

THE CHRONICLE OF THE THREE GLASS PIECES

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there lived a fair maiden named Jasmine. She had moved out of her parents' palace in order to start a new life for herself. She had never been satisfied with her position as princess and decided that she would live as normal people lived. Thus she moved to the outskirts of the kingdom of New York into a realm known as Bushwick. But before she left, her parents gave her three glass items: a pipe, an ornate crystal glass, and a bejeweled mirror. Should she fall into trouble she could contact them through these items. Carefully, she packed the items and set off.

It did not take long until she found a place and some noble roommates. They lived happily for several moons until one was called back to her kingdom. When she left another entered, a man named Yemi. At first he appeared normal, and Jasmine, Yemi, and Duncan got along swimmingly. However, Yemi knew who Jasmine was and he, in fact, was spy from the kingdom of New Jersey, the opposing force of Manhattan. His mission was to destroy the three glass objects, for the glass objects were not only for communication, but also were the key to Manhattan's power. Should he destroy all three objects, the kingdom would crumble and New Jersey would rule.

The hardest part was to find where Jasmine had hidden the objects. When both Jasmine and Duncan were gone, Yemi rummaged through her dresser drawers, backpack, anywhere that could be a hiding place, but he could not find the objects. Determined to find them, Yemi concocted a plan. He called up herbalist to purchase a magical plant. Though it cost him more money than he was willing to spend, he knew that the plant would make Jasmine procure the first item. Smiling to himself, Yemi waited patiently on the couch for her return.

It was not long until Jasmine and Duncan returned home and saw Yemi waiting for them.

"My friends," he stated trying to sound friendly, "I have purchased a dime bag of magical herb for all of us to smoke. Unfortunately I have run out of paper

and do not have any glass from which to smoke." Jasmine looked concerned, but Duncan knew his trick. For you see Duncan also knew who Jasmine was, and his kingdom of Georgia was an ally of New York.

"Just go to the bodega and buy a blunt," Duncan said carelessly, hoping that he had thwarted Yemi's plan. Unfortunately Jasmine had already procured the pipe and offered it to Yemi.

"Here, smoke out of this." Yemi smiled and extended his palm to receive the pipe, but just as Jasmine let go of the pipe, Yemi retracted his palm and the pipe shattered on the ground.

"I'm so sorry! I can get you another one." Jasmine was shocked, the first item was broken.

"Don't worry, I know that it was an accident." Jasmine smiled sadly.

The next day, Yemi purchased a bottle of spirits in hopes. He poured many drinks and everyone became drunk, except for Yemi who was pretending. He noticed Jasmine's glass and smiled wickedly. Breaking the items was almost too easy. In a pretend drunken flailing, Yemi tripped and tipped the glass off the table. Before anyone could react, the cup broke into a million pieces on the ground.

Duncan, enraged at Yemi's actions and Jasmine's stupidity, challenged Yemi to a duel. Should Duncan win, Yemi was required to move out. Jasmine, confused, attempted to stop the fight, but to no avail. It was difficult to determine a victor as the game continued. In the beginning it was best out of 5, then it became best out of 9, until it was best out of 17. It was the last game and both men were tied, whoever won that round would be the victor. Both men were sweating and exhausted after multiple rounds of brutal racing, but neither of them were willing to give in. The match started up and both men played nobly as they smashed the other cars into the wall, gaining an advantage. Just as they both turned around the bend, the power flickered and the game turned off.

“I totally was going to win that,” Duncan stated.
 “No way, I was going to win that, I was in front.”
 “Yeah whatever, I was right behind you and you always miss that turn.” The two men glared at each other and had forgotten that Jasmine was standing behind them.

“Look, it doesn’t matter who won or lost, it’s a stupid game.” Jasmine frowned at both of them, “what’s the big deal?”

“What’s the big deal?” Duncan was amazed at Jasmine’s thick-headedness, “he broke your first two items, if he breaks the third then your kingdom will be destroyed!” Jasmine raised an eyebrow quizzically.

“So?” The two men gaped at the fair maiden in front of them. How could she have so little disregard for her kingdom when both were trying hard to either destroy or save it? That one word broke Yemi’s resolve to destroy New York, for if the princess did not even care about saving it, then what was the point of wreaking havoc? There would be no enjoyment if everyone conceded to defeat. With that, the two men stopped bickering, and the lived happily ever after with Jasmine in Bushwick until Yemi decided to move out.

Thus ends the chronicles of the three glass objects.

*Based on true events.



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Light sabers aren’t for Jedi anymore. Even those that are not strong with the force can wield a laser. The US military has been experimenting with lasers for quite a long time, and small children have been as well. A laser is a simple device and requires a convex lens and a light source: or a magnifying glass and the sun. Yup, children use lasers all the time to incinerate insects. Of course, the military uses a more sophisticated laser and does not use the sun for the light. Instead they utilize an optical cavity and store energy in an excited state (this allows them to fire lasers at will).

But military lasers aren’t something that

people can carry in their pocket. There is a place that specializes in handheld laser. These pocket lasers can burn a hole in a garbage bag and light cigarettes. Of course, it’s not exactly a light saber since you can’t actually make the light a solid weapon, but you do have to be careful when handling it. The company is called Wicked Lasers and, guess what, is headquartered in Shanghai! So besides viewing the Museum for Science and Technology, one can also buy a powerful handheld laser. Ah, the beauty of science.