

## Magic Tree House Book 40

### Eve of the Emperor Penguin (Unabridged)

Jack and Annie go to Antarctica to try to find their last secret of happiness, but they only find penguins. Only the penguins have the answer to this question. This is the only book where it is specifically stated that Jack and Annie did not travel through time. They also use the wand to make magic twice: once to find the penguins and a second time to teleport to Mount Erebus, the only time they use its power twice.

## Chapter 1: smile

Jack was reeking leaves on the chilly November afternoon. This hound over head,

Smile? Said Anne.

Anne was point her camera

No pictures now . he said.

Come on, said Anne, smile . Jack gave her a goofy smile.

A real one. Said Anne. I am taking pictures for our family project at school.

Jack crossed his eyes his smile was even goofier.

Ok. Be that way. Said Anne.

I am going into the woods.

Good said Jack. Go.

Maybe the tree house is back. said Anne.

You always say that you want me to stuff doing in do something with you, said Jack.

Maybe Teddy and Catherine are waiting for us. Said Anne.

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Said Jack.

Maybe today is the day they want us to look for the fourth secret of happiness for merlin. Said Anne. Maybe they are going to send us to super cool place.

Good. Hope they do. Have fun. Said Jack. I want to finish reeking these leaves before dark. He glanced up at the late afternoon sky.

Just in time, they saw bright street light passed over the frog creek woods,

Whoa! Jack turned to Anne with a smile.

Did you see that?

Hold that smile. Said Anne as she took Jack's picture. Thanks, perfect!

But did you see that? Jack asked. A light going over the woods.

Huh! Huh! Said Anne.

No, I am serious. Where was bright light. Wait a second. Jack put on his way and dashed into the house.

Mom, Dad! He shouted. Anne and I are going for a walk, ok?

Ok! Called their dad. But be home before dark.

And where are your scarfs and hats? Called their mom.

We will. Jack grabbed the scarfs , their hats and his backpack from the hall closet and ran back outside.

Let's go. He said to Anne.

Anne put her camera into Jack's pocket, and took off running with Jack, they ran up the sidewalk, cross the street, and headed into the shadowy frog creek woods. They crunched over the cabbage cabinet of fallen leaves, until they came to the tallest tree.

The magic tree house was there.

Catherine and Teddy were looking out of the window, the two young enchanters were both wearing dark clothes,

Hi! Hi! Anne shouted.

We're about to come looking for you. Said Catherine, how did you know we were here?

I saw the light. Said Jack.

Climb up said Teddy.

Jack and Anne hurried up the rope ladder, when they climbed inside the tree house, they all hugged Teddy and Catherine.

Is it the time to go for another mission? Said Anne.

Indeed. Said Catherine.

And it's quite urgent now. said Teddy.

Merlon is feeling quickly . said catherine. She blinked back tears.

Oh, no. said Anne.

Morgan wants to find the final secret of happiness today. Said Teddy. And you must return to Camelot, to present all four secrets to Merlin. You remember the first three, do you not?

Sure. Said Jack. We have three gifts to help us, remember? I kept them in my pack.

A poem, a drawing, and a seashell. Said Anne.

Good. Said Teddy. He raise where you find the final secret.

He took a book from his cloak and handed it to Jack. On the cover of it was a picture of volcano surrounded by the snow and ice. The title said: the world of Antarctica.

Antarctica? Said Jack . we studied Antarctica in school. It's hardly anything there. We won't be find the secret of happiness to Antarctica.

I do not know. Said Catherine. But Morgan had sent us realm to help you search.

She handed Anne a slip of parchment, Anne read Morgan's realm aloud:

Fro the final secret you must go  
To a burning mountain of ice and snow  
On wheels by air that all fall down  
Till you come to the cave of the ancient crown  
Then speed to Camelot by close of day  
That's grief takes Merlin forever away

Forever away? Said Anne.

I fear so. Said Teddy.

I don't understand. Said Jack. This realm sounds we are going to find sea world. A place of birdly mountain and the cave of the ancient crown, but Antarctica is a real place, totally real.

Ay. Morgan's realm is mystery to me too. Said Teddy.

But you still had the wand of diandas to help you, do you not?  
Asked Catherine.

Yes. Said Jack. But he looked in his backpack just make sure.

There it was. The gleaming speared wand of the unicorn.

Good. Said Catherine.

And you remember the three rules of using the wand?

Sure. Said Anne. The wand magic wholly works if we wish for the good of others, it only works after we've tried our hardest, and it only works if our wishes in five words.

Excellent. Said Teddy.

I wish you guys can come with us. Said Jack.

We must return to Morgan and try to help Merlin. Said Catherine.

But with your courage and intelligence I know you will be able to find the secret by yourselves.

Jack nodded and impressed. But Catherine's words didn't make him more confident.

And after you found it you must hurry to meet us in Camelot. Said Teddy. Just the point of the Camelot on the realm for Morgan. And make wish to go there.

Got it . said Anne .

Go now. quickly. Said Catherine.

And good luck.

See you soon. Said Anne.

Jack took a deep breath, then pointed to the cover of the book: I wish we 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: lots of ice

Welcome to Antarctica! Said Anne.

Jack and Anne were bundled in the cold weather gear, they both wore snow pants gloves boots with spikes and secret pockets with hooves. Goggles covered their eyes, and wool masks covered their mouths and noses. A higer backpack replaced Jack's own pack.

Jack felt trap by all the gear, he pulled his mask down his chin, and pushed his goggles off his forehead, Anne did the same. Their breath made clouds mist, and freezing air.

It's really cold here. Said Jack.

The wind stun their bare face made their eyes water, but they kept masking their goggles off and looked down the window with Anne. the tree house was on the ground, it was tagged on the overhead of the ice cliff near the ocean. Icy sea water sparkle under sunlight. The shore was silent and obesity.

It looks totally empty there. Said Jack

I still don't get it, how do we find the cave of ancient crown here ?

No king or queen ever ruled the Antarctica. That there are no people left over years at all until exploration of recent times.

Let's get start and try to figure it out . said Anne.

Not so fast. Said Jack. He put off his gloves and opened their

research book. To the first chapter. He read aloud.

The continent of the Antarctica, is the coldest and driest place on earth, larger than area and united states. It is land filled with ice, ice cliffs, icebergs, ice sheets, ice shelves..

Ok. Lots of ice. Said Anne. got it, let's go.

In a minute, Jack kept reading.

But Antarctica is not always the land of ice. Billions ago, it was part of the super-continent, scientist name it Gangwana. It had forests, flowers, many animals including dinosaurs. But no people ever lived there.

See. Said Jack. No kings, no queens, no crowns .

Yeap. Let's go. Said Anne.. but Jack kept reading,

Over millions of years, Antarctica broke off from Gangwana, and drifted itself,

Ok. I am drifting myself back. said Anne.

Bye.

She climbed down the window and disappeared form the tree house, Jack looked back at the book, but before he could read further, he heard Anne woof was lefter.

Oh, whoa! Jack come look! She yelled.

What is it? Said Jack, closing the book.

You won't believe this. said Anne. you have to come and see.



Jack put his glove back on and put on his backpack, he folded the paper with Morgan's realm and put it in his pocket, then clenching the research book to his chest and out off the window.

Jack followed the sound Anne left, beyond the tree house. On the frozen seashore, was a group of penguins, grownups and babies, the grownups had orange straight stripe on their cheeks , puffy white chests and black wings they held straight by their sides. The babies were puffy balls, grey furs, feathers, all the penguins were wagglng towards Anne. they rocked from side to side, taking funny little steps.

Jack burst out laughing.

The big penguins looked like comedian of little man in black and white suites. The group stepped form the ice sheet to Anne and squawked at her.

Hi! Guys. Said Anne. glad to meet you.

The penguins stared back at her with friendly curiosity.

That's so cool. Said Jack.

He opened the book and found the picture looked like the penguins around Anne. he read:

Imperial emperor penguins is the tallest and heaviest of all the penguin species and also are the most ancient. Over three feet tall, grown penguins can weight up 90 pounds. Researcher say the

penguins closer scientist living 40 million years ago.

40 million years. ! said Jack. So what time we got back?

A million years ago? A thousand years ago?

I don't know. Said Anne.

But I will take a picture of them, for my family project. They looked like a little family, don't they?

She put her camera out of the pocket, and aimed at the penguins,,  
Smile! Everyone!

As Anne took her picture, a shadow moved over the ice. The penguins squawked loudly, closed together, Jack and Anne looked up. The shadow belong to a giant bird circling about them. The bird was brownish grey, with long beak, it let out the airy cry.

What is that? Anne asked with alarm.

I will look it up. Said Jack.

He flopped the pages of the book to find the photo,

Here! He read quickly.

Giant patrols are the vultures of Antarctica. They eat dead birds and animals, sometimes they even attack young seals and pe...

Oh! No! cried Anne.

Jack looked up, the patrol was diving toward the penguins, it aimed the smallest one in the group and swooped back to the air. The penguins, quaked, waddled the way through the way to the group,

the patrol spread its wide wings and dove again.

No! Anne cried.

The patrol swooped away, and circled back toward them. Jack dropped the book and scooped behind the snow to make a snowball, before he could throw it, the patrol attacked again. Jack leapt toward to the small penguin, felled down his knees, and threw his arms around its fluffy little body, Anne charged at the patrol, Go! Get out of here.! She yelled, waving her arms. The patrol curved, and then rose high in the sky, and disappeared out of the sight over the high cliff. Jack let go the small penguin, and stood up, the penguin peeped and waddled his little head to Jack.

Jack laughed.

You are welcome. He said.

Now go back to your family, go!

He showed the penguin back to the group.

All of your guys back to the water now. you'll be safer there. Go!

Go!

The penguins squawked and flapped their wings saying goodbye.

Then they waddled across the seashore, picking quick tiny steps toward the sea. One after another, they dove between Cracking ice and all disappeared.

Bye, guys. Said Anne.

Hunk!

What's that? Said Jack.

Hunk!

It's like some kind horn. Said Anne .

That's weird. Said Jack.

It's coming from over there. Said Anne.

Jack picked up their book, then followed Anne up the sight of icy slope. The meadow spikes on her boots, stagen to captain sleeping, when he and Anne reached the top, they looked down:

Oh! Ma'am. Said Jack.

We haven't gone back time at all.

## Chapter 3: short grownups

In the icy field below the slope, were yellow brown and green buildings, telephone poles mellow pipes and storage tacks, truckers and brooders moved along the grieved road. It looked like a small town.

Hunk!

The sound came from a red bus, with gigantic wheels was passed nearby.

What is this place? Asked Anne.

Jack looked at their book and found the photo that looked like the same below. The caption read: merk merdle station. Jack read the paragraph under the photo.

Antarctica had many scientific research stations, representing countries from all over the world. The largest was named merk merdle station. Researchers live there for weeks even month at a time.

Hunk.

Jack looked up. He saw four people come out from the yellow building and started toward the bus. They were all bundled and red packed with hoooves gargles and masks. They carried backpacks and camera bags,

They must be researchers. Said Jack.

Let's go dodge them. Said Anne.

We can't. said Jack. There was two kids travel alone in Antarctica.

Maybe they won't know we were kids. Said Anne.

If we put our goggles and masks back on. we looked just like them.

Only shorter. Nothing will show grownups.

Ah, I don't think so. Said Jack.

Just then someone jumped off the bus,

Hi! Folks!

A woman shouted to the four researchers,  
I am Nancy, your bus driver on duty today.  
Nancy called side to Jack and Anne she waved her arm at them.  
Hello! She called.  
Are you too part of the group toward the volcano?  
She pointed toward a mountain glooming in the distance .  
Did you hear that? Jack said to Anne. a volcano.  
He caped his gloved hands around his mouth,  
Yes! He shouted back to Nancy in deep voice.  
We're coming.  
We are? Anne asked with surprise.  
A volcano, get it? Said Jack. A volcano is a burning mountain.  
Oh, right1 said Anne. like a ram. Burning mountain, got it.  
Quick, cover up your face. Said Jack.  
Jack and Anne covered their eyes with their goggle, and pulled up  
their face masks then they started walking toward the bus.  
Try not to talking to anyone unless we have to. Jack said quickly.  
And if we do, talk it in really deep voice.  
No problem. Anne quirked in very deep voice.  
Oh, maybe you shouldn't talk at all. Said Jack.  
Hurry.  
Nancy called to them.

Coming. Jack shouted in his deep voice. And then they started running across the snow. By the time Jack and Anne ran to the bus, everyone but Nancy had climbed on board.

Good! you made just in time. Nancy said. all follow me. She pounded up the steep steps of the red bus and sat in the driver seat. Without a word, Jack and Anne climbed on the bus after Nancy. Walking along the aisle Jack stared at others in the group. A couple of them nodded to him and he nodded back to them. Everyone was hidden behind the goggles and ski masks, and bulky pockets.

Jack couldn't tell anyone's age, or even whether they were male or female.

Jack and Anne sat on a free seat behind others, Jack took off his backpack and put it at his feet

All set? Nancy asked slicking the bus mirror and ...

Jack and Anne nodded, Nancy closed the door, and started the engine. As the bus's giant wheels moved slowly over the grabble road, Jack looked out the window, the sun shine brightly on the wide snowy fields. Glittering ices flakes were blowing in the wind. All the world around them seemed to be sparkling.

How is everyone doing? Nancy called over her shoulder.

Are you all happy to campus?

Everyone including Jack and Anne nodded.

Good, I like traveler that don't complain. Nancy joked.

So far, so good. Jack thought.

No one seemed to suspect they were kids.

We have sure right. Said Nancy. But enough time for you all to introduce yourself to me. I am Nancy Tyler, and I worked here at Antarctica, as a guy of bus driver and flight volcanic.

Cool. Whispered Anne.

I know you all from different countries, as researchers and journalists, said Nancy, start from the front and tell me who you are.

The woman in front pull off her face mask,

I'm Lucy Banks, she said, I am an American, and I am space scientist, I am writing a paper on the use of corpus on the creator of aeropods. Hopefully this will help us work on mars someday.

Oh, brother! Thought Jack. Who can we say? We are Jack and Anne from frog creek woods, and come to Antarctica to find the fourth secret of happiness to save Merlin the magician of Camelot ?

Wonderful. Lucy! Nancy said. Antarctica is similar to mars than any places you can find on earth. Next?

Ali Vergum, biologist from Turkey. Said a man sitting behind Lucy Banks. I am researching he was the bacteria that created the merrobush.



Quick, think! Thought Jack.

Very good! Said Nancy. Next!

Tony South, from Australia. Another man said. I am a traveler writer for the singing morning horror. He held up a notebook.

Good. Said Nancy.

Yes. Thought Jack. He yawned off one glove and pulled out notebook and pencil out of his backpack.

Cam Lee. Said a woman sitting behind Tony, I am a photographer from Korean magazine,

Great! Said Nancy.

And my friends from back?

Without taking his masks,, Jack shouted in deep voice.

Frog creek times USA. He picked up his notebook, stories about Antarctica, cheez>>..ah..

Anne held up her camera,

He's photographer.

She called in deep voice.

Excellent . said Nancy. A great group. Work here more your introductions later. Now I know you all than before, but I have to tell you again. It is very important to remember the rules here in Antarctica.

Jack opened his notebook and ready to write down the rules.

Never rush. Said Nancy. You should always think about where you're going and what you're doing.

Jack squabbled. Oh, go slow.

Never walk on snow or ice fields along. Nancy said. and many places beneath the snow there are deepen and cracks in the ice.

Jack wrote. Stay with others. Cracking ice.

And remember, all of Antarctica are nature preserved. Said Nancy.

Never, ever touch or disturb the wildlife.

Oops.. said Anne. Jack frowned,

We really broke the rules with those penguins. Hw whispered.

I know. But we won't do that again. Anne whispered back.

Right. Said Jack.

He wrote down: never touch wildlife.

Got all that? Nancy asked group. Everyone nodded.

Good! Said Nancy. I look forward to sharing Antarctica with you today. I knew you all will find some great information or stories.

As the bus rode along, no one gave Jack and Anne second look, Nancy called us friends! Jack whispered to Anne. the others may think she know us.

Yeah. And she think we're friends of them. Said Anne.

We'll be getting away from this, said Jack.

He could hardly believe it.

She reminds me our last mission. Anne whispered. On the ship of the ocean scientist.

This is better. Said Jack. Carrying everyone tripping like grownups. And I don't feel like a grownup.

And now these women were get to do really cool stuff too, like men do. Said Anne.

Good point. Said Jack. But they still staffed about a realm I don't get.

He put the realm out of his pocket. He and Anne read it silently.

Fro the final secret you must go  
To a burning mountain of ice and snow  
On wheels by air that all fall down  
Till you come to the cave of the ancient crown  
Then speed to Camelot by close of day  
That's grief takes Merlin forever away

See. This poem like to talking about a magical world. Said Jack. But Antarctica is hundred percent real. Said Jack. It filled with scientists.

I know, but some of the realm says, said Anne, they do said: like you said, the burning mountain of ice and snow, is the volcano.

Our air bus. She pointed out of window of the bus, and there it is.

A wild wide mountain loomed in the distance, the ice and snow covered the slopes and pumps of smoke rose from the peak, drifting into the blue sky.

It's burning all right. Said Jack.

And we ran wheels. Said Anne.

Yeap. Said Jack.

He looked to the realm again, ok, burning mountain of ice and snow.

On wheels. And what about by air and what's ...

Oh! My dog! God! Said Anne craning her neck,

What? Said Jack.

Look over there! Said Anne.

## Chapter 4: puppy campus

Touching down unto a flats noised field was the orange wide helicopter, the helicopter had squeezed on the bottom. So can land on the ice and snow. The bus came to a stop at the edge of the field.

We must be going to the volcano. In the helicopter. Said Anne.

By air! Just like the realm says. Said Jack. Great. Jack's always

wanted to fly in a helicopter.

Nancy stood up, for those a few getting off the bus now, please remember, she said, the helicopter blitz us extremely dangerous, always wait for signals from pilots before approaching the chopper.

Everyone watched as the spinning blades slowly came to a stop.

The pilot waved from the helicopter window,

Ok! Piece us we can go! Said Nancy.

Jack put his realm back to his pocket he pulled on his backpack and then carrying his notebook and pencil he fell down the air, after Anne and others who were joined them in the helicopter.

They all scrambled off the bus into the dazzling sunlight.

Chop the board. Said Nancy.

Jack and Anne followed the others (four adults ) stepped into the helicopter, and squeezed into a small carbine. Sitting in two row of seats behind the pilot, everyone buckled their seat belts, Nancy pulled the door shut, and turned to the latch. Then she sat next to pee, and pulled on a set of headphones.

Has phones on,, everyone. They are under your seats. She said. They protect your ears from chopper noise and also serve a radio so that I can talk to you .

Everyone reached under their seats and got the headphones. Jack and Anne pulled off their hooves , without taking off their goggle,

the face masks, they places the headphone over to their ears. The seat pads mussel the sound around them.

Jack heard Nancy 's voice over his headphones. Testing one two three. Can everyone hear me?

Everyone nodded.

Ok! Pee, pick up take up for air us.

Pete the pilot started helicopter, even with headphone, Jack heard the roaring of the engine, and the spinning of the blades. He held his breath as the helicopter trembled and lifted off the ice and snow. The helicopter shook and tilted, then it buzzed forward to the blue sky .

Anne entered her camera out of the window and took pictures, the Korean photographer did the same. And the Australian journalist scrabbled his notebook. Jack was too exited to take notes now.

This is great. He thought.

All the words in realm is coming true.

As they flew toward the burning mountain of the ice and snow, he tried to remember what's word came next, he slipped the realm out of his pocket and read:

you must go to a burning mountain of ice and snow, on wheels by air that all fall down ...

All fall down! Wait a minute, what's that mean? Thought Jack. Is that mean the copter down? Do we fall out of the copter?

As these words dodged through Jack's mind, Anne turned to him and gave him a sound of up.

Jack didn't want to scare her. So he nodded. And chapped the realm into his pocket. He watched impatiently out of the window, as the copter approached the bright orange red suckle on top of the moun of iropus.

Below is one of the world's most famous lovely icebergs. Said Nancy over the headphones. The copter hovered motionless, above the carter of the volcano. The lovely is bubbled and boiled.

That burning lava is miles deep. Said Nancy. Its temperature is over 1700F, can you guys on the sideseat ok? Peed.

Peed held helicopter to the one side, and then the other, everyone but Jack wooed and nodded. Cam Lee and Anne took pictures, Go! Thought Jack. Before we all fall down.

Ok! Peed, that's great. Said Nancy.

Let's land lower a few camp now.

The helicopter tilted up bright and began moving down the side of the volcanic mountain. Jack saw a small orange building, sleeking out from the snow, colorful snow mobiles were parked near it. Moment's later, the copter touched down onto the slope. It rocked

and shattered, then came to a stop.

Whoo... thought Jack.

They landed without a falling. From sky into a burning love lake ,  
but then , what could all fall down? In the realm mean?

Stay sit to the blades come to a complete stop. Said Nancy.

Everyone mimed in their seats with their seatbelts and headphones  
on.

As you know, we will be driving our snow mobiles up to the summit.

Said Nancy. Driving a snow mobile can be very dangerous some  
steep icy slopes. Please remember every thing you learnt about  
snow mobile training yesterday.

As others nodded, Anne nodded too. Jack notched her.

We've never had any training on snow mobiles.

Another warning: said Nancy, I know you've been also training this  
week to prevent altitude sickness. But still, it can be very dangerous.

So please let me know if you feel any symptoms.

Altitude sickness? Jack wondered.

He pulled off his gloves again and opened up his backpack, he took  
out the research book and looked up the altitude sickness in the  
index. He turned to the right page and read:

Altitude sickness, also known as mountain sickness, is caused by  
the lack of oxygen in great heights, symptoms include: headaches,



dizziness and shortness of breath, climbers, travelling up the alps and mountain of Himalaya, train for days by climbing to gradually increasing heights.

Oh, no. thought Jack.

The spinning of the helicopter blazed and come to a stop.

Ok! Happy campus, all clear! Before we driver up to the top of gathering the hug. Nancy opened helicopter door, everyone took off their headphones, untied their seatbelts, all of them were down the steps of the copter.

Jack was last, as he was struggled putting his research book away, getting his gloves back on. and in pulling his pack on his back,

Why you took so long? Anne asked when he got out of the copter.

Jack just shook his head,

Have the seatbelt back to its station . Pete. Called Nancy. See you later.

Pete waved form the window, then the copter blades started rolling again. The copter lifted form the ground and thundered away.

## Chapter 5: lava bombs

Jack didn't feel like copter anymore. Walking to the clove of the air, he looked at the snow mobiles parking near the hut.

We don't know how to driver snow mobiles. Jack whispered to Anne. We haven't trained for anything, including altitude sickness. that's ok, if we're getting in trouble, we can use the wand. Said Anne.

no, we can't. said Jack. We can't use the wand just for ourselves. Plus we haven't try our hardest yet.

This way, guys. Called Nancy. She was assuring everyone into the small orange building. Jack and Anne followed the group inside. The one room hut had plastic chairs, a small heater, axes, jets of water, and shelves with boxes of trail mix.

Have a seat, and help yourself to some of the best water of the world. Nancy said. it come from the melted glacier ices.

Everyone sat on the plastic chairs, Lucy, Cum, Tony and Ali. Poured water into ten cups and lowed their masks to drink. Jack was thirsty but he shook his head no, and Anne, he was afraid of her showing their faces.

Before we take out, I want to warn you again about the snow mobiles . said Nancy. No matter how much train you had, you must

be very careful on your ride up the crater, remember to drive sideways so snow mobiles slips and rolls over or your legs crushed .

Everyone nodded.

How do you drive sideways? Jack wondered in the panic.

Don't be afraid to go fast, and don't lock up the brakes. Said Nancy.

Locking your brakes can spell disaster, and watch for lava bombs.

Said Ali, the biologist.

Lava bombs? Jack piled. He quickly cleared his throat and deepened his voice,

Excuse me, lava bombs?

Lava is the spits for the crater. Said Ali ,

Spitz? Repeat Jack.

Like oil meal the bubbles of the spiders apart. Said Lucy the space scientist.

It suppose the bombs made all meal. Said ali. Their bombs fired out and liquid rocks. Some then can be as big as a car. They burnt deep poles in the ice and snow.

If they heat you. Said Tony chalking. Well, just, think about it .

Jack didn't want to think about it.

Seriously it pretty neat. Said Nancy. For millions of years hot gas and lava over cut deep in places beneath the surface of the slopes.

Calvins and towers , no one knows all the secrets of the ....

Nancy took a light simple water put cup down.

Ok, guys, you have few hours to do years experiments or get your stories. Then Pete will come back for us.

Let's go!

Ad Jack stood up to go, he almost fell over. The room spinning, he closed his eyes, but that only made worse, after the others fell down the door, Jack sat back down on them, on his chair.

Wait just here for second. He thought, his heart pounding.

Are you ok? Said Anne coming back to the hut.

I'm dizzy, said Jack, trying to catch his breath, I think I have got altitude sickness.

I don't fell so great either. Said Anne. trying to take off our masks and goggles you can feel ad breath better.

She helped Jack lifting masks and goggles .,

Did that help?

Yeah, a little. Jack took a deep breath. But we need a lots of help.

What you mean? Said Anne.

Help getting over altitude sickness, said Jack. Help driving snow mobiles, help dodging lava bombs, help finding an engine cramp, and ...

What is that? Anyway.

Nancy pulled her eyes back to the hut.

What's up guys? You coming?

Yeax. Said Anne.

Jack quickly tried to put his goggles and mask back, but it was too late,

What, what are you? Who are you? Nancy spattered, you are not journalist, you are kid.

Don't worry, said Anne, in deep voice, he's my son.

What? Said Nancy.

He is. Said Anne. I often take him as my assistant. On my asidemens

You what? Said Nancy.

Anne, give it up. Said Jack. We are caught.

Oh, ok. Said Anne.

She pushed off her goggle and put down her mask,

I am Anne, and he is Jack. We are sister and brother.

I am going to have a hard attack. Said Nancy. What are you kids doing here?

We were looking for ...Anne stopped, am,,

Jack knew even Anne couldn't explain their mission to save Merlin to Nancy.

This is unbelievable. Said Nancy. I got you two guys to get to back

to station. your parents must be freighting. I can't believe this.

No, no, it's our fault. No one will blame you. Said Jack.

But Nancy was pulling up to her small radio, come in, Pete, come in .

The radio cracked and pumped, then Pete's voice came through,  
Here, Nancy. He said.

Pete, you need to get the copter back here and up to my group.

There are just two little kids.

Not so little. Thought Jack.

Repeat that, Nancy. Said Pete.

Two little kids came to the group . Nancy shouted. I didn't know they were kids. All ways too hard to explain, can you come back right way, please?

Sure, thing. Said Pete. You add put the others and I will pick up the kids.

Thanks! There will be hurry hard waiting for , you take them back.

said Nancy. Over and out.

## Chapter 6: all fault down

Nancy put away her radio and looked at Jack and Anne,

I don't know how you two guys pass me.

We are sorry. Said Anne.

This is unbelievable. Said Nancy .

Jack couldn't believe it either. How today's mass up badly?

I am so sorry I brought you here. Said Nancy.

No, no, it's our fault. Jack said again.

It's mine. Mine. All mine. Said Nancy. She seemed near tears.

You're just little kids.

Not so little. Thought Jack again.

Jee!

That's snow mobile, rambled outside, its engine warming up.

Oh, dear! Said Nancy, I've got to leave the group up to the safe road and crater, or there will be trouble. But Pete should be back here just in a few minutes, will you be ok by yourselves, then?

We'll be fine. Don't worry. Said Anne.

Good. Said Nancy. Here sweeties. She push the watering snobs and gave them to Jack and Anne.

Drink!

While they drink the water, Nancy spread blink on the floor and

turned on the small heater.

Lie down here. She said. just rest. She padded blanket,

Jack and Anne lied down, Nancy covered them with another blanket,

if you get thirsty, drink more water. She said.

thanks! Said Anne.

Jack was too embarrassed to say anything. He felt like a pre-school kid been put down for a nap.

Ok. Nancy said with a big sigh. You kids nearly game me a heart attack. She repeated to herself as she left hut.

Sorry. Said Jack.

But Nancy was gone.

Soon the roar and ramble of snow mobile through the air, as Nancy led scientists and journalists up the mountain,

We really must permission this time. Said Jack lying under the blanket.

And we were doing so well too. Said Anne. she set up.

Read Morgan's realm, please.

Jack pulled the realm out of his pocket, and handed it to Anne,

Ok, said Anne, she read aloud,

Then fall down till you come to the cave of the ancient crown.

I wonder this content's fallen down. ? asked Anne. she put the



realm to her pocket.

I don't think so. Said Jack. I don't know what that means. And there's no ancient crown, in Antarctica, it's all scientists and researchers, boats and helicopters, snow mobiles, it's the real world. His voice trilled off.

Well I know one thing, I don't want to waste time around here. Said Anne. she threw off the blanket and stood up. Lisa and I had taken a few pictures when we were for Pete,

You really feel that you can be doing that? Said Jack.

Not really, but I am going to try. Said Anne.

I don't think you should. Said Jack.

Don't worry, I will be back soon. Said Anne. maybe I will see the engine crown.

Yeah, sure. Said Jack .

Anne put her goggles and masks and headed outside. Jack reached to his pack and pulled out their book, he took off a glove and looked up the engine crown in the index. He was surprise that he found it wasn't there. Jack put the book back in his pack and took out his notebook, he read over his notes.

Go slow.

Stay with others.

Cracking ice.

Never touch wildlife

Jack's hand was cold, so he put his glove back on, he put away his notebook and laded it back down and closed his eyes. He just wanted to sleep. The warm from the small heater felt good. The sound of snow mobile was fading into the distance.

As he started to fall in sleep, the words of notes thronged through his mind.

Go slow.

Stay with others.

Cracking ice.

...

Oh, no. thought Jack.

He sat straight up, he tossed off the blanket, he threw off his pack and rushed out the hut, the wind was blowing the snow and ice clouds, Jack pulled off his ski mask and lowered his goggles,

Anne. he shouted.

What? Her voice came from distance.

Jack caught sight of her. She was aiming her camera up the slope and smoking crick of the mountain.

You have to come back now. he shouted, walking toward her.

You shouldn't walk around by yourself.

Ok, ok! Anne put her camera in her pocket,

Come on. said Jack. He took Anne's hand, they held on each other and moved through the blowing snow toward the hut.

Remember Nancy's rules. Said Jack.

There are deep cracks and ....

Ah...

Before Jack could finish, the ground beneath them gave way, and he and Anne crashed through a thin layer of snow headed into a deep creaking ice. Jack and Anne landed on a icy ledge, clumps of snow fell on top of them. Silence filled the air. A faint shafted of lie come from the opening of the fallen through. It was at least ten feet above them.

You ok? Jack said.

I think so. Said Anne.

They both sat up slowly, Anne peered over the edge of the ledge,

Ah..oh....she said .look!

Jack looked .he and Anne were on the ledge of the ravine. The plunged thousands of feet down into darkness.

This must be one of those hidden places in the mountain Nancy talked about. Said Jack. The mounts made by the lava, and how guess is..

It's incredible. Said Anne. she reached into her pocket for her camera, as soon as Anne moved, Jack heard ice crack,

Don't move. He said.

Anne froze. Forget pictures. Said Jack. We're facing serious danger , if we move, the ice might break under us and fall thousand of feet.

Got it. Said Anne.

She took a deep breath. Maybe we should use the wand,

We can't . said Jack. The wand won't work. We could only use it for others not just for ourselves,

Done. Said Anne.

They were both still for a moment, listening to the emend silence around them,

Ok, said Anne, the way I say it. We don't use the wand. We will stalk here forever. Soon we will make the wand move fall.

Right. Said Jack.

So we will never find the secrets of happiness for Merlin, said Anne, Merlin will fade away completely from sorrow and Camelot will lose its magic forever.

Right. Said Jack.

So maybe in this case, recurring ourselves is just our good. Said Anne,

Our good is also the good for others, like Merlin.

Good thinking. Said Jack. Let's try it.

He carefully twisted around to get back his backpack, then he very slowly reached inside, and pulled out the wand of diandas,

Ok, five words. Jack whispered. I guess haunches to save you and me for Merlin. Hie wait me long time ago.

We couldn't. said Anne. we haven't tried our hardest yet.

Right. Get ready. Said Jack he closed his eyes, held up the glomming silver wand and said:

Save Anne Merlin and me.

Jack waited for a moment, then he opened his eyes and he looked around,

What happened? He said.

Nothing. Said Anne.

So I guess it didn't work. Said Jack.

He turned to put the wand away,

I guess the rules must...

Crack!

The ice broke, the ledge gave way.

Ah....

Called Jack and Anne, as they fell toward the twilight.

Down to darkness.

Down, down, down, down,...

Down into the blackness.

## Chapter 7: the emperor

Clenching the wand, Jack lied in the dark, he pushed off his goggles, but he still couldn't see anything,

Are you there. ?

it was Anne's voice.

Yes. Said Jack.

Are You ok?

Yes. But we are really in trouble now. said Jack. We fell way down into the dark hole. The wand doesn't work,

He struggled to set up.

Or maybe we should try again. Said Anne.

What's the point? Said Jack.

We'll never get out off here now.

Jack and Anne were silent for a moment.

Hi! We're moving. Anne said.

Moving? Said Jack.

They were moving. The ice under the moss gliding silently and

smoothly through the darkness.

What's happening? Said Jack .

Maybe we are not in the hole. Said Anne.

Look! There's light ahead.

In the distance, they saw the glimmer light. As they kept moving, the light grew brighter. It grew brighter and brighter, until they slept out of the dark tunnel into dazzling light.

Now Jack could see they were lying on the slap of ice, floating down the narrow river.

We're on a ice raft. Said Anne. what's happening? Said Jack again.

I don't know. Said Anne . but I think the wand maybe did work.

The ice raft floated through light and shadow, passed whole frozen cliffs, and glided towards the archway in one of the cliff walls.

Where are we going? Asked Jack.

The raft floated to the archway into the gigantic cavern, the cavern looked like a huge ice cathedral, it's wall shined and it was covered with silver.

Oh.. whispered Anne. what is this place? Said Jack.

I don't know. But I am sure the wand worked. Said Anne,

The ice raft kept floating along inside the cavern, passed the icy archway and giant gate . Jack felt as if they were be watched. He thought her whispering and breathing,

Look! Said Anne, she pointed to one of the cave openings, standing on the ledge. Outside the cavern, were two penguins.

They looked just like the emperor penguins Jack and Anne had saved earlier. Jack and Anne stood up so they could see better. As the raft floated toward the ledge, the penguin in front back to the cave. The other didn't move.

Oh, ma'am. Said Jack.

The penguin wore a glittering crown.

The ancient crown! Jack whispered. We found it.

Anne didn't say anything, she just smiled as the ice raft floated straight toward the emperor penguin. It had the ledge with gentle pump,

Hi! Anne said simply,

The penguin made deep murmuring sounds, he didn't speak as human speak, but somehow Jack and Anne could understand every word.

Welcome to the cavern of ancient crown.

Anne bowed, the penguin had such dignity . Jack bowed too.

The emperor spoke again,

Come..

He backend with his wing and turned, Anne stepped off the ice raft,



back onto the ledge, and follow the emperor into the cave. Jack put the wand of diandas into his pack, he hoisted the pack onto his back and tried to balance his way. So he stepped for the raft to the ledge,

Hurry! Said Anne , pulping her head out of the cave.

I am coming. Said Jack.

He left from the raft and down to the ledge, then hurried into the cave. The cave of the ancient crown was sparkling, icicles hang everywhere, parlors of ice were glimmer blue light, from behind the row of ice parlors came the song and music. Strange music. Unlike any music Jack and Anne had heard before. The sound of the music like thousand icicles wing charms.

The emperor led Jack and Anne around the parlors,

Oh..whoa! said Anne.

Penguin couples were dancing to the strange music on the glittering ice ring. Pinky blue lights spilt over the dancers, as they gracefully glided in turn. Some penguins stand silently with their eyes closed. Others touched peaks. A group of baby penguins stands together, hoping dance on the ice.

Ah! How could these be happening? Stammered Jack.

Don't ask. Whispered Anne. it's magic.

A murmur wind through the ball room as penguins began to notice

Jack and Anne, though the strange music kept playing. All the dancers came to a stop. None of the penguins seemed long ago, they all looked at their visitors with calm friendly faces.

The emperor spoke to Jack and Anne,  
We have heard that earlier you saved one of our own, we have been hoping to meet you.

Puzzled, Jack looked at Anne,  
When we first got here, remember? She whispered.

Oh, right. Said Jack. He forgot all about the rescue of little penguin from the patrol.

You may stay with us as long as you wish. Said the emperor. You're honored members of our realm now.

Thank you. Said Anne. but we can't stay long. We came to Antarctica, to look for a secret of happiness.

To save one of our friends. Said Jack. He felt nature to tell the emperor when they try the truth. They lived in the world of magical as the world of Camelot.

His name is Merlin, he is the magician of the Camelot, and he is really sad.

The penguins began murmuring and whispering to one another. Jack couldn't understand what they're saying. Form the back crowd, a baby penguin waddled forward, the tiny ...

Oh, look! blinked Anne.

Jack grind from ear to ear, the baby wad fuzzy grey ball, bit dark eyes, he was even smaller than the young penguin they saved from the patrol . the little penguin waddled up to the emperor.

Peep, peep. She said.

The emperor looked down at her.

Peep ,peep.

She says she wishes to go with you. Said the emperor. She wants to help your friend.

But she's so little! Said Anne.

What about her mom and dad?

She is an orphan, said the emperor. Her parents were lost in a terrible storm. but she is very brave, and full of joy. I know she will bring happiness to you and your friend Merlin.

Anne turned to the baby penguin,

Thank you. She said.

Then she leaned over and petted the penguin's tiny head,

Oh, touch her, Jack! She is so soft.

Jack petted the baby on her head too, as he touched her soft little feathers she tilted her head and stared at him with her big eyes. Jack felt the wave of tenderness toward the baby penguin, he couldn't believe she was an orphan . tears came to his eyes, but he

quickly blink them away, and cleared them through.

Thanks, Penny! He said.

Anne giggled.

Jack couldn't believe that he just named the little penguin "Penny".

Usually Anne was the one who named the animals.

Peep.

Said Penny.

She would like you to pick her up. Said the emperor.

Oh, ok. Said Jack

He leaned over and held his arms, Penny snarled and closed to his part.

Peep.

Jack laughed and picked the Penny up. He held the little penguin tightly, the emperor turned to the crowd, he said something Jack couldn't understand.

The crowd party to make a path, the emperor nodded to Jack and Anne,

Let it go now. he said.

As Jack, Anne and Penny left with the emperor, the penguins flapped their wings against their bodies, applauding.

Goodbye. Anne called to the crowd.

Jack smiled and waved.

Peep. Said Penny.

The icicle music was softer and softer, as Jack and Anne followed the emperor through the cave, the tall penguin led them outside onto the ledge,

Thank you for your help today. He said.

Thank you for letting Penny come with us. Said Anne.

We promise to take good care of her. We will take her to Merlin.

Said Jack.

The emperor touched the orphan's head with the tip of the wing, he leaned close to her, and softly murmured something to her ear.

Peep. Penny said.

The emperor looked up at Jack and Anne, silently he bowed to them and they bowed back. then the emperor penguin turned and walked back into the cave of ancient crown. Jack sighed . for a moment, he had to leave them enchanted world of penguins.

Oh, she's cold. Jack. Said Anne.

Jack looked down, Penny was shivering in his arms. Put her inside your porker. Said Anne.

Jack unzipped his porker, and carefully placed the little penguin against his sweater, he pulled the zipper backup, he helped Penny closed to him .

Perfect. Said Anne . just make sure she can breath , ok.

Don't worry, said Jack , paddling his Jacket.

I will take good care of her.

Do you think we can use the wand to help us get back? asked Anne

Jack nodded.

I think so. He said. I can take another way.

Should we tell her about the tree house? Asked Anne. our frog creek from Camelot.

No, we have to go back to Pete at first. Said Jack. If Nancy found out that Pete never pick us up, she will really really have a heart attack .

Oh, right. Said Anne. Then we'd better put on our masks and goggles again.

Jack put up his face mask and put on his goggles .

Get the wand out from my pack. Jack said.

Anne reached to Jack 's backpack and held out the wand of diandas.

Ok, ready. She said .

Jack packed his packer, and confided baby penguin,

Here we go, Penny. He said. on a big adventure.

Anne held up the wand, and took a deep breath, and said:

Take us back to Nancy!

In less than a instant, Jack, Anne and Penny were on the slope of the mountain area.

## Chapter 8: a good story

The snow mobiles and helicopter were both parked on the slope, the scientists and journalists still talking with Nancy and Pete, Oh, no! Anne said grabbing Jack. What about Penny? Were not boost a penguin? How do we take her away?

Jack put his arms, protected over his barket.

I will hide her, we'll get to Merlin.

Jack heard a shout. He turned around, Nancy had got caught of them. She was waving her arms and running toward them.

Hi! You two! Nancy called, she dashed across the snow and threw arms around Anne , then Jack. Jack held his breath, hoping Penny will not be squashed.

Peep!

Jack pulled his way from Nancy, pretending to cough. He made his cough end with a sound of peep.

The copter's got here. Said Nancy, Pete told me he was late by the

snow squall. I was afraid where have you been, are you ok?

Don't worry, we are fine. Said Anne.

Perfect. Said Jack. We don't feel sick or anything. We're just getting some fresh air. We are ready to go now.

Jack started walking toward the copter, Anne grabbed Nancy's arm and walked with her.

Did you have found the mountain? Anne asked trying to keep her intention off Jack. What happened, what did you see?

We saw a lot of things. And I was worried about you guys the whole time, said Nancy, your parents must be freighted back the station.

They had their own expedition today, said Anne. they study penguins.

Peep! What was that? Asked Nancy.

Jack did his weird cough again.

Are you sure you ok, Jack? Nancy called after her.

I'm perfect. He said.

As three of them poaching the others, they were greeted with cheers. Nancy must told everyone, that they were just little kids.

Jack thought.

So glad you're safe. Young man. Said Ali, the biologist, he slapped Jack on the back,

Penny peep, and Jack coughed.



Sorry you couldn't make up the top. Said Cum, the photographer.

Let's ok. Said Anne. we still got a good story.

Did you know? Lucy the space scientist said,

Yes. A really good story. Said Anne.

Excellent. But you must tell us all. Said tony the journalist. And what of us steal it.

Tony laughed and others laughed with him.

Ok! We'll keep the secret. Anne smiled.

Pete opened the door of the copter,

Brave little kids first! Said Nancy.

Oh, brother. Thought Jack.

Nancy hushed Jack and Anne toward them into helicopter, then they grumbled the steps and climbed the board and sat down. As the others climbed the guts saddled, Jack loosen his seaball, so he could buckle up without crashing Penny.

Peep. Jack coughed. But he's relieve. Pete started the engine. The rudder blades began to spin.

Headphones! Yelled Nancy.

Everyone pulled on their headphones,

Nancy gave Jack and Anne a big smile and a sound of sigh. As the helicopter lifted off the mountain slope,

I love this bright evening at Antarctica. Nancy said to the group.

Jack looked out of the window, the evening sky was straightly pink, This land always reminds me it's a different world from our world back home. Said Nancy.

Jack and Anne smiled at each other, if only the others knew how many different world they really were. The copter swept up to the soft light of the cold sky, up the slope of the burning mountain, passed orange lake of burning lava, over wide field of ice and snow, until finally landed at the heli port where the red bus was waiting. The copter blades stopped spinning, Pete gave the signal, Jack and Anne followed Nancy and others out of the helicopter.

Jack held Penny in place under his parcart, as they boarded on the red bus, he sat with Anne near the back, Nancy took the driver seat and started the engine, as the bus rode along, Jack peered inside his parcart, Penny looked up at him, she blinked a few times, as if she was a little worried, Jack petted her gently, until she closed her eyes and fell asleep. Jack kept petting the front of his pocket, comforted Penny, he looked out of the window, and petted baby penguin whole right.

As Penny snarled close to Jack, none of them worried about the day matter any more. His fear was falling into the lava lake. His ..of

altitude sickness has imperiled been coughed by Nancy. All the careens and confusions of the day was wiped away by his feeling to the orphan penguin.

When the red bus stopped at the station, Jack and Anne followed everyone down the line climbed off, as others still talking about the volcano in the group, Jack and Anne, started walking away,

We are leaving now. bye! Nancy! Said Anne.

Bye, everyone.

Thanks for everything! Called Jack.

Oh, no! you don't ! said Nancy. She grabbed them both by the slip of their packs.

I am not let you tow out of my sight again, until I handed over you to your parents.

But,,but our parents are still on the penguins expedition. Said Anne.

Now I will take you two to the motor station. Said Nancy. Come on.

Clenching their pack, she started walking them toward the buildings.

You all must be stay in the wildlife corner, right?

Ah.. yes. Said Jack.

Nancy led Jack and Anne to a building, at the edge of the compound.

Well, here you are. Home's sound!

Thanks, said Anne.

Bye. Said Jack. He was desperately worried with Penny.

Wait! Said Nancy.

Oh, no, what now..thought Jack.

I am still worried about you guys, said Nancy, are your parents are really here study penguins? I want you to tell me the true story now.

Anne gave a sigh.

Ok. The true story is Jack and I came alone to Antarctica in a magic tree house.

Anne! said Jack .

But Anne kept talking.

It belongs to Morgan and Merlin in Camelot, Morgan once sent us to find the secrets of happiness to save Merlin the magician, he is very sad, as soon as we leave Antarctica, we will head to Camelot to carry up...

Nancy just heard to Anne, Jack held his breath and was afraid Nancy would finally have her heart attack. But Nancy burst out a laughing and shook her head.

Where did that come from? She said. you guys are so cute. How do you think about your stuff seriously now? tell me the truth.

Well, started Jack.

Oh, look! Said Anne. mom, dad!

What? Said Jack.

There they are. Said Anne she pointed to a couple bundle packs and goggles and ski masks. They were walking toward the building .

Oh! Right. Said Jack.

Mom! Dad!

The couple kept walking in the distance disappeared behind the building.

They didn't hear us. Said Anne. we'd better go. They will wonder where we are.

Bye! Nancy! Thanks for everything!

Nancy, will you come with us for a coffee? Tony yelled standing by the bus.

You should go, Nancy! Said Anne. we will be fine.

Ok. Said Nancy sighing. Bye, guys, running catch up your folks.

Peep!

Jack coughed a funny cough.

And take care of your cough, Jack. Said Nancy.

Don't worry, I will. Said Jack.

Then Jack and Anne took off. They ran behind the building. Then they stopped and peeked back around the corner, they watched Nancy walking off with Tony and others.

Let's go. Said Jack.

He and Anne hurried away from all the buildings and the motor station. Jack put his arms around Penny as they crossed the icy snow and ran to the cliff near the sea shore. the tree house was still there. Tag under the over hand, Anne climbed into the window, Jack followed her, careful not let Penny slip out of his barcart.

Anne pulled Morgan's realm out of her pocket, and read the last part:

Then speed to Camelot by close of day

That's grief takes Merlin forever away

Let's go.Said Jack. Speed to Camelot,

Anne pointed to the word Camelot. And said loudly and clearly:

I wish we could go there.

A blast of light roared wind, a ramble of thunder and of course, they were there .

## Chapter 9: Penny and Merlin

Jack and Anne were wearing their own clothes again. Their jeans, Jackets, hats and scarves. All their heavy cold weather gear

Antarctica had gone.

We're in Camelot. Said Anne, looking out of the window.

Jack took Penny out of his Jacket, and held her up to the window.

So she could see the ground of the king Arthur's castle.

The tree house had landed in an apple tree and couched. In a near distance, castle towers rose toward a late afternoon sky. Several knights and horses were riding away from the castle.

Jack ! Anne!

Teddy and Catherine were running through the orchard between the trees over falling golden leaves of apple trees. Jack and Anne waved at them.

Oh I just thought of something. Jack said. We forgot to find out the fourth secret.

What do you mean? Said Anne. it's Penny.

No, I don't think so. Said Jack. Remember Leonardo da Vinci told us: the secret of happiness has to be available to everyone. Not many people can get a baby penguin.

Oh! Right. Said Anne.

Jack, Anne! come down!

Teddy and Catherine called from below.

We are coming. Said Anne.

Jack put Penny inside his Jacket, then carefully climbed down the

rope ladder after Anne.

Oh! What did you bring back with you. Said Catherine.

Penny was peaking at Jack's Jacket again.

A baby penguin for Merlin. Said Anne.

Look at her! Said Catherine. She's beautiful.

Indeed. Said Teddy. Petting Penny's downy head.

Peep!

She wants to help Merlin. Said Anne.

To let us hurry to helmet wands. Said Teddy. Come! Follow us!

Catherine and Teddy led the way between the trees, to a small wooden cottage, at the end of the orchard.

Merlin's there? Asked Jack.

His garden house always lovely child. Said Teddy. Morgan thought he would find comfort there. But at last it seems to him finding nothing but more grief. He will eat nothing, and he is not spoken for days,

Teddy opened the door to the cottage, and arched Jack and Anne inside. Morgan was sitting by Merlin's bed, lit afternoon light slant through the window unto the magician's face.

He lied very still, his eyes were closed, and his hands were folded on his chest,

A jawing through Jack , Merlin hardly looked alive.



Morgan turned around, she looked too tired, but her face brightened when she saw Jack and Anne,

I couldn't see you come. She said.

Anne crossed the room and hugged Morgan, Jack stepped forward with Penny,

Look! What we've brought for Merlin. He whispered.

Oh. Said Morgan. The enchantress gently touched the little penguin .

She is lovely indeed. She whispered . thank you for bringing her.

Morgan turned back to Merlin,

Merlin? She said. Jack and Anne from frog creek are here. They want to talk with you.

Anne stepped forward, for Jack student's shadows with Penny.

Hi! Merlin. Said Anne. how are you doing?

The magician didn't open his eyes. But he nodded to Anne to know he heard her.

We have four secrets of happiness to share with you. Said Anne.

She reached to Jack's backpack, she put out the poem that poet Basyou had given them on the trip to old Japan,

Listen, here's a poem from a man named Basyou. Said Anne.

She read the short poem.

An old pond,

a fog jumps in,

the sound of water,.

The secret of happiness for Basyou was that he paid attention to small things and nature. Explained Anne.

Merlin nodded slowly.

Nature. He said in a raspy voice.

That's right. Said Anne. and we brought you this too. She put out the ancient picture that Leonardo da Vinci had drawn.

She held it up to show Merlin.

This is a angel drawn by a great genius name Leonard da Vinci.

Said Anne .

Merlin opened his eyes and peered at the drawing .sketch

Isn't is beautiful? Said Anne. the secret of Leonardo's happiness was: he had great curiosity about everything. Angles , arts, noses, feathers, flowers, lines, everyday he found happiness when he leaned something new.

Merlin nodded as he stared at the angel sketch.

Curiosity. He braved.

Yes. And here the third secret . said Anne.

She reached into Jack's pack, and pulled out the nodule shell, they

been given on their trip to the deep ocean, a sea creature once lived in deep ocean inside this shell, said Anne. we learned from the ocean scientist that the secret of happiness is : having compassion to all living things, from tiny shell creatures to a giant octopods.

Merlin took the shell from Anne, he capped his hands around it, and closed his eyes, his face softened,

Compassion... he said.

But still, he didn't smile.

Jack sighed. maybe Merlin is going to get better. He thought.

Give Penny now, Jack. Whispered Anne.

Jack stepped out from shadows,

Merlin, he said. we don't actually know what the fourth secret of happiness is, but we want to give you something else.

Merlin looked at Jack,

Jack held up the tiny penguin,

Her name is Penny. He said.

Merlin just stared at Penny, he looked confused.

She's an orphan. Said Jack. Her parents were lost in a terrible storm .

Merlin frowned, she is very small. He said hoarsely.

Yes. And she wants to live with you. Said Anne.

The emperor of the cave of the ancient crown want you to care her .

said Jack. He said she is very brave and full of joy.

Jack set the Penny on the floor. Standing along the penguin looked tiny and fragile,

Go to Merlin. Jack urged Penny.

Penny waddled across floor to Merlin, her little body rocked, stiffly from side to side, when she held her wings to keep balance. Penny stopped in front of Merlin. The little penguin and the old magician stared at each other for a moment.

Merlin's expression didn't change.

Peep!

Said Penny.

Peep!

Peep!

Merlin's face twitched. And then he began to laugh, at first his laughter seemed more like a cough, and then laughing, as if he hadn't laughed for a long time. But his laughter grew louder, he stood up and screwed the baby penguin into his arms.

Merlin hugged little Penny to his chest, pressing her against his long white beard, his face settled into a warm smile.

Is it your destine to care for her, Merlin, said Morgan.

The emperor of the cavern of the ancient crown had sent her to you.

He is very wise.

Merlin nodded, ingraining Penny in his arms he walked to the doorway of the cottage, and looked out,

The air smells like ripe apples. And woods smoke today. He said.

Yes, my ole friend, it does. Said Morgan. She wept tears from her eyes.

Merlin turned back and looked at Jack and Anne,

Thank you for bringing her. What did you say her name was?

Penny. Said Anne.

Ah, yes. Penny. To me. Said Merlin.

And thank you for your other gifts as well. I will never forget these secrets you've shared with me.

You're welcome. Said Jack and Anne.

Peep!

Yes, yes. Merlin murmured to the baby penguin. You all stay with me. And we will have a happy time together. Let's going to the orchard, and I will show you the rising moon.

Merlin put the Penny on the ground, the baby penguin took tiny quick steps along side the magician, as he walked into the orchard.

The two straw together between the trees and round moon, rose

over the kingdom of Camelot .

## Chapter 10: the secret

Well down. Teddy said softly.

Indeed. Said Catherine smiling at Jack and Anne.

Morgan smiled at them too.

Thank you for your four secrets. She said.

You're welcome. Said Anne. but we're not exactly sure what the fourth secret is.

I told Anne I don't think it can be a baby penguin. Said Jack. Because at our time people are not allowed to have a baby penguin.

That's true. Said Morgan. But people can always take care of someone or some creature who needs them.

So that's the secret? Said Anne.

Morgan nodded, taking loving care of other, can make one very happy. She said. like the other three secrets, it helped us look outside of ourselves. Then we can better see all the gifts of the world has to offer.

Yeah! Taking care of Penny really take my attention out of myself.

Jack said. I forgot about million things I was worry about.

I know you will miss her. Said Morgan. But I imagine you will see her someday.

So we are going to an other mission soon? Asked Anne.

Return home and rest first and we will sent for you again. Said Morgan.

Can you try to me that really soon? Said Anne.

We don't like long rests. Morgan laughed.

We will see. She said.

Oh, before we leave, I want to take a picture of you three guys.

Said Anne. it's for my family project to school. You seem like a family to me, look at this way please.

Anne aimed her camera at Morgan, Teddy and Catherine.

Smile. She said.

What are you doing? Asked Teddy. What are you holding?

It's a camera. Said Anne. just smile, say cheese.

Cheese? Like cheese! Said Teddy.

Click! Flash!

Got it!

Anne put her camera back to her pocket,

Oh, what was that? What did you do? Asked Teddy.

It's antic plan. Said Jack. It's like magic from our time.

Goodbye now. said Morgan smiling. Have journey safe home for your family.

Thanks . said Jack.

See all your guys soon, Very soon, we hope. Said Anne.

We hope so too. Said Teddy.

Goodbye. Said Catherine.

Jack and Anne left golden cottage, and hurried back to the tree house, they climbed up the rope ladder, Jack grabbed the Pennsylvania book, and opened it to the picture of frog creek wood.

Wait! I see Merlin and Penny, look!

Anne pointed to Merlin in the distance. He was still walking toward orchard with Penny at his side, they looked like a little family too.

Said Jack.

Yeah, they do. I should take a picture . said Anne.

She aimed her camera at Merlin and Penny, and took a picture, then she sighed,

Ok, home now.

Bye, Penny. Jack said softly.

Then he pointed to the book in the words frog creek.

I wish we 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.

We are home. Anne said. Oh, it's a great tree.

She and Jack were back to the frog creek woods,

Yeah. I hope we will see Penny on our next mission. Said Jack.

If we see Merlin, we will probably see Penny. Said Anne, I think those two guys are a team now.

At least we have a picture of them, and a picture of Teddy, Catherine and Morgan.

Anne held up her camera, and clip through the photo display.

Oh, no! she said. I don't believe it!

What? Said Jack,

All my pictures are gone. Said Anne. no Antarctica, no Merlin or Morgan or penguins.

Really? Said Jack.

Maybe you can't keep the picture you've taken from the magical trip.

I think you are right. said Anne. I only have one picture. I took right before we left home.

She held up her camera and showed it to Jack. It was a picture of him, he added a grown on his face.

That when I saw the streak of life over the woods. Said Jack. And I knew the tree house was back. well, at least I captured that moment. Said Anne .sighing.

Yeap.

Jack put the Antarctica book on the floor of the tree house, and put on his pack, then he climbed down the rope ladder, Anne followed, as they started tramping through the fallen leaves, the woods were growing dark, Jack felt a little cold and hungry.

So the fourth secret of happiness is: take care of someone who need you. Said Anne. I guess that can mean lots of things. Like take care of sad, person, a baby, a puppy, or a new born kitten in school, ....

Jack nodded.

Yeap. He said. maybe works with other way too.

What do you mean? Said Anne.

I think sometime you can make other people happy by letting them take care of you. Jack said.

Ah, right. Said Anne. it seems to be mom and dad. They seem happy to take care of us! Then that we will tack care of scars and gloves. Said Jack.

And make us a dinner. Said Anne.

And tell us home before dark. Said Jack.

We'd better hurry! Said Anne.

Yeap. Let's go make mom and dad happy! Said Jack laughing.

I let them take care of us! Said Anne,

The wind shook the tree limes, and leaves fluttered to the ground.

Geese horned over head, as Jack and Anne hurried home to the chilly November twilight.

The end