THE DAWN OF THE
Red Devil
a story coloring book
Once upon a time, the northeast and northwest corners of Pennsylvania were covered by glaciers—just like most of the northern tier of North America. As eons passed, the icy hulks sculpted the land, creating the hills and valleys of today. But even before the glaciers, the remains of aquatic creatures were left behind in deposits of sediment containing limestone, bedrock and metamorphic and igneous rocks. After human settlement, these same rocks were used to build homes and schools, even entire towns. Within each dwelling, these rocks contain the stories of ancient times through fossils and historic debris ...
One such tale is found beyond the rocky Appalachian Mountains where the hills give way to the low-lying Cumberland Valley, in the heart of which is nestled Dickinson College. When Dr. Benjamin Rush founded the school in Carlisle, he had no idea what creatures lay beneath its grounds. The area was thriving with limestone buildings being built throughout the town. The nearby Susquehanna River was connected to the streams, creeks and rivers that weave together to feed into the Chesapeake Bay estuary. The water was vital for everything, serving as the life force of the region for humans, animals and plants.
welcome to the UNDERGROUND
The water was so important that when Dickinson College was chartered in 1783, the architect for West College (also known as Old West) asked that a mighty sea triton be crafted for atop the building. Through whimsy or magic, instead a mermaid was brought forth, and her mythical presence watched over all who roamed the grounds. From her position in the sky, she oversaw celebration and conflict, love and war, creation and destruction.
The mermaid bore witness as fire repeatedly tried to claim campus buildings, almost as if there was something alive within those old stones that were spread throughout town. Time and again, the people came together to persevere and rebuild. After one such calamity in 1904, Denny Hall was destroyed by fire and a strange rocky sphere was found among the smoking stone and ash.
Being true lifelong scholars and stewards, the people of Dickinson transported the sphere to the old gymnasium (now the Weiss Center for the Arts) for safekeeping. They thought perhaps it was an unusual fossil or petrified ocean specimen. In fact, it was an egg that had fallen into liquid lava and been encapsulated before it had a chance to hatch. And so it slumbered in the gym, surrounded by jubilant applause from spectators, encouragement from coaches and shouts of victory from triumphant athletes. Sometimes the celebration was so intense the egg was jostled and even bounced around like a ball. Each time, a few flecks of ash and old sediment fell off revealing a dark red shell beneath the hardened exterior. It even seemed that the livelier the crowd, the more sonic the cheers around it became, the more the crust crumbled until at last …

only a perfect red orb remained.
In 1930, Dickinson’s football team returned to campus in high spirits after a rollicking game against a rival team in Washington, D.C. They had been referred to as “red devils” for their intense, fiery spirit on the field, and though the game was lost, that spirit spurred their determination to win. Their wild cheers stirred the egg from its nest beneath the locker rooms and it rolled outside, being touched by the sun’s rays for the first time since it plunged into the blazing lava centuries before. From her perch, the mermaid gazed on fearfully, for she knew something of the egg that had escaped notice: it was not fossilized remains. It was alive—a slumbering lifeform lying dormant but aware. She saw her chance to release the creature—a fellow native of the sea. The mermaid knew the power of love, community and song, so she called out to the four winds and to the hearts of every member of the Dickinson community that day to summon a fiery force from within and release their spirit into the air. With a unified shout, the din reached cataclysmic volume. And. The. Egg. Shattered.
In its place was a fiery red devil that quickly sprouted horns and turned black and white as it felt the sun and the air for the very first time.
It seemed the devil’s spirit was tethered to the shouting crowd, for it grew and grew until it stood as tall as a man. The mermaid cloaked the newly hatched creature in a **crimson cape** so it could continue to wear the **red** of its heritage. For its safekeeping, she commanded an instrument of the ocean be fashioned—a **trident** on water, a **pitchfork** on land.
And so, the **mermaid** beckoned the **red devil** to her side and taught it all she knew, shared all she had, gave all she was; for she is and will always be a **Dickinsonian**—naturally curious, a lifelong learner, an innovator, a difference-maker. All of this she infused into the devil, and they became comrades, protecting the people of Dickinson, spurring them to **ignite positive change**, to **lift one another up**, to **welcome all**, to **embrace justice** and **pursue truth**. The mermaid must always remain tied to her beloved Old West, but the devil was made free to roam, to cheer, to spark hope, to embody the spirit of the mermaid, to blaze a path through the world, **to go with each Dickinsonian wherever their journey leads** … for a fire burns in every Red Devil.
What the devil?! 

Igneous or “fire” rocks are magmatic rocks formed through the cooling and solidification of magma or lava. Don’t worry—they’re not hot anymore!

Estuary is a body of water where fresh and salt water mix. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest of more than 100 estuaries in the United States and third largest in the world.

A triton is a messenger of the sea with the upper body of a man and the tail of a fish, usually with a trident, a three-pronged spear.

A mermaid is a marine creature with the upper body of a woman and the tail of a fish.

Dickinson’s athletics mascot was adopted in the 1930s when a journalist who reported on a hotly contested football game dubbed the red-and-white-wearing Dickinson athletes as “red devils” for their spirited play.

This story is a work of fiction, sprinkled with some factual tidbits and historical details. Thank you to the Archives & Special Collections and Department of Earth Sciences for sharing their expertise. The story was written and illustrated by Dickinson’s Office of Marketing & Communications and produced at the Dickinson College Print Center.
Go Red Devils!
Get your cheer on!

Check out all the Dickinson stats, scores, schedules and highlights at dickinsonathletics.com. Watch free live broadcasts online, produced by students in the Red Devil Sports Network (RDSN). Follow @DsonRedDevils on Twitter, Dickinson Red Devils on Facebook and @DickinsonAthletics on Instagram for daily updates.

Dickinson

#DsonRedDevils #DsonProud