

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

Chapter 7

Rising From the Rocks

MUSIC: (FADE IN) BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME

NARRATOR (V.O)

You're listening to The Blizzard of Osborn by Michael Sheen Cuddy.
Chapter 7: Rising From the Rocks.

MUSIC: BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME (FADE OUT).

Scene One: Ext. Shoreline of river – Day.

SOUND: Flowing water, birdsong (FADE IN)

NARRATOR

Turning orange could be a challenge, Cassie thought, but right now she and Jet had a bigger challenge: they were starving! Looking around the rocky shore of the orange river, the prospects for finding food didn't look good. If Cassie had a line, hook, sinker and bait she might be able to fish—her father had taught her well—but even if she had the tools she doubted whether she'd want to eat anything that came from that strange orange liquid. Jet, however, would be happy to eat any kind of fish, that was her favorite food!

SOUND: Flowing water, birdsong

NARRATOR (cont)

Beyond the rocky shore a steep cliff rose high above them. At the top

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

of the cliff a dark wall of trees stood, swaying in the breeze. Sometimes, Cassie would speak to Jet like she was a person. She didn't expect an answer but sometimes talking out loud made her feel less lonesome.

CASSIE

Maybe those trees have fruit or nuts to eat, Jet. The question is, how do we get up there?

NARRATOR

As she looked around she saw that the clouds were dark and very low.

SOUND: Distant thunder; spattering rain; pouring rain

NARRATOR (cont)

A few raindrops began to spatter, then suddenly poured hard and heavy.

CASSIE

Take shelter!

NARRATOR

Cassie scooped Jet up and ran toward the cliff.

SOUND: Pouring rain

NARRATOR (cont)

It poured so hard by the time they reached the cliff they were soaked. Cassie found a small dry spot beneath a large overhanging rock.

CASSIE

Oh Jet, you look like a drowned rat!

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

NARRATOR

It was true: Jet's fur was all matted and soaking wet. And Cassie noticed something else.

CASSIE

Hey, you're not orange anymore! The rain washed all the orange off!

NARRATOR

She looked at her own hands and arms. The weird orange color was rinsed off of her too.

CASSIE

Thank God for the rain, Jet! I didn't want to look like a pumpkin the rest of my life!

MUSIC: (incidental)

NARRATOR

Cassie felt for the silver rhombus Queen Mavis had slipped around her neck. Luckily, the rhombus appeared to be enclosed in a waterproof case.

SOUND: Cat hiss

NARRATOR

Suddenly Jet leaped backwards, landed on all fours and arched her back. The hair on her back stood up and her tail bushed out. She backed away in short, stiff steps, and began to growl.

SOUND: Spooky cat growl

NARRATOR (cont)

Then Cassie saw what spooked Jet: rising from the rocks, rising slowly, rising higher and higher and flaring its hideous cowl: a giant cobra stood six-feet tall, swaying its menacing head back and

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

forth, bobbing and weaving, freezing them where they stood with its spellbinding red eyes.

SOUND: Hissing snake (FADE IN)

MUSIC: Ominous snake theme

MUSIC: Ominous snake theme (SWELL)

NARRATOR (cont)

Jet raised a paw and struck at the snake.

SOUND: Cat hiss (percussive)

SLY

Hey, hey, hey! Take it easy, pal!

NARRATOR

The snake backed off several feet and slunk low among the rocks. Cautiously, it lifted its head up again.

CASSIE

Did you say something?

SLY

Yeah, I said, take it easy. That crazy cat almost scratched my eyes out!

CASSIE

A talking snake?

SLY

Yeah, what did you expect?

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

NARRATOR

Now that the snake was lying low and Cassie was talking to it, Jet settled down, the hair on her back flattened, her tail was back to normal size.

CASSIE

I never heard of a talking snake before.

SLY

Yeah, that's what everyone says. But once they get over the novelty of hearing a snake talk then they never listen to a word I say!

NARRATOR

That seemed like an odd thing to say, Cassie thought, but a talking snake was odd to begin with so maybe everything it said was odd too.

SLY

Sorry. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Sly. My parents named me Sylvester but I never liked that name so I shortened Sylvester to Sly in honor of the great and legendary Sly Stone. You have heard of Sly Stone I trust.

CASSIE

I have. My dad has his records, calls him 'old school'.

SLY

Well, your father sounds like a wise man. Where is he now, if I may ask?

CASSIE (hesitant)

He's...in North Dakota.

SLY

Never heard of it. What realm is it in?

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

CASSIE

Realm?

SLY

Yeah, you know, as in Skurlington, Narsieville, Inthalassa? It is part of the Empire, right?

CASSIE

No. I never even heard of the Empire until I met Queen Mavis.

SLY

Whoa—hold on a minute now. You're saying you actually met Queen Mavis?

CASSIE

Yes. She saved me and Jet from the Icemen.

SLY

The Icemen? For real?

CASSIE

Yeah. She gave me this silver rhombus and told me to bring it to the Emperor.

SLY

Well, well, well! Hmmm, now, do you mind if I take a closer look?

CASSIE (unsure)

Mmm ... I guess.

NARRATOR

Sly stood up. It was uncanny how tall he was when he stood up to his full height.

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

MUSIC: Ominous snake theme

NARRATOR (cont)

Jet arched her back again and hissed.

SOUND: Cat hiss

SLY

Relax, cat. How 'bout I just move like, real slow.

CASSIE

Her name is Jet, not 'cat.'

SLY

Yeah, OK, Jet, whatever.

NARRATOR

Sly moved very slowly, got up close and took a good look at the silver rhombus hanging around Cassie's neck.

SLY

Hmmm ... Did uh, did Queen Mavis say what's in this thing?

CASSIE (unsure)

Not really. She just told me to bring it to the Emperor, and never let the Icemen get their hands on it.

SLY

Ahhh ... I was afraid she might say that.

MUSIC: Blizzard Theme (FADE IN)

NARRATOR

Next: sometimes the best way to get from point A to point B is not the obvious way.

© 2019 Michael Sheen Cuddy

MUSIC: (Blizzard Theme) (FADE OUT)

[end Chapter 7]