

RUEINA
the
Dragonslayer



by Terrence V.R. Miller

Illustrations by Rick Buckler

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Inspired by Tess



It is perfectly normal for a boy to slay his first dragon by the age of ten. After all, this is how a boy becomes a knight.

What is not perfectly normal is for a girl to slay her first dragon or any dragon by the age of ten.

For it is well known a girl could never slay a dragon, let alone become a knight. This is what the boys thought. For they were always teasing her about what she could and couldn't do. But Rufina thought such opinions silly. After all, she was of the mind there was nothing a boy could do that a girl couldn't do better.

Rufina would simply have to prove them wrong. And so she set off to find a dragon.

First, Rufina would need a sword. Where better to find one than in the shed?

In the corner was a pile of wooden boards, including one from the picket fence around her house.

It was the perfect length and ended with a point, most necessary to slay a dragon.

"This will do fine," she thought.

Next, she would need armor, and where better to look than the kitchen?

In the cupboard filled with pots and pans, she found a strainer that was the perfect helmet, along with a large skillet that would make a fine shield.

Now Rufina knew dragons breathed very hot fire, so she wrapped aluminum foil around her tummy and chest for protection.

And, of course, no one setting out on an adventure leaves without a faithful steed to help carry supplies and share some fun along the way.

So, Rufina called Bowser to this duty, and he was eager to honor his master.

