

THE KOBOLD UPRISING



The alliance between the two warrior academies was new, fragile, and essential to surviving the returning Horde.



Students who had once trained as rivals now gathered around a mysterious egg supplied by the Swamp Witch.



Angora watched from the front rank while Clifford stood beside the Rival Headmaster.



Before the creature hatched, Clifford asked what kind of enemy could threaten every kingdom at once.



The headmaster explained that the Horde attacked beneath the cover of night and moved with the speed of a living swarm.



Its victims became blind and confused, conquered before they could understand what surrounded them.



An ancient magical text might contain the world's defense - but a violent crack ended the warning before she could explain more.



A pink young kobold tumbled from the shell, so small that several students laughed.



The creature answered their amusement with a roar and a blast of fire.



One eager fighter charged alone, determined to prove that he needed no help.



He escaped the kobold's claws only by leaping over them, then crashed helplessly onto his back.



Clifford played a heroic chord and sang until the fallen student's fear became determination.



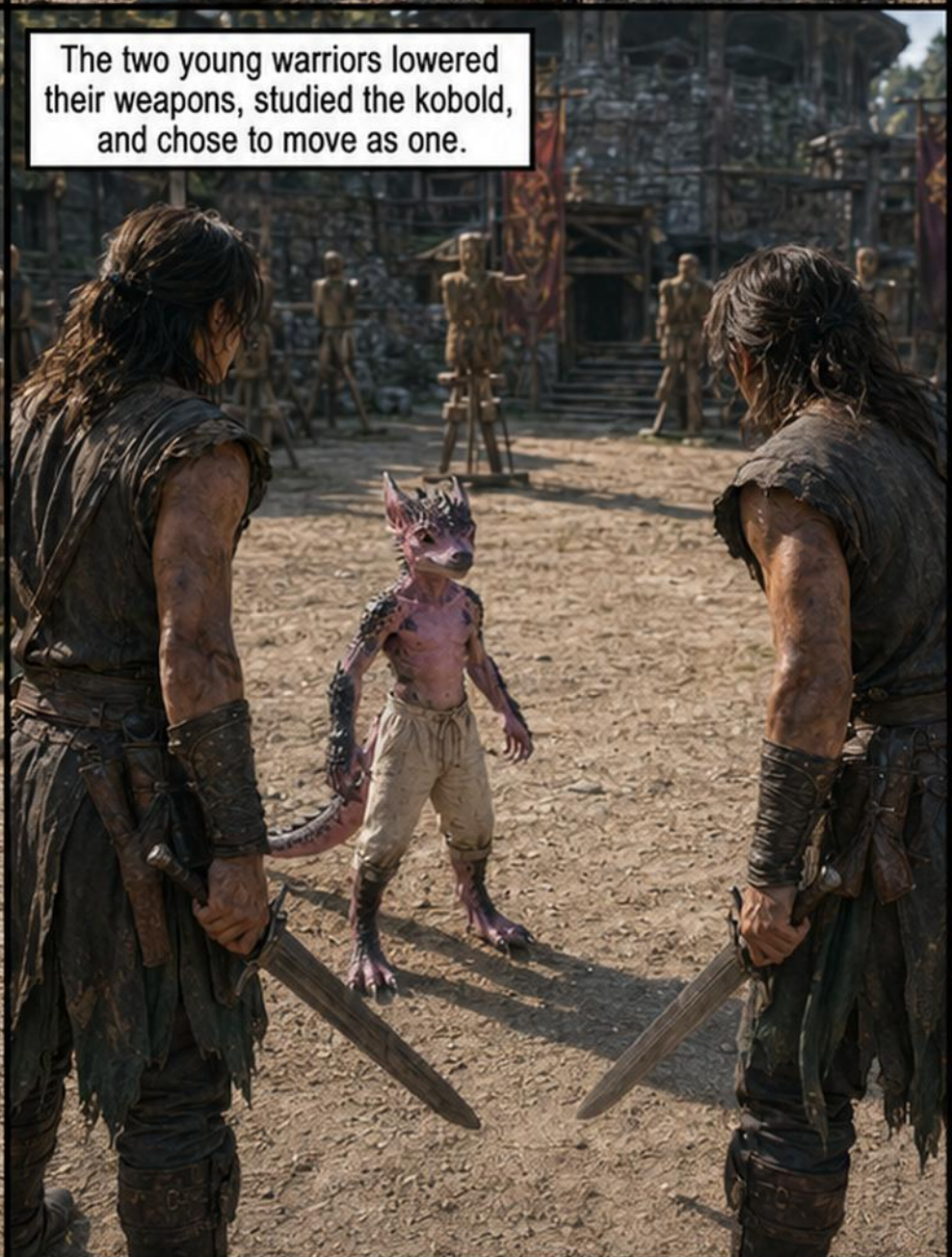
The fighter stood again, but the sweat on his face revealed that courage had not erased the danger.



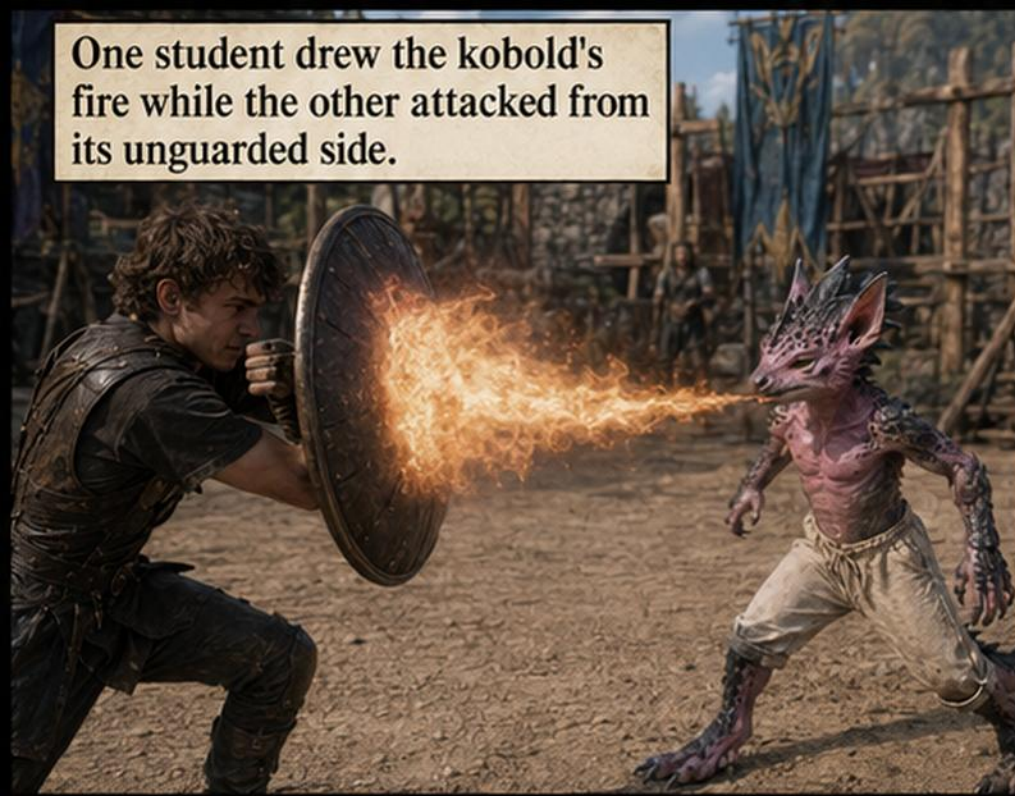
Angora called a second student forward because the Horde would never be defeated through individual glory.



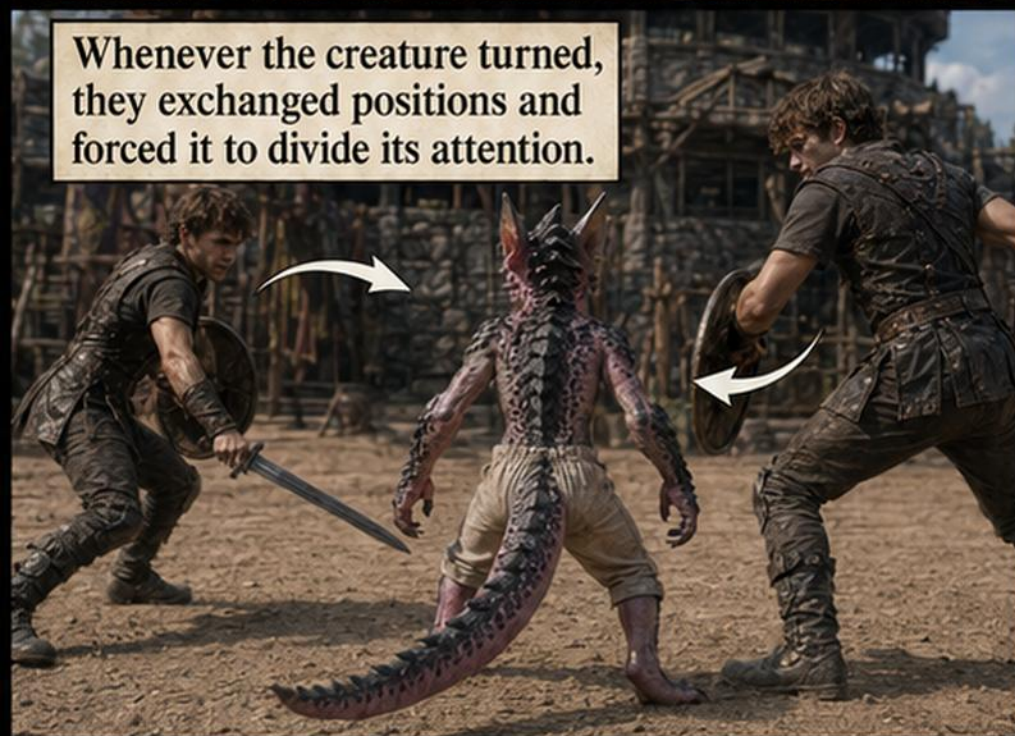
The two young warriors lowered their weapons, studied the kobold, and chose to move as one.



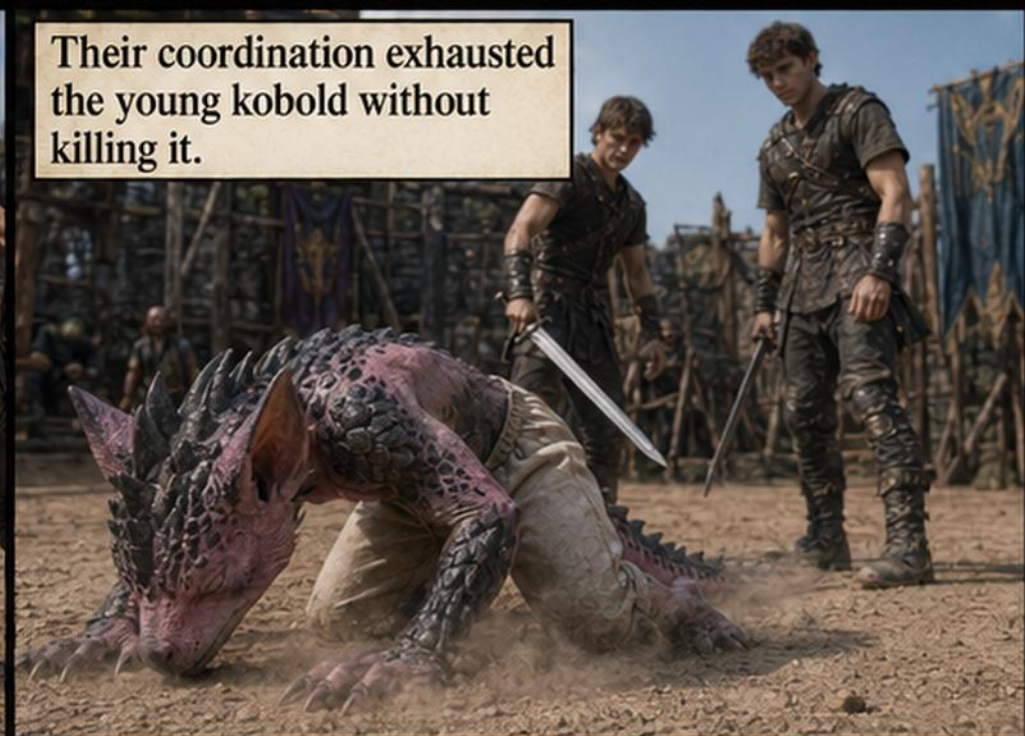
One student drew the kobold's fire while the other attacked from its unguarded side.



Whenever the creature turned, they exchanged positions and forced it to divide its attention.



Their coordination exhausted the young kobold without killing it.



Clifford praised the victory as proof that teamwork was the academy's greatest weapon against the Horde.



Hoping the creatures might someday aid their defense, Clifford asked the Swamp Witch where she had found the egg.



The witch stared at him and explained that young kobold eggs were buried throughout the entire area.



The ground shifted beneath every student in the arena.



Dozens of cracks spread across the training field like lightning.



Pink claws, black-armored tails, and hyena-like heads erupted from beneath the academy as the colony came to defend its fallen child.



The kobolds breathed fire and built traps from broken shells, loose equipment, and anything their clever hands could seize.



As the training exercise became an invasion, a horned stranger carrying an enormous golden weapon approached from the horizon.

