

THE DEMON CHILD



Clifford and Angora followed the Winged Cauldron east toward a fortress guarded by magical machines.



On the road they met a dwarf rogue whose cloak, dagger, and winged shoes marked him as an expert infiltrator.



Clifford offered the wealth of their international academy if the rogue could steal the Horde chronicle.



The dwarf knew their reputation, accepted the contract, and turned a dangerous journey into a covert expedition.





The travelers found a baby crying alone on the eastern road.



Angora approached with compassion and tried to help.



Before she reached it, the infant transformed into a horned demon.



Startled by the transformation, the party retreated to decide what the creature truly was.



Angora turned to fight, but an unnatural weakness made her powerful body tremble.



The exhaustion had begun when they accepted responsibility for the strange child.



Clifford played the Tune of the Astral Blade, sending green-gold music into her violet weapon.



The sword blazed with strength while Angora herself remained frighteningly weak.



While the strange magic held the heroes' attention, the dwarf vanished beneath his Displacer Beast cloak.



He reached an unseen firing position and studied the spell from a safer angle.



One precise shot broke the transformation spell.



As the magic faded, the creature's true form began to return.



The broken spell revealed a sleeping baby where the strange magic had been.



His mystical lullaby did not create loyalty, but it placed the child into peaceful sleep.



The travelers could not explain whether they carried a baby, demon, changeling, or test.



They knew only that the sleeping creature was helpless, and they chose to protect it.

The eastern road ended beneath a mechanized castle carved into a black mountain.



A hooded figure waited outside and announced that Clifford and Angora had been expected.



Moonlight revealed a Dragonborn wizard-artificer with the confidence of someone who claimed to know everything.



Robot soldiers emerged across every bridge and terrace behind the Dragonborn.



The stolen chronicle waited somewhere inside a library watched by machines.



Clifford told the rogue to enter unseen while his music held the Rival Artificer's attention.



Against an enemy who seemed to know every secret, their only hope was the ally no one could see.

