

Dry Ice Story: "The Seven Dungeons"

Once upon a time, Evil Mister Fred was out on the ocean, and he found an island that was abandoned. So he decided to build a castle on this island. And he had his minions start cementing rocks together to build a castle tower. Evil Mister Fred likes to be on top of everything so he can watch and make sure that everyone was doing their jobs. So he would stand on top of this tower. There he is. And make sure that they were doing what he told them to do.

Minions aren't really bright, but at least they follow directions. And one day the minions were out there goofing around as usual, and Evil Mister Fred had been experimenting. He created some soap bubbles that, when he blew them, when they popped, they would explode. And his minions would be down there, and they'd see the soap bubbles, and they'd go chasing after them. Of course, the minions wanted to pop the soap bubbles. But as soon as they did -- ka-blammo! The poor minions would get all blown up. Evil Mister Fred thought that this was the funniest that ever was. But the poor minions from thereafter became deathly afraid of soap bubbles.

Now, minions are creatures that naturally find some way to get into some trouble. And Evil Mister Fred wanted to keep them busy. So he called the Acme Store of Everything and ordered a whole bunch of shovels and told them to start digging. The minions started digging underneath the castle. As they did, they discovered a chamber down there.

They came up and they said, "Boss, boss! There's a chamber down there!" He said, "Oh, well, that's very good. Just keep digging."

And they kept digging some more, and over a period of time, they discovered not just one chamber, but seven chambers. And they tunneled from one to the other, hoping to find treasure. But alas, all they found was dirt and rocks. And it kept them so busy that they couldn't get into any other trouble at all.

Now, Evil Mister Fred knew that there was some place on the island that the minions shouldn't go, and he forbade them to ever go there. And it was over here on this side of the island. There was an ice cream factory. The minions love ice cream. And they just kept tunneling and ended up tunneling right into the ice cream factory. And they said, "Whoa, this is great! We can sneak in here at night and eat as much ice cream as we want, and go back out. And nobody will ever know."

Now, of course, somebody did know. Because when you eat the ice cream, it's gone. And the people at the ice cream factory thought the minions were sneaking in at night from the outside on the ground. So they put a big fence around it, they put minefields around it, they put guard

dogs, and towers on top with machine guns. And still, the ice cream kept disappearing, and they had no idea how it was going away. Evil Mister Fred didn't even know what the minions were doing there.

Now, once they were done with this, Evil Mister Fred said, "Wow, this is going to make the world's best dungeon. What a great place. Now I've got to have somebody to kidnap and put in there." And as luck would have it, Jack and Jill happened to have been swimming around the planet at that time, and they came across the island. They walked up on it and they saw Evil Mister Fred's tower. And they said, "Uh-oh. This is a nice spot to rest, but I'm not too sure about this."

Evil Mister Fred sent out his minions with their baseball bats and said, "Minions, go get 'em!" And Jack and Jill were all tired out. The minions ran over there, threatened them with their baseball bats, and caught Jack and Jill. Next thing you know, Evil Mister Fred said, "Ah, perfect time to test out our dungeon."

So he had the minions build a cage near the bottom of the tunnel. Steel bars, locked doors, and he put into the cage Jack and Jill. There's Jack's eyes. There's Jill's eyes. And Jill has infinitely long hair. And her hair went from chamber to chamber through the whole series of tunnels, and out and around the world.

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Now Evil Mister Fred had them locked inside, and he said, "Ah, life just doesn't get better than this. My two enemies, locked down in the dungeon. They'll never escape. But just to make sure, I think I'll add a few things. I'll be a little helpful for them. I'll put a bridge across this first chamber so they can have an easier walk if they happen to get out. But I'll make flames all around the bridge, so if they try to walk across they'll get burned up."

And he said, "Ah, in the next chamber I think I'll put a dragon. And it'll be a sleeping dragon. But this dragon is only dangerous when it's asleep. If you try to approach it -- ka-snap! -- it'll swallow you up. However, when it's awake it's a nice dragon, and you can walk right across the top of it. However, there's only one way to make it wake up. The dragon sleeps on a whole pile of gold coins. And the only way to wake this dragon up is to make the coins scream. So they'll probably never get past that."

In the next chamber, there's a hundred-foot-long python, a huge man-eating snake. And below the python there's a pool of water. And the python will challenge anybody that comes by. It says, "Nobody gets to go by unless you can swim through boiling water. It has to be bubbling and smoke coming out of it, and then I'll let you go by. Otherwise I'll eat you up."

If you do manage to get past the python, then you come to another room. In this room there are bright lights and video cameras. And Evil Mister Fred and his minions watch anybody that tries to walk through there. If they see them, he'll send his minions down with their baseball bats to go and get them.

If they manage to get past that, in this room there's a perfectly flat floor, smooth as glass. However, there's a super-microphone in there. Anybody that makes the slightest noise as they walk across that floor will get caught by Evil Mister Fred.

In the next room, what could be more devious? Evil Mister Fred has a whole line of minions just standing there all day long with their baseball bats, poised, ready to smack anybody who comes by.

In the last room there are some air-tight doors with really good locks on them. The whole chamber is sealed. And he figures that nobody would ever be able to get through those doors. Now Jack and Jill were inside. And they thought, "Wow. How are we ever going to get out of this mess?" And Jill took a hairpin out of her hair and started to goof around with the lock on the cage. And Jack said, "Why do you even bother? Even if you get the door open, we're never going to get past that fire."

And Jill said, "Oh, well, we'll see." And she kept fooling around and fooling around, and the next thing you know -- click! -- the door opened. And Jack said, "Hmmm. I think this is a trap." And Jill said, "Well, let's look around."

And they discovered the tunnel that the minions had dug into the ice cream factory. So they climbed into it, went in there, and discovered all this ice cream. They said, "Wow, this is great!" And they ate some ice cream. They also discovered in the ice cream factory lots and lots of dry ice. If you were Jack and Jill, how would you escape from this island and these dungeons?

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Story End

When we last left them, Jack and Jill had managed to get out of the cage. They saw the bridge over the fire and realized they couldn't get across. Then they discovered the tunnel that the minions had dug into the ice cream factory. And they found the fudge bars and some dry ice.

So they got some heavy gloves they found in there and took out the dry ice. And they brought a bucket of water along with them, and anything else they happened to find, maybe even a little bit of soap, and ran back down the tunnel until they got to where the fire was. Then they threw some dry ice into the lake of fire, and the dry ice turned into carbon dioxide gas, rose up, and extinguished the fire.

Then Jack and Jill ran quickly over the bridge because it was really hot and ran up and saw the dragon sitting on the whole pile of coins. And they didn't know what this dragon was, but they saw all those gold coins. And Jack said, "Oh, boy, gold coins!" Jill said, "Shhhh, you'll wake the dragon." And Jack grabbed some of the coins and put them in his pocket. And he accidentally spilled some in along with the dry ice. And they started to scream, and the dragon woke up. And Jill said, "Oh, no, that's it for us!" And the dragon said to them, "Well, hello, how are you today?" And Jack and Jill said, "What kind of a weird dragon is this?" And the dragon said, "You may pass." So Jack and Jill walked right across its teeth and its tongue and went into the next part of the tunnel. And they said, "Wow, that's a weird dragon."

Then they came to the python, hanging from the ceiling. And below the python was a pool. And Jack and Jill said, "Uh-oh, pythons! They might eat people." And Jack said, "Maybe we can get him to eat a piece of dry ice." So Jack was trying to throw dry ice to the python to get the python to eat it. But the python didn't want to eat it, and the pieces fell into the pool. And the pool was bubbling and fogging. And Jack and Jill said, "Oh, well, let's give it a try." So they jumped in and swam across as fast as they could. And the python said, "Have a nice day!" And Jack and Jill said, "Ooh, what a weird snake."

Then they went around the tunnel, and they peered into the next room and they saw a really bright light. And they looked up and they saw some lenses. They figured, "Uh-oh, cameras. What are we going to do now? Somebody's going to see us." Jill said, "I've got an idea." So they dropped some dry ice into the water and filled the whole room up with fog. When the room was completely fogged up, Jack and Jill sneaked through, and nobody even saw them.

Then they came to the perfectly flat floor, and they had no idea what this was all about. They could see something poking out, but they didn't know that they were microphones. And Jill said, "Cool! Really flat. I like this." So she put some dry ice on the floor -- two pieces, one for each foot, stood on them, and Jack gave her a little shove, and she just silently glided across the floor. And Jack did the same himself. And they made it past that one. No alarms went off.

But then, there they were -- minions with baseball bats. And Jack and Jill said, "Uh-oh. I don't think there's any escaping these guys. They look mean. Oh, well, maybe we can make them laugh." So they took some water and they put in their dry ice and made a little fog, but the minions didn't laugh. Then they threw in some soap, and they said, "Well, everybody loves soap bubbles. The minions will love this." They made soap bubbles. Next thing you know, all the minions were running and screaming, pushing and trying to get out of that room as fast as they could. And all Jack and Jill heard was a lot of cries as the

minions left them alone in the chamber. So then Jack and Jill said, "Hmm, strange creatures those are."

And they came up to the last room. The minions had already gone through. And the minions had stacked rocks behind the last door. Jack and Jill were able to get through the first door, but there was no way they could get this last door open. So they said, "Oh, well." They left all their dry ice and their water in the bottom of the chamber. And Jack said, "Well, nothing else to do." So he poured all the water on the dry ice, and Jack and Jill went out and closed the back door.

And they thought, "Well, now what are we going to do? We're still trapped inside, we can't get out, hmmm." And while they were thinking, they kind of wandered back down to where the minions had been. And a little while later, something very explosive happened. The pressure in that room got higher, and higher, and higher. And when it blew up, it was such a huge explosion, it left a giant crater. And the entire castle, and the minions, and Evil Mister Fred flew so high into the air they were never seen again. And everybody lived happily ever after, except Evil Mister Fred and maybe even his minions.