit... but it's good enough for now!”

“Good enough for WHAT exactly?” Rapp shouted, wildly jealous of the power that Justin was now effortlessly wielding, cursing himself for not interacting with this peddler himself.

“For THIS!” Justin said, lowering himself slightly into the water, bringing himself under the stranded vessel. With a grunt of effort he lifted the ship out of the water and onto his back, wrapping his arms around it the best he could. “Hah! See?! We don't even need to worry about sails or engines so long as I'm around!”

He moved forward, legs slowly slicing through the water as he trudged along, Rapp and Feena left to cling to the sides of the ship as Justin walked, his body tilting slightly left and right as he shouldered this particular burden. Feena couldn't help but touch one of the massive digits that was clenching tightly to the boat, digging into the wood of the deck, splintering it without meaning to, mesmerized by the sheer size of her companion. It was the most strange thing she had encountered this side of the Wall by a long shot... but not something that she was altogether displeased with. Justin was a handful at the best of times and being many, many times her size was only going to make that problem worse... but she had to admit this was a novel solution to their problem. Rapp was more sullen, his lower lip sticking out as he watched how effortlessly his friend was able to drag the ship along, jealous of the power that he now wielded. He gritted his teeth and leaned over the edge of the ship, shouting, “Don't think this means you're better than me! I'll still be able to whip you and make you beg without even trying!”

Justin chuckled, tilting his body to the right, Rapp yelping as he was nearly sent overboard. “Yeah, yeah, I hear ya. When all this is over I'll be more than happy to spar with you!”

Rapp shook his fist and shouted, “FINE! Bring it on! I'll fight you right now, in fact!”

“Boys, boys, boys... can we stop fighting for one second and just get ourselves to safety please?” Feena sighed, rolling her eyes at the macho antics of her friends.

“Say, Justin... if you get too tired you can always pass that bracer along to me! I'll be happy to take us the rest of the way!” Rapp said with a grin.

Justin snickered and said, “Don't worry Rapp... I got a second one from that peddler. Once we're on land I'll give it to ya!”

Rapp's eyes went wide with surprise as he heard Justin's words... only for that shock to turn to pure delight. He leaped into the air, pumping his fists and shouting, “WOOHOO! Hell yeah! I knew I could count on you Justin!”

“Don't celebrate just yet you two... I think we're headed for some trouble.” Feena said, biting her lower lip as she gazed into the distance with a telescope.

“Huh? What's wrong?” Rapp said, shielding his eyes and peering into the distance as well.

“Pirates.” She said simply, folding the telescope again grimly.

“Pirates? Hah! Nothing I can't handle!” Justin scoffed, moving forward even faster, a determined look on his face.

It didn't take long before the pirates were in sight, Rapp and Feena preparing their weapons once again for a battle... only for Justin to drop the ship off and wade towards the pirates alone. “That idiot!” Feena said, growling with frustration as she watched their friend advance.

“You really shocked about this?” Rapp said, shrugging, tossing his weapon over his shoulder.

“No... but I mean... ugh! JUST DON'T DIE JUSTIN!” She yelled, cupping her hands around her mouth.

Justin paused in his advance long enough to turn around and flash a V for victory sign to Feena, that infectious grin plastered on his face. He turned to face the pirates and held his arm up, the bracer flashing. “Time to see what this baby can REALLY do...”

The accessory flashed as Justin activated it, his body surrounded by a golden glow as he began to expand, his body rising swiftly from the water, displacing the liquid and sending it away from his form in increasingly devastating waves, both Feena, Rapp, and the pirates having to desperately control their ships to avoid them capsizing. Justin's stomach rose above the surface, followed by his waist, his knees, his calves, his ankles, and even his toes as he finally stopped the power of his bracer, smirking down at the miniscule pests at his bare toes. He wiggled them playfully, snickering as the waves they created nearly sank the pirate's ship. “You know... I almost feel bad about how easy this going to be! Almost~”

He lifted his foot from the water, liquid cascading from his sole and toes in a deluge, a shadow cast over the pirate's ship as the mammoth appendage slowly angled itself over it. The pirates desperately fired their cannons upward, launching arrows, throwing knives, trying anything they could possibly think of to stop this monster's attack... all in vain. Several of the men began to abandon ship as Justin brought his foot down, smashing the boat into splinters within seconds, the mighty vessel splitting in half and slowly sinking below the surface. Justin laughed as he made a double biceps pose, relishing in the feeling of just how easy it was to overcome dozens of grown men and their most powerful weapons. He watched as the bug sized pirates desperately tried to swim away, crouching down and scooping his friend's ship up in his hand. He grinned and gave them both a thumbs up before easily striding over the pirates and continuing on his way, every foot fall sending a rippling wave out in every direction. Feena sighed and covered her eyes, shaking her head. “This... is really going to be a problem going forward.”

“A problem for you maybe!” Rapp said with a grin. “But for me and Justin... things are going to be way more fun!”

The End