

# ***THE KINGDOM OF AZERECK PT. 2***

## ***THE THREE THIEVES***

Based on a story by Chrisvin Jabamani



Ever since Walter kidnapped the king of the Kingdom of War peace spread throughout the entire region. Walter's fame grew and grew until his feat became a legend. People told of his heroism far and wide about how he had fooled the king of the Kingdom of War.

The kings of the other kingdoms gave him gifts and even offered their daughter's hands in marriage, but Walter refused them. He wanted to live a simple life with his family.

Walter worked with his father, teaching him all of the things he had learned while he worked as the royal blacksmith in the Kingdom of War. His father was impressed with his skill. Together they made the finest armor and weapons the region had ever seen.

The problem was that since there was no longer war, no one was buying armor anymore. Walter had to find a new way to make money for his family. He and his father found another way to build their business. They began to make silver plates, cups, utensils and other silver products. Walter would take trips to the other kingdoms to sell his goods.

When Walter arrived in a town, the people cheered him. They knew who he was. They were very proud of him.

His father had designed a special seal that they engraved on the bottom of each

piece of silver. That seal made them famous. People wanted at least one piece of Walter's silver as a special remembrance of what he had done. Their business grew and grew.

One day, while Walter was traveling down a long road to the Kingdom of Damanon, three bandits attacked Walter and his cart. They tied Walter with ropes, took his bag of silver and ran off.

It took Walter three hours to untie himself. He was angry that he had not been able to protect himself, but he realized that the robbers knew his schedule and would probably try to steal from him again in the future. He had to come up with a plan to protect himself and to catch the thieves.

He went back to Azereck. His father was surprised to see him. Walter told him about what had happened. He told his father they needed to come up with a plan to catch the robbers.

They talked for several hours. They wrote down the ideas they came up with and drew up a plan. Walter would need help. He wouldn't be able to do this on his own.

Walter went to the king and asked if he could get some help to make his plan work. The king looked at the plan.

"This looks like a good idea, but I see some things that might be easier for you," the king said, as he took a pen and drew some figures on the paper. "I think this will work," the king continued to draw.

The king was excited to be helping Walter. The robbers had been stealing from merchants along the roads out of Azereck for some time now. If they could catch them, the people and merchants of the town would be very grateful.

The king called his military officers to the castle. When they were all there the king explained the plan to them.

"This is a very secret plan. If word of this gets out, the robbers will know of our plan, and we won't be able to capture them," the king explained. "Walter will be the leader. We need three good men to help. Will any of you volunteer?"

No one spoke up. The mission was dangerous. The robbers had beaten and even

killed some of the people they had robbed. They were infamous in the land, and everyone was afraid of them.

“If none of you volunteer, I will have to select three of you to help. I don’t usually force soldiers, but this is a serious situation,” the king stated strongly.

Still none of his officers volunteered.

“OK, Rupert, Jonathon and Travis, you will work with Walter to solve this menace,” the king pointed at the new ‘volunteers’.

Reluctantly, the three recruits went with Walter to the table to review the plans the king and Walter designed.

“As you can see from our drawings, the robbers have four favorite places to attack merchants,” Walter said as he pointed to the four locations he marked on the map. “What we need is for each one of you to take one of these roads and watch for the robbers. When you see them, you will send a signal. Then the rest of us will come to help you capture the thieves.”

The three helpers looked over the plan. They discussed many things about what kind of weapons they would need, what disguises they would use and what kind of signal would be best.

At the end of the discussion the king told them, “I will give you whatever you need to make this happen. Just ask and I will give it to you.”

Rupert spoke up first, “We will need money to pay for information.”

Jonathon added, “And special clothes so they won’t recognize us.”

“Just let me know what you need, and I will provide it,” the king said with a smile on his face. He knew that if the men caught the robbers his kingdom would be safe again.

Walter took the men to his blacksmith’s shop and showed the weapons they had made. He told them the best way to not be noticed was to look like the peasants of the town. If they had a big sword it would give them away. They needed something small, but effective.

Each of them took a small dagger that was easy to hide in their belts.

The three men gathered food and supplies for their journeys.

Walter made sure that their plan remained a secret. No one knew of this plan except the king, Walter, and the three men.

Jonathan went north, Rupert went east and Travis went south. Walter went to the west.

Days passed and there was no signal. It appeared that the robbers might have found out about the plan and had gone elsewhere. It was tiring for the watcher to be watching all day and into the night.

On the eighth day the signal came. It was Jonathon. A wisp of smoke rose from his hiding place.

All of the men rushed to the spot. As they looked down on the road they saw the robbers tying up the merchants and moving the goods to their cart.

Walter and the three men crawled slowly down the hill and surprised the robbers.

The robbers ran, but to the surprise of the attackers, there were suddenly nine robbers running in many directions. Every time one of them was captured, they would disappear. They were just illusions. After chasing the illusions for an hour, it became obvious that the robbers had gotten away. The robbers had a magic spell and because of it they were able to escape.

Walter untied the merchants and helped them to their feet.

“What happened to our goods?” the merchants asked.

“It appears that the thieves got away,” Walter replied.

“You are a failure, Walter. How could you let them get away with all of our merchandise?” one of the merchants yelled.

Walter shrugged his shoulders. “We tried our best. You saw what happened. They suddenly became an army,” Walter replied.

The merchants didn't care. When they got back to the castle the merchants told about how Walter and his friends had failed to capture the robbers. Now Walter was no longer a hero. He was a failure.

It was going to be even more difficult to capture the robbers since they knew that there was plan to capture them. It was time to formulate a new plan.

Walter and the three soldiers went to the blacksmith's shop to revise the plan. Now that they knew that the robbers were using magic the new plan would have to be very different.

“What if we bought invisible armor?” Jonathon suggested.

“Invisible armor? I have never heard of such a thing!” Travis said raising his eyebrows in disbelief.

“I heard about it from a merchant who came to our town from the Kingdom of Nod,” Jonathan said to Travis.

“First of all, where are we going to get invisible armor, and second, how will we pay for it?” Rupert jumped in.

“The king said he would give us whatever we needed,” Travis interrupted.

“He's right, now all we have to do is find a place where we can buy it,” Rupert added.

“I think I know of a place. It is in the Kingdom of Nod. When I was there the last time, I saw a shop call The Wizard's Magic Market. The problem is I think that the robbers may also shop there. That is how they were able to create all of those illusions. We will need someone else to go and buy the invisible armor for us,” Walter said, while scratching his head for an idea.

Walter jumped up, and said, “I've got it. We will ask the Princess Azul to go to the store. No one will suspect her. Who would ever think that the princess would be setting a trap for the thieves?”

Walter went to the castle. As he walked through the crowd the people laughed at him and called him a failure. This was new for Walter, but he knew that the new plan would work, so he just ignored the townspeople and what they were saying about him.

He asked to see the princess. When she came to see Walter she looked beautiful. Walter had seen her before, but never up close like this.

Walter bowed in respect, and then said to her, “We need your help princess. Your father has asked me to help capture the robbers who have been stealing from our merchants. We need you do something for us that is very important in order for us to accomplish this task. It might even be a little dangerous.”

“What is it that you need for me to do?” the princess replied.

“We need for you to go to the Kingdom of Nod and buy something for us,” Walter answered.

“What is it that you need” she asked.

“We need you to buy four suits of invisible armor from The Wizard’s Magic Market in the Kingdom of Nod,” Walter explained

“Suits of invisible armor? I have never heard of that before,” the princess said to Walter very surprised.

“I’m not sure that it exists, but there is a rumor that we can buy them there. The robbers may also shop there so we need someone they wouldn’t suspect of trying to capture them to buy these things for us. Also, since you are the princess, you will have your guards with you so they will not try to steal them from you while you are on your way home,” Walter explained.

The princess agreed to help.

Walter went to the king and explained the new strategy. Although he was not excited about Azul going to the Kingdom of Nod and being a part of the plan, he gave Walter the money they needed to buy the invisible armor. It was a lot of money, but the king realized that if the plan was successful his kingdom would be safe once again.

The princess contacted the king of the Kingdom of Nod and arranged a meeting with him. By doing it this way the journey became an official trip. The princess had her guards with her, as well as her ladies-in-waiting.

The princess went to the Kingdom of Nod. The trip took two weeks. When she arrived, the king of the Kingdom of Nod met her at the gate. He was excited to have her there. He knew her father very well. A big feast was prepared for her arrival.

“I would like you to meet my son Prince Gary,” the king said as he introduced his son.

Prince Gary was a very small person. He had a big smile and was very friendly; he was just very short. The princess greeted him by shaking his hand. Then they all went into the castle and had a grand dinner. There were dancers and jugglers. The entertainment was wonderful.

The princess was tired, so after a while she asked to go to bed.

The next morning the princess went to the village. Her guards followed her as she gazed into the shops along the road. The people very were happy to see her and invited her to see all of the things they had to offer. Along the way she bought a few things she liked.

When she got to The Wizard’s Magic Market, she went inside. She asked to talk to the owner.

The owner, a bald headed man with a large nose, came out from behind a curtain and greeted the princess.

“How may I help you today, your majesty?” the funny looking man asked.

“I have been told that you can make invisible armor. Is this true?” she asked.

The owner was surprised. “Where did you hear that?” he questioned.

“I heard a rumor that you had such a thing. My father is very curious about this. He will pay you to make four of these suits. Is that possible?” the princess asked.

“Yes, I can do that for you, but it will cost you a lot of money. Are you prepared to pay?” the owner said rubbing his hands together with a big smile on his face in anticipation of getting top pay for the suits.

“How much do you need?” she asked.

“It will cost you, say, 400 farthings per suit. Can you pay that?” the owner grinned and chuckled.

“How long will it take for you to make these suits?” Azul asked.

“I will have them ready for you tomorrow afternoon,” the owner replied.

“I will have your money tomorrow. Make sure that no one hears of this or you will have a problem with my father,” the princess told him.

“As you command, your majesty,” the owner said as he bowed in respect.

After she left the shop, the princess continued her journey through the town talking to the townspeople and being very friendly.

Walter had secretly followed the princess and watched the entrance to the shop to see if any of the robbers might visit the store. A few people came and went, but none of them matched the faces of the robbers.

The next day the princess returned to the shop. The owner was waiting for her.

“I’ve completed your order. Here are the four suits of armor you requested,” the owner pointed to an empty table.

“Where are they, I don’t see them,” the princess asked looking at the table and seeing nothing.

“Of course you can’t see them, they are invisible,” the owner said smiling.

The princess went to the table and felt for the suits of armor. Sure enough she could feel them, but she couldn’t see them.

“These are perfect! My father is going to love these,” the princess said with excitement in her voice. “Make sure no one knows about this,” she warned him again.

Her helpers carried the suits to her waiting carriage and put them inside. The princess then climbed in and left the town for the trip back to Azereck.

When she got home her father came to meet her. The princess whispered to her father that she was able to make the purchase.

Walter arrived back to the village shortly after the princess and met with the three soldiers. They talked over the new plan and about how they would make it work.

In the evening Walter went to the castle to get the suits of armor. He took them to his blacksmith’s shop, and they tried them on. The fit was perfect. Once they were inside of the suits they couldn’t see each other. Only when they talked would anyone know where they were. They were very light, and it was easy to move in them.

The next day each of the men, in their invisible armor, returned to the place where they had been hiding before. It took three days before the signal came. This time the robbers were on the south road. Travis sent up the signal. A small wisp of smoke rose above the place where he was hiding.

The others went to the spot overlooking the road. Once again the robbers had tied up the merchants and were taking the goods out of one cart and putting them into another. The four soldiers moved slowly down the hill. This time the thieves didn't see them coming, so they weren't able to use their magic. They captured the thieves and tied them up.

The merchants were happy, although they had no idea what was happening because they couldn't see the four invisible men.

When Walter and the others took off the armor, the merchants were shocked. When the merchants returned to Azereck they told the story of how Walter and the three soldiers had rescued them and captured the three thieves.

When Walter, Rupert, Jonathon and Travis returned to the castle they were greeted as heroes. They had the three thieves tied up in the back of their own cart.

The thieves were taken to the prison and locked up for a very long time. The guards took away all of their magic spells.

The king of Azereck made Walter a knight and gave him a position in his court. Walter became a very important person and well respected.

From then on Jonathon, Rupert, and Travis became wealthy men because they received pay from the merchants to protect them using the invisible armor.

Over time, Walter's reputation grew and grew. The princess Azul fell in love with Walter, and they were married. When the king died, Walter became king of the Kingdom of Azereck, and he ruled wisely for many years.

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. feat _____      | a. villain, notorious     |
| 2. merchants _____ | b. unsafe, risky          |
| 3. military _____  | c. exploit, deed          |
| 4. dangerous _____ | d. hush-hush, not to tell |
| 5. infamous _____  | e. to offer to help       |
| 6. volunteer _____ | f. vendors, sellers       |
| 7. reluctant _____ | g. change, edit           |
| 8. locations _____ | h. army, armed force      |
| 9. secret _____    | i. unwilling              |
| 10. revise _____   | j. places, sites          |

**TRUE OR FALSE**

- |                                                       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Walter was famous in his town.                     | T / F |
| 2. Five men volunteered to help the king.             | T / F |
| 3. Walter and his father made silver plates.          | T / F |
| 4. Walter had his silver stolen from him on the road. | T / F |
| 5. Rupert, Jonathon and Travis ran away when chosen.  | T / F |
| 6. The king gave them money.                          | T / F |
| 7. The princess married Prince Gary.                  | T / F |
| 8. The thieves killed Walter.                         | T / F |
| 9. The illusions were real.                           | T / F |
| 10. The king was proud of Walter and the others.      | T / F |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. What was the name of the store where the Princess bought the armor? \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Merlin's Magic Shop
- b) The Wizard's Lair
- c) The Magic Shop of Nod
- d) The Wizard's Magic Market

1. How many soldiers helped Walter catch the thieves? \_\_\_\_\_

- a) none
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 12

2. How long did it take the princess to get to the Kingdom of Nod? \_\_\_\_\_

- a) 2 weeks
- b) 4 days
- c) 6 days
- d) 2 days

3. What did Walter and his father make when weapons were not needed? \_\_\_\_\_

- a) copper
- b) silver
- c) bronze
- d) invisible armor

**COMPREHENSION:** (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. Where did the princess go to buy the armor?

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2. What was the name of the prince of the Kingdom of Nod?

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3. What happened the first time they tried to capture the thieves?

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4. How many thieves were there?

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5. What did Walter engrave into the sword?

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6. What did the king promise Walter and his companions?

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7. What did the thieves do with the merchandise?

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8. What was the signal used to say the thieves were there?

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9. What did the townspeople say to Walter after he failed the first time?

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10. At the end of the story, what happened to Walter?

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