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

***Chapter 4***

***Synopsis:***

Claudia and Jamie wake up very early the next morning, the cold museum causing them to dress quickly. In order to stay undetected, Claudia hides her violin case in a sarcophagus and her book bag behind a tapestry screen in a room of French furniture, and Jamie hides his trumpet case inside an urn and his book bag behind a heavy drapery.

The first order of business that morning was to find something to eat. They made their way out of the Museum down to an automat where Jamie allotted each of them ten of Bruce's nickels. They stocked up on peanut butter crackers to eat later that night and hid them in various pockets in their clothes.

Back at the museum, they joined a school group for lunch in the snack bar. Claudia insists that she and Jamie learn something everyday about everything in the museum, and as this was definitely something Jamie didn't want to do , when Claudia gave him first pick of where they'd go first, he chose the Italian Renaissance room, hoping that she would be extremely bored. As they approached the Italian Renaissance room, they saw a huge line waiting to get in, and finally, they came to the exhibit that everyone had lined up to see; an angel statue allegedly sculpted by Michelangelo.

This was an unusual piece of sculpture because the museum had purchased this piece for only $225 from a local gallery, and if it truly was a Michelangelo, it was going to be worth considerably more than that. While they were line, Jamie saw a newspaper reporter and photographer and wanted to get his picture taken. Claudia, on the other hand, didn't want their pictures in the paper at all because the last thing she wanted to do was point everyone to their hiding place.

When they got a good look at the angel, Claudia was intrigued; it was beautiful, ethereal, diaphanous, and made entirely of marble. She wondered aloud what was so special about this sculpture and told Jamie that they'd have to buy a New York Times in the morning to find out. Treasurer Jamie dug his heels in and told her that there was no room in the budget for a newspaper.

The next day, they read an article in the New York Times about the angel statue. Apparently, it had been purchased by a gallery from a Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler who lives on an estate in Farmington, Connecticut. This town was not far from Jamie and Claudia's home in Greenwich, and while there was no conclusive proof at this time of the sculptor of the little angel statue , if Michelangelo were the artist, it could be worth more than $2 million. Also in the New York Times, but missed by Claudia that day, was a small article about two children from Greenwich, Connecticut who had been missing since Wednesday of that week.

Instead of learning everything about the museum, Claudia decides that they should solve the mystery of the sculptor of the little angel statue, and Jamie wanted to start by comparing fingerprints. Claudia thought that was an idea with little merit.

Claudia and Jamie stood in line the next day to look at the angel. The crowds were even larger than they had been the day before which put Jamie off because he couldn't do his fingerprint work on the statue. So together, they decided to do their investigative work at night when they had the museum to themselves. Claudia and Jamie then decided to go and join a class group for lunch and a history lesson.

Now the story has gone from the tension of the adventure in getting to and hiding in the museum to the adventure of solving the mystery of the sculptor's identity. This heightens the tension and brings in the start of the subplot of the angel mystery; it's becoming clear that even though Claudia feels superior to Jamie because she's older, two heads are better than one when it comes to solving a mystery. Readers also now understand how Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler got into the middle of it all.

***Analysis In Detail:***

Jamie and Claudia wake at dawn, feeling horribly hungry. They dress in the cold, hide their possessions in museum artifacts, and then go back to the bathrooms to hide in the stalls during the perilous time between the arrival of the guards and the opening of the museum to guests.

All goes according to plan...except when Jamie hears running water about ten minutes after the museum opens and reveals himself, assuming it's another museum guest. It turns out to be a janitor, who is shocked to see Jamie. Jamie makes a flippant comment and walks away quickly, though Claudia is extremely concerned about this breach of their plan.

Claudia also decides that she and Jamie will use their time at the Met to learn more about art. Every day, they will pick a different gallery to explore and will learn everything about it. Teasingly, Jamie decides to tour the Hall of the Italian Renaissance because there are so many paintings of naked women there.

The two children find a great crowd in the hall, but they don't think much of it. In fact, this crowd has gathered to see the exhibition of a new statue, a beautiful angel. Claudia is immediately enraptured by the statue. Jamie is more intrigued by the newspaper photographers taking photos - he wants to get his picture in the paper. Claudia shoves him out of the range of the photographer.

The statue seems to have an almost magnetic power. Claudia wants to buy a copy of *The New York Times* to learn more about it, but Jamie vetoes this expense. Claudia is still determined to find a way to learn more about Angel.

The two children head to the Egyptian wing next, blending in with a group of schoolchildren on a tour. The guide tells them about mummies and Egyptian art, but most of the other schoolchildren are not listening to her. Jamie, though, asks a question about the cost of making a mummy, irritating Claudia by bringing attention to them again.

Jamie considers buying a pamphlet about the Egyptian exhibit; the guide says that some of them are as inexpensive as a copy of *The New York Times*. Claudia looks smug.

The next day, Claudia and Jamie snatch a copy of *The New York Times* from a distracted businessman. The children read it as they eat a hearty breakfast. They learn that the statue is simply called Angel, and that there is speculation that it may have been carved by Michelangelo. The statue was purchased for only $225, and it came from the private art collection of [Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler](https://www.gradesaver.com/from-the-mixed-up-files-of-mrs-basil-e-frankweiler/study-guide/character-list#mrs-basil-e-frankweiler), a wealthy widow.

Elsewhere in the paper, though the children don't see it, is a news piece describing the disappearance of two children from Connecticut - the parents of Claudia and Jamie are desperately looking for them. However, the children are too wrapped up in the statue to notice.

Claudia decides that she will solve the mystery of the statue and discover whether or not Michelangelo created it. Jamie is rather dismissive of this idea. They visit the statue again the next day, but they are frustrated to see that the crowd around it is even larger than it was yesterday, so they join a school group in the colonial America wing of the museum.

The siblings irritate each other, but they also know how to compromise and make each other laugh. When Claudia becomes extremely angry at having been forced to walk forty blocks, Jamie points out how brilliant her plan is, knowing that this flattery will make her happy. There are a number of moments that draw the two siblings together and make them a true team; this culminates with Claudia's observation that an ornate bed was the site of a grisly murder, which delights Jamie.

Some of Claudia's interest in the statue comes from the fact that she thinks it looks like her, which is implied by a scene on page 63: “‘Jamie,’ she said, ‘do you think the statue looks like anyone special?’ She folded her arms and gazed into the distance. ‘No one I know looks like an angel.’ ‘Think a minute.’ She cleared her throat and lifted her chin slightly and gazed into the distance. ‘Don’t think about the hair style or the clothes or anything. Just think about the face.’ She nudged the page of the *New York Times* closer under Jamie’s nose and resumed her pose. Jamie looked at the picture. ‘Nope,’ he said looking up. ‘Can’t you see any resemblance?’ ‘Nope.’”

Chapter 4 introduces an important symbol: Angel. This small, beautiful, and very mysterious statue represents Claudia's desire to be different and unique. For the rest of the novel, Claudia will pursue her interest, because the fulfillment of her goal of being different is wrapped up in Angel.

These chapters also contain instances of verbal humor. While the children are in the Egyptian wing with another school group, Jamie asks the guide how much it cost to become a mummy. One of the students on another tour group replies, “You might even say it costs him his life" (pg. 55). This playful pun turns on the meaning of cost, which is generally used to indicate the amount of money one needs to pay for something, but sometimes also refers to the more invisible costs. In this case, a person does need to be dead in order to be turned into a mummy.

***Summary:***

* The birds are chirping, the sun is shining, and Claudia and Jamie are free. So what do they do? Do they eat ice cream for breakfast until they're sick? Do they hang from the priceless chandeliers at the museum like gleeful monkeys?
* No, these are kids who know routine. So they wake up early, get dressed (even brushing their teeth!) and hide their bags and belongings in various exhibits at the museum before it opens. That's called being responsible.
* But when they go into the bathroom stalls to wait for the museum to open, Jamie makes a critical error. He emerges too soon!
* A janitor sees him coming out and demands to know how he got there. That's a good question… Jamie, always quick on his feet, tells the janitor that his mother told him that he came from heaven. Not the answer he was looking for, but it leaves a good space for a quick getaway.
* After all that running away and spending a long night at the museum, Claudia and Jamie sure are hungry. They leave the museum and go get breakfast at an automat (a sort of old-school food vending machine) and then go to the grocery store to stuff their pockets with snacks.
* Then, they join a school group for lunch at the snack bar. When in Rome, it's best to blend in, right?
* Instead of wreaking havoc or playing pranks on museum goers, Claudia decides that they'll take a much more dignified route; they're going to study and learn something at the museum every day.
* In a show of generosity, she tells Jamie that he can pick what they study the first day. Jamie, who doesn't want to do school stuff when he's run away from school, picks the Italian Renaissance because it's the biggest section. If anything can tire Claudia out, it's a bunch of old dead painters.
* What's going on when they reach that section? There's a whole bunch of people in line, and at first they don't think there's anything out of the ordinary.
* But then they see the reporters snapping up some photos. Is something exciting afoot?
* Everyone is in a line to see a marble statue of an angel, which isn't even that big. Claudia and Jamie wonder what the big deal is.
* Tomorrow, Claudia decides, they'll have to get a newspaper to stay on top of those current events. Jamie is unsure, since he's kind of a tightwad with their funds and newspapers don't just grow on trees. They cost some serious green (in his world, at least).
* Since there are so many people crowding the Renaissance section, they go study the Egyptian section and join a school group there. It's a good thing they've found a crowd that they can blend into to go incognito.
* Of course, Jamie doesn't get the idea of "blending into the crowd" and asks the tour guide some questions while they're going along. This gets him some serious looks from Claudia—not that he cares.
* The next morning, they find a newspaper for free, thereby saving them from the money squabble they would have surely had. The story of the day: the Met acquires an angel statue at an auction for only $225. But here's the catch! The statue may have been carved by the great artist Michelangelo himself.
* With something this exciting, they've got a mystery on their hands. A real life case of whodunit to solve.
* They are going to be heroes, art historians, and amazing explorers. They are going to find out whether or not Michelangelo really carved that beautiful statue.
* The next day, the cat has dragged in even more visitors to the museum, and the Kinkaid kids get in line and wait not-so-patiently to see the angel statue again. Then, because they can't very well loiter around it forever, they join a group tour in the American section.
* Hey, might as well learn something…