

"Finally," the sorceress said, "the time has come. Now I can summon Python."

She walked up to the River of Creation. Its murky color came from two keys - the key of darkness and the key of light. These keys created everything so whoever possessed both keys would rule the world. The key of darkness could only be handled by a creature that lived in the underworld, such as the sorceress. She already possessed the key, tipping the scale of creation, and making the River of Creation, Earth, and the underworld darker. But in order of achieving her goal of destroying the realm above the underworld, Earth, she had to possess both keys. The problem was that the key of light could only be given to her by a creature of Earth. The sorceress thought of this as a minor setback. For her, a minor setback was like a car needing gas. In her mind, she had already solved this problem.

The sorceress chanted, "Python, creature of the night, and servant of darkness, I summon you to complete the darkness' wish. Bring me the targets."

Out of the darkest part of the River of Creation came a giant hiss. It was as loud as a jet plane. After that, out of the river jumped Python. Python was a ginormous snake, about ten times bigger than the sorceress, and a thousand feet longer. He had rough scales that were dark green. Surrounding him was dark mist. Python slithered on the ground. He gave a loud hiss at the sorceress, and started sliding towards the portal. The portal was the only gateway from the underworld to Earth and vice versa. A creature of divine darkness, which was the highest power of evil, or a creature of divine light which was the highest power of goodness, couldn't use the portal. Since the sorceress had the key of darkness, she was classified as a creature of divine darkness. The only way to get rid of the keys was to give it up willingly, but since the sorceress was greedy, she wouldn't give the key of darkness to anybody. That meant she couldn't use the portal. However, if she got the key of light, the sorceress would be able to control the portal. She would allow only creatures of darkness and herself go to and from the underworld and Earth. Then Earth would be doomed. Python went through the murky-colored portal and disappeared. The portal turned black and- BOOM!

Aaron suddenly woke up. Sweat covered his face. He was breathing hard. He felt like he played 3 games of soccer.

What a dream, he thought.

Aaron looked at the clock on his desk, next to his bed. It read 2:37, and then it shut off. In a couple of seconds, it started back up blinking 12:00. Aron thought a power outage had occurred, but he heard a crash outside. Still half asleep, he walked up to the window in his room. What he saw woke him up in an instant. Aaron saw Python, and he was coming right towards him.

On Python's tail were some power lines. His eyes were glowing like a lantern in a shade of dark green. Aron thought Python was looking for something, or someone.

Python's head kept swinging from left to right. He was slithering down Desronom Road. Aaron's house was at the end of the street. He thought he had about two minutes until

Python came to his front door. So far Python was destroying most of the houses he passed, and that slowed him down.

Aaron quickly came up with a plan. The plan was to make a wild dash, down the stairs, and to the home phone. Then, he would call 911. Suddenly, he felt something watching him and quickly turned around. Outside his window was Python. His eyes were glowing brighter. Aaron then sprinted towards his cabinet, which was on the opposite side of the room. He dodged some of Python's spit. Python had the ability to spit poisonous acid. It could destroy anything it hit.

Huh, Danny thought, what would happen if that hit a person?

Aaron panicked for a moment, but then remembered where he was. He turned on the light switch that was near the cherry-brown cabinet. Aaron saw that the acid made a couple of giant holes in the wall of his room. He reached for a football. Then, he threw the football at Python through the gigantic hole in the wall. It hit Python, but instead of hurting him, all it did was make him angry. Python thought Aaron attacked him, and overcome with rage, he made a full-body body slam into Aaron's house. The house started to fall towards the giant snake.

Danny didn't know what to do, so he followed his instinct and jumped on Python. Python threw Aaron off. In mid-air, Aaron felt like an airplane that was out of control. He didn't know where he was going to land. Luckily, he missed the hard road, and landed in his neighbor's bush. Aaron felt like he was hit with a baseball bat. The pain shot up to his chest. As he was recovering from the fall, he saw Python unleash his wrath on another house. The house was old and fell straight down. Python still didn't seem satisfied. He lifted his long tail and sent it straight down like a rocket. When he lifted his tail again, there was a trench in the ground. Like the Moses split the Red Sea, Python split the wreckage.

Out of the corner of his eye, Aaron saw his neighbor, Samantha, running toward him. She was fast, but not fast enough to dodge Python's swift tail. Samantha crashed into the bush next to Aaron's.

While she was getting up she said "Hi Aaron. I didn't expect you to be here. By any chance, did you have a dream about-"

"Python," answered Aaron interrupting her. "My dream was about him. Also there was something about... targets! We might be the targets!"

Samantha was about to reply when Python leaned over them. His eyes glowed even brighter than before. Aaron and Samantha looked into Python's eyes in hope of seeing something that will defeat him. What they really saw was darkness. All of the sudden, in the middle of darkness, came a beam of light. The beam of light hit them, but instead of hurting them, it refreshed them and gave them power. Aaron and Samantha stopped looking at Python and looked at each other. Surrounding them was gold mist. All of a sudden, both kids knew what they had to do.

Aaron remembered a street performer he once saw. The performer did an amazing act with knives and referred to himself as the Blademaster. Aaron saw a similar gold mist surrounding the performer and his knives. Aaron connected the dots and realized that the mist was a sign. He closed his eyes and imagined a Python-sized

Blademaster coming to protect him. All of a sudden, the Blademaster fell from the sky and landed between Python and Aaron. But instead of being a street performer, he was a guardian, sent from above to save Aaron. He looked brave and fearless.

After seeing the Blademaster drop from the sky, Samantha remembered her favorite book. The main character was Pegasus, the winged horse. Samantha thought of Pegasus as an elegant stallion. She always wanted to see Pegasus in action. She closed her eyes and imagined Pegasus coming to her rescue. Then, Pegasus leaped from air and landed between Python and Samantha. Together, the Blademaster and Pegasus confronted Python.

First, Pegasus flew up into the air and over Python. She had to dodge Python's acid. She landed behind Python and turned around. Then, the Blademaster and Python approached each other. Python swung his tail at the Blademaster, but the Blademaster dodged. The Blademaster counterattacked with five quick strikes of his blades to the serpent's face. He spun, dodging Python's next attack and stabbed him in the side leaving the knife there. Black blood started pouring out of Python.

Filled with rage, Python swiped his tail at the Blademaster. The tail hit the Blademaster and sent him flying into the wreckage of Aaron's house. Samantha noticed that the moment Blademaster got hit, Aaron felt hurt, and realized that if Blademaster or Pegasus are injured, Aaron and she will be the ones to feel it.

From behind, Pegasus saw an opening and rammed into Python. Then she kicked him and flew backwards into the air. She repeated that attack a few times. This worked until Python caught her with his jaw when she was flying in front of his face. Python started injecting Pegasus with his poison. Samantha kneeled in pain.

Thankfully, the Blademaster stood up. He saw that since Python's head was in the air, his underside was completely unprotected. The Blademaster gathered the last of his strength and ran up to Python. As hard as he can, he jammed his remaining knife through the snake's skin. Defeated, Python evaporated into the black smoke.

The gold mist appeared around the Blademaster and Pegasus and they evaporated into the sky.

Aaron and Samantha looked around and saw that where before there was a house remainders, was now a portal. Curious as to what was inside, they walked in. They heard a deep voice.

"Hello kids," the deep voice said, "I have been waiting for you. The sorceress wants to take over Earth. She wants to use you to get her the key of light, but you need to get the key of darkness from her instead."

"Why us?" asked Samantha.

"You have seen the light, and it has chosen you two for this task," answered the voice.

"I thought the only way to get the key of darkness or the key of light was to give it up willingly. If we get the key of light and we don't want to give it up, won't the sorceress never get our key, so she won't be able to destroy Earth?" asked Aaron.

"No. There is another way to get a key. It is to duel and win. A duel is when everybody who's dueling summons their best monster and the monsters battle. It has

been predicted that you two will face off against the sorceress, and the winner will have control over both keys,” answered the voice. “Now, the portal will take you to the underworld. The only way you can get back is if you defeat the sorceress. Good luck.” Aaron and Samantha looked at each other, stepped out of the portal and into the darkness. They were in the underworld.