

# Ethan, Drew and the Dragon's Cave

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## Ethan, Drew and the Dragon's Cave

By John Bonthron

## *Ethan, Drew and the Dragon's Cave*

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*This is a story for Ethan (6) and Drew (4).*

*Dorothy the Dragon was drawn by their big cousin Matthew (9).*

*Sebastian the Scorpion was drawn by Ethan.*

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Ethan (6) and Drew (4) were at Mugdock Country Park with Grandma and Grampa.

"Drew, let's play hide and seek. You hide and I'll count up," said Ethan.

"Okay. But count up to ten million so I can find a good place," said Drew.

Ethan hid his eyes and began to count as his Grampa had taught him, shouting:

*"Five, Ten, Double Ten, Five, Ten a Hundred."*

*"Five, Ten, Double Ten, Five, Ten a Hundred."*

Drew thought about hiding under a bush but it was too jaggy. He thought about hiding up the tree but it was too slippy. He ran across to the big rock, talking quietly to himself so that Ethan would not hear him.

*"This is the place where Grandma said they used to keep Lions, when there was a Zoo here and an Elephant called Charlie. Ethan will never find me here."*

Behind the rock there was a steep cliff face rising to a high place with trees. Between the rock and the cliff there was just enough space for Drew. He slipped in and crouched down, out of sight. He remembered what Grampa had taught him:

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*"Drew, if you want to become invisible, close your eyes and keep very quiet."*

Just after he closed his eyes, he felt himself falling backwards. Rolling down a slippery slope. At the bottom, he landed with a big **Plop!**

He opened his eyes and stood up. He was covered in mud. It was nearly up to the top of his wellies. It wasn't ordinary mud. It was sticky and smelled a bit like poo. Everything was dark and dim, like inside a cupboard with the lights out. He looked up. At the top of the slippery slope he saw flickers of light from the narrow crack he had fallen through.

He could hear Ethan's voice but it sounded far away.

*"Coming to get you, Drew. Ready or not."*

Drew tried to climb up the slope towards the crack, to get out. But the rock was slimy and slippery and there were no hand holds. Drew was trapped in a very big cave. He was a wee bit frightened.

Drew shouted at the very top of his voice.

**"Ethan, I'm down here. I'm stuck. HEEEEELLP! HEEEEELLP!"**

Ethan's voice sounded further away, like a whisper.

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"Drew, I'm coming to get you. Ready or not."

From high above Drew, another voice said:

"Ah-Hem! Excuse me. This is a private cave. Children are well advised to stay out."

Drew looked up. Two red eyes stared down at him. He pretended to be brave.

**"Hey, who are you?"**

The eyes disappeared and there was just blackness.

**"Hey, where have you gone?"**

"My name, dear boy, is Sebastian the Scorpion."

The voice had moved. Drew stared at the spot where the voice was coming from but still could not see anything.

Ethan's voice sounded even further away, a tiny voice, hard to hear:

"Drew, I know where you are. You're up that big tree, aren't you?"

The other voice from above said:

"I take it you are the missing boy, Drew. Am I correct in my assumption?"

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"I'm not missing. I'm playing Hide and Seek and I'm stuck. Do you have any ropes I could use?"

"Ropes? Ropes? No, no, no. There are no ropes here. Dreadful things ropes. Used to tie people up. And Drew, I'm not **deaf** you know, so keep your voice down. We don't want to attract 'YOU-KNOW-WHO'. Do we?"

The other voice had moved to another place, still high up. The two red eyes showed again and this time they began to flicker. Then extra lights started to glow. These extra lights were yellow, not red. Then, behind them, a little higher up, another yellow light shone more brightly. This light had a red tip which was also flickering.

"What are these other lights, please?"

"These lights are my very sharp\_claws and my very venomous tail! So be warned, stay away from me or I'll sting you and chop you into little pieces. I will, you know. I'm not afraid of you. I'm not afraid of anyone. I am very, very, very brave. I am, really I am. Everyone knows I'm very brave. Everyone."

"How big are you, please?"

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Just for a half of a second, Sebastian the Scorpion lit up his tail even more brightly and Drew could see the scorpion was about the size of his own hand. Sebastian's body was hard to see. It was a dark purple colour, almost black. Sebastian's tail and claws dimmed and went out. His red eyes flickered a little longer and then they, too, went out and Sebastian was invisible again.

It was as if Drew was entirely alone in the smelly cave.

**"Hey, Sebastian, you've closed your eyes, haven't you?"**

"Dear boy, do keep your voice down. Or Else!"

"Or Else what?"

"Or else YOU-KNOW-WHO will come. Then you'll be sorry."

"Hey, who is YOU-KNOW-WHO?"

"A very horrible dragon who eats little boys and girls. She's been stuck in this cave for ages. She is very grumpy and very hungry."

Just then, out of the inky blackness at the far end of the cave another deeper voice sounded:

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From above, Sebastian flashed his red eyes and said: "Oh no, Drew, now you've done it."

The scorpion's eyes went out and Drew was all alone, with the dragon.

The deeper voice rumbled like thunder:

"Ah, there you are. A nice juicy little boy. Thank you for dropping by. It's been ages since I've eaten. Ten million years, I think. Did I say? I am very, very, very hungry. Yummy, yummy, yummy, in my tummy."

High above them, Sebastian the Scorpion lit up his tail to full brightness.

The dragon waddled through the poo-smelling mud, splashing it everywhere. Drew could see she was very, very tall, the size of Drew's house, maybe even taller. Her body was covered in bright green, wrinkly skin. She had small red wings, a large blue tummy sticking out in front of her. Her strong back legs were like frog's with huge webbed feet and long black claws for toes. Her head was quite small for her body, about the size of a basketball, with a big, fat, squashy, orange nose, small yellow eyes and six long, razor-sharp yellow teeth. On top of her head there was a tall pointy spike, like a witch's hat. The dragon's arms were short and

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thin with large blue hands but only three red claws for fingers and an orange thumb claw. Her tail was long and swished constantly, splashing mud everywhere, stirring up the smell which was disgusting.

Drew's legs began to wobble. His knees were knocking together like drumsticks but he pretended to be brave and shouted:

**"Hey, who are you? You're just a ghost, aren't you?"**

"Never mind who I am. You're Drew, right? And you don't need to shout, I'm not deaf like your Grampa."

"Do you know my Grampa?"

"Yes, of course I know your Grampa. Everyone at Mugdock knows John Bee. He used to sit on that rock outside my cave, with his dog. What was it called again?"

"Fleckie. He was a Border Collie."

"That's right. A Border Collie. And very nosey with it too. Found his way in here one day. Barking and barking. Gave me a dreadful headache, that dog did. Three weeks it lasted. Right, Drew, time to boil you for lunch. Now where did I put that cooking pot?"

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Drew turned and ran back to the wall and tried again to climb up to the crack high above, to escape. The wall was too wet and slimy and he kept slipping down again.

The dragon grabbed Drew and shoved him into a big pot and slammed the lid down.

She was talking to herself.

*"Right now, Dorothy, let's get this pot into the oven."*

Drew hear a loud **CLANG** as the oven door slammed shut.

*"Right now, Dorothy, there we are, get those sticks under the oven and set them alight with your dragon's fire breath."*

Drew heard a loud roaring noise and then the crackle of sticks burning. The pot began to heat up and he was sweating. He pushed and pushed at the lid but it was stuck down tight.

From inside the cooking pot he shouted:

**"Hey, let me out. Let me out! LET ME OUT! You won't like eating me, I taste horrible. Try eating honeydew melon instead. LET ME OUT!"**

Sebastian the Scorpion scuttled across the roof of the cave until he was directly above Dorothy the

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Dragon. When he was right above her head, he let go and dropped onto her orange nose and nipped it hard with both of his very sharp yellow claws and, at the same time, he stabbed her orange nose with his very venomous red tail.

Dorothy the Dragon screamed like a train whistle entering a tunnel.

**“Stop that Sebastian! Stop that at once! If I catch you, I’ll boil you in the pot too!”**

Dorothy tried to reach up to her head to grab Sebastian but her arms were too short to reach her nose so she could not swipe the little scorpion away and he kept on nipping and stabbing. Dorothy’s tail swished round and smashed the oven to smithereens and the bits flew around like confetti. The cooking pot was knocked into the far away corner, with Drew still inside.

Dorothy was so angry she jumped right up on her strong back legs, right up to the top of the cave. Her pointy spike smashed a giant hole in the roof. Rocks and trees from the ground above fell into the cave.

Dorothy was a bit dizzy from the bang and she began to shake her head. Sebastian jumped off her nose into

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a crack between two rocks. Dorothy looked up and saw blue sky. After being trapped in the cave for hundreds of years, she could escape at last.

Dorothy the Dragon forgot all about Drew and Sebastian the Scorpion and flew up, out through the hole. She was last seen heading out toward the hills near Dumgoyne to try and find a few sheep or cows to eat.

Inside the cooking pot, Drew shoved again and this time the lid fell off.

From high above, at the edge of the hole in the roof, Ethan leaned over and shouted down.

**"Drew, I spy you! You're hiding in that pot! I spy you, Drew! Come on, climb out of that cave. It's my turn to hide now."**

Grandma and Grampa's heads appeared at the edge of the hole. Grandma shouted down.

'Oh Drew, look at the state of you. You are absolutely covered in mud. And what a horrible smell. Whatever possessed you to hide down there? Come on, climb out of there at once.'

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As Drew was climbing out, a little voice which no one else could hear said:

"Bye-Bye Drew. I do hope to see you again sometime. And thanks for getting rid of YOU-KNOW-WHO!"

Drew peered into the space between the two rocks. Sebastian the Scorpion flashed his red eyes three times then closed them, making himself invisible again.

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