



"So," Robinson glanced at the fortress walls. "Here, just to the left of the Secret Tower, the cannonball has made a fair crack. We'll go nearer and try to set fire to it."

"What?" interjected Isa as the squad leader pondered. Not that he was entitled to interrupt. Isa was a recruit, and the siege was the first on his shortlist of conquests. But he had always had a healthy optimism, and not a very healthy faith in himself.

Robinson glanced at him irritably, but repeated: "Let's get nearer; try to set fire to it."

"No, no, what did you say? 'The Secret Tower'?"

Now all the members of their small team were staring at him reproachfully. Not only does he have no magic, but he also seems deaf.

*(And dumb, but Isa didn't know that.)*

He was the only newcomer among them all. And the only human: the others were all experienced wizards with battle scars. *(Not all of the scars were battle scars, but Isa didn't know that, either.)*