





CHAPTER 17

The next morning, after a quick breakfast of more toast and apples, Win and I stand outside the cave, ready to set off for the Crow's Nest.

The cool air wakes me up, which is good because I didn't sleep well. All night I lay on the floor of the cave, tossing and turning in my sleeping bag and worrying about Grandad. I worried about Rose too. When she got back from town and realised I was gone she would have been scared. But I kept reminding myself that she could have come with me if she wanted to. In fact, she could be standing next to me right now

as Win runs through the mission briefing.

‘Weapons?’ says Win, making sure his wakizashi is strapped to his back.

‘Check,’ I say. Win’s lent me a rucksack and I’ve put the most effective wooden sword I could find in it. I’d have taken his bokken too, but right now it’s lying at the bottom of the On-Off Waterfall.

‘Emergency supplies?’ says Win.

‘Check.’ Stuffed on top of the swords are a handful of apples.

‘First-aid kit?’

‘Check.’ I pat my pocket, which contains plasters and a bandage. I can also feel the map in there and that’s reassuring, like there’s some order to this strange world I’ve found myself in.

Win fixes me with a look. ‘Relay the mission logistics, Arthur.’

‘Pardon?’

He rolls his eyes. ‘Tell me what we’re going to do.’

‘Oh, right. We’re going to go to the Crow’s Nest, fight Crowky, then rescue my grandad.’ I

try to make my voice sound confident. I badly want to believe that in a few hours’ time I’ll be bundling Grandad back into the tunnel and taking him home. But then, as I picture where we’re about to go – to a castle that sits on a rock, far out at sea – I remember the massive flaw in our plan. ‘Win, exactly *how* are we going to get to the Crow’s Nest?’

Win’s eyes widen. ‘Let’s just say I’ve got a little surprise for you . . .’

I slip my hand into my pocket and wrap it round Grandad’s inhaler. ‘I’m really not up for any surprises right now, Win.’

‘OK, OK . . . we’re going to get to the Crow’s Nest by going along *the Magic Road!*’

‘What magic road? I don’t remember any magic road in Roar.’

‘That’s because it’s new. It appeared a couple of weeks ago.’

‘Like magic?’ I suggest.

‘Exactly!’

‘So the only hope we’ve got of rescuing my grandad is if we use a magic road?’

‘Not any old magic road,’ says Win. ‘*The Magic Road!*’ Then he yanks down his ninja hood, cries, ‘This mission is GO!’, jumps on the nearest bike – the one that has functioning brakes, I notice – screams, and pedals into the forest. I have no choice but to pick up the other bike and follow him. I scream too. Only my scream isn’t a war cry, it’s one of terror because I’m cycling through a forest on a bike without brakes.



‘Watch out for the crack!’ Win calls over his shoulder.

‘What crack?’ I shout. Then I spot a jagged line cutting across the path in front of me and shoot straight over it.

Win laughs. ‘That crack!’

Chapter 17

Questions



1. Give **one** reason why Arthur did not sleep very well.

1 mark

2. List **three** things that Arthur has taken with him for the journey.

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

2 marks

3. Read the statements below. Which statements tell you that Arthur is feeling anxious. Tick **two**.

I try to make my voice sound confident.

I remember the massive flaw in our plan.

'I'm not really up for any surprises right now, Win.'

I don't remember any magic road in Roar.

2 marks

4. Find **three** other examples of words and phrases in Chapter 17 that show Arthur is feeling anxious.

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

2 marks

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