
Quest For The Sword Of Anthrowst

By Katrina Mandrake-Johnston

World of Zaylyn

Enter the World of Zaylyn. This is a world filled with strange creatures, magic, and mystery. In this book, you will be introduced to several characters, many of which you will learn more about in later books. This story revolves around a particular group, who through peculiar circumstances, find themselves partaking in a quest for the Sword of Anthrowst.

This is a world filled with many different races: humans, elves, dwarves, fairy folk, centaurs, dragons, dragon-like humanoids, goblins, trolls, shape-shifters, and many others yet to be discovered. With warriors, thieves, wizards, treasure, magic, strange creatures, danger, and adventure, this world is never dull.

Evil, malicious creatures have entered this world to do the bidding of an insane wizard. Can this horrible man WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION control these beasts as he believes, and for what purpose?

Vordin, a teenaged boy, narrowly WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION escaped the fate of his village as the creatures slaughtered everyone there, including his parents. Vordin is told by a tiny fairy queen, whose race had always been thought of as myth, that the evil wizard had to be slain by the Sword of Anthrowst in order to send the creatures back to where they came from.

Two thieves, an WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION elf named Candra and Dendrox her human companion, join Vordin in the quest as does an amateur wizard named Weena. The mysterious being they encounter, half human and half spider, is she friend or foe?

When a dwarf, Nodwel, pleads for their help, they find themselves on a rescue mission to a small village under attack by these same creatures. Nodwel's group had been at the village when it had been attacked and he greatly fears for their safety and that of the villagers.

Will any of Nodwel's companions be alive? Were they able to hold the beasts back long enough for Nodwel to return with help? Is it even possible to defeat these beasts? Will there be anyone left to save by the time they arrive? Will they fall prey to the horrid evil monsters as well, trapped in a malicious web of spells and ripped to pieces by huge dagger-like teeth and claws?

Is this quest simply impossible? How are they to even find this sword, wherever it may be, and the wizard for whom they only know a name?

This group find themselves in many different and exciting situations, wondering if they will even live long enough to find the sword or even discover where it is.

Among their encounters are a mischievous fairy queen and her followers, many vicious

monsters, giant WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION spiders within ancient underground passages, bounty hunters after the two thieves, plus so much more. Could there be bandits within the forest, and perhaps even a werewolf lurking about as a few believe?

Meanwhile, a romance begins to stir, as well as a vicious jealousy.

But, worst of all for this little group of adventurers, is the WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION presence of a mysterious and WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION evil vampiric being with immense power, called simply The Black Shadow.

Could he have something to do with this group coming together? If so, what purpose does he intend for them? He wants them to complete their quest and save Zaylyn from the evil wizard and his army of creatures, but why, especially when he could easily take care of the problem WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION himself?

Welcome to the World of Zaylyn by Katrina Mandrake-Johnston.

THE WORLD OF ZAYLYN SERIES

BOOK #1 = = > Quest For The Sword WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION Of Anthrowst

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CHAPTER 1 = VORDIN

Vordin was fifteen and an only child. He had a mother and father who loved him dearly and they lived a happy and peaceful life together in the village of Nilnont. One day that happiness violently ended.

On this day, Vordin had spent most of the morning in his room trying to solve his latest puzzle box which he received the month before. He was wearing a grey tunic WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION with his brown pants and a well-worn pair of brown leather shoes. His hair was a light brown and he wore it long at shoulder length. As usual, his hair was tied back at the base of his neck with a strip of leather.

As Vordin went about his usual activities, he was unaware such horrors existed and that such an ordinary day could bring such terror and so abruptly.

Vordin had been at the edge of the forest on the hilltop, when it had happened. Just below him, at the bottom of this small hill lay his village, Nilnont. He had been passing the time away as he waited for his mother to finish preparing dinner. He had made a nuisance of himself by snatching samples of the whipped potatoes with his finger and had been sent out of the house until the dinner was ready.

It had been a warm and pleasant day, still being the beginning of autumn. Sunset was approaching and Vordin had been watching the horizon. He could see the road which made its way over the grassy hills and then up to Nilnont. He knew that this road also continued up through the forest, eventually winding up and over the mountains into the valley beyond. Dee'ellkka Valley was its name.

The vibrant colors of the sunset were incredibly beautiful. There were wonderful shades of red, orange, pink, and yellow. He had said to himself that he ought to come up to the hill more often to watch the sunset, but he knew that he would probably be too preoccupied with other things to actually do so. Then, as he watched, he had noticed a black mass which appeared to flow over the hills out from the horizon.

He hadn't known what to think of it, his mind puzzling over what he was seeing. As the mass got closer, he had realized that he was not seeing one large mass, but many black shapes.

Something was heading toward Nilnont. Confused, he stood up, his eyes staring.

He watched the shapes approach and then he heard the awful shrieking howls. Whatever these creatures were, Vordin was sure that they had a malicious intent. Shouts came from the village. People started to run about grabbing what weapons they had. Panic welled up inside him. He was in danger. Everyone was in danger.

The howls grew louder and louder as the creatures got closer. They were moving fast. Vordin's mind was racing. A story he had been told came out of memory.

"Like demons they are, created with evil intent. They are filled with hate and malice. They revel in pain and suffering. They will bring death. A hollow tree can be a savior. The tree was once alive. You will be a being within a being. They will not see you. As a child within the womb of its mother cannot be seen directly, so shall you be hidden from sight."

He could remember asking many questions about this and why the mysterious man in black from the story had said these things. The storyteller, Rasindell, had replied that he too had been puzzled when these words had been spoken to him long ago, as this had been a true story. He told him that when he had heard the shrieking howl and saw the black shape, he knew to follow the advice no matter how strange it had been.

Vordin was afraid. There just happened to WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION be a hollow tree on the edge of the forest where he stood. He looked at his village, then the approaching creatures as they neared the edge of the crop fields just outside the village, and finally to the hollow tree. The fear was too great. He wanted his parents. He wanted to run. He wanted to live. There didn't seem like there was any time to act. The creatures seemed so close. There was safety in the tree. It had to be true. He went over to it and frantically searched for a way inside. He found an opening and crawled in.

As he wriggled around trying to situate himself better, he couldn't help but wonder what the creatures looked like. It sent waves of fear and panic throughout his body as he imagined visual images to fit the malicious noises the beasts made.

He could hear people screaming. His face was wet with tears.

"They'll WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION be okay," he told himself, "My parents... They'll escape. I know they will. Somehow they'll be safe." WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION He was too frightened to move a single muscle. "What if they don't try to escape? What if they stay, hoping that I will come back?" he asked himself, "They must be so worried. They'll wait for me and they'll be killed, and it will be my fault. There wasn't enough time... It would be impossible to escape the village... No, they'll hide. They'll be safe... But the story spoke as if it didn't matter if people hid... as if the creatures could somehow see exactly where all living things were and that the only hope was to hide within something WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION that had been living, or once was or something like that. I'm just assuming that these are the same creatures too. My imagination runs wild sometimes. I don't really know what these beasts are or what they look like, so how can I tell? There are some pretty tough people in my village, my father included. They'll fight them off, and all will be well."

He knew that his feeble thoughts of comfort weren't going to fool himself away from all the things he was dreading. He knew things WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION had to be much worse, and if it were these 'demon' creatures like he thought, WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION he knew that no one in his village would be able to survive, including his parents. He also knew that he could perish very easily along with them if this hollow tree trick didn't work.

Vordin thought about all the times he had been unkind to his parents, every time that he had lied to them, and all the times he hadn't really appreciated all that they WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION had done for him. He cried and cried, knowing that he would never be able to tell them that he was sorry and how much he really loved them. He thought about all the happy times that he had spent with them and how he would never get to see them again. "They'll be okay," he lied to himself, "Everything will be fine."

He cried until it felt hard to breathe WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION and his stomach ached. His eyes stung from rubbing his tears away with his dirty hands. Now all that was left for him to do was wait in the WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION darkness of the tree and listen helplessly to all the horrible sounds coming from his village.

These horrid beasts had come WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION to prey on the village of Nilnont. The crop fields were reduced to ash, as the creatures invoked spells of fire breath upon themselves enabling them to expel magical flames from their throats. The villagers' homes were burned and smashed. The animals of the village had been helpless, having no choice but to face the evil onslaught as their bodies were torn to shreds. The frantic screams of the villagers and the evil howls and shrieks of the creatures filled the night air. The creatures killed without mercy.

These innocent people could hold no hope of salvation from these foul beasts. Some villagers, the lucky WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION ones, were killed before being feasted on, while the unlucky ones were eaten alive as they watched chunks of their own flesh being devoured before them by huge gnashing teeth. The ground was heavily stained with blood. Everyone was slaughtered.

Vordin listened from his hiding place to the horrors that were happening. As the screams quickly ceased, he feared that he had become the sole survivor of his entire village. He desperately hoped that these terrible evil creatures would creep back to wherever they came from when morning arrived. Dawn was far away, as the night was still young. Still, it gave him something to focus on. He would wait for the sun to rise. He told himself that things would be better then, all he had to do was wait. He could do that.

Why these 'demon' creatures would overlook him if he were hidden inside a tree, he didn't really understand. He desperately tried to remember the WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION story he had been told, wondering if it were in fact these same creatures as he had thought.

Slowly, bit-by-bit, the story began to come back to him...

It had been around the time when Rasindell had first begun to learn magic. He had met a woman whom also was studying magic. They would spend hours together practicing their new spells and became quite good friends.

Unknown to Rasindell, she had an admirer. She was not interested in this other man at all, as he was known to practice dark and evil magic.

Unfortunately, this evil wizard had laid claim to her in his own twisted mind. When he discovered the friendship she and Rasindell had, he was furious. He could see that Rasindell and the woman were clearly WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION interested in each other and perhaps even falling in love. The wizard left to hunt the two of them down and exact his revenge, for in his mind she had betrayed him.

This evil wizard discovered them in a rocky yet forested area where they had been practicing their spells. The wizard had come across them during their first kiss and had caught them unaware.

"How dare you!" he had screamed at her.

She tried to explain, yet again, to the delusional man that she was not interested in him and that there was no WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION relationship between them as he imagined. She explained that she was in love with Rasindell and not him.

This just infuriated the evil man WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION further. In his rage, he summoned a Killnarin, using very strong magic to do so. The beast easily slipped into this world using the incredible hate this man possessed as a conduit from its world into Zaylyn.

As the foul beast emerged WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION from what looked like a tear in the very air around them, it growled maliciously. Its body was a deep black and WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION it looked wet and slippery. This beast looked similar to a salamander, but with six clawed legs and a huge mouth of sharp jagged teeth. Its eyes were completely black and it never took its gaze off the woman.

"What have you done?!" she asked the wizard in terror, "It will kill us all!"

"As long as you die, I do not care," WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION was his cold and heartless answer.

Vordin remembered that Rasindell had a very difficult time speaking of this and had never told him the name of the woman or the evil wizard.

The Killnarin pounced onto the woman WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION as a cat would a mouse, killing her instantly with its dagger-like claws. There was nothing he could have done. If he could have given his life to save hers, he would have, but everything had happened so fast. Even in his grief, Rasindell knew that remaining where he was meant his death as well.

Next the Killnarin turned on the wizard that had summoned it. His WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION death was slow and painful. Rasindell had taken this opportunity to run as fast as he could into the forest, trying to escape the terrible beast, as it would surely come after him.

Within the forest, he was stopped by a mysterious man WORLD OF ZAYLYN: E-BOOK VERSION dressed all in black and wearing a hooded cloak. Rasindell could not see his face, as it was cast in shadow beneath his hood. There was something about this figure that had made Rasindell very nervous, although he didn't know exactly why.

WORLD OF ZAYLYN E BOOK VERSION

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