

THE GOLDEN AXE

AND THE BEAR WITHOUT A JOB

— A FANTASY COMEDY —



A lone traveler became lost in a bewitched forest, where every direction eventually turned wrong. When a huge bear blocked the path, she backed away—until he warned that one more step would send her over a hidden cliff.



The talking bear meant her no harm. He directed her sideways toward a magic-item shop and asked only that she find out whether its frightened owner still sold honey.



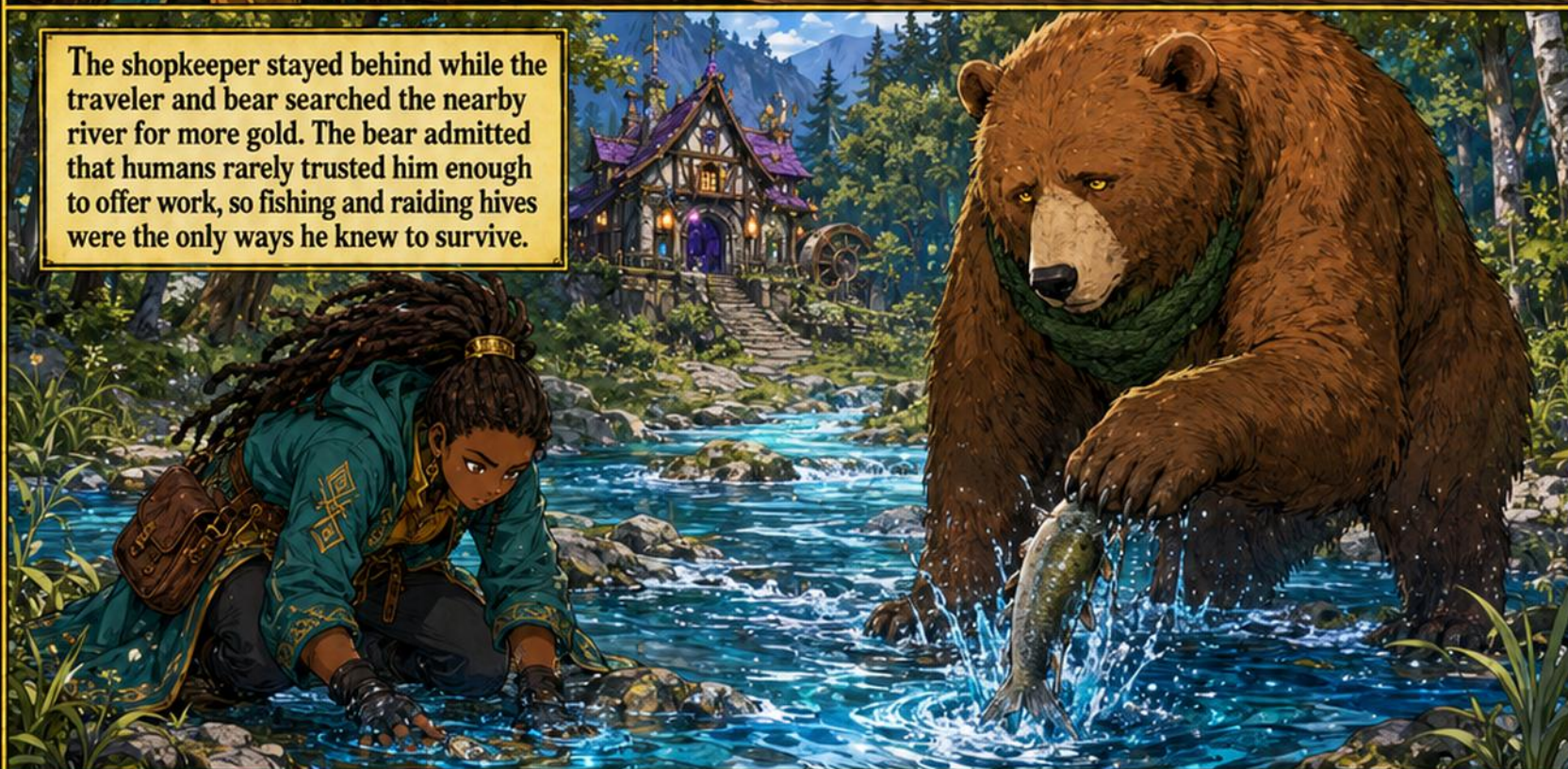
The shopkeeper revealed that a bog witch had stolen every beehive in the woods. The bear joined the traveler because he wanted the honey—and because the same witch had transformed his mahjong partner Jerry into a frog.



The traveler convinced the bear and shopkeeper to cooperate, but the merchant demanded four gold pieces for any magic item. She owned only two, and even her best bargaining could not reduce his price.



The shopkeeper stayed behind while the traveler and bear searched the nearby river for more gold. The bear admitted that humans rarely trusted him enough to offer work, so fishing and raiding hives were the only ways he knew to survive.



A rusted axe gleamed beneath the water. The traveler lifted it—and awakened a river spirit who claimed the weapon as her lost property.



When the honest traveler returned the rusted axe, the spirit repeatedly dropped it into the current. Each recovery changed it—first to silver, then to gold—until the spirit insisted that the magnificent golden axe was too fancy for her river.



The spirit hurried away to rescue a batch of burning cookies, leaving the traveler with an axe whose magic remained unexplained. The bear suggested selling it; the traveler insisted they might need its unknown power.



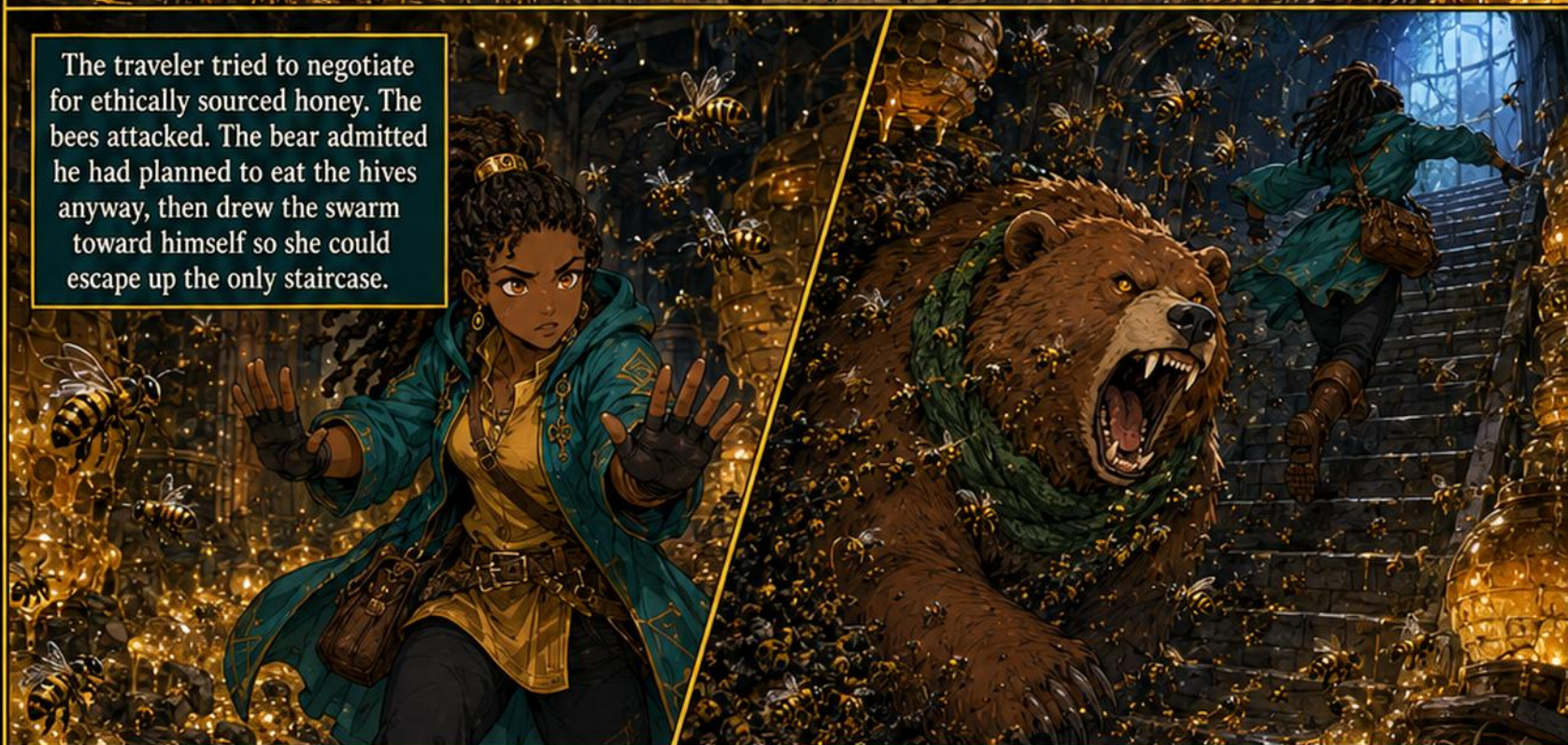
Beyond the river, they found the witch's cylindrical white hut surrounded by quicksand. During an ambitious backflip, the traveler dropped the axe into the bog and dived after it.



The bear grabbed her paw, but the quicksand swallowed them both. Instead of drowning, they fell into the witch's basement, where the stolen beehives filled the darkness with angry buzzing and walls of golden honey.



The traveler tried to negotiate for ethically sourced honey. The bees attacked. The bear admitted he had planned to eat the hives anyway, then drew the swarm toward himself so she could escape up the only staircase.



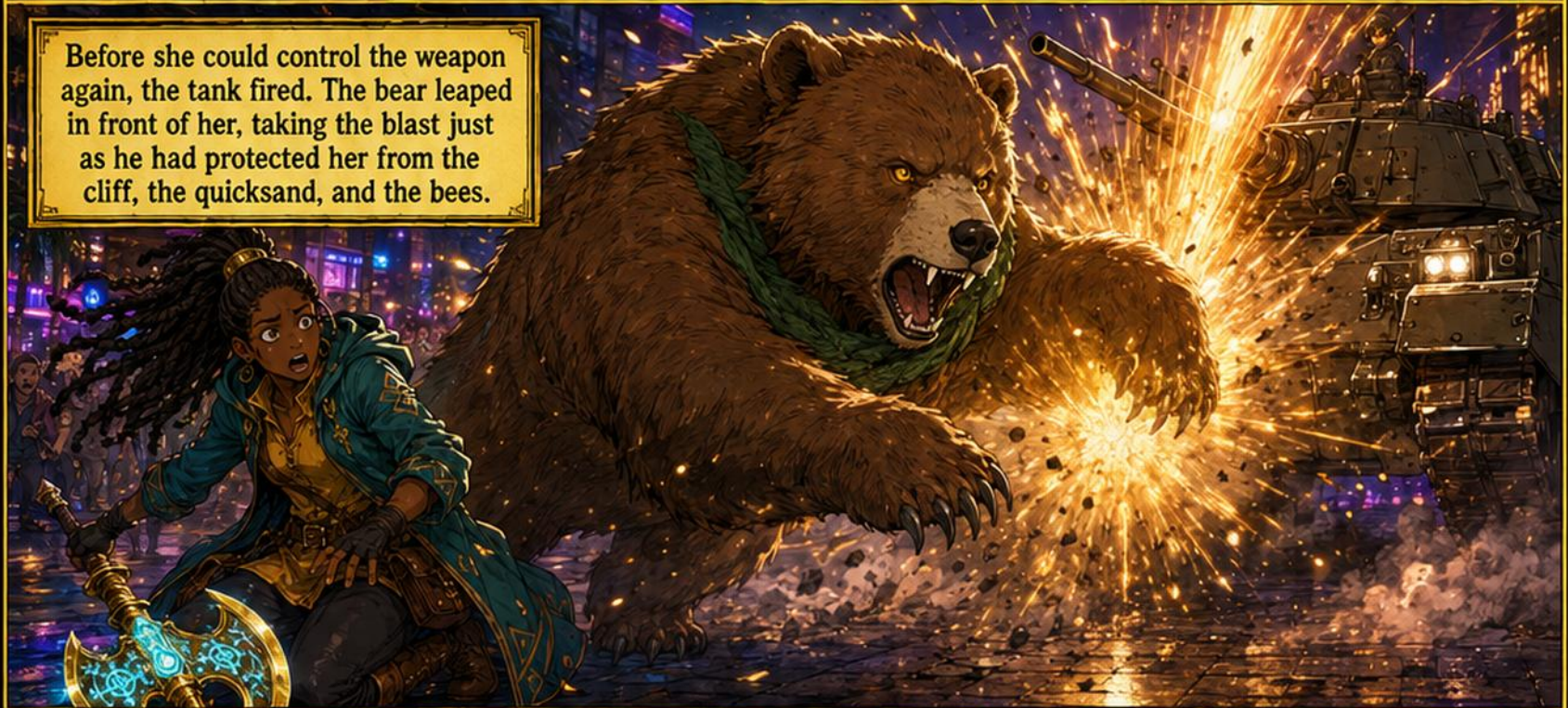
The bog witch blocked the stairs and called the police, claiming the pair were trespassers even while the stolen bees raged below. Trapped between the witch and the swarm, the traveler seized the golden axe and wished them anywhere else.



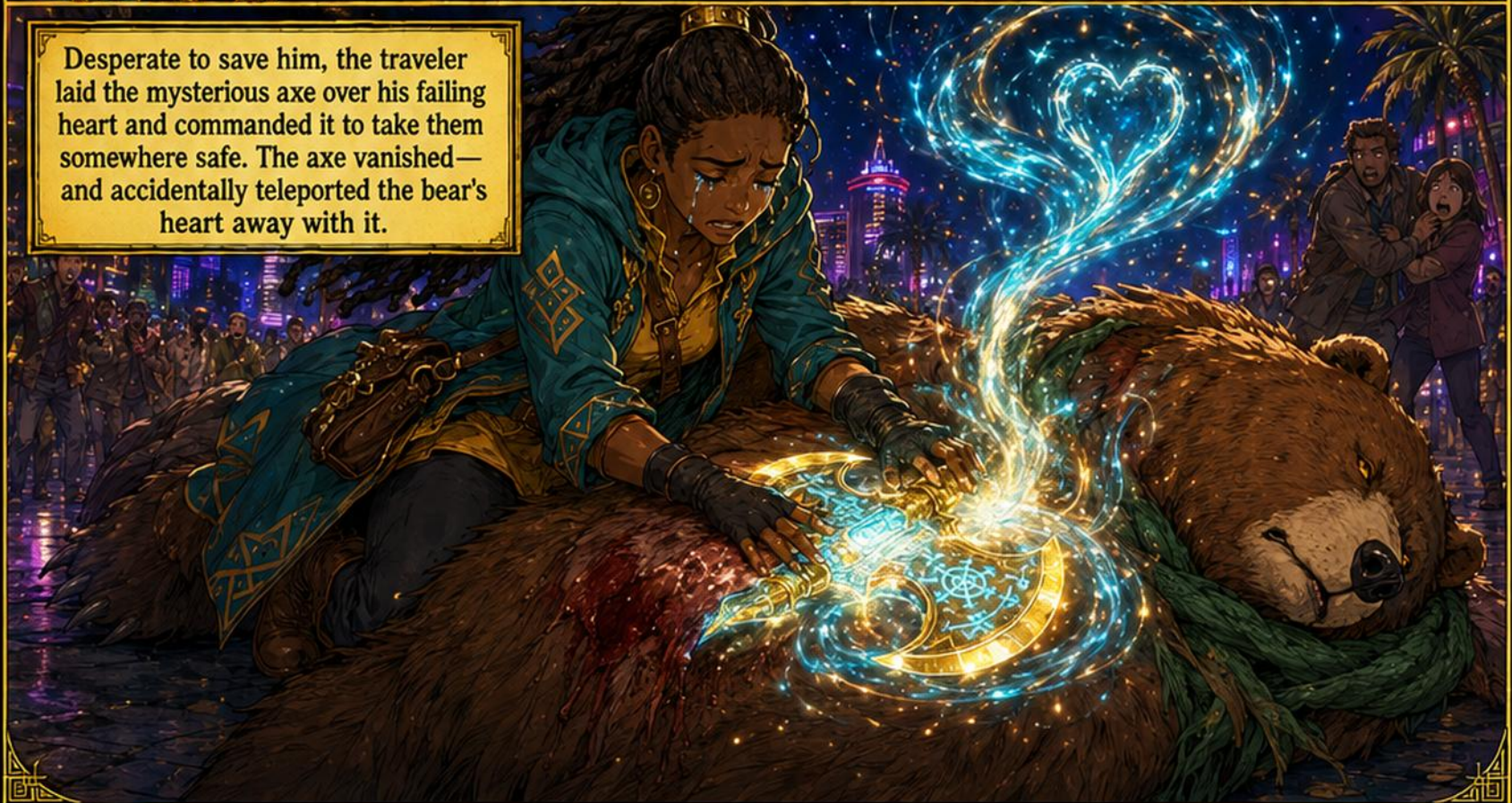
The axe folded space and dropped traveler and bear into the middle of Las Vegas. Frightened crowds saw only an armed woman and a wild animal; within moments, an armored tank ordered her to surrender the axe and the bear.



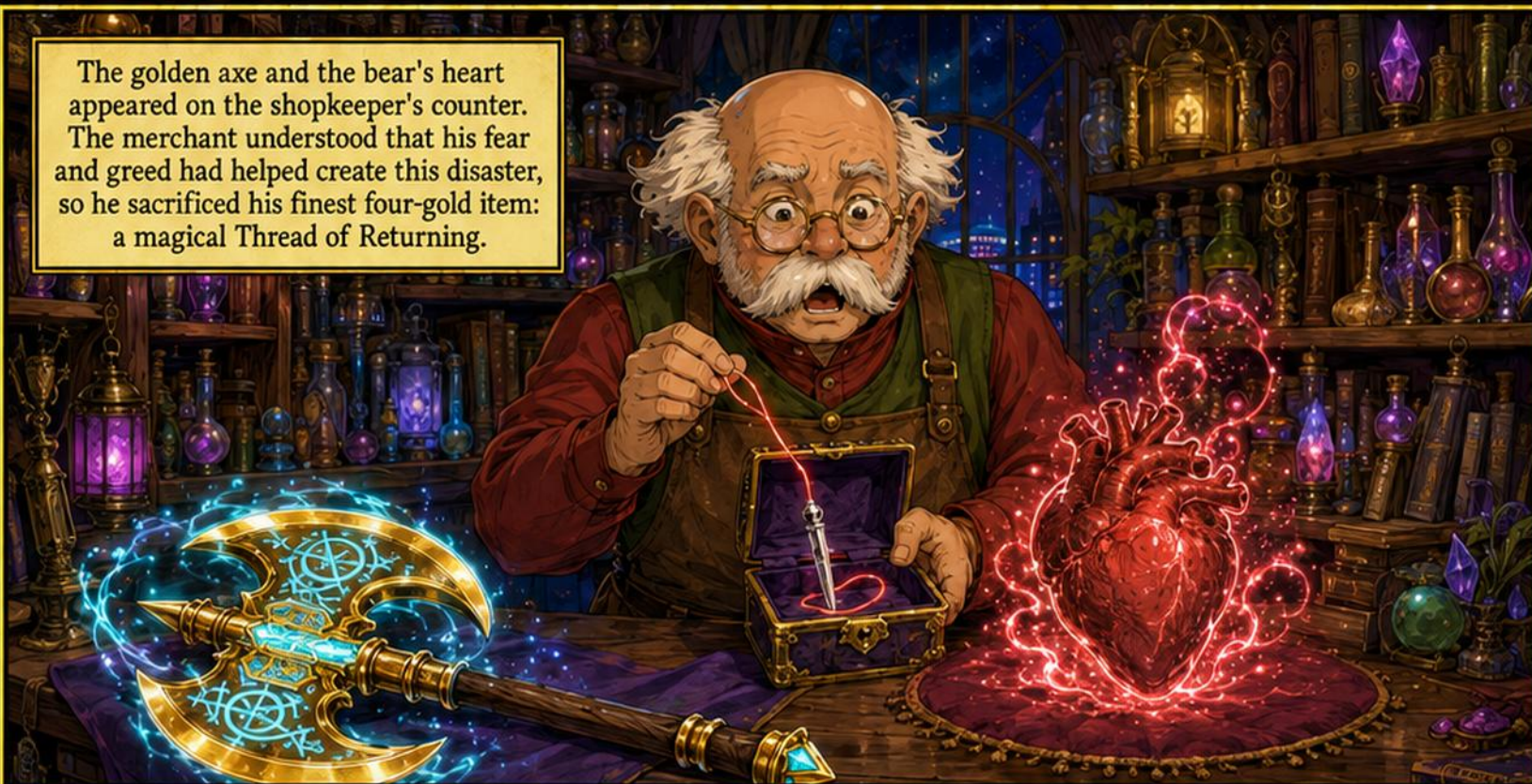
Before she could control the weapon again, the tank fired. The bear leaped in front of her, taking the blast just as he had protected her from the cliff, the quicksand, and the bees.



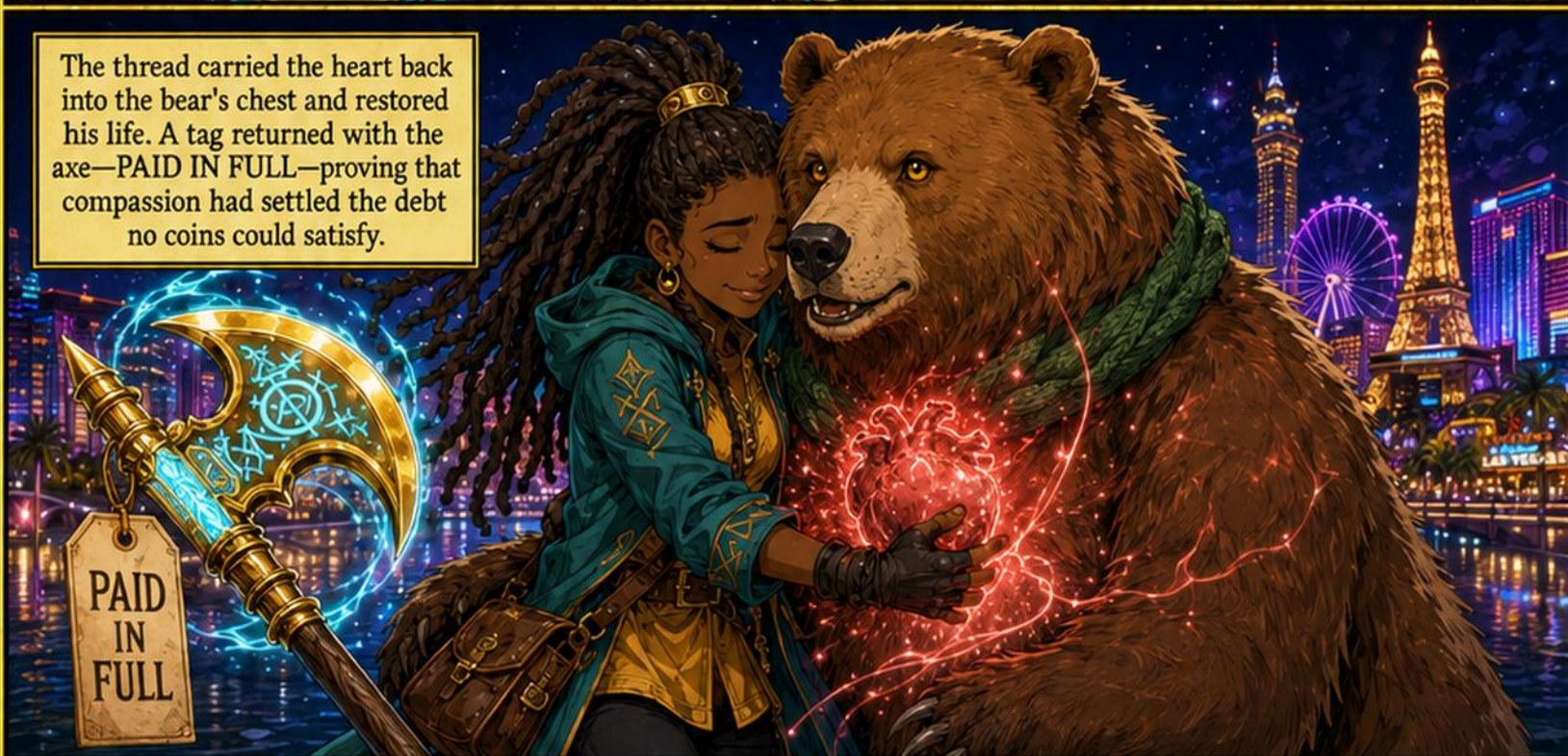
Desperate to save him, the traveler laid the mysterious axe over his failing heart and commanded it to take them somewhere safe. The axe vanished—and accidentally teleported the bear's heart away with it.



The golden axe and the bear's heart appeared on the shopkeeper's counter. The merchant understood that his fear and greed had helped create this disaster, so he sacrificed his finest four-gold item: a magical Thread of Returning.



The thread carried the heart back into the bear's chest and restored his life. A tag returned with the axe—PAID IN FULL—proving that compassion had settled the debt no coins could satisfy.



The traveler finally controlled the axe by thinking of the place where both hearts belonged. She and the revived bear teleported home, where the shopkeeper replaced his BACK SOON sign with HELP WANTED.



With a free charm protecting them from frog magic, the three returned to the bog. The river spirit and thousands of escaped bees joined them, leaving the witch no choice but to restore every stolen hive and reverse every transformation.



After several mistakes, one frog finally became Jerry the bear. He reunited with his old friend, and the magic shop reopened with ethically sourced honey, honest employment, and a mahjong table in the back.



The traveler kept the golden axe. She never mastered every destination, but she learned its deepest rule: true magic is discovering where the heart belongs—and choosing, when it matters, to follow it home.

