

Using black magic, the warlock was able to disappear and reappear at will. He was also able to transport himself to different locations and transform himself into different creatures, including gigantic black spiders.

"You've given me quite a headache, young man," he complained, rubbing the back of his neck. "All this unpleasantness has been quite unnecessary." He waved his hand and Pip's sword was extracted from his

grip by an incredible unseen force. The Black Knight reacted quickly and rushed at the warlock. But his movements had not gone unnoticed, and with another wave of the hand the Black Knight felt that he had been hit in the throat by an invisible fist. It knocked him to the ground, leaving him fighting for breath.

"You disappoint me!" the warlock said with distain. "I thought you would have given me more of a challenge. But now your little games must come to an end." A strange-looking creature with hairy brown skin and bat wings crawled into the cell. Hissing and spitting, it tied the barely conscious knight and the nervous squire together with strong twine.

"Now you must excuse me. I have a ransom note to rewrite, and this time I must remember to include my address." He bent over the screaming Lady Angelica and with his talon-like nails ripped a clump of hair from her head. "And I mustn't forget to enclose this lock of hair." With that he swept out of the cell with the creature following behind.