

AND YOU THOUGHT DRAGON'S DIDN'T EXIST

By Dave Thomas

WHY WE LIKE IT: *We liked this quirky little what if starring Adam (somewhere), Eve, another guy and the Instigator of all human misery for all time. Grendel's distant cousin is a vampy reptile who's about to get a make-over in an Eden whose days are numbered. Short and perky and very curiously inspired.*

"Fig leaves... Fig leaves..." I chanted, trying not to stare.

She blinked. "Are you God?"

"Nope. So, um, where's your husband?"

"He's busy," she said, "but I'm expecting another visitor very soon."

"Oooooooh, I think I know who. Where is that slimy little snake? I'll squash him."

She smiled innocently. "He's behind you."

I whirled around, ready to stamp him into the dust. I peered at the ground in front of me. A gleaming black claw sunk into the grass like a sickle. The claw lifted and retracted into a scaly foot, attached to a muscular front leg about three feet high.

I looked up. Waaaaaaay up. Towering above me was the head of a serpent, attached to a long silver neck. His neck formed a hairpin loop as his head descended.

He stared me in the eye. His head was the size of a cow's.

I backed away. A serpent, 30 feet long. A midsection the width of a cider barrel, supported by powerful legs. His feet remained planted as his body undulated like a sine wave.

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His slippery orange tongue flicked like fire, but his eyes were laughing. He spoke with a smooth voice: "Sssssso, you wishhhhhh to squishhhhhh me."

"He was just kidding," piped Eve.

"Um, yah, that's right," I said. "Just kidding."

The creature stepped forward, then lifted his right foot up to the level of my face. His foot had long toes, and worked like an eagle's, but with five digits upfront, and two at the back.

His seven black claws extended—like a cat's—and he partially closed his foot like a hand...as if grasping a head-sized sphere in his talons.

I backed away again, then stumbled and fell.

He ignored me and turned his head to the right. The tip of his tail pointed to the tree in the centre of the garden. "Eeeeeeeve, my dear—let me show you ssssssomething..."

AUTHOR'S NOTE: *In Genesis, the Lord God curses the serpent and says, "On your belly you will go and dust you will eat all the days of your life." I've always been fascinated by the idea that the serpent originally had legs but lost them after he was cursed." If so, he would have had the appearance of a Chinese dragon. My theory is that the ancient Chinese culture retained a memory of that original dragon.*

BIO: Dave Thomas is a former member of the Cambridge Writers' Collective. With a background in science he enjoys speculating about the future of technology. He is currently working on a script for a YouTube video related to religion and government.