

St George - now!

Characters

Narrator (Nar)

St George – very old and very deaf (George)

Esmeralda – elderly and long-suffering (Esmer)

This is a humorous drama in which St George and Esmeralda retell the story of the dragon at the age of 1,700 years. Its humour is based around St George being deaf and mishearing much of what is said.

(George hobbles on with walking stick or Zimmer frame)

Nar: (loudly and enthusiastically) Ah! Saint George! I was waiting for you!

George: (Startled) Wha ... wha ... What was that?

Nar: I said: Ah! Saint George! I was waiting for you!

George: You've been 'grating' for me? What do you mean? Grating what? Cheese or something?
Actually I quite like cheese!

Nar: Err ... no Saint George, not 'grating,' 'waiting.' I said: I've been 'waiting' for you.

George: O I see, and why is that then? Why are you waiting for me?

Nar: Well you are the great Saint George and I've got some people here who want to know all about you. Is that alright?

George: All night! All night! I can't stay that long, not at my age! Besides, Esmeralda will worry about me!

Nar: No George, I said 'is that alright,' not 'all night.'

George: What? Is that a light?

Nar: No! Is that alright!

George: is what alright?

Nar: To tell these people all about you!

George: O well, I suppose so. But don't take all night about it will you!

Nar: It was many many years ago when Saint George fought the dragon.

George: What? What was that? What did you say?

Nar: I said: It was many many years ago when Saint George fought the Dragon.

George: Bought a Wagon? What are you talking about? I've never bought a Wagon in my whole life!

Nar: No George, not 'bought a wagon,' 'fought the dragon!'

George: 'Taught a flagon?!' Well that's even more ridiculous! I thought that this was supposed to be a drama about me, St George! So why are you saying such silly things eh? I've never 'bought a wagon' or 'taught a flagon' to do anything!

Nar: (loud and in his face) No George, I said: It was many many years ago that Saint George
'FOUGHT THE DRAGON!'

George: Alright! Alright! There's no need to shout at me. I can hear you perfectly well you know! If you wanted to talk about the dragon you should have said so in the first place instead of going on about wagons and flagons or whatever else! Honestly, young people these days, they don't know if they are coming or going!

(Enter Esmeralda)

Esmer: George! George! Where are you? George! George! Where are (stops as she sees him) O there you are. What are you doing out here?

George: and why would I be doing that?

Esmer: Doing what?

George: Mooing?

Esmer: Mooing? What are you talking about?

George: I'm talking about what you were talking about! You said: 'what are you mooing at dear,' and I said 'why would I be doing that!?'
Esmer: (exasperated) I said: what are you doing out here! Not what are you mooing at dear!!
George: Well I'm not booing at anything Esmeralda.
Esmer: (in his face) I said: WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE!
George: Alright, alright, no need to shout! I'm talking to this young man here who seems to want to know about the dragon, although he did start talking about waggons and flagons for some reason! If you just asked me what I was doing out here in the first place, instead of going on about mooing and booing, it would have saved us 3 minutes of this sketch! Honestly, you're as bad as this chap with his waggons and flagons!
Esmer: George have you got your hearing aid?
George: No.
Esmer: Why not?
George: because I've got no reason to feel afraid. After all, I am Saint George, I did fight the dragon! Why should I feel afraid?
Esmer: (in his face) Not 'FEEL AFRAID!' 'HEARING AID!' Have you got your hearing aid!!
George: Hearing Aid! What would I want that for? Do you think I'm deaf or something? Anyway, that's enough of all this nonsense. These people want to hear about the dragon, not you asking me lots of daft questions!
Esmer: What? That old story? Again? It was so long ago it's hardly worth telling now is it! I mean, look at us now. You're hardly the handsome knight and I'm hardly the beautiful princess that we both used to be are we.
George: Speak for yourself Esmeralda! (running his fingers through his hair) I've still got some of my handsome knightly charm you know, and you my darling will always be beautiful to me!

(George tries to kiss Esmeralda, she pushes him gently away)

Esmer: O get off you daft old fool.
George: But I'm not sitting on a stool?
Esmer: I didn't say stool, I said ...(pauses) O forget it.
George: Well if there is a stool around I could do with a sit down. When you are one thousand seven hundred years old your legs get a bit tired you know.
Esmer: Well you can't sit down now and it doesn't look like this sketch is going to end until we've told them all about the dragon, again! So let's get on and then we can get home for a rest.
George: But I'm already wearing my vest!
Esmer: I said: 'REST,' not 'VEST!'. Now come on let's get on with it before this lot get bored and go home. Where had you got too?
Nar: It was many many years ago when Saint George fought the dragon.
Esmer: It certainly was. It was in fact about one thousand seven hundred years ago.
George: What was that?
Esmer: When you fought the dragon George.
George: O yes! The dragon. He was a large hairy monster with great flaming nostrils!
Nar: The dragon lived close to a village. He built himself a big camp.
George: What was that? The dragon was a bit camp! You must be joking! He was a big, strong, fire-breathing ...
Esmer: (interrupting) No George – The dragon 'built' a big camp, near the village, remember?
George: Yes of course I remember, why didn't he say that in the first place!?
Esmer: Just let him get on with the story George, stop interrupting. I know this sketch is about the Dragon but at this rate it's going to 'drag-on' and on and on forever!
Nar: The dragon built his camp between the village and the river. Every time the people went out to get water he would breathe a great roaring flame at them and frighten them away.
Esmer: It was terrible. There was no water in the village. We were all very thirsty.
George: whose Kirsty? I don't remember her in the story before.
Esmer: No George, Thirsty. We were all very thirsty.
George: Was Kirsty thirsty as well?
Esmer: No George there was no O forget it, just carry on.

Nar: The King summoned his officials and asked them what to do. There is only one thing we can do, said one of them, we'll have to give a young girl to the dragon to eat every day, then the dragon will be happy and we can get our water.

Esmer: My father, the king, was very upset, but he couldn't do anything else! So he ordered that a girl be given to the dragon every day.

George: Why? Was he making a necklace? He didn't strike me as a dragon who would wear jewellery really.

Esmer: What are you talking about now George?

George: About the pearls.

Esmer: What pearls?

George: The pearls you gave the dragon. You said he was given a pearl every day.

Esmer: Not 'PEARLS' George, 'GIRLS.' He was given a girl every day, to eat!

George: Well he was a very large dragon. I suppose he had a big appetite!

Nar: Every day the name of a girl was drawn out of a hat, But One day a name was drawn that made the king very sad, very sad indeed. It was Esmeralda, his own daughter. The king was sad, the villagers were sad, all the people in the land were sad.

Esmer: It was very frightening, but if I had to I was prepared to be given to the dragon so my friends and family could get the water they needed. I knew that there was only one thing that could save me – if a brave knight could be found to come and kill the dragon!

George: Well you don't have to be brave to do that.

Esmer: What are you talking about George, you have to be very brave, very very brave.

George: What? To fill a flagon? Hardly! All you do is pour the water in and

Esmer: (through gritted teeth) O give me strength! Not 'FILL THE FLAGON' George, 'KILL THE DRAGON!!'

George: Well why didn't you say so! Killing the dragon, well that takes a brave person, a really brave person.

Nar: All the people looked all over the land and the only knight they could find was a handsome young man called George. He was on a journey that took him right past the village.

Esmer: Yes! Believe it or not the only knight in the whole land was (pointing) err ... him!

George: Why are you pointing at me Esmeralda? What have I done? Usually you only point at me when I've done something wrong!

Esmer: I'm pointing at you George so all these nice people know it was you who fought the dragon.

George: bought the waggon?

Esmer: No! FOUGHT THE DRAGON!!'

Nar: George, maybe you could tell us what happened?

George: What did he say?

Esmer: Tell them about the dragon!

George: O right. Well I was riding near the village and heard a girl screaming. I followed the sound and found a young girl in the claws of a dragon. She was a beautiful girl and I couldn't help falling in love with her straight away. The dragon was about to pop her into his mouth but I prayed a prayer to God to give me strength and then charged at the dragon. I swung my sword as hard as I could and with one blow chopped off his head! Then I picked up the girl and put her on my horse and rode into the village!

Esmer: He was so brave.

George: It wasn't Dave Esmeralda, it was me, Saint George! I thought you knew that.

Esmer: Not 'Dave,' 'brave,' George. I said 'you were so brave!'

George: Well not really Esmeralda, it wasn't me, it was God. He gave me the strength and the courage to save you.

Nar: The King was so pleased to see the dragon dead and his daughter saved that he threw a great party, and as he could see that George and Esmeralda had fallen in love, in the middle of the party he announced that there would be a wedding.

Esmer: And I married the brave knight who killed the dragon and we lived happily ever after!

George: Well that's not very nice!

Esmer: Why not?

George: to say I got rapidly ever dafter!

Esmer: I didn't say 'rapidly ever dafter' I said ... (pauses) ...Oh well, it doesn't really matter what I said. Come on let's get home, all that stuff about dragons has made me quite tired.

George: What's that Esmeralda? The Wagon needs a new tyre?

Esmer: Well it probably does George, but let's just go home anyway. Come on. At our age we shouldn't over-do it should we.

(They exit)

Nar: And the story of Saint George and the dragon spread across the whole land and across the whole world. People rejoiced in Saint George's bravery and his trust in God, and people still remember him today, one thousand seven hundred years later, as a Saint and a knight who has inspired many others to fight against the powerful dragons of the world and stand up for justice and freedom.

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