

Magic Tree House Book 41

Moonlight On the Magic Flute (Unabridged)

Jack and Annie head to 18th-century Austria, where they must find and help a musician by the name of Mozart. Decked out in the craziest outfits they've ever worn—including a wig for Jack and a giant hoopskirt for Annie, the two siblings search an entire palace to no avail. Their hunt is further hampered by the appearance of a mischievous little boy who is determined to follow them everywhere. But when the boy lets the animals out of the palace zoo, Jack and Annie have to use the only magic at their disposal to save themselves and the naughty little boy.

Chapter 1: to the summer palace

Jack was sitting at the computer in the living room. He was doing research on penguins for a school project, his mom and dad were cooking in the kitchen, Jack could smell bread baking in the oven. And spaghetti sauce bubbling on top of the stove, Jack! Annie burst into the dining room. Come with me, she said.

What's going on? said Jack.

They are here. Said Annie,

Teddy, Catherine? Asked Jack.

Annie nodded, her eyes shining,

Ho, ma'am, Jack whispered.

He jumped up from his chair, and grabbed the Jacket and backpack.

Mom dad, we'll be back soon. He called.

Dinner is in thirty minutes. Their mom called from the kitchen.

No problem. Said Annie.

Then she and Jack headed out the front door, into the cold spring air.

Where did you see them? Said Jack.

At the edge of the woods. Said Annie. I was riding my bike home from my piano lesson, when they saw me, they waved.

Isn't stop talk to them? Said Jack.

No, I pointed to the house. Said Annie. to let them know I get you first.

Oh, thanks. Said Jack.

We'd better hurry.

I wonder where they will be sending us. Said Annie.

As they crossed the yard, headed up the sideway,

I wonder what our next mission is. Hi! Did you bring the wand of diandas?

Yeap. It's in my backpack. Said Jack.

Jack and Annie ran into the frog creek woods, they hurried to the shadowy light of late afternoon, until they came to the tallest oak tree,

Jack looked up. The tree house was back.

The two young enchanters of Camelot were looking out the window.

Hi! Yelled Jack and Annie.

Hello! Teddy and Catherine shouted.

Annie grabbed the rope ladder and climbed up the tree house. Jack followed.

We are so glad you are back. said Annie.

She hug Teddy and Catherine, Jack hug them too.

How is penny? Jack asked.

He's been missing the little penguin that they've given Merlin on there last adventure.

Oh, penny and Merlin had become the best friends. Said Catherine.

She had brought much joy to master.

Cool! Said Jack.

He wasn't surprised. Penny had made him very happy too.

What do you want us to do now? said Annie.

On your last missions, you found the secrets of happiness for

Merlin, said Catherine,

Jack and Annie nodded,

Now your next mission, Merlin wants you to help happiness to

millions of people. Said Catherine.

Whoa! Said Jack. That's a big job.

Teddy and Catherine laughed.

How do we do that? Asked Jack.

Simple. Said Teddy. You must seek billions a brilliant artist.

Do you mean like a painter? Asked Annie.

It could be. Said Teddy.

But it could be any person who use passion and imagination to

create something beautiful. Merlin wants you to help that artist on

the right path . said Teddy. To share his or her gifts to the world.

Oh! Cool! Said Annie. but where do we start?

Catherine took a creamy white envelope from her cloak. It was

sealed with malty white rags, in fancy writing, she said, for Jack and

Annie from frog creek.

It's a royal invitation. Said Catherine.

Jack took the envelope, he carefully broke the seal, and pulled out the thick card with gold edges and gold script. He read aloud:

You are invited to a party at the summer palace October 13, 1762. 5 o'clock in the evening.

A party at the summer palace in the 1762! Said annie.

Yes! Said Teddy, the palace is in the Austria. It's one of the most splendid palace in all the world.

That sounds like fun. Said Annie.

Indeed. It should be. Said Catherine. But you must watch your manners and beware any unexpected dangers.

What kind of dangers? Asked Jack.

I do not know. Said Catherine. But Merlin believes that you need magic to keep safe. Did you bring the wand of diandas?

Yes. Said Jack.

He reached into his backpack and pulled out the silvering wand. It was shaped like a horn of unicorn. Catherine took the wand from Jack, she closed her eyes, and spelled to the air: as if she was spending up the town.

In the blur of light and movement the wand changed into a small silver flute.

Whoa! Said Annie.

A flute? Asked Jack.

A magic flute. Said Teddy, playing this flute when deliver you from danger .

But Jack and I don't know how to play the flute. Said Annie.

Do not worry. Said Catherine. If the time is right, the flute will make its own music. Just blow over the mouth piece. Said Teddy. And we want you please the other must make up the sound. Whatever you sing will come true.

Cool. Said Annie.

But when your song had ended, the flute magic will end too. Said Catherine. You can only use the flute magic once. So choose the time wisely .

Ok! Got it. Said Annie.

Are you ready to go? Asked Catherine.

Ah.. wait. Said Jack. Party invitation, magic flute is that all? Do you have a research book for us?

A miss journey Merlin wants you to rely only on your wits and your talents. Said Teddy.

Oh..ok! said Jack. Though he wasn't sure he had many talents.

Tell the magic tree house, here to go by pointing the invitation, said Catherine.

Annie pointed to the words, summer palace , but before she made her wish , she looked at Teddy and Catherine.

I hope I will see you again very soon. She said. say hello to morgan and Merlin when you go back to Camelot.

And penny too. Said Jack.

Catherine and Teddy both smiled.

Yes, we will. Said Teddy.

Annie took a deep breath,

Ok! I wish we could go there! She said. to the summer palace!

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

Chapter 2: put on your way

Jack opened his eyes. He looked down his clothes. He was wearing a blue wide coat, a long vast, and knee lined pants. His shoes were bright with shining buckles. Jack looked up at Annie, burst out a laughing. Her pigtails had changed into six gag sheet curls. She was wearing a pink dress covered with lace and balls. There was a big hoop underneath her skirt and held it out.

The hoop, the skirt and lots of paddy knots all bunched around Annie.

You looked like standing in the basket. Said Jack.

You looked like an old woman. Said Annie.

She pointed to Jack's head, Jack reached up and lifted off a black hat off his head. Something else was on his head too. He put up a white wig with the curls on the side and pony tail aback.

Oh, wig! Said Jack.

His nose tickled. He sneezed, and cloud of white paddle puffed from his wig.

It's covered in perfume. I can't wear this!

Yes, you can ! said Annie. I have to wear this. she shook her dress.

You have to wear that.

But why we have to dress this way? Asked Jack.

Because we are going to a fancy party in the palace long time ago.

Said Annie.

Ok. But where is the palace. Said Jack.

Jack and Annie went to the window and looked out. They had

landed in the row of trees that lined the covered stone street. At the faring of the street glittering horse drone and clatters were part outside the hall iron gates.

I wonder the palace is beyond those gates. Said Annie pointing.

I don't know. Said Jack. I wish we had a research book to help us.

Merlin wants us to rely on our wits and talents. Said Annie.

Yeah. Said Jack. Whatever that means?

Bells rang in the distance.

Bang! ...Bang! ...Bang! ...Bang! ...Bang! ...

Five bangs. Said Annie.

What time's the party?

Jack looked at the invitation and read aloud:

5 o'clock in the evening.

Oh! No! we are going to be late! Said Annie.

Put on your wig!

Jack cramped his wig back on his head and put on his hat. He

pushed the silver flute and invitation into a deep pocket in his coat.

Annie squashed her hoopskirt and squeezed to the opening of the tree house floor.

It's hard to climb down the rope ladder in this dress! She said.

Be careful! Go slow! Said Jack.

But we have to hurry! Said Annie.

She jumped off the ladder and landed on the ground, Jack hurried down the ladder,

Are you ok? He asked .

I am fine. Said Annie standing up. Just got a little dirty. She brushed off her dress. Let's ask those guys about the palace.

She pointed toward the coach driver outside the ferrying gates.

Hurry! Annie started to run.

Her skirt swang wildly from side to side, like a giant bell.

Slow down. Said Jack.

Rushing to catch up with her.

You can't run in that skirt, you look ridiculous. Besides we need to discuss our mission before we go to this party .

It's simple. Said Annie. we are looking for a brilliant

I know , artist. Reminded Jack. But how do we find this person?

We will get to that party soon, enough. Said Annie.

First let's find the party.

Jack and Annie walked toward the fancy coaches park near the gates.

Where is out invitation? Asked Annie.

Here. Jack pulled the invitation out of his pocket.

Excuse me. Said Annie walking up to the driver of golden coach pulled by two white horses.

We're looking for the summer palace.

Jack showed his invitation to the man.

The driver nodded puffing.

Ah! So you are guests of imperial family. He said. but why are you arriving on foot? Why are you not take a coach?

Am.. our driver let us on bare fare. Said Annie. pointing down the street.

I am afraid you all are late too soon. Said the driver. You still have quiet distance to go.

We do? Said Annie.

Yes. Said the driver. I have already delivered my employer and his family to the palace, and I was waiting here until the party ended. But if you like, I can take you there. Young nobles should always arrive by coach.

Oh. Thanks. Said Annie.

Jack straight his shoulders tried to looked noble,

My name is Joseph. Said the man. Come, let me help you up.

Joseph held out his hand, Annie took it, and Joseph helped her

onto a coaching leather seat. Joseph helped Jack too. Then finally the driver climbed on the bench behind the milk white horse.

Whoa! I feel like Cinderella going to the ball. Annie said to Jack.

Joseph snapped his reins, the horses took off the gars and opened gates. The coach clattered over the couple stones into a main square. The square was bright in the lights of the day, monks and brown robes drover around the huge mountain(fountain), soldiers in uniforms swelled on horseback. On the far side of the square, was a long building. It had bright yellow walls, dozens of windows flashed with the light of setting sun.

Is that the summer palace, sir? Annie called to Joseph.

Yes, indeed . Joseph said over his shoulder. And there is much more you can not see. Behind the palace is the garden nearly 300 acres. It has beautiful flowers, orchards, fountains and a zoo!

A zoo? Said Jack.

Hello! Boy and girl!

Came a high little voice. A closed blue coach passed them. A small wearing a white wig was calling from the window. He pointed at Jack, and laughed.

Your wig is crooked. He shouted in his high voice. Before the boy could say more, someone pulled him back from the window. And blue coach rambled away.

What a noising kid! Said Jack. Is my wig crooked?

A little. Annie lifted Jack's hat off.

She tried to straight his wig that lurched and swayed on the pushing seat.

There! She said. that's better.

Joseph drove the horses to the front of the palace, the coach stopped near the steer case that led up to a tarries, Joseph helped Jack and Annie down from their seat,

I can tell this is your first visit to the palace. Said Joseph. At the door you must show the guard in red uniform your invitation, he will direct you to the receiving line.

The receiving line? What's that? Said Jack.

That is where you will wait and to be introduced. Said Joseph.

Introduced to who? Asked Jack.

To her Imperial Majesty, Maria Theresa. She is Archduchess of Austria, queen of Hungary, Croatia, and Bohemia, and the empress of the Holy Roman imperial. Said Joseph.

Oh! Right. Said Annie.

Yeah, right. Throated Jack.

Help!

Chapter 3: Her Imperial Majesty

Thanks for your help. Joseph. Said Annie.

Yeap. Thanks a lot. Said Jack,

You're very welcome. Said Joseph. I hope you'll enjoy yourself in the party.

We'll. Said Annie. bye.

As the coachman climbed back onto his carriage, Annie turned to Jack,

This is so cool. She said.

Not really. Throated Jack. He didn't know how use to suppose to ask with her Imperial Majesty whatever the rest her name was.

His hands fell clamming, what we do when we meet her? What we say? He asked

We just watch other people do. Said Annie. and we copy them, come on!

Jack and Annie walked over to the swoopy stairway, they started upstairs, following the other party guests. The women all wore

glittering jewelries and giant hoopskirts. The men wore wigs and wide curls flowing down over the collars of their long coats. All the clothes were made of silk and satin and velvet in rich colors and patterns.

Oh, brother! Said Jack.

What? Said Annie.

There is the kid that yelled at me. Jack said.

The small boy from the blue coach was standing on the top of the stairs, he wore a lily colored coat with gold blade, a tiny sword hanging from his side.

A sword? Said Jack. That's ridiculous. He can't be more older than five years old.

The boy turned and caught sight of Jack and Annie. a big smile crossed his round face. He waved at them.

He's cute. Said Annie.

She waved back.

Not really. Said Jack.

A man grabbed the boy's hand and pulled him into the palace.

And he thought I was funny. Said Jack. How's my wig now?

Annie giggled, it's curled again. Crooked again. She said. and your ears porky now, hold on.

Jack and Annie stopped at the stairs, Annie grabbed the both sides of Jack's wig, and gave it a good yank,

Move along. Children. You're holding up the light. A woman behind them said.

Annie picked up her hoopskirt, and she and Jack hurried upstairs, at the top Jack pulled the invitation out of his pocket again. He led Annie into the palace and showed the invitation to a guard in red uniform.

Follow the line through the lantern road and into the great room. The guard said.

Jack saw a line of the party guests walking slowly to a candle lit room. He and Annie quickly join the line. The room was filled with sounds of crisping and rustling of the silk. A young girl in the white dress was standing near Jack and Annie. when the line moved, Jack waited for the girl to go ahead. The girl smiled.

I am not line. She said in a soft voice. I am waiting for my brother.

Jack nodded, and he and Annie stepped forward. Jack craned his neck to get better of view inside the great rosy room. He couldn't see her Imperial Majesty yet, but he could see parts of the fancy room with its red chairs and gold trimmed glossy white walls. Another guest entered the great rosy room. And Jack and Annie

took a step to get closer to the door.

Now Jack could see her Imperial Majesty, she was tall plump woman dressed in the blue silk dress with ruffles. To Jack's surprise, the little kid with the sword was sitting on her lap. A long row of older children stood behind her. Jack turned to Annie:

Who do you think these kids are? He asked.

Annie shrugged,

They are the children of her Imperial Majesty. Said the girl who spoke to Jack and Annie earlier.

The imperial children.

Thanks! Said Annie.

The imperial children looked pretty unfriendly. Jack whispered to Annie.

The little boy with the sword was the only one smiling.

Well, it must be really hard just stand there while in stiff clothes and wigs and people are been received. Annie whispered back.

Prepare yourselves, you're next. A servant at the door said to Jack and Annie.

Oh, no. thought Jack,

He's been to busy looking the imperial children to watch the guests

in front of him.

What are we doing? We will meet the imperial majesty. He asked Annie, frantically.

I don't know, I forgot to watch. She said.

Annie turned to the girl in white dress,

Am..excuse me, can you tell us what to do when meet her Imperial Majesty? She asked.

The girl leaned close to Annie, and whispered:

Enter the room, into the room and note your names. Then walk to the middle of the room. You must curtsy, he must bow, next go to ready up to the imperial majesty, and do the same.

Got it. Said Annie.

Oh, and remember, the girl said to Jack. Do not rise from the second ball, until her Imperial Majesty tell you do . do not even look up, rise only when she says rise. Then step backward out of the room.

Backward? Said Jack.

Yes. You must never turn your back on her Imperial Majesty. Said the girl. It can be considered very bad manners.

Thanks! Said Jack.

He was grateful to the girl for giving them such important

information.

The servant at the door turned and nodded to Jack and Annie. the two of them stepped into the great rosy room.

Annie from frog creek. Annie said loudly.

Jack, also from frog creek. Said Jack.

Jack and Annie walked slowly to the center of the room, her Imperial Majesty and the imperial children watched them closely.

The little boy with the sword waved at them. Annie curtsied, Jack gave a low bow. Then Jack and Annie walked closer to her Imperial

Majesty. She had double chin, a high forehead, and lots of tiny brown curls. Jack smiled at her but her pale face was very serious.

Annie curtsied again, and Jack gave a second bow. As he bowed, he remember that was bad manners to rise or look up before her until her Imperial Majesty told them to.

Jack stared at his shinning buckles on his shoes, waiting to hear her Imperial Majesty say - rise.

Maybe I am not bowing low enough. Jack thought.

He bent over a few inches more. To his hoof, the silver flute slip out of his cope pocket. It clattered to the floor, as Jack grabbed it, his hat fell off. The imperial children snickered. Clutching the flute Jack reached for his head with another hand. But when he grabbed his

head, his wig fell off. Jack reached for his wig but porter got his nose and sneezed. As it sneezed, he slipped on the polished floor and fell to his knees. Grabbing his wig and hat and his flute, Jack grumbled back up to his bowing position. But he still hadn't heard her Imperial Majesty told them to rise. The imperial children laughed loudly, Jack even heard her Imperial Majesty laughing. She probably can speak because she's laughing so hard. Thought Jack.

He didn't know what to do. His face was burning hot.

If got to get out of here! He told himself.

Still bowing, Jack began backing up with little steps, until him bumping to a wall. As the imperial children hauled with laughter, Jack turned his head and saw Annie peeking out from the doorway giggling. He backed over to her, Annie grabbed his cocktail, and pulled him out of the great rosy room. The imperial children clapped and cheered. Jack heard one of the girls saying between claps and laughter:

Who was that fool?

That was Jack from frog creek. Answered the small boy in his high voice. And they all laughed loudly again.

Chapter 4: Jack from frog creek

Annie was laughing so hard that she could barely stand up.

What, what happened to you in there? She said. after I heard (curled) she laughed. When I looked back at the dummy, you're still bowing.

She didn't say 'rise'. Said Jack.

Yes, she did. To me. Said Annie.

Oh, I didn't hear her. Said Jack.

He turned way from Annie and started walking as fast as he could.

He stroke through one of the elegant room and again to another.

He didn't know where he was.

These rooms all looked same. He thought angrily. With stupid velvet furniture and stupid gold string to wall.

Jack! Wait! Annie called.

She hurried after him. Jack kept walking. Desperate to get far away when he seemed (felt a sin of)a disaster. Finally he came to a door that led outside. He opened it and stepped out onto a long marble terros overlooking the back of the palace.

Bright silvery light from a full moon shown on a huge garden. Jack stood in the chilly air and tried to calm down. He took a deep breath,

desperately wanted back to the tree house and go home.

Jack! Annie slipped out to join him.

I am sorry I called you a dummy. She said. are you ok?

I didn't hear her say rise . said Jack. And flute fell out of my coat.

And my hat came off, and my wig, and I sneezed and I slipped.

Come on, let's leave, we can't go down this stairs.

No. we can't leave now. said Annie. we have a mission for Merlin.

Don't feel bad, hardly anyone saw what you did.

Yeah! Except her Imperial Majesty and all those imperial children kids. Said Jack. They all laughed at me,

They weren't be mean. Said Annie. they were funny. You were funny, Here, give me your wig.

Jack handed Annie his wig, and she put it back on his head, straightened it,

Your hat. She said.

Jack gave her his hat, and she placed it over wig,

Hide the flute. Said Annie.

Jack stunted the silver flute back into his pocket.

I don't know what we need this flute for? He said. it's not dangerous here. I don't get this whole mission.

We will figure it now. let's go back in. said Annie .

She pulled Jack back inside the palace.

So, what do we do now? asked Jack.

We should find the party we went and joined too. (invited too) Said Annie. that must be what Merlin wanted us to do.

She pointed across the room. People were steaming to the side of door of the other room. Loud party noise came from inside. The gutter of guests, twinkling of china, and a happy violin music. Jack pulled back, but Annie took him by the arm.

Don't worry. I will bet there hundreds of people in there. She said. we can lost in the crowd.

But what about all those kids of imperial majesty? Jack asked.

They don't care about us. Said Annie. they had too many other guests to think about. Come on!

Annie led Jack through double doors into the party room.

Whoa! Grieved Jack.

He and Annie stopped at the stairs, the party room was a size of a football field. Grand painting covered tall ceiling. Everything was tramping gold. The glossy wide walls, the tall mirrors, reflected the glows of thousands candles. Musicians played the harps and

violins, hundreds of guests stirred around the long tables, chatting and laughing. Women fanned themselves, their diamonds and rubies flashing in the candle light, the air smelt perfume, powder and roses.

Ok, that's talk about our mission. Said Annie. we have to help a brilliant artist to get the right pad to bring joy to the world.

Yeah, but first we have to find one . said Jack.

Right, so let's to go around , said Annie.

Jack and Annie started drifting together through the huge room.

Jack gazed at the grownups dressed in their fairy they all looked pretty much the same.

What the brilliant artist looked like? Jack wondered.

Jack von frog creek!

Came a high little voice.

Oh! No! thought Jack.

He wore around, the boy with the tiny sword was grading up at him.

I have been looking all over for you. He said.

Hi! Said Annie. what's your name?

Wolfie. Said the boy.

That's a funny name. said Annie.

So is Jack von frog creek. Said Wolfie.

His eyes were shinning and he looked up at Jack.

Are you a clown? He asked.

Annie giggled.

Yeah. That's right. I am a clown. Said Jack.

How old are you? Wolfie? Said Annie. changing the subject.

Six. The little boy said.

Six? Said Jack. This kid looked like four years old he thought. Five at most.

And I an eleven. A girl said.

But first time Jack noticed the girl standing behind Wolfie. She wore a white dress with red blouses. She was the girl who had helped them on line.

Hi! Said Annie.

Hello again. The girl said in soft and lovely voice. I am Wolfie's sister.

Jack felt his face grew red. The girl must have seen that he made fool of himself. My name is Nannierl. Said the girl.

Nannierl? said Annie trying to pronounce her name.

The girl smiled.

You can call me Nan if you like. She said. Wolfie and I are George

performance in the great rozer room, Jack.

You must be very proud. Her Imperial Majesty didn't laugh easily.

Jack shrugged and scratched his wig. He wonder this girl was joking, but she looks serious. So he decided not to tell her again, the ment to be funny.

Did you call your mother, her Imperial Majesty? Annie asked Nan.

Nan looked confused,

No. we call her mama! Said Wolfie.

But you just said her Imperial Majesty doesn't laugh much. Said Annie.

Oh, her Imperial Majesty is not her mother. Nan said. her mother is back home in Augsburg. We are just visiting the palace.

Then why Wolfie was sitting on her Imperial Majesty's lap? Asked Annie.

Because she likes me very much. Wolfie piped up.

Oh, brother! Thought Jack.

Wolfie, be modest. Said Nan, shaking her head. Actually, Wolfie jumped her lap when we presented ourselves. I tried to grab him, but her Imperial Majesty wanted him to stay with her.

Well, all those other kids were her Imperial Majesty's children? Annie asked.

Oh, yes. Said Nan. Papa tell me all their names before we came here. Leopard, Ferdinand, Maximilian, Joseph, Maria and Tonia. Maria Carolina, Maria Josepha, Maria Emily, Maria Elisabeth, Maria Christina, Maria Johana, and Maria Anna.

Hmm.. said Jack. Maria are popular name around here.

Nan laughed.

Jack liked him making her laugh.

Hay! Look at me! Said Wolfie.

He pulled off his wig, he pretended his sneeze and fell to the floor.

I am Jack the clown. He said.

Ah..huh! very funny. Said Jack frowning a smile.

He had just put enough about Wolfie.

Nan, we have a question for you. Said Annie. do you know there are any brilliant artists here in this party?

I have a really band in along to meet many people. Said Nan. But papa tell me that artists don't live ...

Wait! Wolfie broke in.

He jumped to his feet.

I know someone here who is very brilliant.

Who? Asked Annie.

Me! Said Wolfie.

Annie bowed,

Wolfie! Said Nan shaking her head.

Right. Said Jack.

He turned back to Nan, what were you about to say?

But Wolfie broke again.

Nan and I are both brilliant. He explained in his high voice, our papa teaches us snarl and history, writing reading geography, music, drawing riding, fencing and dancing.

Wolfie raised his arms over his head, and did a little dance steps.

Annie laughed.

Wolfie, stop! Said Nan.

Yeah! Cool the kid. Called Jack. Thought Jack.

Do you want to go outside and play in the garden? Wolfie asked Jack and Annie. we can all dance.

I don't think so, Wolfie. Said Jack. But next..

He turned back to Nan,

So, what will you going to tell us about artists?

Oh, yes, said Nan. Papa told me, that her Imperial Majesty often invites artists to live in the palace and work here.

Perfect! Said Jack.

Do you think any of them here in the party now? asked Annie.

I don't know. Said Nan. The palace is very big. Papa told us there are more than 1500 people live here. Why are you looking for brilliant artists?

Oh, said Annie, we're on the mission,

To. Jack interrupted her. To party with brilliant artists. He finished. That's our mission.

Then he laughed because it sounds stupid.

Nan laughed too.

I see. She said. all right then, at dinner we'll ask papa where the artists stay.

Thank you! Said Jack. Finally, he thought. They were starting their Merlin's mission.

Chapter 5: bad manners

A servant rang a bell, other servants began carrying in large silver balls platters and trees.

It's time for dinner now. said Nan. We must go, Wolfie, to find papa.

She helped her little brother this way back on.

But I want to stay with Jack and Annie! warned Wolfie. I want to

play with them in the garden.

Not now. said Nan.

She grabbed Wolfie's hand,

It was nice to talk to you. She said to Jack and Annie, and I hope we can see you again someday, Jack and Annie.

Jack fraust a smile.

Ah, yeah, thanks.

Hay! Let's know what your dad, I mean your papa, says about the brilliant artists living in the palace. He said. maybe you can meet us later by those double doors.

Yes. After dinner we'll meet you. Said Nan.

And then we will play in the garden. Said Wolfie.

No, you and I have other things to do, remember? Said Nan.

Come along now. she pulled her little brother away.

But I want to play with Jack the clown. Wolfie wailed.

Jack and Annie watched Wolfie and Nan disappeared in the crowd.

I am not a clown. Jack said darkly.

Don't worry about him. Said Annie. he really admires you.

Lucky me. Said Jack.

The bell sounded again, people started moving toward the dinner tables,

Where should we sit?

Anywhere. Said Jack.

As long as they out of way, they still want to hide from the imperial children,

What about the table at the end of the room near the door?

Sure.

Jack led the way to the table, in the farre in of the room.

Let's grab seat as well as we can. He said to Annie, as grownups were talking and laughing, Jack and Annie sat down on two chairs. Steaming platter of food lying in the middle of the table, biscuits, mashed potatoes, sauces dumplings and cabbage, pies of apples and bread. Jack's mouth watered, he had realized how hungry he was.

Ok, here is out plan. He said to Annie.

We will eat first. Then Nan will tell us all about artists who live here.

Then we will get to work.

Excuse me! Young man, young lady.

Someone said in the snippy tone.

Jack and Annie turned around from their chairs and elderly couples were glaring at them.

The emperor's soft designed the sitting plan. The man said. and I can sure you, these are not your seats.

Further more, no one sits until her Imperial Majesty is seated.

Jack and Annie jumped up from their chairs,

Woops! Said Annie,

Sorry. Said Jack.

I made a mistake. Said Annie. excuse us.

Jack and Annie walked away from the table,

That was bad mAnniers. Annie said to Jack.

Who? Ask them. Said Jack.

Us. Annie said. I wonder where our seats are. I have a feeling we were not the part of the emperor sitting plan. Said Jack. His face felt hot again. His wig leached like crazy.

Suddenly a hush fellow over the room. The harp and violin music stopped. Everyone stopped talking, her Imperial Majesty had entered through the main doors, the imperial children followed her. Her majesty led to her table in the middle of the room. Everyone stood silently, waiting for the imperial family to sit down.

We have to get out of here, now. Jack whispered to Annie. Soon we will be the only one last standing.

Like musical cheers. Said Annie.

Right. Said Jack. Forget dinner, let's go and look for weather(when) our artist stay.. We can't wait for Nan to ask her dad.

As all the guests sat down, Jack and Annie hurried toward the door.

Jack the clown! Came a high voice.

Jack looked over his shoulder, Wolfie was waving from one of the tables. Annie waved back.

Don't wave, keep going said Jack.

He grabbed Annie's hand and pulled her out of the party room.

They hurried yell to one and other elegant rooms of red velvet furniture and gold trim walls.

Keep going. Jack said. said Jack.

He led the way into another fancy room,

Jack and Annie! wait! Came a cry.

I hear Wolfie. Said Annie.

Done!

Jack quickly closed door behind them.

Keep moving. He said.

We can't. said Annie. that mean we should wait for him.

But you slow down our mission. Said Jack. Where we going to get

start?

Calm down. Said Annie. we just tell him we can't hang on with him now, we just have something important we have to do.

Jack heaved a sigh.

Ok!

Jack! Annie!

Jack opened the door, Wolfie ran right into the room.

There you are! The little boy said smiling. I was looking for you.

No kidding. Said Jack.

Yes. Wolfie said. are you leaving?

Not yet. We have to do something important. Said Jack. You can't come with us.

Wolfie smiled and vanished.

Sorry.. said Jack.

But I want you to come to party with me. Said Wolfie.

Not now. said Jack.

Wolfie listen to me, listen carefully. Annie and I have to do something really really important . and we have to do it all by ourselves.

Wolfie spattered them and started to quiver.

Oh, no. thought Jack. He's going to cry.

A tear ran down from the little boy's cheek.

Oh, Wolfie, don't cry. Annie said gently.

Wolfie, Wolfie! Someone called.

Nan burst into the room.

Wolfie, what are you doing? Papa is very upset.

I want to play with Jack and Annie. said Wolfie.

Another big tear ran down from his cheek.

Please, Wolfie. Nan begged. You know you have a big responsibility tonight. You have to....

No! wailed Wolfie stamping his foot.

No! No! No! No! I never get the play.

Wolfie, stop! Said Nan. Please do not be this way. Not now our all time you will kill papa...

Wolfie! Wolfie!

Came a deep voice.

He's in here. Papa.

Nan called.

Come, Wolfie.

She took Wolfie's hand but he pulled away from her.

No! I want to play. Shouted Wolfie. And he charged out of the room.

Wolfie!

A poorly man with a wig burst through another door.

Where is it? Where is my son?

Oh, papa. Said Nan.

Wolfie ran away!

Ran away?

The man threw his hands in the air,

We must find him! He cried.

Papa, calm down. Said Nan.

We will fail utterly without him. Cried her papa.

And he rushed out of the room.

Papa! Papa! Yelled Nan. And she hurried after her father.

Chapter 6: under the moon

Good crib. Briefed Jack. That family had problems.

Maybe we should help them. Said Annie.

No. we can't. said Jack. By now we have our own problem. We have to start working on our mission. Done! I should ask Nan's about the artist in the palace.

I think you are too upset to think about that now. said Annie.

You're right. Said Jack.

So we need to find some friendly people who worked here and ask them.

Let's go look for help. Said Annie.

As Jack and Annie started toward the door, Nan rushed into the room again.

Has Wolfie come back? she asked frantically.

I am afraid not. Said Annie.

Oh! Dear! Papa will die if Wolfie doesn't return to us soon. Said Nan in tears. Can you find me to find him please.

Well, we really like to. Said Jack, but...

Please...said Nan again. Please...

Jack sighed. Ok. He said. sure.

Thank you! Said Nan. The palace is very large, I'll go this way, you go that way. Surely one of us will find him,

She hurried out of the room.

How can I know where Wolfie is? Said Annie.

The garden. Remember? He kept talking about the garden.

Oh, yeah. I think the garden is below that tarries when I went and everyone laughed at me. Said Jack. Let's go and check.

Jack led Annie back through one of the elegant palace rooms and into the party room. Everyone was still seated, eating dinner and talking loudly, no one noticed that Jack and Annie just hurried to the double doors and slipped to the room of tarries.

Jack opened the door, and he and Annie stepped outside. The air was chilly but they felt good. Jack put off his hat and his wig, and gave his head a good scratch.

Annie looked down on the moonlight in the garden.

Do you think that's the garden Wolfie was talking about? She said.

The silver light of the full moon showed on the large square with flowers beds and fountains. Woods blocked the square. Cricket's songs fell at night.

Probably. Said Jack.

Wolfie!

There was no answer.

Let's do down and look for him. Said Annie.

Leaves from the wigs fell behind them, Jack followed Annie down the stone stair way. As they started across the square, a strange sound came form the woods.

a...y...

what's that? Said Jack.

Two creatures scrambled out from the trees.

Ah! Said Jack.

Don't worry. Said Annie. it's just squeal of a cat.

The squeal dashed over the flower beds and disappeared. The cat ran after it.

Yeah. But what was that noise from the woods? Said Jack. I've ever heard a squealer or cat make a sound like that.

Another sound came from behind trees.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Oh, what was that? Jack said.

An owl? Maybe? Said Annie.

I've never heard an owl make noise like that. Said Jack. Have you?

Gur...gur..loo....

Yex! What was that? Said Annie.

I don't know. Those wag sounds like a jangle. Said Jack.

Wolfie! Yelled Annie.

There was no answer. Wind shook the tree tops and the crack of chirps' grew louder.

This place feels really weird. Let's go back and sight. Said Jack. I don't think Wolfie was out here.

Wait a minute. Said Annie. I think I just heard him.

Jack and Annie both listened. A thin little cry came from the woods.

Annie! Jack!

Wolfie is out there! Said Annie.

Wolfie! She picked up her toetips. Hoopskirt.

She hurried across the square and disappeared down the path that led into the woods.

Annie wait! Jack called.

He started after her. But then...

Hoop! Hoop! Hoop! Hoop!

Jack froze, he wasn't sure where the hooping sound come from the wall or woods.

Yiiiiii!

Was that Annie screaming . Jack wondered.

Annie! he yelled.

He dashed across the moon light garden and ran down the path to the woods. He stopped between the trees.

Annie! he called again .

Yiiiiii!

Something leaped down from tree branch and landed on the path.

Ah! Said Jack. Jumping back.

It looked like a baboon!

Yiiii!

The baboon bumped away.

Kur..loo..Kur..loo..

Jack looked up, over head a huge crane glided through the air.

Kur..loo..Kur..loo..

A..Yiiii!

A crowned peak hocks stood in moonlight frowning his crown and gold tail feathers.

What's going on? Jack thought. This is crazy.

A..Yiiii!

The pickup cried again. Jack heard a rustling in the bushes, something was moving to the woods grouting, snorting and crawling. A huge bear lumbered unto the moonlight path, standing on its hind legs, the bear was about ten feet tall. It growled.

Ah... Jack crowed.

The bear growled again. It stepped towards Jack, ricking the ears and huge claws. Jack began back away, and then he turned and ran as fast as he could. As he ran his way between the way of trees, he could hear the bear crushing through the woods behind him.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

A dog-like animal bumped across Jack's path, Jack recognized that it was a laughing hyena. The creature he and Annie had seen in

their plans to Africa.

What's going on? Jack wondered again. Where are these animal coming from?

Jack! Yelled Annie. over here.

Annie was hiding behind him in a tree, Jack ran over and crouched beside her.. he could hear bear's growling and grouching through the brush.

A huge bear was chasing me. Jack said.

I know. He was chasing me too. Said Annie.

I saw a baboon and a hyena and a crane. Spattered Jack. What's happening?

I don't know. Whispered Annie. look!

From behind tree, they watched an ostrich branching through the moonlight. Behind the ostrich, a gazelle stepped softly through the path of woods, looking from side to side. Then the peacock, straightened bike to side, fassen its luminous feathers.

It's like a zoo in this woods. Said Jack.

Who. Whoa! That's it! Said Annie.

What do you mean? Said Jack.

The zoo. That's where they are from. Said Annie. remember? Our

coach driver said the palace had a zoo.

But zoo has cages. Said Jack, the animals don't..just run around free!

Jack! Annie!

Wolfie's voice was close by.

That's Wolfie again! Said Annie.

Oh, whoa! That's been Wolfie let the animals out of their cages?

Help! Wolfie called.

Oh, ma'am! That kid's crazy! Said Jack.

I know, but we have to help him. Said Annie.

Annie picked up her skirt, she and Jack cramped from their hiding place, and walked cautiously down the path.

Jack, Annie! help me!

Jack and Annie kept going, stepping in shadowy moonlight.

Suddenly, Annie gasped and poited. Wolfie was sitting on the crook of the tree ahead. A large spotted animal was crouched below him.

Oh! Leopard! Whispered Jack.

The leopard looked up at Wolfie and growled.

Chapter 7: follow me

Stand back! Wolfie shouted at the leopard. I have a sword. And I am not afraid to use it.

Oh! Brother! Whispered Jack.

There was no way that Wolfie's tiny sword would award off huge leopard. But as Jack and Annie rushed in to rescue Wolfie, the leopard might leaped up and attack her. Annie notched Jack's arm, she pointed at the pocket of his coat, she held her hands pretending a flute.

Jack had forgotten all about the magic flute. He remembered Teddy's words. Playing the flute will deliver you from the danger. But what can the flute do? Jack wondered. How can it help us?

He reached into his pocket and pulled out the flute anyway.

You play! Just below over the mouth piece. Whispered Annie. I will make a song! Remember what I sing will come true.

Jack nodded and held up the magic flute. It glistened in the light of the moon. Jack wasn't sure his holding is right or not, but he hoped it wouldn't matter. He closed his eyes and blow gently across his mouth piece.

Music streamed from the silver instrument, the pure song woofed

through the air like a feather on the wind, the melody was simple,
yet beautiful, Annie started singing, making up a song.

Leopard, hi, leopard,
Listen to our song,

The leopard turned its head, and looked at Jack and Annie. it
picked up its spotted ears.

Follow me...

Follow me...

Follow me and clown.

Clown? Thought Jack, it's like me?

He didn't love Annie's strange words but he didn't have time to
worry about.

The leopard rose its feet and began walking towards Jack and
Annie. Jack was so scared that he almost turned and ran away, but
he didn't dare. He knew as soon as he stopped playing the flute,
the magic would end. Annie tagged on Jack's leap, and they started
walking slowly down the path. Back toward the palace. The leopard
patted silently after them.

As Annie kept singing,

Wolfie, hay, Wolfie,

Jump down,

Jump down.

Follow me,

Follow me.

Follow me and the clown.

Without a word, Wolfie briefly hopped down from the tree. He followed leopard, Jack and Annie. then they all walked down the path between the trees, Jack was no idea where they were going. He only knew that he should keep playing. Annie should keep singing, and they should all keep moving.

Jack heard branches breaking, he heard a grunting and nodding. The giant leopard jumped out from behind the trees, but Jack kept playing and Annie kept singing,

Bear, hay, bear,

No need to frown,

Follow me Follow me

Follow me and clown

The bear followed Jack and Annie and Wolfie and leopard down the path. The moonlight grew brighter and brighter, the magic music was making the night as bright as the day. Next, the hyena

snapped through the air,

Woof! Woof! Woof!

The hyena's sound came out from behind the tree trunk. Jack kept playing, and Annie kept singing.

Hyena, hi, hyena,

We're glad you've been found

Follow me Follow me

Follow me and clown

The hyena join the parade. More creatures were appeared, the gazelle, the ostrich, the peacock, Annie kept singing and Jack kept playing the magic flute.

Hi, gazelle, hi ostrich,

Hi, bird with a crown,

Follow me Follow me

Follow me and clown

The animals all joined the parade. Jack heard Wolfie laughing with joy. He looked back and saw the little boy waving his arms as if he was conducting the magic music. A big grown on his face. Jack kept playing and Annie kept singing.

All creatures who fly

Fly after this tone,
All creatures who walk
Walk under the moon
All creatures crawl
Crawl over the ground
Follow me Follow me
Follow me and clown

Baboons and bunnies, snakes and squirrels, lizards and foxes, all the ordinary and extraordinary creatures in the woods followed Jack and Annie. On the other side of the wide square, candles twinkled in their weird windows of the palace. Jack wonder where he should lead all the wild creatures, where was the zoo?! How could he and Annie get all the animals back to their cages.? But Annie had another idea. As she sang:

To your forest and sand please
Where you all free to run
To your lands near and far
Go home now go home,
Go home now go home...
Go home now go home...

As Annie sang the last words over and over, the creatures began to vanish into the air, the leopard, bear, hyena, ostrich, gazelle, peacock, baboon and crane, all disappeared. Soon the only animals left in the woods was the wands that belong to there.

Annie stopped singing, Jack stopped playing. And Wolfie stopped waving his hands. The bright light faded to the silver moonlight, and cats, squirrels and bunnies scampled into darkness. The garden became quiet and peaceful again except for the chirping of crickets.

Where did all those animals go? Asked Wolfie.

Home. Annie said simply.

Jack put the flute back into his pocket and gave a sigh.

Good work! He said to Annie. but did you keep calling me a clown?

Annie giggled..

Sorry. But clown sounds good with so many other words.

I am glad they went home. Said Wolfie. I wanted them to be free.

Listen! Wolfie! Said Jack. Don't ever ever again try to free animals from zoo. Someone could even got hurt.

I am sorry. I promise I will never do that again. But hod did you make them follow you?

It wasn't us, said Annie. it's our music.

Was it a magic? Asked Wolfie.

Yes. As a matter affected, it was. Said Annie.

Music is magic. Said Wolfie thoughtfully. I love music.

Cool. Said Jack.

I really love it. Said Wolfie.

Ah..good! said Jack.

I love it more than anything! Said Wolfie.

He waddled around, clapping his hands and dancing with joy.

What a weird kid! Thought Jack.

As Wolfie tolt, the palace clock sounded,

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Seven! Said Annie.

Seven o'clock.

Wolfie stopped twilling and tumbled dizzily,

Oh! No! I must go! He cried. I will be late!

Wolfie grabbed Jack and Annie,

Come with me! You have to come with me!

Ah! Ok! Said Jack.

Why is Wolfie so frantic? He wondered.

Wolfie pulled Jack and Annie toward the palace.

Hurry! I can not be late.

He cried.

Late for what? Said Jack.

Before Wolfie could answer, someone called his name.

Wolfie? Where are you?

It was Nan. She was standing on the back tarries of the palace.

Wolfie!

She called again.

Coming! Shouted Wolfie.

Poor Nan, she is waiting for me. Papa is waiting for me, the whole world is waiting for me!

Chapter 8: the hall of the mirrors

Wolfe took off toward the palace.

The whole world. Jack said to Annie. I don't think so.

Annie smiled.

Come on, let's go back inside. She said.

Jack and Annie hurried toward the moonlight of garden, back to the

summer palace. They followed Wolfie upstairs way, let to the tarries.

I am here. Nan! Wolfie called.

Nan ran crossed the tarries and grabbed him.

Oh, Wolfie. Where were you? She asked.

I was in the garden. Oh, Nan, tom most amazing thing! Said wlofie.

Not now, Wolfie. We don't have enough time. Nan said.

She brushed off Jack and straightened his wig.

I love music, Nan, Jack and Annie make me love music again.

Wolfie said pointing to Jack and Annie.

I am glad. Good. Come now . said Nan. We have to hurry to the hall of mirrors. Papa's there waiting for us.

Nan pulled Wolfie toward the door.

Jack, Annie come with us! Wolfie yelled over his shoulder.

Wait a minute, we'll be right there. Said Annie.

As Wolfie and Nan waved inside, Annie tried to smooth her clothes.

The lace on the paddy coat was rapt, the bottom of her dress was dirty, her blouse came tide. The hoopskirt was bent.

What a mass! She said to Jack.

Me too. He said.

His Jacket was dirty, and his pants were torn. He found his wig and hat weird laugh them, and squanch them back onto his head.

But we have to find our artist now. he said.

What about Wolfie? Said Annie.

Forget it. We don't have enough time to hang up with Wolfie. Said Jack.

But we told him we come! Said Annie.

We can't spend our whole lives chasing after Wolfie! Said Jack.

Because of him, we've already used up only chance to make magic.

And we haven't even started our mission yet!

Ok! Ok! Said Annie. but we should at least to say goodbye to him and Nan.

Jack sighed.

Ok! A quick goodbye. He said.

Jack and Annie walked across the tarries and stepped into the palace,

Excuse me! Annie said to a servant. Where is the hall of mirrors ?

the servant frowned their parents, but he pointed to a door on the right

pass through the next three rooms, then through the great rosy room into the hall of mirrors.

Thanks!

Jack and Annie hurried to the fourth room until they came to a large door. They opened it and peeked into the hall of mirrors. Mirrors all on the walls, the room was filled with party guests, sitting in rows of chairs, her Imperial Majesty and her imperial children sat in the front row. Wolfie was standing near the front of the room with Nan and their father.

Jack wanted to leave as quickly as possible, but Wolfie saw them and called out:

Jack Annie! come in!

Jack started to slip away, but Annie pushed the door open and stepped inside.

Oh! Brother! Thought Jack, following her.

Watch me! Cried Wolfie.

As Wolfie shouted away from his family a fortain helped crowd.

Oh, no. thought Jack. What's he doing? Why does someone grab him?

Wolfie faced audience, he placed his hands over his head, and bowed. Then he swept back his cocktails, and climbed up the

bench in front of the art-looking piano. His short legs didn't even reach the floor.

Wolfie closed his eyes and bowed his head close to the keyboard, with just one finger, he began tapping out some musical notes.

Why is everyone watching this little kid pretending to play the piano? Jack wondered.

Then he realized something amazing. The simple tone Wolfie was tapping out on the keyboard was the same tone of magic flute he played in the garden. Everyone in the room seemed to hold their breath as Wolfie played.

He went from tapping with one finger to tapping with two fingers, and then three.

As Wolfie kept tapping out notes, he didn't look like a silly six years old anymore. The expression on his face was soft and dreaming. Suddenly Wolfie was playing with all his fingers, his small hands floated over the black and white keys as he added tone of magic flute.

Jack was stumped, he couldn't believe a little kid could make such beautiful music, the sounds from piano were sometimes light and playful, and other times heavy and forceful. The slow parts of

Wolfie's music made Jack want to close his eyes. The lovely parts made him pumps up and down. Wolfie ended his concert with great flourish. Then he stood up and bowed.

The guests jumped from their feet,(seats), smiling and laughing, clapping and yelling.

Bo vo! Bo vo!

Wolfie kept bowing. The clapping and cheering were dying down and then he started playing again. As long as people clapped, Wolfie bowed. Finally Wolfie's father stepped up to the piano. Then Wolfie seemed to turn to a little kid again.

Papa, he said.

He grabbed his father, bear his face at his father's coat. Wolfie's dad had tears on his cheeks as he hug his son.

All the guests talked excited about the performance they just seen.

I couldn't believe my ears!

I couldn't believe my eyes!

How did he do it? He is so young and small!

As the party guests kept praising Wolfie, Nan walked over to Jack and Annie,

Thank you for bringing Wolfie back for his concert. She said.

Has he been playing a long time? Annie asked.

Papa had been teaching him since he was three. Said Nan. And now Wolfie is even starting to write his own music. He tells papa, he hears tones in his head, but tone he played tonight I have never heard one before.

Annie smiled at Jack. And Jack smiled back at her.

Cool. Annie said.

A hush fell over the crowd. Her Imperial Majesty had stepped forward. She took Wolfie's hands and hers,

Thank you for your brilliant performance. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. She said.

As the crowd clapped wildly again, Annie looked at Jack, Mozart? She said.

Jack was confused.

Mozart? He knew the name Mozart. Their piano teacher loves the music of Mozart. Their parents love it too. In fact they once take Annie and Jack to hear a concert of Mozart music. Jack couldn't believe that this strange little kid was the famous Mozart.

The applause stopped, as the imperial majesty spoke to the crowd.

We have witness the great aventeer tonight. I know we will all remember it. In the years to come, when our young Wolfgang Mozart brings joy to all the world of his music.

Whoa! ma'am! Whispered Jack to Annie. did you hear that?

Annie smiled at him and nodded.

Thank you again for your help. Nan said to them.

She started to leave and then turned back,

Oh, I ask papa your question about the artists living here, he said he was talking about other palace in Vienna. I am sorry.

That's ok. Said Annie. no problem.

As Nan headed for Wolfie and her father, Annie looked at Jack.

We found our great artist . she said. he was with us all along.

Chapter 9: me and clown

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Said Annie.

Yeah. Jack said , and right now he's just a little kid,

So I guess we did our mission . said Annie . remember what Wolfie said to Nan? He said we made him love music again. So I guess

we put him back on the path giving his gift to the world.

Yeap. And now we can leave. Said Jack.

Woop. He was ready to get out of this fancy clothes and wig and go home to have dinner.

Let's go to say goodbye to Wolfie. Said Annie.

As Jack and Annie started toward Wolfie, her Imperial Majesty was laughing at something he had said.

You're truly a young magician. My little wolfgang Mozart. She said.

No, not me, said Wolfie, Jack and Annie are the true magicians.

Who? Said her Imperial Majesty.

Over there. Said Wolfie pointing across the room.

Jack! Annie! he called.

All eyes turned to Jack and Annie,

Look! It's Jack von frog creek! Said one of the imperial children.

Jack froze, horrified.

Jack is a clown. Said Wolfie. Annie plays (and he plays) magic music on his flute. And Annie sings beautiful magic songs. I just heard them.

Really? Said her Imperial Majesty. She raised her eyebrows.

Well, Jack and Annie perhaps you will performance for all of us here as well?

Everyone was silent, waiting for answer from Jack and Annie.

Am..well..you see..Jack began.

Sure! Said Annie with a big smile. We love to perform for you.

Oh! No! thought Jack.

Yes! Sing for us! Play for us! Said Wolfie clapping his hands. He ran to Jack and Annie and pulled them toward the front of the room.

Annie leaned close to Jack.

You play, I will sing. She whispered.

But flute won't be magic anymore. Jack said out of the corner of his mouth .

Do the best you can. Whispered Annie.

She smiled and grout.

Jack could hardly believed, this is the worst thing they were facing leopard and bear! He thought.

Me and you. Annie said to him.

Jack reached into his pocket, and pulled out the silver flute, Annie started singing.

We came on a coach and wig and gone,

We came to Vienna, me and a clown,

Annie turned to Jack, as everyone watched him, he held his instrument and playing position. He desperately hoped the little magic still linger in the flute, he blew air into the mouthpiece, no sound came out. All anyone could hear was Jack's puffing, Wolfie giggled.

See! Jack's clown. He said.

Everyone laughed.

Ok! Thought Jack. If they want a clown, I'll be a clown.

Jack put on his goofy face, he looked into the flute as he was searching for its missing sound. He jerked back his hat, as if something had shut out the flute and hidden it in the eye. Everyone laughed harder, Jack liked their laughter this time. He made a big show wiping his eye. Then he gave Annie a silly grown.

Annie shook her head. And sang:

My brother is a fool

He's always run

Why is it all with me and clown.

Jack pretended to play on his head with the flute, he tried playing again, but again no sound came out. He turned the flute upside down and shook it, as if he tried to shake out some music.

Annie rolled her eyes to show she thought Jack was hopeless. Then she nodded at him. Motioning for him to walk away with her. As they moved away from the front of the room, Annie sang the last words of her song:

It's time to go it's time to leave the town
Goodbye for me, and goodbye for clown.

Crossing the room, Jack put the flute to his lips again, as he followed Annie toward the door, he looked at the crowd to wait. Then they started to make up their own flute sounds:

Twittle Twittle Twittle

Two del two..

The audience laughed. When Jack saw Nan laughing hard, it burst him on and did a little dance step.

Peep, peep, peep, nee..

He sang pretending to play the flute.

Peep peep peep a boo..

At the door Jack and Annie stopped, Jack held his flute to his side

and bowed, Annie curtsied at the same time. The audience laughed and clapped. Together Jack and Annie waved to the crowd.

Bye! Wolfie! Shouted Annie.

She blew kisses to him.

Keep making music.

Have a great life Wolfie! Shouted Jack.

Bye Jack, bye Annie. yelled Wolfie. I promise I will never forget you.

Jack bowed very low and Annie curtsied again.

Rise. Said her Imperial Majesty, laughing.

Jack and Annie straightened up, waved one last time and slipped out of the door.

Chapter 10: joy

Go ! go ! said Jack.

Jack and Annie ran through the great rosy room, through the next three rooms and enter the room of back tarries, and then they turned and hurried to the huge party room where thousands of candles nearly burnt out. They ran to the door that led out to the front entrench.

We have to leave, good night. Annie said to the guard. Thanks for everything.

The guard opened the door and they ran outside.

Keep going. Said Jack.

They hurried down the sweeping curved stair way that led to the giant square, a line of coaches were parked below, waiting to pick up guests. Jack and Annie saw Joseph standing by his coach. The moonlight shown on two white quiet horses.

Joseph! Shouted Annie, Jack and Annie ran over the the coachman .

Oh! My young friends! He said. how was your evening?

Great! Said Annie. but we have to go home now. do you have time to take us back to the gate?

Indeed. It's early.. said Joseph. I can take you now and return for my employer and his family.

Joseph gave Annie his hand and helped her into his coach, and then he helped Jack. Joseph climbed onto his bench and snapped the reins, and two horses clumped over the culple stones.

So tell me now, young lady, said Joseph. Did you have a good time in the party? What did you see? And what did you do?

I had a great time. Said Annie. I was received by her Imperial Majesty, and I saw a room lit with a thousand candles, I made good friends, met some zoo animals, heard great concert, and saw a silly clown.

Excellent! Said Joseph.

And you, young man?

I did all those things too. Said Jack, but the clown was the best part.

He knew how to make great use of his wits and his talents.

Annie laughed

Joseph drove the coach through the palace gate and stopped at couple stone street.

Where do you need to go? He asked.

Oh, this is perfect. Said Annie. we can get out right here. Thank you.

Jack and Annie climbed out of the coach and looked up at Joseph,

Thank you, Joseph, said Annie.

Yeah! Thanks a lot for the ride. Said Jack.

You two are very mysterious. Said Joseph. You appeared at the twilight and now you disappeared in the moonlight.

We're magicians. Said Annie.

He would seem so. Said Joseph smiling.

He tipped his head,

Well, I'd better return now. good night, my young friends!

Good night! Joseph. Said Jack and Annie.

Joseph lift reins and milk-way horsed clumped back toward the palace gates.

Nice guy. Said Jack. Let's go.

Jack and Annie ran to the trees behind the couple stone streets.

There. Said Annie

She grabbed rope ladder. Annie started up to the tree house. Jack followed her. When they got inside they looked down out of the window, the full moon was shinning over Vienna of Austria.

Goodbye! Wolfie! Said Annie.

Good luck! Kid! Said Jack.

Then Jack picked up the envelope from the invitation, he pointed to the words of frog creek.

I wish we could go there. He said.

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

Jack opened his eyes.

Ah... he said with a relief.

They were back to frog creek woods, they were wearing their own clothes again. Jack was holding the magic flute.

Ready? Asked Annie.

Totally. Said Jack.

Jack carefully laid the flute at the corner of the tree house, then he and Annie climbed down the rope ladder, and started for home.

Jack was in such a good mood, he nearly bounced through the woods. The sun was going down dappling the ground with its lovely light. The air was soft and smelt like new leaves. Jack knew a good dinner was waiting for them at home.

When Jack and Annie came out of the woods, they took off running down the street. They crossed the yard, squabbled onto the porch, and bent to the front door.

We're back! Annie called.

Just in time. Their dad said from the kitchen, dinner in a few minutes.

Quick! Before we eat. Jack said to Annie.

They led over to the computer, they sat down and taped one word:
Mozart.

There were forty eight million four hundred thousand two hundred
and seven entrees.

Whoa! Said Jack.

He clicked on the first one. He read aloud.

Wolfgang Amadéus Mozart was the most famous child musician in
history. He performed dollar a year for many years. As Mozart grew
up, he composed more six hundred pieces of music, for over two
hundred years his music had brought joy to the world.

Yes! Said Annie.

As Jack scrolled down three words left out of him, he gasped.

Listen to this. he said. and then he read to Annie :

Mozart last great opera was called the magic flute.

Annie smiled at Jack,

Wolfie kept his promise. She said. he never forgot us.

The end