***From The Mixed-Up Files of Basi-E-Frankweiler***

***Chapter 3***

***Synopsis:***

After leaving Grand Central Station, Jamie makes his first decision as treasurer. He decides that he and Claudia are going to walk to the Metropolitan Museum of Art even if it is 80 blocks away; Claudia wants to take a taxi or even a bus but Jamie stands firm about saving money. Claudia relents.

Just before entering the Museum, Claudia explains her plan to Jamie; they'll enter the museum through the front door, walk around for a while, exit the Museum through the same front door, and re-enter it through the Children's Museum door in the back. After entering the museum, they must leave their book bags and instrument cases up front, but Jamie keeps his jacket with him in order to muffle the sound of his $24.43 rattle.

As the day wears on, Jamie and Claudia scout out a good place to hide for the night. Their investigations uncover a plush, 18th century four-poster bed with heavy draperies. Claudia and Jamie hide out in the bathrooms (standing on the toilets so not to be seen) just as the museum closes, and once sure that everyone has left for the evening, they meet in their "bedroom" and get ready for bed. Even though they are both extremely hungry (they only had a couple of snacks from the snack bar during the day), Jamie and Claudia are exhausted after their first day's adventure.

The tension of the last chapter is eased somewhat when Claudia and Jamie successfully walk to the Met, enter, and implement Claudia's plan to spend the night. However, tension begins to mount again when they are faced with hiding out after the museum closes and trying to stay quiet so as not to arouse the suspicion of the night watchman. Another turning point has occurred at the time Jamie and Claudia stay hidden enough to spend their first night in the museum.

***Analysis In Detail:***

When Claudia and Jamie reach the sidewalk, Claudia plans to take a taxi to the Met; however, Jamie talks her out of it, explaining that they are on a very limited budget. He demands that they walk to save money, much to Claudia's annoyance.

Claudia is cold and uncomfortable, and becomes more and more irritated. She mocks Jamie when he pulls out a compass to ascertain the direction they need to travel in. Jamie calms her down by noting that her plan to travel to New York, where no one will take any notice of two kids alone - no one takes notice of anything in New York - was very brilliant. This compliment boosts Claudia's spirits.

At last they arrive at the museum, where they blend in easily with all the crowds of schoolchildren carrying notebooks. They are stopped by the guard, who tells them that they must check their instrument cases. Jamie is anxious about this: his pajamas are in his trumpet case; how is he supposed to change into them?! Claudia explains the rest of her plan: they will check out of the museum at 4:30, leave the museum by the front door, and then re-enter from the back door that leads from the parking lot to the Children's Museum.

Jamie also decides that they will eat at the snack bar rather than the restaurant in order to save money, but he is frustrated when they spend $1.50 and leave feeling hungry. The two begin to become concerned about the amount of money they have. Jamie asks Claudia if she thinks the guards will play a game of war with him - he has even brought his cards. Claudia is very skeptical that they will, and thinks that this would blow their cover. Jamie confesses that he always cheats at cards with Bruce, which is how he has earned so much money.

Claudia ignores Jamie’s comment and continues explaining her plan. During the dangerous time between the closing of the museum and the time when all the guards and helpers leave, they will stand on toilets in the bathroom to avoid detection. Claudia is certain that guards only peek under the doors of the stalls to see if there are feet.

Jamie suggests that they should be wary of the night watchman, but Claudia points out that his job is mainly to prevent people from getting in - she and Jamie are already in, so they'll probably escape his notice.

The two tour the galleries, and Claudia stares longingly at a lounge chair that once belonged to Marie Antoinette. She cannot wait until the museum is closed, when she can finally sit in it herself.

At last, Claudia finds a gorgeous canopy bed from the sixteenth century that she decides they will sleep in that night. Jamie is annoyed that they are going to sleep in such luxury; as runaways, he thinks they should sleep on floors or in the woods. When Claudia points out a small sign next to the bed explaining that the bed was the sight of a grisly murder, Jamie is pleased. At that moment, the two of them truly become partners.

Their plan to check out of the museum and sneak back in goes well, as does their strategy of standing on toilets to evade the last sweep of the guards. Despite being very hungry, they change into their pajamas in the dark and hop into the heat canopy bed - which is much more dusty and musty-smelling than they anticipated.

Claudia and Jamie have some trouble falling asleep, but then they collapse from exhaustion. The night watchman passes by, but does not notice them. The two sleep soundly.

***Summary:***

* On exiting the train, Claudia is ready to live glamorously while Jamie is immediately all business. As keeper of the funds, he declares that they will walk the forty blocks from the station to the museum. Talk about a brisk round of exercise.
* When they enter the museum, they have to go through the whole usual bag check scenario. Jamie is worried, but as always, Claudia's got it all under control.
* She says that they will check out at 4:30, leave the museum through the front door and then re-enter from the back so they can stay at the museum overnight while keeping all of their luggage with them.
* When they get to the museum café, stingy Jamie is appalled. Those food prices are criminal.
* After the museum shuts down, they carry out their plan to hide while the guards are patrolling. They're going to stand on the toilets in the bathrooms so that the guards can't see their feet underneath. Good thing they're not too tall. Otherwise, their heads would stick out at the top.
* Claudia finds an old, elegant bed from the sixteenth century for them to sleep in. She doesn't seem to care that according to the placard, someone was stabbed to death there.
* Somehow, even though they're hungry and sleeping in a literal death bed, the two kids fall asleep—and avoid those guards all night long.