## The Misadventures of Sir Max of the Rectangle Table

Hi. My name is Sir Gian. I am a knight. Yesterday, Princess Francesca said that I was going to get a new squire. His name was Max. Tomorrow I am going to meet Max at a banquet. This was going to be easy-peasy-lemon-squeasy! Or so I thought.....

I traveled to the castle on my horse. Max was tall, and thin, and he never used the word *we* he only used the word *I*. We found that the banquet had already started, so we filled our plates and sat down. Almost instantly I realized that teaching Max was going to be a lot harder than I expected. First he mixed all of his food and drink together and chugged it down in three seconds flat. Geez, he's 14 and he still hasn't learned table manners yet! I looked over at the King to make sure he hadn't seen it. Phew! Boy, the Princess is going to get it when the King finds out that his best knight got Max for a squire. When we finished, I stood up and bowed to the King. Meanwhile, Max burped so loud the table shook. The King stared at him, horrified, and I nearly passed out. After that little incident I retired to my room in the castle for some peace and quiet. I needed some sleep because tomorrow would be an adventure.

The next morning, the King assigned my quest and I groaned. I got dressed in my armor and trudged slowly downstairs to wake Max up. When he heard the news, he shrieked "Woo-Hoo!!" at the top of his lungs. Then he jumped out of bed and hugged me so tight I almost puked. At breakfast the King gave me the details. "This morning a troll came running out of the forest and started attacking innocent people" he explained. Your job is to defeat the troll while at the same time giving Max a job other than standing around and watching you be the hero. On our way to find the troll, the troll found us instead. When Max saw the troll he fell off his horse. He sheepishly crawled to his feet and looked at me questioningly for a job to do. "Go and try to defeat this monster." He nodded and walked up to the troll. I stared at him like he'd lost his marbles, (he probably had), he asked the troll in a foreign language, "how do you do?" The troll grunted and hit Max into a tree with his whatchamacallit club thingy. Home run!! Great. Now the king will yell at me because Max didn't get to do a job because he was in a tree. Oh by the way, when I said great, I didn't mean that was actually great. I was being sarcastic. I climbed down from my horse and drew my sword. As I advanced, the troll swung his club but my sword cut it in half.

His tough skin parried my next strike. "Rats" I thought. "I didn't hit hard enough!" The troll punched the sword out of my hand and sent it flying several yards away from us. He ran behind me and before I could react, he pushed me to my knees. I jumped to my feet and punched him to the ground. "Let's go Gian!" yelled Max from his tree. All of the sudden, Max fell out of the tree and knocked the troll out cold. "I did it" he said proudly. "That's right Max." I said with a chuckle. After a while, we were trotting down the path that led to the castle. Max was talking to me and not watching where he was going and suddenly a low branch hit him on the head and he went sprawling to the ground. And just like that his horse galloped away. I pulled him to his feet and helped him up onto the back of my horse. Then we galloped back to the castle. When the king heard what happened and how Max got stuck in a tree, he laughed and slapped me on the back. I sat down next to my friend, Tyler and said, "I wonder what tomorrow will bring!!!"

