

*A lady is mistaken for a princess by a dragon who plots to ransom her for great riches. She confounds the dragon with her escape attempts. Meanwhile, a carpenter's apprentice ventures on a quest to rescue the lady.*

## **The Taming of the Moon Dragon**

By MK Stangeland, Jr.

**Order the book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://booklocker.com)**

**<https://booklocker.com/books/14562.html?s=pdf>**

**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**



The  
Taming  
of the  
Moon Dragon

MK Stangeland, Jr.

Copyright © 2026 MK Stangeland, Jr.

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-959624-87-5

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-959624-88-2

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88532-151-8

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

“The Taming of the Moon Dragon” is a Fantasy Fairy Tale set ‘Once Upon a Time’. As such, it is a work of fiction, there is no link between the events of this book and any events that may have ever actually happened, and any resemblance between the characters of this book and any real-life individuals is entirely by coincidence.

Furthermore, none of the events of this story should be interpreted as any form of expert professional advice.

BookLocker.com, Inc.  
2026

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Stangeland, Jr., MK

The Taming of the Moon Dragon by MK Stangeland, Jr.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2025921186



# Table of Contents



A Note on the Dragon’s Name ..... 7

Chapter 1: The Carpenter and His Family..... 9

Chapter 2: The Mysterious Visitor ..... 11

Chapter 3: Disaster Strikes ..... 14

Chapter 4: The Dragon’s Lair..... 18

Chapter 5: The Dragon’s Bath..... 22

Chapter 6: Whispers in the Woods..... 28

Chapter 7: A Web of Lies..... 32

Chapter 8: The Tree and the Troll ..... 37

Chapter 9: The Filth of the Dragon’s Lair..... 44

Chapter 10: Gnomes at the River ..... 49

Chapter 11: The Witches of the Wicked Coven..... 52

Chapter 12: The Cabin and the Lady..... 58

Chapter 13: The Dragon’s Many Things..... 63

Chapter 14: A Path Through the Mountains..... 68

Chapter 15: The Mountain Bandits ..... 72

Chapter 16: The Gorge and the Beast..... 77

Chapter 17: A Sinister Plot..... 81

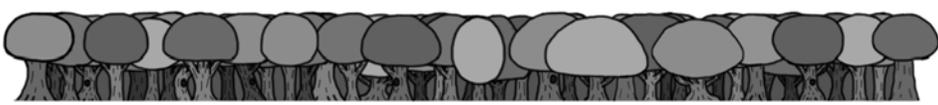
Chapter 18: Prisoners ..... 84

Chapter 19: A Meeting with Fairies ..... 88

Chapter 20: A Fateful Confrontation..... 94

Chapter 21: Clive and the Dragon ..... 98

Chapter 22: The Return Home ..... 101



## Chapter 1: The Carpenter and His Family



**O**NCE UPON A TIME in a distant land, there was a man named John. He lived with his wife and daughter near the village of Elmbrook, on the edge of Martha's Mystical Woods.

Elmbrook was a quiet little community. It was quite content to mind its own business and never presented trouble for anyone. In turn, it was peaceful and undisturbed, a blessing the villagers believed was thanks to the local woods and the fairies who lived within.

Now John was a carpenter by trade. Whether by cutting, shaping, or carving, John was an expert craftsman in the art of woodworking. Even John's own leg, which he had lost below

the knee long ago, was an exemplary replacement he had crafted with his own hands.

John's wife, Audrey, and their daughter, Lowenna, were both wonderful blessings upon the family. Audrey was as loyal, devoted, and fair a wife as any man could hope for; but she never allowed John's failings to get the better of him. By her hand, their home was the envy of all who were fortunate enough to enter it.

Together, John and Audrey were diligent in raising Lowenna to be a proper lady. They were quite pleased with the results. Lowenna was gentle, caring, and attentive to the needs of others. She was even more beautiful than her mother, and her voice sounded almost magical.

The family enjoyed a simple life. They were well regarded by all who knew them. John worked tirelessly to provide Elmbrook with a ready supply of wooden wares. Tables, chests, decorative carvings, and other fine products flowed from his workshop to those who needed them. For each tree he cut down, he ensured at least one tree would grow in its place, satisfying the needs of the forest and its inhabitants. Audrey saw to the needs of the household and all who stepped foot within. Lowenna happily helped her parents in whatever ways they needed, and eagerly learned the lessons needed for when she would one day have a family of her own.

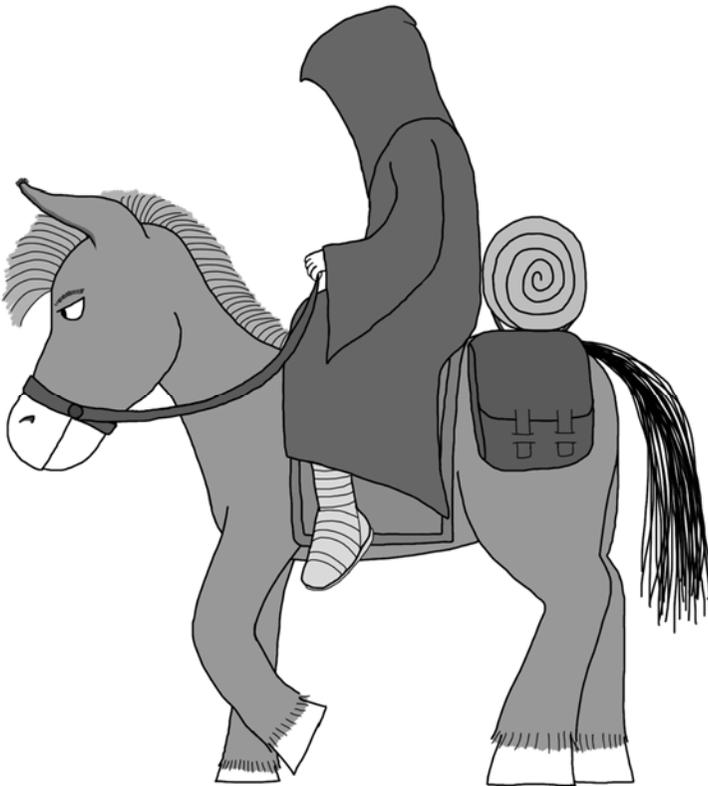
And so they all lived happily together.

Yet it would come to pass that a meeting with a mysterious stranger would threaten that happiness in ways they never imagined.

## Chapter 2: The Mysterious Visitor

**T**HE EVENTS WHICH UPENDED the happy lives of John the Carpenter and his family began one evening while John and his apprentice Clive were returning home with a cart of fresh cut trees. As they went, they crossed paths with a lone rider, who wore a brown cloak and sat upon a donkey.

“I bid you well, stranger,” John said. “What brings you this way?”



“I am but a humble pilgrim,” the stranger answered, her voice that of an elderly lady. “I go where fate leads me, and fate leads me where I am needed.”

“The road ahead is a long one, Madam,” John said. “You cannot hope to reach another town by nightfall, and it is not safe for one such as yourself to travel alone at night. Please, allow me to offer you shelter.”

“Your offer is both generous and appreciated,” the woman replied. “But I am sure I will be fine.”

“Please, I insist,” John urged her. “If not for your sake, then for mine. I could not bear it if I allowed you to continue through the night, only to later learn that in doing so I allowed trouble to find you.”

The woman relented and followed John and Clive back to John’s home. There she was welcomed by Audrey and Lowenna. The old woman introduced herself as Martha, and while it was noted she shared her name with that of the woods, she told them to think nothing of it.

The family was thoroughly welcoming with their hospitality. They served her a dinner of meat and vegetable stew, with biscuits Martha declared to be the most delightful she’d ever tasted.

“How kind you have been to this old soul,” Martha said after the meal was concluded. “To think, that I would have so easily turned down your offer to stay the night.”

“Think nothing of it,” Audrey insisted. “It is no trouble at all.”

“I can see quite clearly you are all pure souls of good heart,” Martha said. “You simply must allow me to repay your kindness with my own.”

“Nonsense,” John replied. “Kindness is its own reward. The only payment we ask for is that you pass our kindness along to others.”

“I insist,” Martha said. “I do not have much to give, but allow me to spare this.”

Martha then retrieved from her belongings a most beautiful dress.

“I do believe this should be the right fit for your daughter,” Martha said. Everyone else gasped in surprise.

“How beautiful!” Lowenna exclaimed.

“How could we possibly accept such a generous gift?” John asked.

“With gratitude,” Martha answered. “Please, I insist you take it.”

“Then we will of course accept it,” Audrey said. Martha passed the dress to a very grateful Lowenna.

“And I will of course take good care of it,” Lowenna added.

“You speak highly of our generosity, but I must declare that your generosity surpasses our own,” John said.

“Please, think nothing of it,” Martha replied.

So the night went on. Clive returned to his own home, while Martha was provided with a bed to spend the night. Yet when morning came, Martha was nowhere to be found, having departed well before anyone awoke. While all found it strange, there was nothing to be done about the matter.

So their lives went on. Little did they realize how their lives would soon be upended.

### Chapter 3: Disaster Strikes

**A** WEEK LATER, it came to pass that while John and Clive were cutting trees, Audrey prepared a special meal for them.

“My dear, would you please deliver this to John and Clive?” Audrey asked Lowenna. Lowenna happily agreed, more so because she was wearing the dress that Martha had given her.

So Lowenna delivered the meal to John and Clive. They all enjoyed it together next to a stream that provided both a beautiful view and the relaxing sound of gently running water. After the meal was finished, Lowenna took time to enjoy the sights and sounds of the stream. So moved she was by them that she sang a strikingly beautiful song.

It was while John and Clive were returning to their work, and Lowenna was preparing to return home, that a terrible event occurred. From over the forest soared a great dragon, who swooped down and snatched up Lowenna in its claws with ease. The last John and Clive saw of them, the dragon departed for the mountains on the far side of the forest to the northeast.

“Lowenna! No!” John cried in anguish. “My daughter! How could this have happened to my beloved daughter?!”

“This outrage cannot be allowed to stand!” Clive proclaimed. “We must go after her at once.”

“If only I could!” John cried with deep lament. “Alas, I cannot make such a journey without help.”

“Whatever help it is in my power to give, I promise you shall have it,” Clive declared.

*Chapter 3: Disaster Strikes*



“Of this I have no doubt,” John said. “Return to my home. Tell my wife what has happened. I will ride to Elmbrook and gather what help I can.”

Clive agreed, and each man went his own way. Both traveled with great haste and urgency.

“Help!” John cried as he neared Elmbrook. “I need help!”

The people of Elmbrook quickly gathered to learn of John’s plight.

“My daughter, Lowenna, she has been taken!” John explained. “A dragon snatched her up and carried her away! I need help to rescue her!”

Alas, John found no help in Elmbrook. Some believed that to rescue Lowenna from such a fearsome beast was beyond them. Others were certain that by the time they found where the dragon had taken Lowenna, it would be far too late to rescue her. A few even questioned how true John’s story was at all.

John searched Elmbrook for anyone who might offer aid. He pleaded with anyone who would listen, but his efforts were for naught. So, John departed Elmbrook with great sorrow. When he returned home, both Audrey and Clive knew something was wrong.

“What is the matter?” Audrey asked.

“Alas, I could find no one to help rescue our daughter,” John said. “Not one soul in all the town was willing to help.”

“How terrible this is!” Audrey lamented. “How are we to save her now? Is she lost to us forever? Shall we never again see our beloved Lowenna?”

“I will go after her myself,” Clive declared.

“Such a quest is dangerous for any man to undertake alone,” John said. “How could I ask you to do such a thing?”

“You need not ask me at all,” Clive answered. “I will go after her no matter what and will not be persuaded otherwise.”

Indeed, Clive was determined to rescue Lowenna. Not only did he see her abduction as a great injustice. He long had loved Lowenna himself, and hoped to one day marry her.

“If you are determined to rescue our Lowenna, then we will not stop you,” John said.

“We will aid you in what little way we are able,” Audrey agreed.

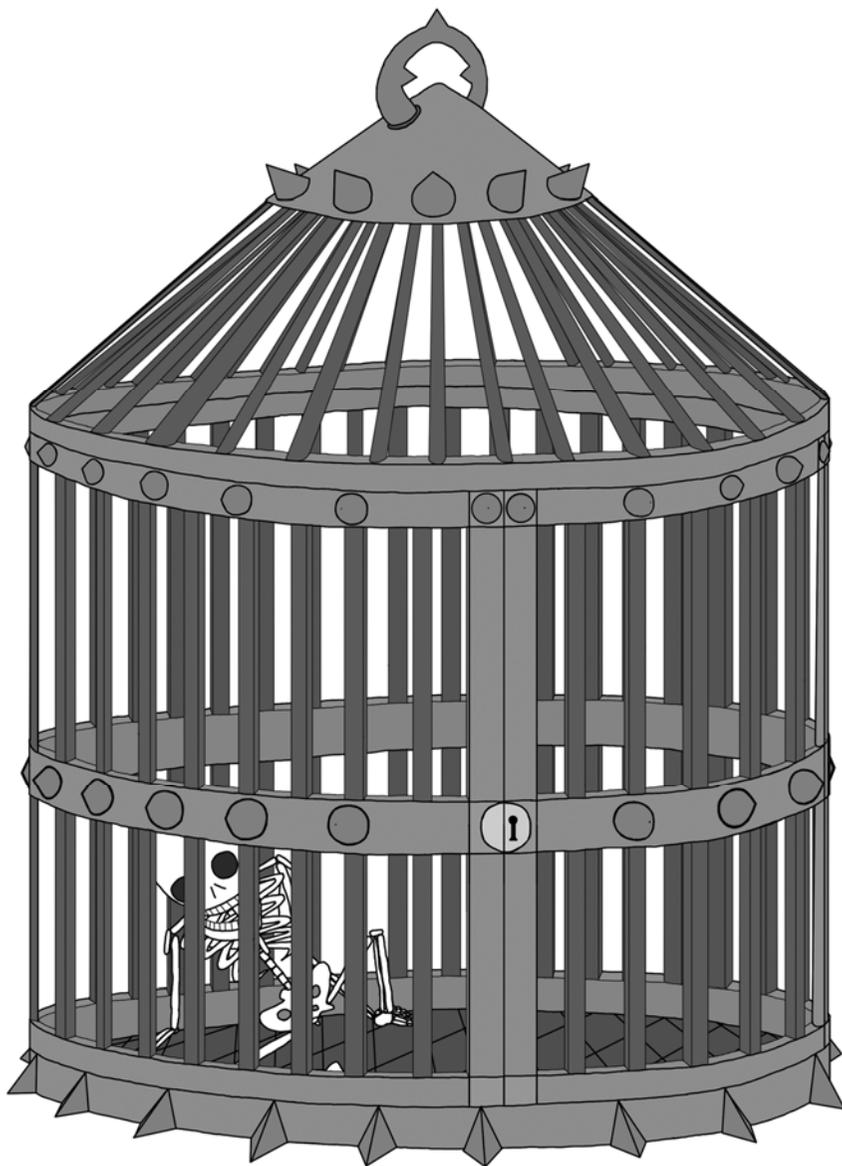
John and Audrey provided Clive with what supplies they could spare. The essentials he would need for the dangerous journey ahead were gathered into a bag, which he carried on his back. The last thing Clive grabbed before leaving was John’s finest axe, with which he armed himself.

“Please, bring our daughter home safe to us,” Audrey said as she and John sent the young man on his way.

“If I cannot rescue her, then I will certainly avenge her,” Clive swore.

And so, Clive set out into Martha’s Mystical Woods in pursuit of Lowenna. Little could he imagine what was waiting for him on the journey ahead.

## Chapter 4: The Dragon's Lair



**F**AR AWAY, the dragon carried Lowenna with a firm grip of his claws as he flew above the forest. The trees sped by swiftly below them. Lowenna held on tight as best she could, terrified of falling to her death. She remained silent, but only because she was too afraid to scream.

The dragon's flight came to an end when the forest gave way to rugged mountains. There, the dragon landed within his lair, the ruins of an ancient castle. The lair was a wretched place, rampant with filth. Useless relics lay everywhere, as did bones, broken stones, and ruined treasure. A foul stench filled the air.

Sitting on the ground, the dragon held up Lowenna and looked at her with a terrible stare. The dragon was a fearsome creature, to be sure. His eyes were bright and piercing. His limbs were thick and mighty, with claws that were large and sharp. His mouth was lined with deadly teeth that could have chewed through Lowenna as if she were a slice of fresh bread. He was covered in dark, faded scales that looked ready to repel any weapon made by man.

"Oh, great dragon, I beg that you show me mercy!" Lowenna cried.

The dragon looked at her closely, eyes glaring. The hot breath of his nostrils burst against her. Then the dragon spoke with a deep and powerful voice, though it was clear he could have spoken far louder and with much greater power had he wanted to.

"Mercy?" the dragon questioned. "What is it you expect of me that you plead for mercy?"

"Do you not intend to eat me?" Lowenna asked.

The dragon stared at her. Then, he sat tall and chuckled.

"Eat you? Of course not!" the dragon said. "If I meant to eat you, I would have already devoured you and every living

thing nearby. To waste such time carrying you all this way? Perish the thought. No, a princess such as yourself is far too valuable to eat!”

“A princess?” Lowenna gasped. “I’m afraid you have me mistaken for someone else!”

“Do not take me for a fool, milady,” the dragon growled. “I will not be so easily tricked. Your dress, your voice, your beauty, how could you be anything but a princess? And so, finding so perfect a princess exposed and vulnerable as you were, I have taken you hostage. Your kingdom will send heroes to rescue you, and I shall slay them. Then your kingdom will have no choice but to pay a most terrible ransom for your safe return!”

The dragon threw his head back and laughed an exceptionally malevolent laugh.

“Oh dear!” Lowenna gasped. Had her situation not been so dire, she might have found it to be quite humorous. “I’m afraid you are terribly mistaken!”

The dragon looked at her with a questioning gaze.

“Am I, now?” he asked. “And what is it that I am mistaken about?”

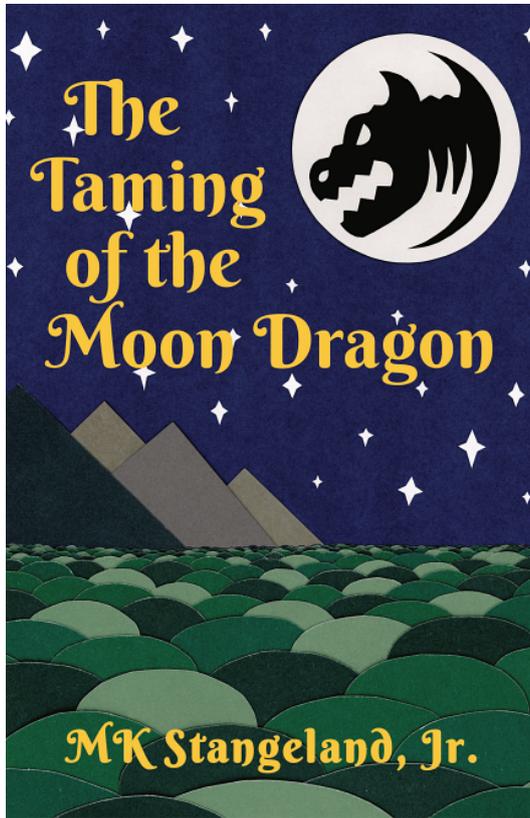
“You have mistaken me for a princess, which I most certainly am not,” Lowenna explained. “While it is quite flattering to be thought of as such, I am merely the daughter of a humble carpenter. The only treasure you could hope to receive by holding me captive would consist of a great deal of wood.”

The dragon laughed.

“I pity your sad attempt at trickery,” the dragon replied. “But I will not be swayed by such lies. No, I shall eagerly wait for your doomed rescuers to arrive. When they do, they will

expose you for who you truly are. I very much hope they will give me good sport before I destroy them.”

The dragon laughed again, then picked up a cage from among his belongings. He dumped out an ancient skeleton from the cage, then set the cage on the ground and locked Lowenna inside.



*A lady is mistaken for a princess by a dragon who plots to ransom her for great riches. She confounds the dragon with her escape attempts. Meanwhile, a carpenter's apprentice ventures on a quest to rescue the lady.*

## **The Taming of the Moon Dragon**

By MK Stangeland, Jr.

**Order the book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://booklocker.com)**

**<https://booklocker.com/books/14562.html?s=pdf>**

**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**