

Dagger's Quest

By Christopher Essary

& Richard Essary (Ghost Writer Dad)

This book is dedicated to anyone
with a dragon or two inside

Copyright Fall 2026: Rocklin, California

First Edition / First Printing

Special Thanks To:

Mom & Dad: For keeping me focused

Richie and Braxton: for being my test audience and for the fist fights that helped me understand what makes a character tough.

Nike the Cat: For not eating the lizards in the back yard

Carl Jung: For showing us who the Shadowy Dragons really are

Jesus: For teaching us how to love each other and how to aim at the light.

Please note:

This book was my 2026 summer project, but it took until the fall to finish. Also, I came up with the story, but because I wanted it to be a chapter book, Dad did the typing and editing for me.

We went sentence by sentence for weeks and weeks to make sure that I approved of every word. Dad fixed grammar and stuff.

Dagger's Quest is my creation from beginning to end.



Chapter 1

Dagger flopped out of bed and rubbed his smooth blue belly. His dream had been terrible. In Dream Land, a mighty dragon named Gilbert had begged Dagger to save him. A dragon slayer named Lafuna, thirsty for Dragon-Blood-Soup, hunted Gilbert. It seemed so real.

At recess he shared his dream with his favorite lady-lizard, Missy. She said he should talk with the Lizard-Wizard, the only one who might know if the dream was just a dream or a message from Gilbert himself. After school, Dagger went into the deep forest, found the Lizard-Wizard, and told him every detail of the dream.

“Was my dream a message from Gilbert? Was it real, Mr. Wizard?” Dagger asked.

The Lizard-Wizard nodded. “There is much here, little one. To dream of a dragon in need.” The Lizard-Wizard smiled, “Your time has arrived, Dagger. Gilbert has chosen you to save him from the dragon-slayer, Lafuna. A mighty quest lies ahead of you. I’m afraid you may not succeed or even survive. Only the brave can save a dragon.”

“But quests are dangerous. What if I get smashed or eaten? I’m just a Lizard.”

“Just lizard...” The Lizard Wizard winked, “Dagger, heroes take risks. That’s what makes them heroes.”

“That’s too scary, I don’t know if I can go on a quest like that.”

“Then Gilbert is doomed.” He shook his head, “But I have one thing that will help you fight The dragon slayer, Lafuna.”

“Wait... If I go, I have to fight the dragon slayer Lafuna?”

“Oh yes... and you must defeat him. This is a fight to the death. You’ll need help.”

The Lizard-Wizard took his beard in his hand and peered at Dagger, “Ahhh you do want help, I see.” He opened a huge wooden chest and pulled out a golden box. In it sat a strange leafy ball of grass, leaves, and twigs. “This... is for you.”

“Is this... food?” Dagger asked and took the strange sphere in his hands.

The Lizard-Wizard laughed, “Heavens no!” Then he snapped his fingers and suddenly little eyes poked out, then a mouth, and then little hands and legs. It giggled and wiggled, stretching as if it just woke up.

“Quest!” It laughed and rolled back into a ball. Dagger stared at the strange little creature and from the leafy sphere, a tiny hand poked out and gave Dagger the thumbs up. Then that tiny mouth seemed to appear out of the foliage, “Save Gilbert?” Leaf Ball asked.

Dagger was speechless.

“Quest?” Leaf Ball asked.

“Ahhh. I can see he trusts you, Dagger. Remember if you do not save Gilbert, he and his kin will be slain. The dragon’s future depends on you.”

Dagger looked at the strange little leafy creature and made up his mind. He gave Leaf Ball the thumbs up. "Ok, quest it is."

"Very Good, and good luck!" the Lizard-Wizard said, "But always remember, fear is merely a warning, Courage is a choice."

"Yes, Sir."

Dagger returned from the forest and found his friends playing tether ball. He told them he was going on a quest to save a Dragon. They all laughed at him except Missy. He wanted to yell at them, but Missy touched his hand. "Dagger, I believe that you can do it. I've seen fiery power in you. Go save Gilbert, but come back, promise me you'll come back."

Dagger looked down, "The Lizard Wizard said I it's a fight to the death. I can't promise that I will return, but I can promise that I won't give up."