**The Rabidsinderswine by Oscar Childs**

Many years ago, in Ancient Greece lived a family of five, Alesandro, his sister, his brother, his mother and his father. One day Alesandro’s sister was kidnapped by an old King called Minos. Alesandro was devastated and vowed to rescue her. The king had taken her to his palace in Crete where it was guarded by his favourite Pet – The Rabidsinderswine.

This terrifyingly horrible monster had three toxic heads, a pair of deep blue phoenix wings burning aloft and a griffin’s tail. Many heroes had tried and failed to slay this horrifyingly unmerciful killer of a beast, being granted the worst possible deaths experienced by humanity. Alesandro was brave compared to some people but not to others, so how could he possibly destroy this evil monstrosity?

“You must make the trip to Mount Olympus; only Zeus can help you now,” suggested Alesandro’s brother who loved myths like a bunny to carrots.

Decided! Alesandro set off for Mount Olympus knowing the way. You see, he had done this route two times before, the first on a field trip to meet his almighty influence the God Zeus and the second was on a dare.

After a few hours, he arrived at the bottom of the mountain. This was the only time he could turn back but he knew he had to keep going, for his sister was relying on him. Upon reaching the top, he was surprised by Zeus.

“You again! Mortals, mortals, Dares and all that.” “No Zeus, it’s not like the last time. It’s… it’s my sister, you see she’s been kidnapped by old king Minos.” Alesandro cried.

“I don’t see, so what do you expect me to do about it,” said Zeus whilst slowly striding away. “Er Zeus what about that favour you owe me?” Alesandro shouted after him.

Slowly turning around, Zeus let out a big sigh and said “OK fine, I will grant you 3 gifts, a sword and a shield. Here they are…” And he produces from thin air, a pair of wings that will automatically direct Alesandro to Crete and back, an invisibility helmet made from celestial bronze and a small jar containing a courage potion in the form of a deep purple liquid. “Just remember this, the Rabidsinderswine’s weakness is his wings. Cut them off and not only will he not be able to fly, but he will be sent to rest for another 2 thousand years.” And with that Zeus disappeared.

Alesandro decided to pop on his wings and head to Crete. On the way there he encountered 2 things; firstly a 12- force gale hit him which he had to fly through with quite a lot of trouble, he even had to switch into manual mode to get through it! Secondly, he encountered a flock of geese, and 2 of the birds flew right into him, ripping his wings right off his arms in the squabble. As he regained his senses, he realised he was falling right down, head-first into the sea. Luckily though he was only a few thousand yards from the beaches of Crete. Swimming the rest of the way he started thinking about the battle that was up ahead of him and saving his sister from old King Minos.

As he washed up against the beaches of Crete he, for the first time heard the blood chilling roar of the Rabidsinderswine! It sent shivers down his spine, it felt just like the last nightmare he had about losing to the griffin. Making his way up to the palace he started thinking about how famous he was going to be when he got back home.

Eventually he reached the top, immediately spotting the Rabidsinderswine prowling across the courtyard slightly over to the right, where it turns out the prison block is. Turning his gaze so it passes the Rabidsinderswine, he spotted a small, unkempt, slumped figure with golden long hair, shackled by her hands to a rough pole, with blood stains covering her olive green dress. She was his sister, guarded by the Rabidsinderswine.

Breathing twice as much as usual, heart pumping so loud that he thought the Rabidsinderswine might hear it and fuelled with rage he put on his invisibility helmet and crept towards the gateway of the courtyard, not knowing that the Rabidsinderswine had 10 times stronger sense of smell than humans did. Getting closer to the Rabidsinderswine he realised exactly that, as the beast started turning his head towards him.

Grabbing his shield and sword, he flung the helmet off, and races towards the Rabidsinderswine. Alesandro charged at the monster, swiped his sword but only managed to cut off some of the deep blue feathers. Trying again, Alesandro still only managed to take a few more feathers off the same wing, but this time he managed to get enough to cause a slight roar from one of the three toxic heads. Before Alesandro could even get close again to the Rabidsinderswine, it took off! Only managing to fly about 20 feet into the air for a few seconds before corkscrewing, summersaulting and barrel rolling back down to the earth.

As the horrifying monster hit the ground, it lay still on the ground unconscious. Alesandro guessed that in the fall it had broken one of its three spines, which meant it was broken but not yet defeated. So Alesandro strode over to the Rabidsinderswine and unmercifully brought his sword down and cut both wings off in one killer of a swipe.

Breathing heavily, he absentmindedly stuffed five of the blue phoenix feathers (which turns that out he will give to his family members later) into his robe pocket and discovered the still unused courage potion deep down below the feathers. Proud that he hadn’t needed it and pleased that he would have it for another day, Alesandro tucked it even further into his pocket with the feathers to keep safe.

Hearing his sister whimper, he remembers that all that this journey was for, was to get his sister back from the evil King Minos’ grip. Racing over to her, he prised open the shackles and held his sister tightly.