

The Powerful, Pleasurable and Indestructible Dude  
By Madison Rose Maas

I dodged the lasers and traps, I did a triple somersault in the air and landed on all four paws, all for just a bite of food. I hadn't eaten in days, I was starving. But then in a flash my hamster senses started to tingle. I turned around. My owner Molly had seen me! But I wasn't about to let her put me back in that cage. My adventure had just started...

"That's not what happened. One there were no lasers or traps. Two you did not do a triple somersault in the air, and you definitely did not land it. And three, you were not starving, you had just escaped the cage, in fact that was right after you took my piece of carrot Dude and-"

"Woah, woah, woah, who's telling the story here?" I said interrupting Cookie, "Sorry about my annoying sister, now where was I?"

I scurried into a cupboard, and without thinking I cornered myself. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a little hole. I quickly squeezed through. It was very dark, but my eyes quickly adjusted as I hoped. All I could think about was how, every step forward I took would eventually have to be taken back. So why keep going? But my paws didn't care I thought.

After a couple more steps I saw a light, but it wasn't bright or colorful, just light. I couldn't help but go closer.

As I slowly crept inside, my eyes flashed, there was no color just black and white. The concrete checkered floor made my feet stiff. The dead weeping willows were silently screaming *Turn around now*. But the wind told me to keep going, and I couldn't help but listen.

It was like a big vacuum had sucked up all the color and excitement out of the world, well, that world at least.

The only sound I could hear was myself hyperventilating. My breath went out hot and came in cold.

Finally, I heard a sound that was not me. At first I was relieved, but then my opinion evaporated. I slowly walked backwards even though there was nothing there, well, at least that's what I kept telling myself.

"Ahhhhhhh!" I screamed. But the weird part was that I wasn't the only one who screamed it. I sharply turned and saw a blur of colors. Suddenly, I realized it was a rainbow mouse!

"What are you?" the mouse asked.

"A hamster," I said.

"Wow!" said the mouse as his eyes widened.

"What's your name?" I asked.

"What's a hamster?"

"Wait, your name is 'what's a hamster'?"

"No, it's Skittles, but really, what's a hamster?"

"I'm kinda like your cousin."

"Do you wanna be friends?" the mouse said in a shaky voice.

"That's exactly what I was thinking."

"Great, and by the way I have just one more question, why are you here?"

“Um-I really don’t know anymore, but I’m about to find out,” I said confidently while running off.”

“Well, ok,” Skittles called out to Dude, “Well that was weird,” he muttered.

As I walked away I spotted a big blur that looked like a castle, but it was hard to tell because it had no color. It was all black and white and everything looked so blended together and it just didn’t look right.

As I approached the blur I realized I was right. I looked around, no one was there so I sneaked in scanning for traps, sadly there were none.

All I could see was this old little mouse that looked like Skittles, but no color.

The room was filled with velvet pillows, fluffy carpets and lavender candles. The thick and vibrant smell irritated me.

“Hello,” the lady said confused.

“Um- well- hi,” I said frightened.

“What’s a little hamster like you doing in Mouse Kingdom?”

“What did you say?” I asked.

“Mouse Kingdom?”

“Y-yeah, is that here?”

“Well of course it is,” she exclaimed, “But really, why are you here?”

“Um I don’t really know, but I did have a question for you.”

“Go on.”

“Why is Mouse Kingdom black and white?”

“Oh,” she said with a fake smile “You may want to sit down, this will take a while,” her fake smile went away, she wasn’t even trying. “A couple years ago the kingdom was the most colorful and joyful place on earth, but very suddenly we became low on food. Luckily we had a brave king who would do anything for us. He had volunteered to find us some food. He set off on his journey the next day.

He promised to be back by dawn, he was not, and he wasn’t back the next day either, or the next. After some time passed the kingdoms color and brightness slowly drained away.

Only one little mouse never lost hope, and it was Skittles. The reason for this was his dad had promised him that he would come back and his dad never broke a promise to him. Even though it’s been so long Skittles never lost hope and I doubt he ever will. I’m glad about this but I know at some point I’ll have to tell him and when I do Mouse Kingdom can never change back because once everything is black and white there’s no going back.

You know they looked for him for years and they never found him as if he was hiding, like he didn’t want to come back, like, like he was afraid to. But the only thing I can’t figure out is, of what?” Right then the old mouse started crying, hard. She was hurt, a lot. I thought it was about time I left “Thank you for your help,goodbye.” As I speed walked out of the castle I felt I had to do something, but there was nothing I could do.

I needed to think. I decided to take a walk. Walking always helped me think that’s why I always tried to escape from my cage, not because I don’t like my home, I just need some space.

As I walked farther and farther from the castle I saw Skittles crying! I scampered up to him

“What’s wrong?” I asked.

“My father Isn’t coming back, is he?” Skittles said in the saddest voice I ever heard.

“What are you talking -”

“I heard you and my mom talking, stop lying to me! I thought we were friends,” Skittles turned around and left.

As he walked away I saw a black and white spot on his back. He was turning black and white! There was only one thing I could do, I was going to find the king and make my friend happy again.

I turned around and ran towards the outskirts of Mouse Kingdom. I stopped at the border out of breath, and options.

All I could think about was, what if I try and I don’t find him and it’s all my fault! But then I remembered what Molly’s mom said,

“You never know until you try.” To be fair she was talking about brussel sprouts, but never mind that. But then I realized that if I don’t even try there’s no chance at all.

I stepped over the border, took a deep breath and continued into something that could be the last thing I ever do.

I went forward and felt a fast change in temperature.

Every breath of mine I saw fade away I saw a little piece of Skittles hope and color fade away to. I started to move faster.

The sounds of the wind grew louder.

I approached the biggest thing I had ever seen my heart was beating as fast as the little patting noise on the hamster wheel. The tall lump in the ground was covered with cold white fluffy flakes.

There was no way around the problem, so I knew had to go over.

The thick intimidating air was telling me to turn around. I took my first step upward and my paw sank a bit, but at that point I had no reason to care.

“You know Cookie now that I think about it I don’t know why I was scared, i’m an amazing climber.”

“Your okay I guess.”

“I can’t hear you,” I teased, “Sorry I’ll get back to the story.”

The higher I got the colder it was, in other words the more I couldn’t feel my toes. Right then my paws were the only thing between victory and a long visit to the vet. There was one more reach and then I would be at the top of the treacherous mountain. I stretched my right paw out as far as I could and I pulled myself up! I was there, I had done it! But then I realized, I still had to get down, find the king and do it all over again.

“Oh darn,” I complained.

I was so tired I could take a nap. But I couldn’t because I was on the clock. One thing I could do was sit down and think about how I was gonna get down! Suddenly my question was answered! But not in the best way. Some force was pulling me down the mountain!

I started going to the right then the left then the right then straight.

“Ahhhhhhhhhh!” I shrieked.

I finally reached the bottom with a big thump but I continuously got pulled until I arrived to a little house. I slowly opened the door and peeked my head in to see what was there.

“Hi,” the mouse exclaimed.

I gasped and took a shaky step in.

"Hi?" I said confused.

"You're a hamster right?"

"Yes."

"I'm so sorry."

"For what, being a hamster?"

"No of course not, you know that force that was pulling you?"

"How do you know about that thing?"

"That 'thing' was my invention."

"What?"

"I have many inventions, like the door without a handle, the fire place you can't make a fire in and-

"Isn't that just a hole in a wall?"

"Details don't matter when your talking about inventions. Some other inventions of mine are the spring that only throws stuff up mountains, the comfiest chair in the world!

"That's kinda cool."

"That breaks when you sit on it."

"Oh."

"And last but not least, the hamster magnet."

"Why would you-"

"Ah ah ah remember details don't matter."

I looked at the rest of his inventions but something else caught my eye. It was a picture of the man and Skittles! It was him, the king, I had found him!

"Why did you not come back to Mouse kingdom?"

"What?"

"We both know you heard me," I said with a serious face.

"You should go."

"Yeah and you should to. What happened?"

"Fine, years ago when Mouse kingdom was low on food I volunteered to go find some. I searched all night and I couldn't find anything all the plants were dead. While I kept searching I lived on the last bit of food that the kingdom gave me for my journey. Two weeks after I gave up looking all the plants were thriving again. But I never decided to go back because they would be mad and disappointed. I broke my promise and let them down. I just couldn't face them."

"Don't you know what happened," I said.

"What are you talking about?"

"Mouse kingdom is black and white, they all lost their color and hope even Skittles is starting to."

"Is he okay?"

"No and he won't until you come back and we don't have much more time."

"I can't. I'll disappoint them."

"The only thing that will disappoint them is you not coming back."

"But-

“But what, you made a mistake that’s all. They don’t need you to be perfect they need you to be there.”

“Okay I’ll go.”

“Well now all we have to do is get there.”

“But how are we gonna get there in time?”

“I don’t know-wait what if we get the thing that throws stuff up mountains and we’ll throw up the hamster magnet and you’ll hold on to me and i’ll be pulled up and then we’ll slide down!”

“Perfect!”

We got outside hoping for it to work. I turned on the hamster magnet and then the other machine. It pulled us up so fast I could barely see anything. When we got to the top I took a deep breath.

“Are you ready?” I asked.

“I hope so.”

We pushed off the mountain and started sliding faster than the wind. Our path was even crazier than last time but it wasn’t as scary with a friend.

“Whooooo hooo!” The king yelled.

We got to the bottom and started running as fast as we could. We got to Mouse kingdom and stood there in shock. Skittles color, had vanished. All hope was gone and there was nothing we could do and it was all my fault

“Skittles?”

“Daddy?”

The king ran up to Skittles and gave him a big hug. The kingdom burst with color and everyone wore a smile. The colorful objects were no longer blurry and everything was the way it was supposed to be. The purple castle, the yellow sign that said “WELCOME TO MOUSE KINGDOM!” and the rainbow checkered floor.

“I guess I was wrong! Nothing’s forever, anything can change.”

“Remember to come and visit!” said Skittles.

“All the time!”

“Thank you, thank you so much.”

“Anytime Mr. King,” I said with a smile.

“Call me Snickers,” Snickers said sincerely.

“Sure that’s what happened?” Cookie said sarcastically.

“You don’t have to believe it. All that matters is that I know it’s true and I believe it.

“Well-you-I. Uhg.”

“Mouse got your tongue? Well when you come up with a comeback, just say the word.”

# The End

