

Heiki Vilep

THE MONSTERS OF THE CLOSET DOOR



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JAN WAS A SLOPPY CHILD. HE DIDN'T TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIS THINGS AT ALL. BLOCKS AND CARS WERE LYING AROUND ON THE FLOOR, THE TEDDY BEAR WAS HANGING ON THE DOORKNOB BY A STRING AND THE CORNERS OF PICTURE BOOKS WERE CURLED. MOTHER SCOLDED JAN ALL THE TIME:

“HOW COME YOU'RE SO SLOPPY! GOOD CHILDREN ALWAYS CLEAN UP THE MESS AFTER PLAYING.”



SOMETIMES JAN TRIED TO BE A GOOD CHILD AND PICK UP HIS THINGS, BUT ALREADY THE NEXT DAY HE LEFT EVERYTHING LYING AROUND.

ONE EVENING, WHEN JAN WAS IN BED ALREADY, HE LOOKED AT THE WOODEN PATTERN ON THE CLOSET DOOR AND STARTED IMAGINING ALL SORTS OF THINGS. IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT ONE LONG ZIG-ZAG STRIPE IS A RIVER AND THE DARKER PATCHES NEXT TO IT ARE BUSHES. AFTER HE LOOKED A LITTLE BIT LONGER, HE ALREADY PICTURED IMAGINARY MOUNTAINS IN THE DISTANCE AND SOME SORT OF STRANGE TOWN. THIS WAS MORE LIKE A CAVE TOWN.



JAN KEPT ON LOOKING AND LOOKING AND FINALLY SOMETHING VERY STRANGE HAPPENED. IT SEEMED AS THOUGH

SOMEBODY HAD MOVED IN ONE OF THE CAVES. JAN STRAINED HIS EYES AND INDEED – LONG SHADOWS MOVED AROUND IN OTHER CAVES AS WELL.

JAN GOT SCARED AND PULLED THE BLANKET OVER HIS HEAD. WHEN HE PEEKED OUT FROM UNDER THE BLANKET AGAIN, THERE WAS SILENCE IN THE CAVES. JAN KEPT ON LOOKING AND SUDDENLY LONG MOVING SHADOWS SHOWED UP IN THE CAVES AGAIN. THE SHADOWS LOOKED LIKE BIG MONSTERS WHO KEPT BUMPING INTO ONE ANOTHER WHILE BUSTLING BACK AND FORTH.

FINALLY, JAN STARTED TO FEEL AS IF THE MONSTERS WERE HEADED TOWARDS HIM. THEY GOT BIGGER AND BIGGER AND JAN BACKED OFF WITH THE BED AWAY FROM THEM. THE ROOM STRETCHED AND BECAME VERY, VERY BIG. SO BIG THAT THE WINDOW FROM WHICH THE STREET LAMP COULD BE SEEN, SHRUNK TO A TINY SPOT IN THE DISTANCE.

TOGETHER WITH THE ROOM, JAN'S FEAR ALSO GREW. THE BED IN WHICH HE LAY TURNED INTO A WAGON AND THE ROCKING HORSE THAT HAD OTHERWISE BEEN LYING ON ITS SIDE IN THE CORNER, WAS NOW HITCHED TO JAN'S BED AND LOOKED TO BE THE SIZE OF A REAL HORSE.

THE MONSTERS ON THE CLOSET DOOR HAD ALREADY GROWN SO BIG THAT THEY DIDN'T FIT ON THE CLOSET DOOR ANYMORE

AND CLIMBED OFF IT. THEY STAMPED THEIR UGLY HOOFS AND SWUNG THEIR LONG HANDS WITH THREE FINGERS AT JAN.



“GEE UP!” JAN SHOUTED AT THE ROCKING HORSE AND IT STARTED GALLOPING HEAD OVER HEELS. THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROOM HAD TO BE SOMEWHERE FAR ON THE HORIZON AND THEY HEADED IN THAT DIRECTION.

“WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?” JAN WONDERED. THE HORRIBLE CLIP-CLOP OF MONSTERS COULD BE HEARD IN THE DISTANCE AND THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY A WHIRLING CLOUD OF DUST.

ONE PARTICULARLY BIG MONSTER SPOUTED FIRE OUT OF ITS NOSTRILS AND BELLOWED IN AN AWFUL VOICE.

“I NEED HELP!” JAN THOUGHT. “WHERE ARE MY TANKS AND TIN SOLDIERS? WHERE ARE MY BLOCKS FOR BUILDING A FORTRESS?”



THE ROCKING HORSE WAS COMING TO THE DOOR THAT LED TO THE CORRIDOR. THE DOOR WAS SO BIG AND HIGH THAT JAN HAD TO PUSH HIS HEAD BACKWARDS TO SEE THE END OF IT. UP THERE, JAN'S TEDDY BEAR WAS HANGING ON A STRING. THE TEDDY BEAR HAD ALSO GROWN A LOT AND NOW SEEMED MANY TIMES BIGGER THAN JAN.

“WHOA!” SAID JAN AND THE ROCKING HORSE STOPPED. “WE HAVE TO GET HIM DOWN FROM THERE! HE WOULD PROTECT US FROM THE MONSTERS!”

“HE IS SO HIGH UP!” SHOUTED THE ROCKING HORSE. “WE NEED A FIRE TRUCK LADDER!”

“WE DON’T HAVE ANY TIME!” JAN THOUGHT AND LOOKED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MONSTERS. THOSE, HOWEVER, KEPT GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER WITH THE WHIRLING CLOUD OF DUST.

“LETS FIND THE SOLDIERS!” SHOUTED JAN TO THE HORSE AND THEIR RIDE CONTINUED ALONG THE SIDE OF THE WALL. AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF SPEEDING, THEY NOTICED A TIN SOLDIER WHO WAS SITTING ON THE FLOOR WITH HIS BACK AGAINST THE WALL AND PEACEFULLY PUFFING HIS PIPE.

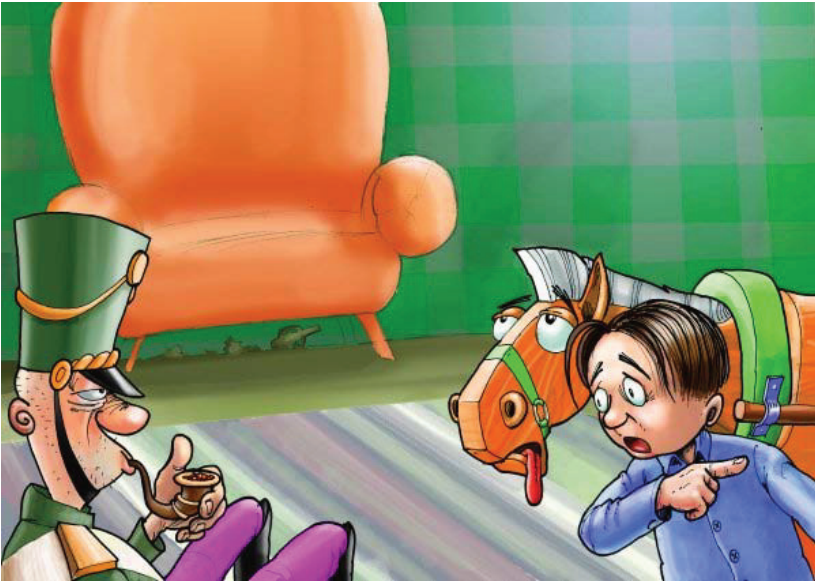
“TROUBLE IS COMING!” JAN SHOUTED FROM AFAR ALREADY. “BIG MONSTERS! LOTS OF MONSTERS!”

THE OLD TIN SOLDIER GOT HIMSELF UP AND LOOKED AT THE HORIZON. THE CLOUD OF DUST THAT THE MONSTERS WERE WHIRLING COULD ALREADY BE CLEARLY SEEN.

“WHERE ARE THE REST OF THE SOLDIERS?” JAN ASKED.

“WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?” THE TIN SOLDIER ASKED IN RETURN. NOW SUDDENLY JAN WAS VERY ANGRY WITH HIMSELF.

“THE ARMCHAIR!” CAME TO HIS MIND. “THE LAST TIME I PUSHED THEM OUT OF THE WAY UNDER THE ARMCHAIR, SO THAT MOTHER WOULDN’T SEE AND I WOULDN’T HAVE TO CLEAN UP.”



THE TIN SOLDIER JUMPED ON THE WAGON AND GALLOPING, THEY HEADED TOWARDS THE ARMCHAIR THAT WAS AS HIGH AS A MOUNTAIN IN THE DISTANCE. WHEN THEY GOT THERE, THEY SAW TWENTY SOLDIERS CARELESSLY DEEP IN SLUMBER ON THE GROUND. SOME SNORED SO HEAVILY THAT THE CARPET HAIRS SWAYED.

“TROUBLE” SHOUTED JAN. “BIG

TROUBLE!". ONE OFFICER SAT UP AND LOOKED AT JAN DROWSILY.



“IT WAS YOU THAT LEFT US HERE LYING DOWN UNDER THE ARMCHAIR!”

“I’M SORRY!” MUMBLED JAN AND HIS CHEEKS TURNED RED.

“WAKE UP!” SHOUTED THE OFFICER AND THE SOLDIERS JUMPED UP ONE AFTER ANOTHER. THEN THE OFFICER COMMANDED:

“DRESS! ATTENTION!”

JAN STOOD UP AND EXPLAINED TO THE WARRIORS:

“THE MONSTERS OF THE CLOSET DOOR

CAME OUT OF THEIR CAVES AND NOW THEY WANT TO CONQUER OUR ROOM. WE HAVE TO KICK THEM BACK!" THE SOLDIERS LOOKED AT THE CLOUD OF DUST GROWING IN THE DISTANCE AND THE OLDEST OF THEM TOOK THE FLOOR:

"HERE WE WOULD NEED TEDDY BEAR'S HELP AND THE TANKS AND THE FORTRESS."

"THE TEDDY BEAR IS HANGING ON THE DOORKNOB..." JAN LOOKED DOWN.

"SO," THE OFFICER TOOK OVER CONTROL. "ROCKING HORSE AND TIN SOLDIER NUMBER 4! YOU WILL ATTRACT THE MONSTERS AWAY FROM THE CORRIDOR DOOR. WE HERE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE FIRE TRUCK AND TRY TO GET THE TEDDY BEAR DOWN FROM THE DOORKNOB."

THE ROCKING HORSE AND THE TIN SOLDIER NUMBER 4 GALLOPED AWAY, HEADING TOWARDS THE MONSTERS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT THEM TO THE WRONG SIDE. THE MONSTERS TOOK THE BAIT AND STORMED HEAD OVER HEELS AFTER THE ROCKING HORSE AND THE TIN SOLDIER.

"TIN SOLDIERS NUMBER 1, 2, 3 AND 5, 6, 7! YOU WILL GET THE DUMPER TRUCK THAT IS BESIDE THE FOOT OF THE DESK AND FIND AS MANY BLOCKS AS POSSIBLE. THEN YOU WILL DRIVE THEM HERE AND WE WILL BUILD OURSELVES A FORTRESS. IS THAT CLEAR?"



THE SOLDIERS RAISED THEIR HAND TO THEIR HAT, SAID AS IF COMING FROM ONE "YES, SIR!" AND STARTED TO RUN TOWARDS THE DESK. THE REST OF THE TIN SOLDIERS HAD TO FIND THE FIRE TRUCK, GET FOUR TANKS AND SEVEN ARMoured CARS FROM UNDER THE SOFA.

THE SOLDIERS WITH THE DUMPER TRUCK WERE THE FIRST TO GET BACK TO THE ARMCHAIR. THEY BROUGHT A CARRIER FULL OF BLOCKS AND STARTED TO BUILD A FORTRESS RIGHT AWAY. JAN HELPED THEM DILIGENTLY.

SOON RUMBLE WAS HEARD FORM THE

OTHER SIDE AND THE RED FIRE TRUCK ARRIVED.



“SO. NOW WE WILL HELP THE TEDDY BEAR DOWN FROM THE KNOB!” SHOUTED JAN AND ENERGETICALLY JUMPED ON THE CAR’S RUNNING BOARD. HAVING DRIVEN TO THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE CORRIDOR AT FULL SPEED, THEY QUICKLY ROLLED UP THE LADDER. THE TEDDY BEAR WAS ABLE TO PUT HIS LEG ON THE UPPER STICK AND PULLED THE STRING LOOSE FROM THE KNOB. WITH A LOUD THUMP HE JUMPED ON THE CARPET AND LOOKED DOWN ON JAN.

“ALLRIGHT!” HE PUT HIS HEAVY PAW ON

THE BOY'S SHOULDER AND ADDED:

“THERE IS NO TIME AT THE MOMENT TO EXPLAIN HOW BAD IT IS TO BE HANGING ON THE KNOB. RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO DRIVE THE MONSTERS OF THE CLOSET DOOR BACK TO THEIR CAVES.”



THE WAR MACHINES ALSO ARRIVED SOON WITH A LOUD RUMBLE - FOUR TANKS AND SEVEN ARMOURD TRUCKS. THEY LINED UP IN FRONT OF THE NEWLY BUILT FORTRESS AND REMAINED WAITING FOR THE ENEMY.

THE TIN SOLDIER NUMBER 4 HAD ALREADY CIRCLED AROUND THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM SEVERAL TIMES AND THE

MONSTERS WERE FURIOUS BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH THE ROCKING HORSE. THEY WERE PANTING OUT LOUD AND BELLOWING WITH ANGER. SUDDENLY THE BIGGEST MONSTER STOPPED AND SAID IN A ROARING VOICE ROLLING ITS BIG RED EYES:



“I THINK THEY ARE TRYING TO PULL OUR LEG. WE HAVE RUSHED BY THE MIRROR CLOSET SEVERAL TIMES ALREADY. THEY COULD THEMSELVES BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM ALTOGETHER. LET’S HEAD IN THAT DIRECTION!” THE MONSTERS GROWLED OMINOUSLY AND HEADED TOWARDS THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROOM.

“THEY’RE COMING!” PANTED TIN SOLDIER NUMBER 4 WHEN HE GOT TO THE OTHERS. “THEY FIGURED OUT WE WERE CHEATING THEM!”

“IT’S ALRIGHT!” SAID JAN. “WE HAVE MADE ALL THE PREPARATIONS – WE BUILT A FORTRESS OF THE BLOCKS, SAVED THE TEDDY BEAR FROM THE KNOB WITH THE HELP OF THE FIRE TRUCK AND WE BROUGHT THE WAR MACHINES. WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF MONSTERS WHEN WE ARE ALL TOGETHER!”

THE CLOUD OF DUST WAS COMING CLOSER ALREADY AND THE BIGGEST MONSTER WAS GALLOPING RIGHT IN FRONT. FIRE SPOUTED FROM ITS MOUTH ONCE MORE AND AGAIN HE BELLOWED IN AN AWFUL VOICE.



“SET!” SHOUTED THE OFFICER AND THE TIN SOLDIERS RAISED THE GUNS TO THEIR SHOULDERS. THE WAR MACHINES STARTED THE ENGINES AND THE TEDDY BEAR STOOD NEXT TO THE FORTRESS WITH HIS HANDS ON HIS HIPS. WHEN THE MONSTERS HAD COME CLOSE ENOUGH, THE OFFICER COMMANDED:

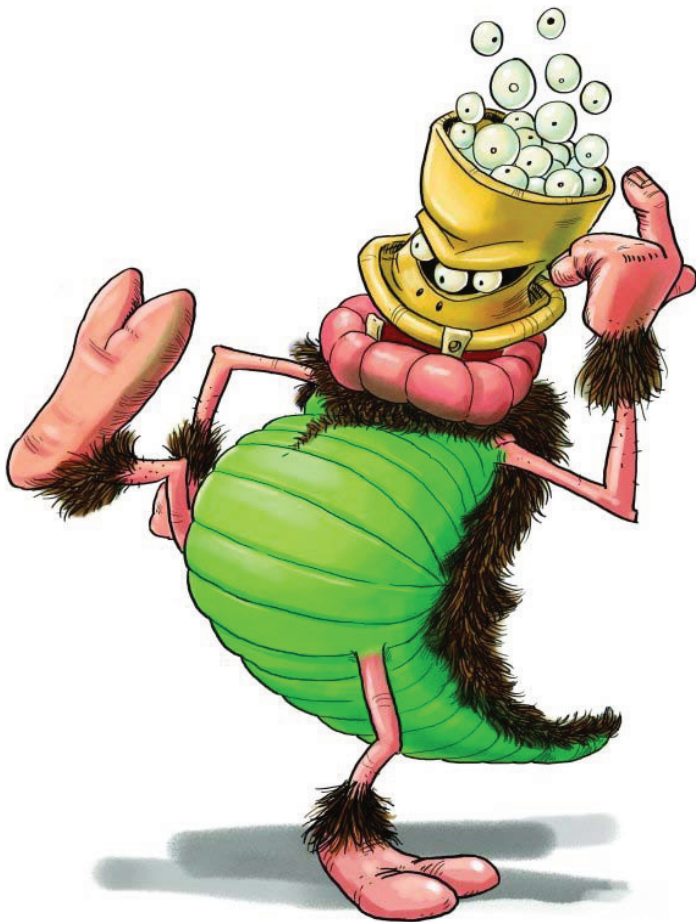
“FIRE!” THERE WAS A SOUND OF A POWERFUL SALVO AND THE MONSTERS WERE ENTIRELY BURIED UNDER THE CLOUD OF SMOKE.



BARELY HALF OF THEM SHOWED UP AGAIN. THE REST OF THEM WERE INJURED

THE MONSTERS

CHEF



DUSTER



COMPLAINER



SHOE THIEF



TRAFFICKER



COMPLETELY USELESS BAG

