

Magic Tree House, Book 33

Carnival At Candlelight (Unabridged)

Chapter 1: a book of magic

Dawn was breaking in the fog quake woods. Jack saw a light shining up the head. He ran toward it, he ran so fast he couldn't hear the feet heading the ground. He couldn't feel the frosty winter air, as Jack was up closer to the light, he could see the magic tree house set on the top of the tallest oak. A girl and a boy were looking at him after a window. The girl ha dark waving hair, and sea blue eyes and the boy had rustle toy hair and a big green on his face. As the two kids waved at him, Jack felt incredibly happy.

Jack, wake up!

Jack opened his eyes. His sister Anne was standing beside his bed she was wearing her winter Jacket. It was barely light outside.

I just had a dream about the tree house. She said.

Really? Jack said sleepily.

I dreamed we were running towards the woods down. Said Anne. and when they got to the tree house, Teddy and Catherince were there waiting for us.

Jack set up.

I just had the same dream. He said.

Will we go downstairs? Said Anne.

Anne left Jack's room. Jack jumped up off the bed and put on his glasses, and threw on his cloak, gloves, he grasped the winter Jack and Anne's backpack, and quietly down the stairs and out of the front door.

Anne was waiting on the porch. The February air was chilly frost sparkle in the grass as sun rose from the fog quake woods.

Ready? Asked Anne.

Jack nodded and zipped his Jacket. Without another word, he and Anne hurried up through across the street and headed into the woods. They ran to the long shadow of the early morning between the bare wind of the trees. Then they stopped.

The tree house was back. Just as Jack had seen it in his dream, it was high in the tallest oak tree shinning in the cold morning light.

Wow! Braded Jack. Dream can come true.

Yeap. Said Anne.

Teddy! Catherince!

Noone answered. I guess only the part of the dream come true.

Anne said sadly.

She grabbed the rope ladder and started up. Jack followed Anne

climbing into the tree house.

Oh! Wow! She said.

What is it? Said Jack.

They are here. Said Anne in a loud whisper.

Jack climbed in behind her.

Their friends Teddy and Catherine apprentices of Morgan fee were sitting under the tree house window. Roughly in happy woolen cloaks they were both fast sleep.

Hey! Sleepy head! Said Anne. wake up!

Catherine blinked a yawn, Teddy rubbed his eyes.

When he saw Jack and Anne, he gave them a wide grin left to his feet.

Hello! He said.

Hello! Cried Anne. she threw her arms around Teddy.

We both dreamed you're here.

That mean our magic worked. Said Teddy.

Catherine just recent from her dreams: let you know we were here and it seems a magic seems not a dream as well.

But now we're all wake. Said Catherine. And I'm very glad to see you.

She stood up drying her cloak around her, her blue eyes sparkled

like sea water in the dawn light.

I'm glad to see you, too. Jack said shyly.

Are you taking us on the other Merlin's mission? Said Anne.

Not exactly. Said Teddy.

Merlin had a most important mission for you, but this time we will not be going to alone.

Oh! No! said Anne. what if we need your magic to help us?

Teddy and Catherine looked at each other and smiled. Then Catherine turned back to Jack and Anne,

Morgan thinks you may be ready to use magic on your own. She said.

Really? Said Jack.

Yes. Said Teddy. But Merlin is very cautious about sharing magic powers with mortals, even with two as well as you. He's also aware magic has been used outside of the Camelot. Never the less, Merlin has convinced more than to let you prove yourselves. You'll be tested on four missions.

And without any magic? Said Jack.

Remember what we have told you on last adventure? Said Teddy. If we all work together,

Anything is possible. Said Anne. but you just said you won't be coming with us.

That is true. Said Catherince. And that's why we bring you this.

She reached into her pocket of cloak and put out a small hand-made book. She gave the book to Anne. the cover of the book was made of the rough brown paper. Writting on it, in neat simple handwriting was the title: Ten magic realms for Anne and Jack from Teddy and Catherince.

You made this for us? Said Anne.

Yes. Said Catherince.

One line of each realm is in Teddy's language, and one is in mine.

The language of the seal people.

Anne opened the book to the table of the contains. She and Jack skimmed list of the realms and Jack read of some of the entrees aloud.

Fly throw the air,
make meadow soft,
turning into ducks,
...

Anne giggled.

It's so cool! She said. Let's all turn into ducks.

Oh, no now. said Catherince. You must use this realms very

sparingly. There are only ten realms in this book and each will only be used once. There are mental last you four journeys.

Four? Said Jack .

Er! Said Teddy. Merlin has agreed that if you can use our magic wisely on four missions, he will teach you the secrets which allow you to make magic on your own.

Oh! Boy! Said Anne.

Jack put the book of the magic realm into his backpack,

So where we will go on our first mission? He asked.

This research book from Morgan will tell you. Said Teddy.

He took out the book and handed it to Jack. The cover showed the bright colorful city surrounded by water. Jack read the title aloud: a visit to Venice eagly

I've heard Venice. Said Anne. Last year aunt and uncle Michaels were gone there when they were on vacation.

Er. To the city that is long welcome to its travelers. Said Teddy. But you and Jack will trouble the venus two hundred and sixty years ago.

What will we do there? Asked Jack.

Merlin has prepared a care direction for you, said Teddy.

He put a letter out of the pocket in his cloak, and gave it to Jack.

Read this when you get to Venice.

Ok! Said Jack.

He put Merlin's letter and Morgan's research book into his backpack,

Wait a minute. Said Anne. if we take the tree house to Venice, how are you guys back to Camelot?

Teddy and Catherince smiled and held up their hands. They each were wearing a ring made of pale blue glass.

These magic rings belong to Morgan. Said Catherince. They will take us home.

Remember! Teddy said to Jack and Anne. follow Merlin's direction carefully, if you prove yourselves to be wise and proper, they will call for you again soon.

Catherince nodded.

Ggoodbye,now. she said to Jack and Anne.

Good luck.

Catherince and Teddy raised their glass rings the their lips, together they whispered too softly to be heard. In bloom under rings, before Jack and Anne's eyes, the two young sorcerers in the fade into the cool morning air and instant, they were disappeared completely.

They are gone. Braded Jack.

I guess the time for us to go too. Said Anne.

Jack took a deep breath. Then they pointed to the cover of the Merlin' book.

I wish I could go there. He said.

The wind started to blow, the tree house started to spin. It span faster and faster. Then everything was still. Absolutely still.

Chapter 2: Carnival

Anne laughed. Jack opened his eyes.

He and Anne were wearing purple and pink armpits with huge ruffed colors. On their heads were funny hats, on their feet were red slippers with big balls.

Who are we? Anne asked.

I don't know. Said Jack.

He didn't feel like a weird and bright helper in his red slippers, It feels stupid.

Together Jack and Anne looked out of the tree house window, they had landed in a small tree inside a wide garden. The sky was grey. Jack couldn't tell iif it's morning or evening. But they all felt damn and it's about a storm go break.

I guess this is Venice. He said.

Let's check out book.said Anne. she opened their research book and read aloud.

The day of the city Venice, is one of the most popular spots in the world. It lies in the lagoon of the Adriatic sea. Instead of road, Venice has water ways, called canals. People glide along the canals, in shallow boats called gondolas a man called a gondolas clear stands back and uses a lot of them all to prepare the gondola through the water.

That sounds like fun. Said Jack.

Yeap. Said Anne.

She closed the book,

Let's go.

Wait! Said Jack. We don't even know what our mission is yet.

He took out Merlin's letter and unfolded it. He read aloud:

Dear Jack and Anne,

A folk crake, your mission will require great patience and many magic, the grand lady of the lagoon is in terrible danger. The only one who can help to save her from the silver disaster is the ruler of the seas. To locate him follow these directions:

When water's rise beneath the moon,

Visit the grand lady the lagoon,

To find out where you need to go,
To seek out the Pinter name of the Tiepolo,
At midnight two men will tell you the time
To the top of their tower and hurry in and climb
The king of jungle will care you there
Out of the land but high in the air
And angel of god will show you the way
To the see by night, and home by day
Am

Jack pushed his glasses in the place.

mmm... he said

I wonder who the grand lady is. Said Anne, and why do we need to
save her?

I'm wondering about last staff. Said Jack. What about the king of
jungle?

Well here is the city not jungle. And what about that angel? And..

Let's just take one thing at a time. Said Anne. what we suppose to
do first?

Jack looked back at the letter and read:

When water's rise beneath the moon,

Visit the grand lady the lagoon,

So let's start by finding the grand lady. Sid Anne.

She leaded down the tree house ladder, Jack put Merlin's letter into his backpack, along with Merlin's research book and Teddy and Catherince's book of magic realms. Then he climbed down the rope ladder and coped up with Anne.

Jack and Anne walked over a purpley pass as sky was darkened.

Good! Thought Jack. It's night,

He did want anyone to see them in the silly awful fit. Especially the red slippers with red balls.

Time's be the way out. Said Anne.

She led Jack to a wind gate and golden wall and pushed it open.

Jack and Anne stepped through the gate unto a quiet empty walkway. Next to walkway was a narrow line of water,

I guess that's a canal. Said Jack.

And that must be a gondola. Said Anne.

She pointed to a long curved black boat rounding the corner. In the lights of the day the gondola was silently up the canal toward them.

Yex! Whispered Anne.

There were two people in the boat, a gondolier and a passenger.

Each wore black cloak, white gloves and ghostly white mask. The

masks had long pointing nosing shape like bird beaks. The passenger sat in the middle of the boat holding a lantern. The gondolier stood at back pushing a long oars through the water.

They looked like the waiter than us. Said Anne.

No kidding. Said Jack.

Hello! The passenger shouted. The person's voice mused behind the mask,

Do you need help?

Yes! Anne shouted back. Can you take us to the grand lady of lagoon?

Yes, of course! She's back that way. Answered the masked passenger.

Come!

Great! Said Anne.

She grabbed Jack's hand and powered them over to the gondolier.

The gondolier rocked the boat and shinning Jack to climb the boat to sit between the gondolier and the passenger. The gondolier pushed the gondola away from the landing. His long oar made soft splashes in the water as the boat moved up along the canal.

Jack cleared his throat.

Ah..huh...

Excuse me, he said, where are you wearing birdman masks?

For carnival of course. Said the passenger. That's why you're wearing in clown costumes, know?

Oh! Yeah! Sure! Said Jack.

As the gondola swift through the canal,

Jack snatched his research book out of his backpack.

Oh! Boy! A carnival! Anne whispered to Jack. I hope I had a rulercoaster.

I don't think you had a rulercoaster two hundred sixty years ago. Whispered Jack.

Jack looked up the carnival in the index:

He found the page and then he and Anne silently read together:

For many centuries, carnival has been the most famous yearly festival in Venice. For carnival people disguise themselves anything they want to be. Rich and poor, male and female, young and old, all are equal during the carnival.

Look! Let's us! That's us! Whispered Anne.

She pointed to a picture of colorful costume with white ruffed collar and red slippers with bells.

Yeah! And that's them. Whispered Jack.

He pointed to a picture of person dressed in black cloak and white mask with bird's beak.

Jack closed the book and put it away, the gondola person didn't seem to care anymore. But he still wondered why the grand lady was in terrible danger at carnival?

As the boat glided around the bank, Jack caught his breath.

He saw dozens of gondolas rocking on the choppy waters of wide open canal. They were all decorated with ribbons and flowers. Gondoliers from their lanterns and dances at the dark rambling water.

Look! That must be carnival over there. Said Anne pointing.

In the distance thousands of candles twinkled along the shore line.

Songs of crafter, clapping and shouting along the water.

Hold on tightly. Said the masked person in the front of the gondola.

The Teddy is high tonight.

As their gondola joined the fleet of boats, heading towards the canal, the wind picked up. The wave grew taller.

Jack and Anne held on the sides of the boat, Jack heard a faint rumble far away thunder. He saw zigzag flash of lighting from the distance sky.

Is a storm coming? He wondered nervously.

It the storm past exactly going to happen in the grand lady's

lagoon?

This is going to be fun. Listen it. Isn't it? Said Anne cheerfully.

Sure! Said Jack.

He tried to shake off his worries, as the wind did tide itself. Push the gondola toward the candles of the canal.

Chapter 3: the grand lady of the lagoon

The gondola glided toward the landing of the edge of the port now. as the gondolier tight up his boat, water was flashing from the canal unto a wild wave filled with carnival crowds. The gondolier reached his white gloved lovely hand toward Anne, and helped her out of the boat. He then held other hand to Jack. When Jack loaded, he was surprised that gondolier's hand felt small under the white glove.

Like a kid's hand.

As soon as Jack stepped out of the boat, the gondolier untied the rope, pushed it off from the landing, and began roaring away.

Bye! Thanks! Called Anne.

The two strangers in white masks waved.

Jack and Anne watched the gondola disappeared over the choppy waters, then they looked back at the shore. The carnival crowd was priding up and down along the rockway now.

Hey! Look! Said Anne. that's bunch of people dressed like us and there are too people like our gondolier.

Jack saw lots of black cloaks, bird masks, funny hats, and ruffled colors. He also saw people dressed in chicken's, pearl's, and knight's. none of the costumed people seemed to mind the water flooding over the splitting over the canal now. Soaking their boots and slippers,

As Jack and Anne stared at the crowd, a distant bell began to ring. The bell rang nine times

I guess it mean it's nine o'clock. Said Jack.

Just then another bell began to charm.

Jack heard it again.

This time, ten bells rang.

Ten? Said Jack puzzled. So what time is it? Nine o'clock or ten o'clock?

Don't worry about that now. said Anne. I think I see the grand lady of the lagoon.

Where? Said Jack.

Anne pointed to a tall woman in the edge of the pride. She was wearing a black mask, she wore piles of jewelry and a wide wag and wide hops skirt.

Jack and Anne moved towards the lady.

Excuse me! Said Anne.

Hi! The lady looked at Anne

Hello! She said in deep man's voice.

Wow! Said Jack stepping back.

Anne laughed

He's a man! She said

Of course. Said the man but for carnival night I'm a beautiful lady, er?

You're looking like someone called the grand lady of the Started Anne.

But before she could finish, a giant chicken grabbed the man's hand and pulled him away into the crowd.

Oh, brother! Said Jack. Looking around, lots of people were dressed into the grand lady's

How we suppose to know who's the visit? Real one.

Maybe it's time to use one of Catherince and Teddy's realms. Said Anne.

No. we should solve it by ourselves. Said Jack.

Then that just skip visiting the grand lady of lagoon for now. said

Anne. what's the next thing Merlin tell us to do?

Jack looked at Merlin's directions and read out:

Find the way where you need to go

Seek out the name of Tiepolo

Good! That's clear. Said Jack. Let's see the Tiepolo in our research book.

As the noise crowds celebrated around them, Jack pulled out the book, he stood there as an angel and looked it in the index:

He's here. Said Jack.

He turned to the red page and read

Tiepolo was one of the greatest painter of Venice in the seventeen hundred centuries. He painted bright beautiful oil paintings for palaces at Venice.

If the guy was a so famous, people must know where he lives. Said Anne.

Excuse me! She shouted to a clown walking by.

Can you tell us where the painter Tiepolo lives?

Near the church of saint foliche, the clown said.

Thanks! Said Anne.

But you won't find him now. the clown called over his shoulder. He's

in Morline, painting

Where is that? Shouted Jack

Over days right on horseback. Said the clown. Then he disappeared into the crowd.

Mmm... said Anne.

Do you think Merlin want us to go to Morline?

We don't have time. Said Jack. I think we have to skip Tiepolo too.

Yeah! Said Anne.

Hey, maybe we should skip all these staff in trying to find ruler of sails on our own. Our letter says that the only one you can help us saving to the grand lady

I don't know. Said Jack.

And in his letter, Merlin tell us to be patient

But Anne was already to call the parrot of the passing boat.

Sir, do you know where we can find the ruler of the seas?

What? Shouted the parrot.

The ruler. Do you know where he lives. Yelled Anne.

In the palace on saint Marc square! Said the parrot.

Where is that? Anne called.

But the parrot had disappeared into the crowd

All we have to seek Marc square. Said Jack. I've seen the marc square.

He turned the pages of his book until they came to the Marc of Venice.

Oh! Cool! He said.

Jack looked at the maps

Ok! Let's see. Jack said.

Where here. He pointed the walkway along the canal of the map.

And we want to go to see the marc square. He pointed to the other place of the map.

It's really close.

Yeah! And it looks like everyone else is here too. Said Anne. come on!

So we go this way. Said Jack

He trees their way with his finger.

Come on! Jack! Called Anne.

Jack looked up from the map, Anne was already walking with the crowd. Jack had to close the book and ran after her.

Soon they came to a huge open square.

Well! Wow! Said Jack. Jack said breathlessly.

Saint Marc square was filled with candle light and musicians, acrobats and balloons on tight ropes, boxers boxed in their ring.

Nice fairs with sword, clowns wore tall hats and barrows and

trying to catch live eels in their mops.

All around square, candle lit buildings

Venice is beautiful! Said Anne.

Yeah! Said Jack.

He looked back their book, he found illustration of saint marc square. Jack read the descriptions of the buildings.

The cock watch tower of the Saint Marc Square is the tallest building in Venice the weather wind on top sailors by showing them which way the wind was blowing.

Jack looked up.

I can bare see where the wind up where. He said. I think it's pointing north. So the wind must be blowing from the south.

What about the ruler's palace? Where is that? Asked Anne.

Jack read on...

The tallest cock tower was one of the most beautiful tower in the world. On top of the tower a bell of struck everyhour by

Jack! Skip to the ruler's palace! Interrupted Anne. please~

ok! Ok! Said Jack

he read about the palace

the palace of Venice ruler is one of the most splendid structures

that ever been built. It has a great hall where as many as two thousand nobles one might discuss the state matters. It also holds the city's grim present selves. Above the palace stories is a sculpture of Saint Marc, showing a book to a vein line.

That's the palace stall? Said Anne.

Jack looked up from the map,

Anne was sighting toward a huge stall with sculpture of a man and a vein line above him. Jack closed the book and hurried to catch up to her.

A guard was standing by the palace stall, the guard wore uniform of a riffler.

Wait! Jack whispered.

Is he a real guard? Or is he just wearing a costume?

I'll find out. Said Anne.

She walked over to the guard,

Excuse me, sir! Is the ruler of Venice inside the palace now?

Begon! Clown!

The guard said roughly!

But it's important. Said Anne. we need to talk to him about something

I said BEGON! The guard roared. And I'm tired the clowns wasting

my time

She's not really a clown. Said Jack coming forward. We have a mission wait...

Go! Buzzy! We are out! Roared the guard. He held up his rifle. He's definitely not wearing a costume. Thought Jack.

Ok! Sorry! Sorry! Said Jack.

He and Anne moved away from the palace entrance.

What a grouching guy! Said Anne.

He'll never let us in. said Jack.

Maybe it's time to use one of Teddy and Catherine's realms. Said Anne. maybe we should turn into ducks, the guard won't mind if a couple of ducks ...

No! said Jack. We have to save our realms.

Well, how will we get inside? Anne asked.

Patience. Said Jack. Remember,

Before he could finish Anne broke in

Hey! Look!

Two clowns were still dancing around the guard, one grabbed the guard's rifle and costed the other.

Hey! Give that back! The guard yelled.

Now it's a chance! Said Anne. quick!

She ran into the entrance and slipped into the door.

Oh! No! oh! Ma'am! Said Jack.

While the guard chased after the two clowns and steals, Jack rushed to the doorway of the palace and slipped inside too.

Chapter 4: rats

Jack found Anne standing behind the columns at the entrench halyard. The halyard was quiet and empty. Or call yard?

Everyone in Venice must be at carnival. Said Jack. I just hope the ruler is at home.

Yeah! We have to know whether the grand lady of lagoon is here too. Said Anne. and what's tell me help us save her from a terrible disaster.

Jack looked at the map of the palace. Several rooms were labeled ruler's living chambers.

I guess it's where he lives. Said Jack. We have to go upstairs to call the giant stairs there.

The giant stairs? Asked Anne

Yeah! Said Jack. Listen to this.

These stairs are called giant stairs because they are guarded by two large stratum of guards from royal astrology, Mars of the god of

war, and Neptune, the god of the sea.

Cool! Said Anne let's go

Jack and Anne hurried down the passage way and they ran along the call yard, until they came to a wide stair case. On other side of the stairs were giant maple stratoms of strong looking men.

Mars and Neptune this is it. Come on!

Jack and Anne quickly climbed the giant stairs. At the top Jack looked the map again.

Now we turn right and head for the golden stair case. He said.

Keeping an eye for guards they cramped down the hall until they came to a fancy stair case under a gold silver thing.

There it is. Said Jack. Let's climb up.

He and Anne hurried up the golden sun stair case. When they got to the top, they froze, the other guard was slouched against wall by the stairs. His eyes were closed, and he was ...softly.

Jack motioned to Anne, and they tiptoed passing the sleeping guard to the entrench of the ruler's living chambers.

Jack glanced at the map,

This is it! He whispered.

The door was open, Jack and Anne picked inside.

Nok.. nok.. Anne said in a soft voice.

No one answered. They stepped through the door way. A fire blazed on the huzz, over head many candles burned brightly. The dancing flames crash shadows and maple floor and a curved gold ceiling.

I have a feeling that the ruler is not here. Said Anne. maybe we should leave.

Jack looked at their book,

Wait! The next room is the map room. He said. let's just take a look.

Ok! But we'd better hurry. Said Anne.

Jack led the way into the map room. Colorful maps were hanging on the walls in the middle of the floor were two huge globes. Jack said.

I love this room. He said.

Look more lines. Said Anne.

She pointed to three paintings as wind as lines at one of the walls.

Why there were lines of winds everywhere?

Jack looked up the winds lines in their book. He turned to the right page and read:

The wind line is the sample of Venice. Paintings, sculptures all over the city lines stands for trip both land and sea.

As Jack and Anne looked back to the lining paintings, they heard footsteps.

The crouch guard and the sleepy guard rushed into the room.

Hi! We are looking...began Anne...

There they are! Thieves

The sleepy guard shouted at the crouch guard,

I told you, I heard voices.

We are not thieves. Said Anne. we were just looking for your ruler ask for his help.

She's right. Said Jack. We have to tell him that...

What.. that.. magic...cry...may???

Said the crouch guard. The word thieves reserves for criminal like you move!

But we.. started Anne.

Move! Shouted the crotch guard raising his rifle and pointing it to the door.

Jack knew that word are useless. That there was no use arguing.

He took Anne's hand and let out of the room, leaveing the chambers.

The two guards walked behind them, pointing guns on their backs.

To end of the hall and down steps. Groaned grouch guard.

Jack and Anne walked quickly down the hall, then down the steep steps. They moved across the door, the guards closed behind them.

Over the bridged of shames. Shouted the grouch guard.

And be shore to the side because won't be back for a long time.

Jack grabbed Anne's hand as they crossed the covered bridge to another building. Once inside, they started down the hallway to the peddles.

Jack's shoes felt squish and snaky and slosh through the water.

Hold! Shouted the grouch guard.

Jack and Anne stopped at a the heavy wooden door. The grouch guard opened the door and pushed them into a dark damp jail. Door slammed shut. Jack held a heavy metal board, sunk the place then he heard the guards splashed the way down the hall arguing with each other.

The present is nearly. He cried.

It was hard to brade in the stay of salt. It was hard to see too. Only the deem light of the hall way shown them faintly through the bark window. Under the window was a wooden bench.

Where are we now? Anne asked in a small voice.

Fro a moment Jack couldn't answer and he was stunted.

Many years ago there has been a bright carnival. Now there were locked prisoners here now.

Ah.. I will be looking the book. He said.

Jack felt shaky as he opened their research book, he moved close to the bark window to read by the deem light. He looked up prison in the index, he found it and read aloud:

The prison's shells was a grand lever of the palace, we called the apatch, meaning wilds and pets. There was dink airless and filled with rats. Even the government decided there were too cool

Jack heard a scream form the dark corner. He stopped reading and looked up. He heard this screek again, and here when it up to his neck.

Was that a rat? He wondered.

That a rat? Said Anne.

The sreak came again from the dark corner, then it's screek from the other corner,

Jack heard rusting along the wolves and mouse's creaking.

Oh! Ma'am! He briefed.

There were rats everywhere

I think it time for magic. Said Anne.

Yeap! Said Jack. Definitely!

He kept his eye on the dark corners and while Anne reached their backpack and pulled out Teddy and Catherine's book. Anne read from the table of the contents.

Stand on water, make a stone come to live, make a meadow soft, turn it into the darks,

Anne looked up

Are rats afraid of ducks? She asked.

Forget ducks! Said Jack,

Go back to make meadows soft. That's what we need to do. You weave the realm, and I tried to put the bottom of the part.

Ok! Good! Said Anne.

Jack jumped on to the wooden bench under the bark window. The squicking louder, Jack reached up and iron bars. They were cold hard and very solid.

I need a magic to break them.

The screams were getting louder Jack grabbed two bars of the middle of the window and took a deep breath,

Read the realm! He said.

Anne read it aloud.

Iron copper grasp still, bring it soft, broke on bill,

As Anne finished realm, the bars began to glow, they grow warmer in Jack's hands,

I think it's working. He cried.

Holding the bars tightly, Jack jumped to the up-side directions.

Slowly the glowing bars began to stretching and bend, Jack pulled them with opening large hole for Anne to fit them through.

We did it . he cried.

Great! Hurry! Hurry! The rats are coming. Cried Anne. she lifted.

She jumped to the bench.

Jack heard a curved creek from all side of the sel. He looked down, he saw a shadow way that doesn't rats. It seemed to be sniffen air blow the window,

Go go ! Jack cried to Anne.

Anne squised between the bars, and jumped down into the hall way.

Jack followed her. He hit the floor with feet.

Come on! He cried

Jack and Anne slashed down the water way hole, as they entered it, it's nearly bant to the two guard. Jack and Anne kept running,

The grouch guard shouted and ran after them. He reached for Jack, the other guard tired to catch Anne, chalk and Anne dodged the way from them. The guards crushed each other and falling the floor.

Jack and Anne kept running, they dashed across the sides, they run to the corridor of the steep stone steps.

This way! Cried Jack.

He and Anne toward under hall, heading to the golden stirred case.

Hey! Hey!

The guards yelled from far behind.

Jack and Anne bumped down the golden stars case, two steps aside a time. They flew down the hall, and then down the giant stairs. They run pass the statues of Mars and Neptune. And charge down the long open passage way. Finally, they dashed into the palace and skate into the Saint Marc's square.

Chapter 5: the rain

Jack and Anne run to the square, dancers and fortellers and acrobats. They didn't stop until they were hidden in the middle of the crowd watching a pop show. As Jack tried to catch his breath, he looked on around all the high parrots, animal and clown's costumes he was glad now he and Anne were dressed in silly outfits too.

When they looked each other, they laughed nervously.

Maybe we should skip out head. Said Jack.

Yeah! You are right. said Anne. we should be more patient. Let's go back to the part of the painter Tiepolo.

Jack nodded. I think we should go to his house. He said.

Maybe he's after all. Maybe that clown had wrong information.

I hope so. Said Anne.

The clown said Tiepolo lives was near the church of Saint Foliche.

Said Jack

He pulled up their map and studied at that.

Ok! So we were here at Saint Marc square, and we have to get there

He traced the road with his finger.

Got it ! let's go. Stand shut it and guards come looking for us.

Jack stuffed the book to his backpack Anne grabbed his hand and together they toward the way to the king of the square. The wind was blowing harder, as Jack and Anne headed down one shadow way a lay, then an other. They walked between the roads piled shops of coffee and houses. As they walked toward the Saint marc square, the streets became less crowded. After a while they came to a small foot bridge cross the canal. And they hurried over the

bridge, Jack noticed the water under the side rops.

What's going on with the water? He said

Let's ask her. Said Anne.

She pointed to a young woman loading up a coffee. The woman wore a blue mask, and a laisy purple dress. Water were swallowing around her high black shoes

Excuse me. Said Anne. do you know why there so much water in the streets?

Oh there has been much rain through the mountains. Said the young woman. It all washed down through the zoom. It makes the water very high.

Is that dangerous? Asked Jack.

The woman smiled. Oh, no. she said.

We often have high water here in venice. You shouldn't worry. You should go to the frieworks in the water from the Saint Marcs. Everyone is going there.

Thanks! Said Anne.

The woman waved and on her way.

I guess we can stop worrying about the water. Anne said to Jack.

Yeah! Said Jack. But he couldn't help worrying. As he saw a clumps of sea wave washed pass them in the galy.

As Jack and Anne walked towards the church of saint forliche, a

bell started to charm. Jack the bons, eleven another bell started to
tour, Jack counted, ten bons,

What time do you think is really? He asked.

I don't understand. Patient, remember? Said Anne. one thing at a
time. We just have to find Tiepolo 's house now.

Soon they came to the small church of the saint forliche, the square
next to the church was too empty for old man to walking the fat dog.
Good evening! Little clowns. The man said with a friendly smile.
Why don't you at the water carnival by same the marc square. I've
been there myself. Except my roze and freedom at the fireworks.
He smiled at his chappy dog.

Actually, we want to find the house of the painter named Tiepolo.
Said Jack.

Oh! He is my neighbor. Said the old man. He lives there he
pointed to a dark house of the square. But you won't find him home
I know, we heard he's away said Jack.

We were just wondering he's coming back soon.

I fear not. Said the man. Tiepolo told everyone he would be gone
for many month. But you should get on the way to the fireworks now.
everyone in the Venice was there. You may be see him there quite
magnificent last night of carnival.

Thanks. Said Jack.

The old man waved and square. The church bell to sound. It bound eleven times.

Excuse me. Sir Jack called.

All the clock in Venice times. Which one is right?

None! The old man called. That's one of the wonderful things about our city. Then they said timeless. The man laughed. And he went inside the small yellow house.

Jack sat down on the bench in the square he put his head into his hands. Anne sat next to him.

I guess we do have to skip Tiepolo. She said. what's the next thing Merlin tell us to do?

Jack sighed. He put up the magician's letter and read it next two lines:

At midnight two men will tell you the time,
To the top of their tower hurry in and climb,

Oh! Great. Said Jack.

How will we know is it really the midnight. The man just said the clock ring because Venice is timeless.

According to Merlin, two men will tell us the time. Said Anne. two

men or some kind of tower we have to climb.

Right. Said Jack. But it makes no sense either.

Who are we? And we suppose to find them. We have to get park of two. We are skipping our whole mission whatever it is. A terrible disaster is about to happen some grand lady of lagoon. We have no idea who she is. We don't know the disaster is we don't know where to find the ruler of the city, perhaps we have to find the painter Tiepolo or even have to tell the right time. We completely failed Merlin's test!

Calm down. We just have to be patient! Said Anne. everything will make sense soon.

How soon? Said Jack

He felt cold and wet and miserable.

Very soon. Said Anne. in fact, I think I see a line now. when we see Tiepolo's house.

She stood up,

I definitely say a lie,

Anne run over to the small house of the square, she picked window

Jack! She called in a loud whisper. Come here!

Jack walked over to her,

Someone is painting there. Said Anne.

Through the window, Jack saw a candle burning in the corner of the

room. He saw a campus compass and a paint, he saw a boy standing at the asol. The boy was painting a picture on the large canvas

He's just a kid. Said Jack with a disappointment. He can't be Tiepolo .

So what? Said Anne, maybe he can help us.

She tapped on the glass, the boy looked up. He carried his candle to the window, and open it. He had reddish brown hair, big eyes, Hello! He said. are you looking for someone?

I am Anne, and this is my brother Jack. Said Anne. we were visiting Venice and we were hoping to find the painter named Tiepolo.

You have just done so. The boy said. my name is Lorenzo Tiepolo Lorenzo had a very serious mAnner. You are painters too?

You are painter, too? Asked Anne.

Yes. As you can see, I'm painting right now. I hope my father and my brothers are all paintings. Said Lorenzo. And when they are gone, I am painting my own. I was leaving last night to carnival to paint.

But where you out there?

We have a mission, said Anne, we just skip from the palace we got to call the ruler of the seas.

The ruler of the seas? Said Lorenzo. Why were you looking in the

palace? The ruler of sea is right here.

What? Said Jack. The ruler of the seas is here?

Lorenzo smiled, then he walked to a large covered compass hanging against the wall he pulled off the clock cover, he held up the candle to show up the painting of beautiful woman resting her hand on the head of the golden line. A man is giving corns to the woman the man had bear chest rugged face, long dark hair and white beard. Behind them was three point fishing spear, My father had been working on this painting for some time, said Lorenzo.

He pointed to the beautiful man, he's Neptune.

Neptune? Said Jack.

He is one of the gods that ... right?

Yes. The ruler of the seas. Said Lorenzo.

Ohhh...we though the ruler of the sea was the ruler of Venice. Said Anne. we thought and leaves the saint marc square.

Lorenzo laughed.

Oh.. no. the palace is just the home of the city's human ruler. He said. the true ruler of all the seas is Neptune.

Where is Neptune live, Lorenzo? Anne asked.

He lives beneath the water of the beautiful palace made of sparkling jewelries. Said Lorenzo. But only a few people can

actually see Neptune.

Like who. Asked Anne.

Those with imaginations like my father, my brother, and myself.

Said Lorenzo. We're half the way to Neptune's royal like boats. We have seen its fishing spear rising high above the surface of the sea, glimmering in the moon light.

That sounds great. Said Anne.

Yeah! Great. Jack said politely. You guys got great imaginations.

Thanks Lorenzo.

He turned to Anne, I am going to look at the research book to read some more.

Jack looked back to the bench and pulled out their book, he felt totally discouraged

Neptune was not a real person they came to another dead end, Anne stayed by the window, I have a one more question? She said Why is Neptune giving a gift to that lady?

Neptune is offering a bunch of sea answered Lorenzo.

So the lady in the painting is supposed to be the lady of Venus?

Said Anne

Yes. Said Lorenzo. This is my father thinks Venus she's the grand lady of the lagoon.

Jack looked up from the book, he felt glooms from the end.

Thanks! Lorenzo! Said Anne. you helped us a lot.

You're welcome Anne. said Lorenzo. Good night. And he closed the window.

Jack! Jack! Said Anne hurring to him

The grand lady of lagoon is Venus.

I know, I heard. Said Jack.

Now I understand our mission. Said Anne. we have to save Venus from terrible disaster. We have to save all Venus!

Chapter 6: disaster

We have to save all of the Venus. Said Jack. That's a big responsibility. What we have to save Venus from home?

Well, if Neptune is going to help us, it must have something to do with water. Said Anne.

Yeah! As the water flooded the alic. Said Jack.

But the woman in the café told us that no worry about that. Said Anne.

I'm still worried. Said Jack. Let's look up from floods in Venice book.

He found floods in the index. He turned to the right page of and

read:

Most of the time, the high water in Venice is not serious, but several conditions at present the same time, a flood disaster can occur.

A flood disaster? It must be it. Said Anne.

So what are the conditions? It left them here. Said Jack. He read:

A high tide, strong wind from the south, heavy flood away from the mountains, severe storms have been seen.

Is there a high tide tonight? The passenger with the bird mask in the gondola told us that. said Anne.

Yeah. And wind from the south of the weather wind. Told us that. Said Jack.

And water flooding down from the mountains. The woman in the café told us that. Said Anne

Yeah. In storms out of sea, I saw lightning when we crossed the water, said Jack.

All the conditions are here. Said Anne.

Jack and Anne looked around water was now flooding steadily from the high way into the small square it is the reason about their ankles.

I get it now. said Jack. The water is just keeping higher and higher until it destroys the whole city. And no one is paying attention

Neptune is the only one who can help us stop the flood. said Anne.

But Neptune is not real, said Jack. I mean it's easy to astrology live is.

Ok, ok! Said Anne. let's just take one steps of the time.

As midnight gone, the eyes will tell us the time and we should climb to the top of the tower, right?

Right. Said Jack.

So what we have to do now? it's find out two guys. Said Anne.

Let's go back to the waterfall. Said Jack.

The man of the duck said everyone the mad with the dog said everyone will be there for the fireworks

Jack put away their book and then he and Anne retreat over the footbridge, and back to the alic. Lots of sea waves in narrow lanes between buildings, water is definitely flooring into the sea. Jack thought.

When they got back to saint marc square people were squirming towards the front, Jack and Anne looked at the crowd. Everyone was talking and laughing and dancing. They looked up the sky, over the water, waiting for the frieworks to begin.

Noone pay attention to the sea waters splitting over the side of the canal soaking their shoes.

Excuse me! Anne shouted

Can anyone tell us the time?

No one answered for just then the first exploring of fireworks shot in the sky in cheers bright light exploded in the sky. In the distance, a clock started to charm, Jack can't hear the bungs.

Twelve! He said. it's midnight now, according that clock.

More fireworks exploded in the sky and other clock began clining.

This time Jack counted only eleven bungs. He shook his head

This is crazy. He murdered.

Jack looked around the crowd

Can any one tell us the real time? He yelled. Is that midnight yet?

Can anyone tell us?

No one answered. Not even one man response to them. Everyone was howling and yelling over the dizzying fireworks.

Another clock began to sound, this one is much louder than the first two.

Bang...

This is hopeless. Said Jack.

Bang...

We will never know the right time. He said.

Bang...

Jack look over there! Said Anne.

Bang...

We will never find the two men in the tower said Jack

Bang...

Jack! Look! Said Anne.

Bang...

All of the Venice are about to drown in the flood. Said Jack.

Bang...

And everyone was just cheering for fireworks Jack said.

Bang...

Jack! Look! Said Anne.

She pointed the the saint tower of saint marc square,

Bang...

Jack saw a huge balloon at the top of the tower. Two brown statues were holding the claps stretching the bell.

Bang...

The statues were of two men

Bang...

At midnight two men will tell us the time. Said Anne.

Bang...

The two men struck the bell for the twelfth time. And then stopped.

Come on! Cried Jack. We have to climb that tower. More fireworks thundered the canal as Jack and Anne pushed their way toward the

crowd. They ran into the same saint marc square, and splashed the way to their top tower with two men on top. They ran arced and entrench of the tower and stepped inside. The air was damping moisty,

Stairs! Said Jack, he ran to a rounding stairway. And started up. Anne followed. Then they climbed and climbed until they reached the top of the tower. Jack was breathing hard as he pushed open the heavy door that out of the bell tower.

The two statums were frozen, and other sight the brown bell. As soon as Jack and Anne stepped back the terrors, the winds blew their heads toward their hats. The air was filled with cracking and hissing sounds, as more fireworks were cracking bursting into the sky.

Everyone in the water flown was clapping and cheering

What's the next thing Merlin tell us to do after finding neptun? Anne shouted

Jack pulled out Merlin's letter, holding it tightly onto the flap of the wind he read it aloud:

The king of jungle will care you there

Out of the land but high in the air

The kind of jungle is a lion. Said Anne. so it's like we need to find our flying lion.

Right said Jack. but where

How about that one? Said Anne. she was pointing towards the terrors of thrilling.

Jack looked down and standing on the wide ledge below the stone statue was lying glowing the lines back two powerful looking winds.

But that just statue! Cried Jack.

How does the statue tell us where?

Anne grinned, I think it's time to use more magic. She said.

Chapter 7: the king of the ruler

Oh yeah, of course. Whispered Jack.

He forgot all about Teddy and Catherine's book of magic realms.

Jack pulled the book out of his backpack, he and Anne studied at the table of the contents.

Stand on water, said Anne,

Make a stone come to life. make a meadow soft, turn it into the darks,

That's it.

No. said Jack. Go back to make stone come alive.

Why ? said Anne.

Because the lions supposed to carry us. Said Jack. And it has already wings. But it made of stone. So what we need to do is make him come alive.

Oh! Right. Said Anne.

But then what? Said Jack

Where will we go?

Merlin's letter says that an angel of god will show us the way. Do you remember? Said Anne.

Angle of god...where will we find that and how will we find that?

Naptune how will he save Venus.

Patience. Said Anne. if we need more magic, we will go back to the book

Ok,but let's hurry.said Jack.

He opened the Teddy and Catherince's book of second realm: he took a deep breath he looked down on the line of the edge then he read in a loud and clear voice:

Stone so silent and cold and hard

Cool mud lie

Cool matter scar

A quacking sound seemed come from the deep of the lion's body as Jack and Anne appeared down its statue, the lion stone made ruffed into a mass of shaggy fur, his stone back softened into a slim golden code, his stone wing stretched into long loom feathers, Wow! Shouted Anne.

Jack couldn't speak.

Before their eyes the statue turned into a living lion with magnificent golden winds. Manes. The lion shook its manes and yawned he had huge sharp teeteh and long pink tongue. Its ears twitched, his toughed tail sway back and forth. The lion crouched, and leaped up like a cat. Strong covering wind. Its wings flapped and above the square.

Here here. Anne shouted.

She waved wildly. The winged lion turned it's way and flapped back towards the tower. he glided silently on the tower terrors, landing just a few away from Jack and Anne. he stared at them with its golden eyes.

You have to help us to save Venice from the flood disaster.

Can you carry us to neptun? Said Anne.

The lion padded toward them, he kept staring straight at them, until his head and led out a long groar. As if he was trying to answer:

We have to climb you back. Said Jack.

I hope we won't hurt you. Said Anne.

The lion let out another groan. But it didn't sound angry, he sounded as if he was telling them to hurry. He crouched down so they can climb on.

I will go first. Jack said to Anne. I hold onto the mane, and you hold onto me.

Jack slipped lion's back and dropped it into the towers.

Take the book of realms. Said Anne.

Got it. Said Jack.

He tucked the book under his arms and carefully onto the lion's back. Anne climbed on behind Jack and wrapped her arms tightly around his waist. Jack twisted his fingers into the lion's mane. The mane felt surprisingly soft.

Ok! We're ready. Said Jack. The lion stood up. He trembled slightly, and leapt off the towers.

Ahh...Jack yelled.

The realm book slipped from his arms and fell down into the flooded square below.

Oh, no. our book. Cried Jack.

Hang on. Cried Anne.

The lion flapped its great wing and roared to the sky. Jack pressed his

knees into the lion's warm back loin and grasped its mane, the lion
flew towards the fireworks and shore of red sparkles was opening
like an umbrella

Booms and whistles felt at night, fireblitz raining down through the
darkness into the canal.

Help! We're straight go to the fireworks cried Anne.

The lion deep and turned way from the fireworks. The red shores
were gave way of blue and green.

Which way will we go? Shouted Anne.

As the lion flew toward back to the square, Jack found it gold wing
to the top of the watch tower. It was the shape of an oven angel.

The angel of god. Shouted Jack.

The weather wind was not pointing to the weather winds, the angel
was turning slowly around and around all directions

Like lion closer to the angel. Shouted Anne.

The lion turned flew to watch tower, as it dropped on golden angel,
Jack called out

Which way will you go? Which way?

The weather wind turned into a force fourth circle and came into a
completely stop. The angel was pointing to the top of the southeast,
over the chopping water

To the sea. Anne called out to the wind

The lion turned to soar into the wind, his strong wing shinning like a gold

Oh! Wow! Cried Anne.

The flying lion glide past the fireworks and over the wide canal leaving beneath behind it flew high over the stormy seas,

Jack grabbed the lion's mane all his might, the lion in and out of the fast moving clouds, in flop about crushing waves, and pass the both of the lighting. He flew the screaming wind and plotting wind . in the middle of the sea, far from the land, the lion began surfing along the water,

What's he doing? Cried Jack.

Looking for Neptune. Said shouted Anne.

But Neptune is not real. Said Jack.

I know. Shouted Anne. we have to use out imagination like Lorenzo.

Try to imagine Neptune!

Jack tried to imagine Neptune, but he was too scary to think Neptune. He shouted to Anne.

Neptune in the water, see Neptune. Help us!

Anne's voice was lost in the wind, Jack grabbed his arms around the lion's neck, he buried his face in lion's mane. He tried to desperately imagine Neptune

The lion lied out a roar, with his hand in lion's mane, Jack found himself roaring, he roared again, the roaring made Jack fell stronger and calmer . the details of Tiepolo's painting came into his mind. In his imagination, Jack saw Neptune the ruler of the seas with his beard and long hair his strong arms and shoulders. He saw a lovely lady as Venus the grand lady of lagoon. He saw Neptune gave the grand lady a gift,

I see something. Cried Anne.

Jack opened his eyes and set up.

Where? He cried.

In the water. Said Anne.

Cleaning to the lion's mane, Jack peered down into the darkness below. Lighting flashed over the sea. Jack saw a huge three pointed spear rising out of the cheering waves. The sea below the ...began to heaven and billow.

Lighting flashed again. And Jack saw a great mass of sterling seaway rising from the waves.

Not sea waves here. Jack realized.

A man giant heading appeared from the surface of the water. Then the man's massive shoulders, chest and arms and whole stormy torso above the sea surface. The giant loom high above them, as

tall as a mountain.

Neptune! Cried Anne.

The lion let out a roar, and then the other, and then the other. Lit by the flash of the lighting, Neptune's face looked like razor by thousands and thousands of years wind it, sand and waves. He had deep set eyes, heavy cheeks and white beard, and tin hair hanging to his shoulder.

Neptune! Save Venice from the flood! Cried Jack. Please! Called Anne.

Save the grand lady of lagoon.

Neptune looked at them for a moment. Then with his powerful arms he lifted spear and flashed down into the waves. When the spear split the surface of the water. The sea made a giggle sound and then turned to sleep. As the water was flowing down the way. The thunder and lighting stopped, the storm tersed their waves to calm. The wind died to a gentle breeze the clouds parted and the stars shinning brightly.

Neptune raised the spear, he nodded to Jack and Anne and the lion.

Thanks! Cried Anne.

Thanks! Shouted Jack.

The lion roared again.

Then Neptune sank into the sea again. Sank below the surface of the water. His long arms, huge shoulders. Zigzag ruggy face flowding here. All disappeared. The point of the spear sank below the surface of the water. The ruler of the seas was gone. Only a shivering wear pool swirled. In the moon light.

Chapter 8: home by day

Jack heard the flapping of the winds and sound of the steady feeling. The lion above the suckles of water pool. And Anne saw a great arch above through the sky.

We are going back now. cried Anne.

Jack lowed his head, he buried his face again in the lion's shaggy white mane, he didn't look up, he was too tired to think, as he gave himself over to the lion's wane dress. His powers were flat.

The lion carried Jack and Anne back through the dawn, as they glided across the calm sea, the water sparkled with the light from the rising sun. by the time of lion reached the sky over Venice, darkness had tuned to day, sheet of the dawn clouds above the city's dooms and spears. Venice was wearing in soft pink of bright. The lion flew to the saint marc square, he glided towards the top of

tower, moving more and more slowly. Finally he landed softly, like a cat. On the terraces of the tower.

Jack took a deep breath and stroked over from the lion's golden mane, then he and Anne climbed up from the lion's back,

Jack's leg felt wordly he touched the lion for a moment, it's balance, the lion let out a low groan he turned his huge head and licked Jack's hand. His rough tongue like a sandpaper, Jack laughed.

Anne laughed too

You're magnificent! She said.

Yeah! Said Jack. Now was a great ride.

The lion let out the long howl then they put then he put away from two of them and padded the edge of the terraces. The lion gave Jack and Anne one last glove and shoulder, then he left to terraces' road, flying and landing silently on the ledge below.

Looking over the railing Jack and Anne slipping lion became statue again. In the instance, shaggy mane, golden back ,powerful back, stuffed tail, and feathered wings all tuned to covered curved stone.

Oh...said Jack sadly.

He missed the living lion, as he inside the stone statue,

A wonder sudden bang....made Jack and Anne jumped.

Beside them the two brown's men striking their bell again now, they strike stroke six times.

It's six in the morning. Said Anne.

We were gone a long time.

Yeah! Said Jack.

Hi! Look at the angel why are we not ? said Anne.

Jack s...the gold angel. When on top the watch tower.

The weather must turn ...it suddenly stopped. Pointed towards the west.

Remember the last lines? From Merlin's letter? Said Anne.

She recited them from memory.

The angel of gold will show you the way

To the sea by night and home by day.

I guess the god of Venice save the sent the angel to tell us it's time to go home. Said Jack.

Yeap. Said Anne.

Jack picked up his backpack, and he and Anne walked downstairs of the tower. They reached the bottom, they stepped out of the darkness, into the bright morning light. Only a few paddle of waters doded in the square. Canals have indeed. The people in costumes have all gone home, and a block of pigeons were fluttered noisily a couple of stones, picking corns spell and ravens feathers.

There was no sign of flood. Except for some patches from the sea wave.

Jack turned and looked at the clock tower, the morning sun cast rosy light over the lion's stone body the lion stood with pride. And indignity. Watching over the same saint marc square, where the great powers of secret everyone by , but Jack and Anne.

Thanks again. Said Anne to the lion.

Yeah! Thanks! Whispered Jack. And he felt exhausted,
Home? He said.

Anne nodded.

As Jack and Anne headed across the square, two sweepers were cleaning the remains of the carnival.

Oh! Wow! Cried Anne, she ran to the sweepers just as she was skoped up a pair of treasure. She snatched something from the ground.

Anne went back to Jack.

Look! She said. and held up Teddy and cathrine's book of magic realms.

Oh! Great! Said Jack. He took the little book from her. It was damped from the flood waters, but all the writings were clear as

ever.

We have remain realms left. Said Jack.

Out next three journeys .

He dropped the book of magic into his backpack.

As Jack and Anne left saint marc square, they saw Venice to standing wake up.

Ordinary, everyday Venice. Not the Venice of carnival. Men, women and children were stop putting out to sell. Couples were sitting in their work benches and cats were scretching in the sunlight. The old man was walking his fat dog toward them.

He waved Jack and Anne, and they waved back.

No one knows Venice was almost destroyed by a flood last night. Said Jack.

And no one knows we have save her. Said Anne.

They just think us as a couple of clowns.

Jack smiled. They forgot they still wearing the carnival costumes.

Now their clown suits were dirty torn and soaking wet . their hats were gone.

And somewhere in the floods water or on the flight of Neptune Jack slippers had lost their balls.

How can we back to our tree house now? asked Anne.

I don't know. Said Jack. I guess we have to find the boat which will take us there.

As they scanned the water faint, Jack saw a boy sitting in the edge of the water on the small stall. Stool. The boy was painting,

Hi! Is there Lorenzo Tiepolo below? Said Jack.

He and Anne hurried up to the boy.

Hi! Lorenzo! Said Anne.

Lorenzo glanced up and smiled.

Hello! Anne and Jack. He said.

Jack and Anne looked at Lorenzo's painting. He show pink light shivering on blue water.

That's beautiful. Said Anne.

It's only the background. Lorenzo said. he squeezed after canal.

Soon I will add gondolas and people.

Improperly I will realize something not really at all.

Something from my imagination.

Hi! Guess what? We saw Neptune last night. Said Anne.

You did? Said Lorenzo.

We found him for out of sea. Said Jack.

He looks just like your dad's painting. We rose him from the back of the lion on the clock tower. Said Anne.

Lorenzo nodded. I am glad Neptune still in the deep sea. He said. and I'm glad one of our lions still flies. Many people believe all the magic had left the world.

The magic were never leave. Said Anne. nor as the painters like you and your dad. Keep painting.

Lorenzo looked thoughtful. Then he picked up a small canvas and handed it to Jack. You and Anne's trip seemed finished. He said. paint what you saw to visit in Venice.

Really? Said Jack.

Are you sure?

Yes. Said Lorenzo. You and Anne have gifted imagination. Use it something magical.

We will? Said Anne.

Thanks. Said Jack.

As start painting as soon as you can. At home.

Hi! Jack. She pointed to the gondola dark nearby. It looked like the same boat that brought them to the carnival the night before. Inside the same two people, the gondolier and the passenger their candle had gone out. But they both were wearing black cloaks, white

gloves and masks. With bird beaks.

Maybe they can take us back to the tree house. Said Jack.

Excuse me. Anne called. Can you give us a right back to the island?

Anne pointed across the water. The gondolier nodded,

Great! Said Anne. bye, Lorenzo! Thanks!

And she and Jack hurried to the landing where gondola waited for them.

Chapter 9: the painting

The gondolier silently helped Jack and Anne into the boat and they then untied the gondola and pushed it into canal from the landing. As the boat glided through the shallow waters Jack looked back at Venice.

Bay in the early sun light, the grand lady of the lagoon, did seem timeless. The gondola moved around the bank and up the narrow canal. Near the walled matton. The gondolier tied the boat to a stride pole. In even he gave his hand to Anne, to help her out of the boat. Anne climbed out and the gondolier offered his hand to Jack as gondolier helped Jack out to landing, the boat rocked to water,

Jack trip pulling the glove to gondolier's hand.

Oh, sorry. Said Jack. As he handed the glove back, he gasped.

On the gondolier's finger, was a pale blue glass ring. Before Jack could say anything, the gondolier pulled his glove back and pushed the boat away from the landing.

Hey! Hey! Jack spardered.

Teddy, Catherince! Wait ,come back

Neither of the masked people were back.to Jack and Anne.

Teddy and Catherince were there said Anne.

His glove came up to me and I saw his glass ring on his finger. Said Jack

Jack and Anne watched the gondola disappeared into the breeze of water shinning

Just glided to the bend and vanished together.

Are you sure was them ? said Anne.

Well, I guess anybody wear glass ring said Jack.

But still, maybe more get Merlin told them to watch over us? Said Anne.

Yeah. I make sure to say be safe. Said Jack.

And be patient and followed the instructions. Said Anne.

Right. Said Jack.

When Venice destroyed by the flood, I guess we pass the first time
And I think we did. Said Anne.

With Lorenzo's painting down, Jack was into the way of his garden.
Anne followed him into the ladder. When they climbed into the tree
house, Jack pulled Merlin's from his backpack. He unfolded it and
read it words .not crate

I wish I could go there

He said.

Goodbye, the grand lady of lagoon. Said Anne. .

The wind started to blow, the tree house started to spin. It span
faster and faster. Then everything was still. Absolutely still.

On wind, grow the fog quake trees

Jack and Anne were wearing their jeans and Jackets again. It was
dawn.

Anne said I wish we had a little more time to visit Venice. She said.

I am glad Lorenzo gave us this painting to finish. Said Jack.

Let's look up the all trip over again.

Cool. Said Anne.

We'd better leave Morgan's research book here. Said Jack. He

pulled the book out of his backpack and put it on the floor.

And this, he took out Teddy and Catherine's book of magic ...

Wait. Said Anne.

Don't you think we should take the book of realms with us? You safe keeping?

Jack nodded.

We can use them in fog quake. He said.

We just keep it safe when we go on our next mission;

That's what I was thinking. Said Anne.

Come on! Hurry ! before mama and dad wake up.

Jack put the book of realms back to his pack. Carrying Lorenzo's compass, Anne climbed down the ladder. Jack followed.

As they walked down through the chilly woods. Anne held up Lorenzo's compass. The shivering light and water seemed just like they had a new life.

So what we will put on our painting? She asked.

Gondolas of course said Jack. With people in costumes

Where the glass keepers of the bird masks? Said Anne. and when she dressed weeks?

We could paint the black tower as background. Said Jack. With two men striking their bell.

And watch tower too. Said Anne.

With god angel on top.

And ruler of the palace. Said Jack.

And old man walked his dog along the canal . said Anne.

Of course Lorenzo. And lion across the sky. Said Jack.

And Neptune's spear pointing out of the water.

With Neptune himself peaking out. Said Anne. we will show just the top of his head and mysterious eyes.

There are a lot of things for our painting. Said Jack.

We didn't put it ourselves yet. Said Anne.

We will paint by ourselves back up the lion. Said Jack . where wearing our clown suits and red slippers.

Yeah! With huge smile on our faces. Said Anne.

Let thinking! Wow! Wow ! wow!

Jack laughed.

A chilly dawn breeze blew through the bear trees. The bear of the folk creature began to chime.

Jack and Anne took off, running for home.

The end