

The Tower of Wishes

By

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EXT. TOWER - DAY

A vulture infested wasteland where a huge, Babel-esque stone tower soars into the sky; the sun sets in the horizon turning the sky to hellish red.

The soft, mesmerizing voice of a:

WOMAN (V.O.)  
The Tower of Wishes.

Tiny figures of several climbers escalate the Tower's immensity. Like ants climbing a dinosaur.

WOMAN (V.O.)  
A great desire to reach its top  
burns in the hearts of many. But  
wakes the courage of few.

A young sweaty KNIGHT pants as he climbs up. His gloved hand grips a stone that loosens; he screams as he plummets into the abyss.

WOMAN (V.O.)  
For it is believed that the Tower  
has a mind of its own. And it does  
not want to be conquered.

The screaming knight falls against a big pile of half-eaten corpses. Vultures feast upon them.

WOMAN (V.O.)  
Legends say that eternal  
fulfillment await to those that  
reach the top. For he who meets the  
Guardian of Wishes will never need  
to lust for women or covet for  
money again.

The black silhouette of a huge winged creature crosses the blood red sky. A roaring dragon.

WOMAN (V.O.)  
Riches and women. The promise that  
spread faster than any plague to  
bewitch the hearts of brave knights  
from every corner of the kingdom.

The dragon's rider is DRAKE (40's), a tough looking knight, face etched with three deep claw marks.

WOMAN (V.O.)  
This... is the story of one of  
them.

Drake's burnt hands hold the barbed wire coiled around the dragon's neck as reins.

Tired looking climbers gape at the dragon that flies past them spiraling up the tower.

Drake, sitting proudly on his saddle, smiles as he stares back at them with disdain.

Huge flapping wings stir up a dust cloud on top of the tower as the dragon lands. Drake stares at the pitch black entrance of a small stone building.

INT. DARK CHAMBER - DAY

Sword in hand, Drake walks into the torch lit chamber. His boots tread along an ankle-deep pool making ripples that distort his own reflection in the water.

He stares at a cloaked figure sitting behind a table at the end of the pool and its symmetric reflection on the water. Face hooded in darkness. Ankles chained to the floor.

DRAKE

Who are you?

The GUARDIAN OF WISHES, ancient and weary, looks up to Drake.

GUARDIAN

I think you know who I am.

The guardian gestures for him to sit down on an empty chair.

He does.

The guardian pulls back a piece of cloth from the table uncovering a golden coin.

Drake stares at it in disgust.

DRAKE

You better have a thousand more of those around here, old man.

The guardian clutches Drake's wrist and makes him touch the coin; Drake's eyes close as he's suddenly invaded by a --

QUICK FLASH: Two thrones. A mean looking king sits in one of them, surrounded by hundreds of coin bags.

Drake opens his eyes as he moves his hand away from the coin, which he now studies with renewed interest.

GUARDIAN

This coin is part of King Roderick's lost fortune. And also the key to find it.

The guardian picks up the coin and moves it around. Like an explorer holding a compass in search for orientation. His hand stops when the coin starts shining brighter.

GUARDIAN

What may seem to be an ordinary coin for many, is actually a treasure map for those who set out to follow its brightest radiance.

He puts the coin back on the table. Drake smiles, his hand slowly approaches the coin but stops when --

GUARDIAN

However, it is known that King Roderick poisoned his queen out of jealousy. And no other maiden wanted to marry him ever again. Should you choose to enjoy his riches, you will also suffer his loneliness. You shall die rich. But alone.

Drake moves his hand away from the coin. The guardian covers it with a wooden cup.

DRAKE

What else do you have?

The guardian smiles as he removes the piece of cloth from the table a bit more, uncovering a ring. Drake brings his face closer to it, studying it. He touches it and closes his eyes.

QUICK FLASH: A forest where a princess wearing the ring runs for her life, hand in hand with a dirty peasant.

GUARDIAN

Princess Lusane's ring. A gift from her beloved. Her unconditional love for him still lives within it. Put it on the finger of the woman of your desire, and she will be yours. However...

Drake chuckles.

GUARDIAN

The princess secretly married a peasant without her father's consent. She had to leave her family and riches behind. Should you choose to taste her happiness, you will also bear her burden. You shall die accompanied. But poor.

The guardian covers the ring with a wooden cup.

DRAKE

And if I take both?

GUARDIAN

Then women and riches will be yours, brave knight.

Drake grabs both cups and tries to lift them up. But he can't. They seemed glued to the table.

Lifts one of the cups with no effort.

And the other.

But fails again when trying to lift them both.

DRAKE

Is this a joke?

GUARDIAN

I'm afraid you are only allowed carry one of them. Unless...

The guardian smiles as he removes the piece of cloth from the table completely, uncovering a button. Drake touches it. But nothing happens.

DRAKE

What is this for?

GUARDIAN

Should you choose to pick up the button... both the ring and the coin will be yours to have.

DRAKE

(smiling)

However?

The guardian smiles back as he places a wooden cup over the button.

GUARDIAN

You have only one chance to pick the object of your desire.

The guardian starts shuffling the cups. Slowly at first. But his skillful hands pick up speed. Drake's eyes are glued to one of the cups. The shuffling gets faster and faster. Till it suddenly stops.

GUARDIAN

You can now make your choice.

Drake stares at one of the cups. Glances at the two others and stares back at the first one. His hand moves slowly towards it. And lifts it up.

His troubled expression softens with relief. It's the button.

INT. DARK CHAMBER - LATER

The button, the coin and the ring slip from Drake's hand into his pocket as he walks away from the table.

But he falls to the ground with a splash.

He turns his head to gape at his feet: his ankles are chained to the floor.

Stares wide eyed at the guardian. Whose feet are no longer chained.

DRAKE

What the...? What happened?

GUARDIAN

What I said would happen. Now, both the ring and the coin are yours to have. Like they were for me... for so many years.

The guardian takes off his cloak revealing knight's clothes under it. And leaves the cloak on the table.

GUARDIAN

This cloak belonged to the first Guardian of Wishes... and used to have a button. It is yours now.

Drake unsheathes his swords and swings madly at his chains.

GUARDIAN

There's only one way to free yourself from those chains, brave knight.

DRAKE

How?!

GUARDIAN

The same way I did. You will not have to worry about food or water in this place. Only about your successor's arrival.

Drake stands and points his sword at the Guardian.

DRAKE

I still have the ring and the coin, old man. So you better help me if you want them back.

GUARDIAN

I already helped you. Once you win  
your freedom back, you will not  
care for those objects anymore.

EXT. TOWER - DAY

The black silhouette of a winged creature crosses the blood  
red sky, flying away from...

WOMAN (V.O.)

The Tower of Wishes.

The Guardian rides the dragon.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Legends say that he who meets The  
Guardian will never need to lust  
for women or covet for money again.

The Guardian smiles, looks up to the sky and breathes fresh  
air as if he wanted to breathe all of it.

FADE OUT.