

THE MAGIC CANVAS

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

A large leather bound book spins round and round on top of a marble pedestal.

The spinning book slows to a stop and falls flat. The words 'The Magic Canvas' are inscribed on the front cover.

The front cover opens.

Pages of parchment flip over with magnificent paintings of landscapes, dragons, castles, magical creatures etc.

Finally reaching the last blank page.

CHRISTIAN (V.O.)
Everything starts with a blank
canvas.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Sunlight glistens off the glass roof.

The sound of children laughing and water splashing.

KAYLA (V.O.)
Why aren't you swimming, freak?

INT. SWIMMING POOL AREA - DAY

Fear washes over the face of JOSH TUCKER, 10, as his hands tighten around a railing near the edge of a diving board, several feet above the pool.

He nervously eyes a pretty girl, KAYLA, 10, treading water below. She pulls faces and sticks her tongue out at him.

A chubby HALEY, 10, and several similarly aged children stand in a line behind Josh pulling faces and poking fun at him.

HALEY
C'mon, freak. We haven't got all
day.

She turns toward the other children.

HALEY
Maybe we should throw him in?

She and the children laugh.

Josh eyes Kayla in the water below.

KAYLA
C'mon, chicken.

HALEY
What's wrong with you? I know what
it is. You want a life jacket,
don't you?

A teary-eyed Josh scans the children.

JOSH
I can't. Leave me alone.

He darts towards them. And descends the stairs.

HALEY
That's it. Run away, baby.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Josh pulls off his spectacles and wipes away tears.

He stares at a drawing of a black cloud made up of what look
like BLACK BATS WITH RED EYES in a sketchbook.

He flips the page.

And stares at a sketch of the SWIMMING POOL and DIVING BOARD.
He pulls a pen from a pocket and frantically scribbles over
the sketch.

WARTSBOTTOM (V.O.)
If you'd like to continue with the
work from...

INT. ART CLASS - DAY

A tubby MARTHA WARTSBOTTOM, 50s, stands at the front near a
desk. She shakes her head as she watches Josh doodle in his
sketchbook.

Haley, Kayla and the other CHILDREN watch Wartsbottom tiptoe
towards Josh with a large open book in her hands.

KAYLA
(whispers)
He's gonna get it now.

Josh doodles in his book. Oblivious to Wartsbottom creeping up to the side of him.

WARTSBOTTOM
... chapter seven and continue
with...

She slams closed the book.

Josh flinches. Gawks at Wartsbottom.

The children burst into laughter.

WARTSBOTTOM
Silence.

She eyes Josh's sketchbook.

WARTSBOTTOM
We do not scribble here. What have
I told you before?

Josh shrugs.

WARTSBOTTOM
This is an art class. It is not a
place for doodling and daydreaming.

She grabs the sketchbook. Flicks through it. She raises an eyebrow. Maybe taken aback at how good the sketches are.

WARTSBOTTOM
A lack of discipline. I see it all
the time in fatherless kids.

Josh's eyes drop.

Wartsbottom goes to the front of the class.

She drops the sketchbook on the desk. The corner of a photograph slips out from the back of the sketchbook.

WARTSBOTTOM
Josh, can you come up here and tell
us about Salvador Dali, please.

Haley, Kayla and the other children stare at Josh. He watches them as a bead of sweat covers his brow.

WARTSBOTTOM
You did do your homework?

She glares at him.

WARTSBOTTOM

Speak up.

Josh grabs a backpack by his feet.

He gets up, darts towards Wartsbottom's desk and grabs his sketchbook. She goes towards him.

WARTSBOTTOM

Josh Tucker. Where do you think
you're going?

But he's out the entrance before she can grab him.

Children laugh and mumble amongst themselves.

WARTSBOTTOM

Silence.

Her gaze falls on Haley and Kayla.

EXT. THE ARTISTS' EMPORIUM - DAY

A worn 'Artists' Emporium' sign swings back and forth over the entrance to the weathered building.

JOSH (V.O.)

I don't understand. Why don't we
keep any of the paintings?

INT. THE ARTISTS' EMPORIUM - BACK ROOM - DAY

Shabby. Dusty interior.

Old looking books fill wall shelves. Glass jars full of various sized paintbrushes sit on a desk.

Several tatty palettes hang on the walls.

Josh sits in front of a large canvas sitting on an easel.

A deep red curtain hangs in the doorway behind him.

CHRISTIAN (O.S.)

It keeps the paint from seeping
into the canvas.

JOSH

But, but you could get new canvas.

The curtain moves.

A frail, elderly CHRISTIAN SILVER, 80s, appears with a walking cane behind Josh.

CHRISTIAN

This is a very special kind of fabric.

He coughs and splutters. He doesn't look well.

CHRISTIAN

Almost impossible to replicate.

He shuffles towards Josh and sits down next to him.

CHRISTIAN

Now, where were we?

Josh puts a paintbrush to canvas. Makes elaborate strokes.

CHRISTIAN

That's it. You and the brush are one.

He coughs violently into a handkerchief as he watches Josh paint. Christian stares at specks of blood on the material.

Josh notices the pained look on Christian's face.

CHRISTIAN

You're a talented young man.

He motions Josh to continue.

JOSH

You should see a doctor.

CHRISTIAN

No doctors.

JOSH

But you're --

CHRISTIAN

It's nothing a shot of brandy won't cure.

He reaches for a glass jar full of paintbrushes.

CHRISTIAN

Fetch the other watercolors.

Josh goes towards the desk. He scans the desk. But can't see any paints.

JOSH
There's nothing here.

CHRISTIAN
Try the drawers.

Josh slides open a drawer. He stares at a set of fancy looking paintbrushes. He picks them up, shows Christian.

CHRISTIAN
I only use those on special occasions. They were a gift. They truly bring your paintings to life.

He smirks as Josh places the paintbrushes in the drawer.

JOSH
Maybe I can try them one day?

He opens another drawer. Pulls out a tray of paints.

Christian coughs into the handkerchief.

CHRISTIAN
Maybe.

Josh plops down next to Christian.

CHRISTIAN
Where were we?

EXT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - NIGHT

Josh walks along the sidewalk, framed against a setting sun.

He spots a removals truck outside the house next door to his. Several men unload boxes and carry them into the house.

Josh makes a beeline for the entrance to his house.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Movie posters cover walls.

Books and novels fill wall shelves.

A book titled 'Fantasy Riddles' sits on a desk next to a pile of sketchbooks.

Loose bits of paper with wonderful drawn doodles litter the top of the desk.

A photo of Josh and MARK TUCKER, 30s, both wearing fishing gear sits on a bedside table.

Josh pulls off his backpack as he slumps down on his bed. He lies back and stares at the glittering stars on the ceiling.

His gaze shifts to the photo.

EXT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - NIGHT

A beat up car pulls into the driveway. ANNA TUCKER, 30s, petite, gets out and goes toward the entrance.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A knock at the door. Anna enters.

ANNA

Hey, kiddo.

Josh sits up.

ANNA

How was your day?

Josh shrugs.

Anna eyes Josh's worn sneakers as she sits down next to him.

ANNA

I think we'll head into town tomorrow.

She pecks him on a cheek.

ANNA

Looks like next door isn't going to be empty no more either.

She ruffles his hair and leaves.

Josh heads over to the window. He watches men unload boxes from the truck and take them into next door's house.

A jeep pulls up behind the truck. Josh watches the outline of a pony tailed girl, MIA, 10, climb out.

He watches her go towards the driveway. She glances up at him, and he ducks down.

EXT. MIA'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Mia stares at Josh's bedroom window as she heads for the front entrance.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh grabs the 'Fantasy Riddles' book off the desk.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Josh sits at a small table. He watches Anna skin potatoes over a sink.

JOSH
This one's real easy.

Anna turns toward him.

JOSH
A skin have I, more eyes than one.
I can be very nice when I am done.
What am I?

ANNA
I know this one, don't I?

Josh nods. He stares at the half peeled potato in her hand.

JOSH
It's really easy if you think about
it.

ANNA
You've told me this one before?

Josh nods.

ANNA
I dunno. I give up.

JOSH
You're holding one.

Anna's eyes widen. She holds up the potato.

Josh nods.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

The sun glares down.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Josh and Anna stand outside a sports store.

Anna scans the window display of fancy looking sneakers. She glances at the poor excuse on Josh's feet.

ANNA

You can't go on wearing those.

JOSH

These are fine.

ANNA

What happens when it rains?

JOSH

Nothing a bit of polish and tape won't fix.

He glances at his scuffed and holed sneakers.

JOSH

Besides, the other kids. They'll laugh.

Anna stares at him. Not really understanding.

JOSH

There's the kid with the new shoes.

ANNA

That's silly. Now get in here.

She opens the door.

JOSH

No.

ANNA

I know you've been cutting classes. The principal rang.

A blank expression washes over Josh.

ANNA

I'm trying here. You've got to throw me a rope. Otherwise we're both going to sink.

She steps forward. Arms out to hug him.

JOSH

But, Mom. Dad bought these.

ANNA
I know he did.

Josh backs away from her. He darts into a sea of shoppers.

ANNA
Josh. I'm sorry, honey.

She loses sight of him.

EXT. THE ARTISTS' EMPORIUM - DAY

An ambulance and a black and white sit outside the entrance.

INT. THE ARTISTS' EMPORIUM - DAY

An Elderly Gent stares at PORTLY PARAMEDIC near a crumpled, motionless body next to a walking cane on the floor.

Portly Paramedic checks for a pulse. He rolls the body over. It's Christian.

Portly Paramedic glances at the Elderly Gent and shakes his head. He glances at the red curtain.

INT. BACK ROOM - DAY

CHUBBY COP picks up an envelope from the desk and eyes the name 'Josh Tucker' written on the front of it.

PORTLY PARAMEDIC (O.S.)
You find anything?

INT. ART CLASS - DAY

Wartsbottom stands at the front of the class eyeing the children sitting at their desks.

She watches them mumble and whisper amongst themselves.

Her eyes fall on Haley, Kayla and Josh.

She claps. The children quieten down.

WARTSBOTTOM
I know you're all excited. Summer vacation's just round the corner.

She glances at a wall clock -- 4:30 PM.

WARTSBOTTOM

Well, thirty minutes away to be exact. But before we all disappear. I'd like you all to welcome someone.

HALEY

Who is it, Miss?

Wartsbottom glances at the entrance.

Mia enters.

WARTSBOTTOM

I'd like you all to give a warm welcome to, Mia. She'll be joining us next semester. I thought it'd be less of a shock if she got to meet some of you now.

She glances at an empty chair next to Josh.

WARTSBOTTOM

You can sit there, dear. I'm sure he'll be glad of the company.

She ushers Mia towards Josh's desk.

Josh scribbles in his sketchbook oblivious to Mia walking towards him.

Mia plops herself down next to Josh.

The other children look on.

WARTSBOTTOM

Josh.

The children laugh.

HALEY

Stupid plank.

KAYLA

Looks like he's got himself a girlfriend.

MIA

Hi.

She holds out a hand.

MIA

I'm Mia.

WARTSBOTTOM

Josh.

She goes towards Josh and Mia.

WARTSBOTTOM

Josh.

Josh almost falls off his chair.

His eyes widen. He gasps as he stares at Mia.

The children laugh.

WARTSBOTTOM

Pay attention.

Mia grins.

MIA

Well?

She motions Josh to shake her hand.

A dumbfounded Josh stares at Mia.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

A school bell rings.

Children pile out the front entrance. And run towards a parking lot.

Josh appears and makes his way across the parking lot.

Mia emerges from the entrance. She watches Josh retreat into the distance.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Josh scurries along with his head down.

Mia chases after Josh.

MIA

Hey.

Josh glances behind him. He picks up his pace.

MIA

Slow down. Wait up. You're the kid from next door, right? Slow down, will you.

She hurries alongside Josh.

MIA

What is this? Some kind of race? What's the hurry? Where's the fire?

JOSH

Please. I need to be somewhere.

MIA

Wow. It talks.

She tries to grab him. Josh pulls away from her.

MIA

What's the rush?

JOSH

Leave me alone. I don't know you.

Mia stops. She watches Josh head off.

MIA

Whatever it is. I'm sure it'll keep.

She watches Josh retreat into the distance. She gives chase.

EXT. THE ARTISTS' EMPORIUM - DAY

Josh approaches. He watches the ambulance pull away from the black and white. Josh, concerned, races toward the entrance.

Chubby Cop exits. He watches Josh run towards him.

JOSH

What's happened? Did something happen? Where's Mr. Silver?

He stops in front of Chubby Cop.

JOSH

Where's Mr. Silver? Where is he? Has something happened to him?

He notices the closed sign on the front door.

CHUBBY COP

Slow down, kid. What's your name,
son?

JOSH

I'm... I'm Josh. Josh Tucker.

He tries to get past Chubby Cop. Chubby Cop holds him back.

CHUBBY COP

I'm sorry, kid.

A look of sadness washes over Chubby Cop.

He pulls out the envelope from earlier.

CHUBBY COP

This must be for you. Josh Tucker.

He hands the envelope to Josh.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Mia stands hidden in the shadows as she watches Josh.

EXT. THE ARTISTS' EMPORIUM - DAY

Chubby Cop watches Josh rip open the envelope.

CHUBBY COP

Kid, you okay?

Josh's eyes light up as he pulls out a letter and reads it.
He darts off.

Mia approaches.

MIA

Josh.

She watches Josh run off.

EXT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - DAY

A mail van pulls away from the curb.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Anna stands at the doorway. She watches Josh on the bed.

Her gaze shifts to the large canvas on the easel near a wall.

ANNA

You could have told me.

JOSH

It doesn't matter now.

ANNA

Of course it matters. He was your friend. Otherwise he wouldn't have left you this.

She goes towards the canvas.

JOSH

It won't be the same.

ANNA

Maybe not. But you can continue drawing.

JOSH

Painting, Mom.

ANNA

He'd want that.

Josh glances at the canvas as Anna heads toward the door.

ANNA

Things will get better with time.
I promise.

She exits, closing the door behind her.

Josh gets up. He goes toward the desk and picks up an unopened parcel. He rips off the paper. A pamphlet drops to the floor as he gawks at the set of fancy paintbrushes.

He places them on the desk.

As he walks away, a gold light shimmers across them.

EXT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - NIGHT

The reflection of the moon glistens in the windows.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh runs a paintbrush over the canvas. He glances at a drawing of a beach with a single palm tree in his sketchbook.

As he paints over the canvas, the colors burst to life,
almost life like.

A white sandy beach with one palm tree.

Blue sky. Globe of a red sun.

And a sparkling blue ocean.

Josh steps back. Admiring his painting.

JOSH

Wow.

He grabs a bed sheet off a chair. Carefully throws it over
the canvas.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

The exact same painting of the beach appears on the last page
of the very large leather bound book.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE - ANOTHER AREA

A white void of nothingness.

Two small specks grow larger and larger.

A man sized translucent crystal shard appears next to a
smaller one. A lot smaller.

But they're not crystal. They're ice.

A blurred and distorted outline of ZAEB, 30s, wearing a white
suit, stands motionless in the larger of the two shards.

The ice crystals shake and vibrate. Small hairline cracks
spider across their surfaces.

An explosion.

Shards of ice fly into the endless white void.

Zaeb shakes himself down as he watches the last of the ice
melt around his shoes.

ZAEB

Grimlouse. Grimlouse.

The white nothingness turns to a blue sky. The same ocean
that Josh painted forms under the feet of Zaeb.

The sky and ocean materialize.

ZAEB

Where are you, Grimlouse?

A very short, stocky man, GRIMLOUSE, 40s, sits cross-legged on the surface of the water next to Zaeb. Grimlouse grabs a straw hat next to him and puts it on.

Zaeb motions Grimlouse to get up.

ZAEB

Get up. Get up. Get up.

Grimlouse jumps to his feet.

He glances at the endless ocean all around them and the white sandy beach way off in the distance.

GRIMLOUSE

Master.

ZAEB

We have a visitor. This one had better stay on the other side or there'll be trouble.

He walks across the surface of the water.

GRIMLOUSE

Perhaps it's the old man... perhaps it's Silver. Perhaps he's returned, Master.

ZAEB

Maybe. And maybe not.

He kneels. Scoops up a handful of water and scans it.

ZAEB

It's good to have a bit of color back.

They walk on.

The globe of the sun beats down.

ZAEB

It's a little hot.

He clicks his fingers.

A soft breeze blows the hat off Grimlouse's head.

Zaeb pulls out a crystal orb from a pocket and stares at it.
An image of a large green hill forms inside the orb.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE - ANOTHER AREA 2

A high tower takes shape at the top of the large green hill
surrounded by a large moat.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A groggy Josh climbs out of bed and exits.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Josh pours himself a cup of water and takes a sip.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A wall clock reads -- 12 AM. The second hand ticks.

Tick. Tick. Tick.

The time on the clock changes to 12:01.

A small breeze blows the bed sheet off the canvas.

Sunlight spills out from the canvas and lights the interior.

Josh enters. His eyes widen. Shock washes over his face.

The cup hits the floor.

JOSH
What's going on?

He edges toward the canvas and stares at the painting. But
it's not a painting anymore.

JOSH
I'm dreaming.

He rubs his eyes. Reaches for the canvas, expecting to touch
it. His hand and forearm vanish into it.

JOSH
Huh. No way.

He grabs a dressing gown. Pulls on some slippers and grabs
his sketchbook from the desk.

He picks up the canvas. Lays it against the wall.

Josh's eyes light up as he watches it grow to the size of a small door.

JOSH

No way.

He kneels in front of it. Flips through the pages of his sketchbook. Stares at the similar sketch of the beach.

Josh leans into the canvas. Most of him disappears into it.

He loses his balance and topples into it.

EXT. WHITE SANDY BEACH - DAY

The globe of the red sun glares down.

A single palm tree.

Small waves ripple against the shoreline.

The soft breeze whistles.

Josh sits covered in sand under the rectangular outline of what must be the canvas.

Josh climbs to his feet. Brushes the sand off himself. He glances at the blurred image of his room behind him.

JOSH

This is impossible.

He studies the drawing of the beach in his sketchbook.

He heads toward the palm tree and shoreline.

EXT. CLEAR BLUE OCEAN - DAY

A large menacing fin cuts through the surface and heads for the beach.

The distant silhouette of Josh stands under the palm tree.

EXT. WHITE SANDY BEACH - DAY

Josh slumps down under the shade of the palm tree. He scoops up a handful of sand, lets it trickle between his fingers.

He gets up. Walks towards the shoreline.

WHARK, twenty foot tall, almost cartoon like features.
Emerges from the water and stares down at Josh.

Whark, a half whale, half shark amalgamation stands on his
tail and claps his side flippers.

A startled Josh falls backward onto the sand.

WHARK

Howdy doody. Didn't mean to
startle you.

A huge grin spreads across the face of Whark.

Confusion washes over Josh's face.

WHARK

And who might you be?

JOSH

Wha... what are you?

WHARK

I'm Whark.

JOSH

A... a what?

Whark edges toward Josh. Josh scrambles backward.

WHARK

Half whale. Half shark.

Josh scans Whark's cartoon like features.

JOSH

There's no such thing.

WHARK

Don't say that.

He spins round.

JOSH

What is this place? I'm dreaming.
This is a dream.

He glances around.

JOSH

A bad dream. That's what it is.
Animals can't talk.

A look of sadness washes over Whark.

WHARK

You talk.

JOSH

I'm a boy.

Whark edges closer to Josh. Leans towards him.

WHARK

Perhaps you'd like to go for a swim?

He stoops forward. Leans in close to Josh. Whark's teeth are a few inches from Josh's face.

Fear washes over Josh's face. He scrambles to his feet.

Josh screams as he runs toward the distant outline of the canvas hanging in the air above the sand.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh scrambles out of the canvas.

He grabs a jar of water off the desk, throws it over the canvas. He jumps into bed, pulling the bed covers over his head. He peeks out for a second before ducking back under.

EXT. WHITE SANDY BEACH - DAY

Whark spots Josh's sketchbook partially covered in the sand. He claps his flippers and beams a huge grin.

WHARK

Master, will be pleased.

He moves toward the sketchbook.

EXT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - DAY

The sun breaks over the horizon.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sunlight spills in through the window.

A trail of dried paint leads from the front of the canvas to Josh's bed.

An alarm clock on the bedside table buzzes.

Josh stirs. His eyes open. He bolts upright. Stares at the trail of paint leading to the canvas. He jumps out of bed. Kneels in front of the canvas, it's back to its normal size.

He prods the canvas. Nothing happens.

He checks behind the canvas. Examines the partial footprints of paint that lead to his bed. He notices the pamphlet from earlier on the floor.

MOMENTS LATER

Josh sits on the edge of his bed examining the front of the pamphlet.

'Instructions. Please read carefully.'

He opens the pamphlet. His eyes dart over the words:

'Follow the rules. Be careful what you paint.'

Josh reads the rest.

JOSH

At midnight, the story starts. But make sure you're out by dawn's first light, or trapped you'll be until the following night. And you might find yourself having to fight.

A car engine turns over outside.

Josh darts over to the window and watches Anna's car pull out of the driveway. He notices Mia playing jump rope in her front yard.

He goes toward the doorway.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Josh reads a note on the table.

'See you later. Food's in the fridge.'

He pulls out the pamphlet and heads out the door.

EXT. MIA'S RESIDENCE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Josh walks toward Mia.

She stops playing jump rope and stares at him.

MIA

What do you want?

Josh stares at her. Hesitantly edges forward. Holds up the pamphlet for her to see.

MIA

The cat got your tongue?

She eyes the pamphlet.

MIA

If you want to be friends. You're going to have to try harder.

Josh edges closer.

MIA

What's that?

She points at the pamphlet.

JOSH

Come with me.

MIA

Why should I? All you've done is ignore me.

JOSH

Please. I need to show you something. It's important.

Mia's eyes narrow. She ponders.

MIA

Important?

Josh nods.

MIA

No.

She swings the rope and jumps.

JOSH

But it's --

MIA

Go find someone else to play with.

Josh stares at her. He turns round and stalks away.

JOSH
(mumbles)
There isn't anyone else.

Mia stops jumping. She watches Josh go towards his house. Her gaze moves to a trellis and drainpipe that lead up to Josh's bedroom window. She returns to playing jump rope.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The globe of the moon is framed in the window.

The wall clock -- 10:22 PM.

The second hand ticks.

Tick. Tick. Tick.

Josh sits in front of the canvas examining the blotched mess.

A rustling sound outside the window catches Josh's attention.

Mia's silhouette appears framed against the moonlight.

Josh darts toward the window. Yanks it open. Mia stares at him, not impressed.

MIA
I don't usually do this. So
whatever it is, better be real
important.

EXT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - NIGHT

Mia climbs through Josh's bedroom window.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh sits on his bed, watching Mia in front of the canvas.

MIA
Let me get this straight. This was
a painting of a beach. And you
somehow entered it.

She examines the mishmash of colors and glances at Josh.

He nods.

Mia grabs a glass of soda.

MIA
I think you've been drinking too
much of the fizzy stuff.

She holds up the glass of soda.

Josh jumps off the bed.

JOSH
I'll prove it.

He rummages through sketchbooks and bits of paper scattered
across his desk.

JOSH
There's a drawing of it in my
sketchbook.

MIA
That doesn't prove anything.

An agitated Josh pulls out drawers and rifles through them.

JOSH
It's not here. Oh, no.

He goes toward the canvas.

JOSH
I must've dropped it.

MIA
That's a little convenient. Don't
you think?

JOSH
It's the truth.

Mia eyes him.

MIA
Prove it. Paint something.

JOSH
What about my sketchbook?

Mia gets up. She grabs one of the fancy paintbrushes off the
table. Hands it to Josh.

MIA
Paint something. Anything.

Mia glances at the wall clock -- 11:35 PM.

MIA
I'm not going anywhere.

Josh grabs a sponge from a bucket. Wipes down the canvas.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

Zaeb and Grimlouse emerge out of the whiteness. As they walk along, the white slowly turns black. Changing into the black, star speckled void of space.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mia sits on the edge of the bed.

She watches Josh paint the black void of space.

Josh glances at the clock -- 11:55 PM.

MIA
Why do you keep doing that?

JOSH
What?

MIA
The clock.

Josh paints stars against the black void of outer space on the canvas.

JOSH
You'll see.

Mia slumps back on the bed. She stares at the similar scene on the ceiling. A black void filled with glittering stars.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Zaeb and Grimlouse stand in front of the pedestal. Zaeb flicks through the pages of Josh's sketchbook.

Grimlouse watches glittering stars appear all around them as this imagined cosmos takes shape.

Familiar planets form. Pluto. Jupiter. Mars etc.

GRIMLOUSE
It's wonderful.

ZAEB

Is it?

He's not impressed.

Zaeb grins as he stops on a page of Josh's sketchbook.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The wall clock -- 12 AM.

Josh watches the second hand tick.

Tick. Tick. Tick.

He glances at Mia on the bed.

The second hand strikes 12. The minute hand shifts to 12:01.
It starts.

The frame of the canvas glistens as it grows in size.

The stars and planets come alive.

MIA

Has anything happened yet?

She bolts upright. Her eyes widen, she gasps. She stares at
Josh sitting in front of the door sized canvas.

MIA

No way.

She crawls to the edge of the bed. Watches the solar system
on the canvas.

MIA

You weren't kidding, were you?

She gets off the bed. Sits down next to Josh.

JOSH

I told you.

MIA

Uh. Uh. What now?

Josh holds up a paintbrush.

JOSH

Have you ever wanted to be an
astronaut?

A slack-jawed Mia stares at him.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Stars sparkle in the black void.

A huge behemoth of steel emerges out of the darkness.

A gigantic FUTURISTIC SPACESHIP flies against the backdrop of stars and planets.

The silhouettes of Zaeb and Grimlouse move across the front of the spaceship.

Huge jet engines burn ferociously at the back of the spaceship. Lighting up the darkness.

EXT. HULL OF FUTURISTIC SPACESHIP

Zaeb and Grimlouse stand at the edge. They take in the view of the cosmos around them.

ZAEB

Grimlouse.

Grimlouse backs away from the edge.

ZAEB

Report back what you find.

Grimlouse runs toward the edge.

He leaps upward into the black nothingness and morphs into a BLUE MANATEE.

He leaves a trail of silver stardust as he corkscrews into the distance.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh and Mia stand opposite the canvas.

They're both wearing animated painted spacesuits with fancy looking jet packs.

Josh slips Mia's fishbowl helmet over her head, screws it on.

MIA

Are you sure we need these?

Josh shrugs.

They turn towards the canvas and stare at the cosmos.

Mia inches backward.

JOSH

Hey.

He grabs one of her hands.

JOSH

There's nothing in there that I
didn't paint. I think. I hope.

He steps forward.

JOSH

Okay?

Mia nods.

They step through the canvas.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Josh and Mia emerge from the doorway sized canvas. Light
shimmers across the entrance to Josh's bedroom.

Josh presses a button on the control panel attached to one of
his arms.

His jet pack kicks out a jet of air.

Josh toggles a small joystick and pushes it forward.

Mia watches Josh speed away into darkness.

MIA

Hey, wait for me.

She taps her control panel. Plays with the joystick. Her
jet pack hums to life and she shoots after Josh. She weaves
and dives as she follows him.

Josh spins round and watches Mia.

JOSH

It's just like playing on a games
console.

MIA

I'm more of an outdoor girl. Whoa.

Josh watches Mia swoop down towards him. She slows up.

MIA
Wow. Cool.

The stars reflect in her visor.

JOSH
Pretty neat, huh?

MIA
Do you think this is what it's
really like?

JOSH
I don't know. I guess so.

He whirls around. The globe of Mars reflects in his visor.

JOSH
C'mon. I wanna take a closer look.

He toggles the joystick and speeds off.

MIA
Hold on.

She chases after him.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - ANOTHER AREA

The Blue Manatee leaves a trail of stardust as he circles
through the void. Receding into the distance

The Blue Manatee comes to a stop. His eyes narrow as...

He spies the distant outlines of Josh and Mia.

He speeds off in their direction.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Josh and Mia are framed against the backdrop of Mars.

MIA
Can you imagine if this was really
real?

JOSH
Seems pretty real to me.

MIA
But it's not... is it? I mean, you
painted all this.

She glances at the stars.

MIA
What's that?

JOSH
What?

He admires the globe of Mars.

MIA
Did you paint any shooting stars?

Josh's eyes light up. He turns in the same direction as Mia.

The Blue Manatee arcs down towards them.

They watch a trail of stardust as he corkscrews towards them.

MIA
Josh. What is it?

The Blue Manatee gets closer. More distinguishable.

JOSH
It... it looks like a manatee. A
blue manatee.

The Blue Manatee gets closer.

MIA
I think we should go.

JOSH
Wait. It might know.

MIA
Know --

JOSH
It might know what happened to my
sketchbook.

The Blue Manatee stops about fifteen feet away. He looks down at them. Studies their suits.

BLUE MANATEE
You again.

In the background. The outline of the futuristic spaceship emerges out of the darkness.

JOSH
You sound familiar. I'm Josh --

BLUE MANATEE

Yes. Yes. I know who you are.
Trouble.

He spins around. Loops-the-loop. Shoots off towards the futuristic spaceship.

Josh goes towards the trail of stardust. He scoops up a handful and watches it trickle through his fingers.

MIA

That was a little odd. Did he say
he recognized you?

EXT. SPACE - ANOTHER AREA

The Blue Manatee flies towards the hull of the futuristic spaceship. Swooping down towards it.

JOSH (V.O.)

Yes.

EXT. HULL OF FUTURISTIC SPACESHIP

The Blue Manatee lands. Morphs into Grimlouse. He scampers towards Zaeb.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Josh and Mia watch the outline of the spaceship approach.

MIA

You didn't paint that either?

JOSH

No. Definitely not.

Mia reaches for one of Josh's hands.

MIA

I think we should go.

JOSH

But --

MIA

Now.

A distant swarm of lights emerge out of the darkness and move towards them.

EXT. HULL OF FUTURISTIC SPACESHIP

Zaeb and Grimlouse watch hundreds of tiny spacecraft fly overhead and go in the direction of Josh and Mia.

ZAEB

Trespassers, Grimlouse. Get rid of them.

Grimlouse runs towards the edge and jumps.

He morphs into a huge multicolored octopus and flies after the tiny spacecraft.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Mia and Josh watch the tiny lights. The roar of engines get closer and louder.

Small clusters of laser fire erupt from the cloud and fly past Mia and Josh.

JOSH

Oh, no.

MIA

What is it?

JOSH

No time. Follow me.

Josh turns. He toggles his joystick and flies off. Followed by Mia.

The tiny lights grow brighter. The laser fire intensifies.

Josh and Mia fly side by side as they approach the outline of the canvas.

MIA

What is it?

The cloud of tiny spacecraft descend towards them. Tiny laser fire erupts and explodes around them.

A tiny spacecraft speeds after them.

JOSH

Not it. They're star fighters.

Mia screams.

The spacecraft get closer.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh scrambles out the canvas. He spins around. Grabs Mia and hauls her out.

JOSH

Hurry.

Several spacecraft emerge out of the canvas and dive bomb Mia and Josh.

They duck out the way.

MIA

Do something.

Josh grabs a jar of water off the desk. Throws it over the canvas. The paint on the canvas runs.

The spacecraft drop from the air as globules of silver paint.

Mia's and Josh's spacesuits turn to globules of paint and drip down them. They stare at the mess. And the concoction of colors on the canvas.

MIA

How did you know they were star fighters?

JOSH

Because the exact same drawing is in my sketchbook.

They stare at each other.

MIA

You drew them?

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

Zaeb and Grimlouse stand near the pedestal.

They watch the scenery around them melt away like a Salvador Dali painting.

JOSH (V.O.)

Yes.

Zaeb stares at a pencil drawing of similar looking spacecraft in Josh's sketchbook.

Grimlouse watches the black void of space melt around them. Leaving nothing but the white void.

ZAEB

Do you think that did the trick?

GRIMLOUSE

I imagine they won't be returning
any time soon, Master.

As Zaeb flicks through the pages of the sketchbook, the photo at the back slips out and flutters down.

Zaeb grabs it.

ZAEB

What is this?

His eyes widen as he stares at the photo of Josh and Mark Tucker in fishing gear.

EXT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - NIGHT

Mia's silhouette descends the trellis.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A knock at the door.

ANNA (O.S.)

Josh.

Josh throws the bed sheet over the canvas. He jumps into bed. Pulls the bed covers over himself. Rolls over and pretends to be asleep.

The door swings open.

A barefooted Anna stands in the doorway. She steps in a globule of silver paint as she goes towards Josh.

ANNA

Josh.

Josh stirs. His eyes open.

JOSH

(feigns)

Mom.

He sits up. Covers himself with the bed covers.

ANNA

What's going on? I thought I heard screaming? And why's there paint on the floor?

JOSH

It was a nightmare, Mom. Bad dream.

Anna stares at him. Not entirely convinced.

ANNA

Make sure you clean it up in the morning.

She glances at the open window.

JOSH

I will.

EXT. MIA'S RESIDENCE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Mia runs toward the entrance.

ANNA (V.O.)

Make sure that you do.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door closes.

Josh lies back. He stares at the stars on the ceiling.

EXT. SKYLINE - MIA'S RESIDENCE - DAY

The sun glares down.

MIA (V.O.)

Let me get this straight.

Josh's and Mia's outlines stand in the front yard.

EXT. MIA'S RESIDENCE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Mia plays jump rope opposite Josh.

MIA

You want to go back in there?

Josh watches her jump.

MIA

Why's this sketchbook so important?

JOSH

There's a photo. A photo of me and my dad.

MIA

Sorry.

JOSH

And besides. Don't you think it's pretty cool? I mean... how cool do you think that's going to be?

Mia stops jumping. She looks along the sidewalk at the row of tall trees lined on both sides of the road. She follows the treeline upward into the blue sky.

EXT. SKIES OVER MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - DAY

The globe of the sun glares down.

MIA (V.O.)

As long as there are no bats. Or any more spaceships.

Mia's and Josh's silhouettes walk under a large tree.

JOSH (V.O.)

There won't be.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - DAY

Mia and Josh both shoulder backpacks. They move through long green grass.

Mia scans the pamphlet.

MIA

I'm no expert. But I'd say that's a warning of some kind. Make sure you're out by dawn's first light. Whaddya think it means?

JOSH

I think it means that if we're not out of here by sunrise. Then we'll be trapped here until the following night.

MIA

Trapped?

Josh nods.

MIA

Great.

Mia glances at the distant snow covered mountain ranges on either side.

MIA

Don't get me wrong. This looks fantastic. But you could've drawn something with a little more color.

JOSH

You said you didn't want anything exciting.

He pulls off his backpack and kneels.

Mia watches distant clouds swirl in front of the sun.

MIA

I don't think those clouds were such a good idea either.

Josh pulls out a palette.

The set of fancy brushes.

And some paint.

JOSH

I didn't paint any clouds.

The sky darkens.

Lightning forks across the sky.

Thunder claps.

The heavens open.

Rain beats down.

Josh grabs one of the fancy brushes. Dips it in some paint on the palette.

A gold light shimmers along the handle of the brush.

Mia's eyes widen.

MIA
What are you doing?

JOSH
You'll see.

He gets up. And starts making large sweeping movements with the paintbrush in midair.

The outline of a pony takes shape. A brilliant white pony. But it's no ordinary pony.

Josh makes more elaborate strokes. He makes large sweeping strokes as he moves around the image.

Feathers emerge on either side of the pony. They grow into huge long wings. And flap up and down.

It's a winged horse. It's Pegasus.

Josh paints a saddle and a pair of reins.

A slack-jawed Mia watches.

MIA
Wow. What about?

She glances at the sky.

JOSH
I don't know. I'll give it a try.

Josh reaches up. Sweeps the paintbrush back and forth. He covers a small portion of the sky in blue.

JOSH
I can't. There's too much of it.

Mia lets out a big sigh.

The rain gets heavier. Beats down harder.

JOSH
Sorry.

Mia shrugs.

Josh has an idea.

JOSH
Wait.

He moves the paintbrush up and down. The colors come alive. He holds up an umbrella.

MIA
That'll work.

Pegasus neighs and flaps his wings.

Josh dumps the palette. The paints. And brushes in his backpack. And goes toward Pegasus.

JOSH
Ready?

Mia goes towards Pegasus.

MIA
How do we?

Josh points at a small horse step.

Mia follows Josh onto Pegasus.

JOSH
Hold this.

He hands Mia the umbrella.

Mia grabs Josh by the waist.

Josh grabs the reins. Flicks them.

MIA
Where are we going?

JOSH
I have no idea.

Pegasus flaps his wings. They rise into the sky.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

Zaeb and Grimlouse stand at the pedestal.

Grimlouse glimpses a dragon in the leather bound book as Zaeb closes it.

GRIMLOUSE
Not the Fire Beast?

Zaeb slams down the book.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE - ANOTHER AREA 2

Birds circle the top of the high tower on the hill.

INT. PRISON CELL IN HIGH TOWER - DAY

PRINCESS ARIANA, 20s, long golden hair, sits on the edge of a four poster bed. She squeezes water out of her long dress.

A large puddle of water covers the floor.

Heavy breathing outside the entrance to the balcony.

Ariana glances at a huge gold eye peering in at her.

ARIANA

Why will he not come and rescue me?
Why must he hide away?

A huge roar.

Ariana steps toward the entrance to the balcony. She watches the huge eye move away, followed by a scaly body with a very long tail.

ARIANA

Will my Prince Charming forever
leave me in the clutches of such a
terrible beast?

She steps out onto the balcony.

EXT. HIGH TOWER BALCONY - DAY

As Ariana goes toward the balcony wall, she watches Pegasus, Mia and Josh swoop down to the ground below.

ARIANA

Are you he? Are you my knight in
shining armor? Have you come for
me?

She watches Josh climb off Pegasus.

EXT. BASE OF HIGH TOWER - DAY

Josh helps Mia off Pegasus. They stare up at Ariana.

ANNA

Alas. You. Are. Not. Him.

JOSH

Who... are... you?

ARIANA

I am Princess Ariana. Have you
been sent to rescue me?

Josh and Mia share a look.

MIA

Don't look at me.

JOSH

We should help her.

MIA

We don't even know her.

JOSH

What harm could it do?

He pulls out a paintbrush and a palette from the backpack.

Josh steps toward the wall. With elaborate strokes, he
paints a rickety wooden ladder.

He climbs upward. Painting the rungs of the ladder as he
ascends toward the balcony.

MIA

I sure hope you know what you're
doing.

She watches Josh climb higher and higher.

EXT. HIGH TOWER BALCONY - DAY

Ariana steps back as she watches Josh appear at the balcony
wall. She steps towards him and eyes the paintbrush and
palette in his hand.

ARIANA

You are a creator. You must be
here to rescue me.

A slack-jawed Josh stares at Ariana.

JOSH

A princess? Rescue you?

ARIANA

You are not what I expected. Not
at all.

She leans toward him.

ARIANA

Have you not been sent to rescue
me? Are you on some kind of quest?

She leans in closer. A few inches from Josh's face.

JOSH

My name's Josh. That's Mia.

He points at Mia and Pegasus.

JOSH

We are searching for my sketchbook.

Ariana's eyes widen.

ARIANA

Then you will need my help. Little
knight.

JOSH

Do you know where it could be?

ARIANA

I have a fair idea as to who may
have this sketchbook of yours.

JOSH

Who?

ARIANA

All in good time.

She pecks Josh on a cheek. Josh beams.

ARIANA

Now, little knight. We mustn't be
here when Long Tooth comes back.
That would displease him most.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

Josh, Mia and Ariana sit on Pegasus as they weave and duck
their way amongst fluffy white clouds.

JOSH

Which way?

ARIANA

To the boundary.

She points ahead.

INT. PRISON CELL IN HIGH TOWER - DAY

The large gold eye peers in through the balcony entrance.

JOSH (V.O.)
Who or what is Long Tooth?

A terrifying roar.

EXT. HIGH TOWER - DAY

Black clouds swirl.

Lightning forks across the sky.

Thunder rumbles.

LONG TOOTH, a massive gold dragon with huge gold eyes circles the top of the tower and soars skyward.

Long Tooth spews a jet of fire as he retreats into the distance. Dancing over the horizon.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - ANOTHER AREA - DAY

A disgruntled Mia watches Ariana and Josh walk arm in arm ahead of her.

In the background, Pegasus rises into the sky and retreats into the distance.

Ariana examines one of the paintbrushes.

ARIANA
You come from the other side. The
outer world. You don't belong
here, do you?

JOSH
No.

Frustration washes over Mia as she watches Ariana and Josh talking and getting friendly.

MIA
Why were you locked in the tower?

Ariana and Josh walk on.

MIA
Hey. Why were you locked in the
tower?

She runs towards Ariana and Josh. Steps in front of them.

MIA

Well? And who or what is this Long
Tooth?

ARIANA

Did I not tell you?

MIA

No. You didn't tell us. Well?

Ariana's eyes narrow.

ARIANA

I didn't want to say anything.
Because I did not wish to frighten
you.

JOSH

I'm sure it's not that bad.

A distant roar echoes across the landscape.

MIA

You think?

She steps away from them. Studies the horizon. Her eyes
widen as she spots the distant silhouette of Long Tooth
sweeping across the horizon.

Another roar.

Mia steps in front of Ariana.

MIA

What aren't you telling us?

JOSH

Ariana.

The silhouette of Long Tooth grows larger.

ARIANA

(mumbles)

It... He. Is. A. Dragon.

JOSH

What?

MIA

Sounded like... dragon.

She watches Long Tooth's silhouette as it gets closer.

JOSH

Ariana.

ARIANA

Princess Ariana to you.

A roar.

Mia watches the horizon light up.

MIA

I don't like the look of this.

Josh?

Josh stares at Ariana.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

A fluffy white cloud explodes as Long Tooth bursts from it.

The dragon's wings flap up and down as he corkscrews downward. He spies the distant outlines of Mia, Josh and Ariana on the ground.

ARIANA (V.O.)

Okay. Okay. Long Tooth... is...

a... dragon.

As he swoops downward, Long Tooth spews a jet of fire.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - ANOTHER AREA - DAY

Josh glances at Ariana as he grabs Mia.

JOSH

Run.

ARIANA

Where are we going to run to?

Mia watches Long Tooth as he swoops down towards them.

JOSH

Mia.

ARIANA

It's better that we stay and fight.

MIA

J... Josh.

JOSH

How?

ARIANA

It's in your power. You are a creator.

She pulls out the fancy paintbrush.

JOSH

How am I going to fight a dragon?

ARIANA

Use your imagination.

She holds up the paintbrush.

Long Tooth roars. He's almost upon them.

MIA

Josh. Do something!

Long Tooth swoops over their heads. The dragon roars as he heads skyward.

The blow back from Long Tooth's wings knocks all three of them to the ground.

They watch Long Tooth do a loop-the-loop and turn back towards them.

MIA

Josh!

Josh pulls the palette from his backpack. Grabs the paintbrush from Ariana.

With elaborate strokes, he paints a fire truck.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

Long Tooth blows a jet of fire as he sweeps down towards Mia, Josh and Ariana.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - ANOTHER AREA - DAY

Josh stands on the roof of the fire truck. He grabs the water cannon, aims it at Long Tooth.

He thumbs the water release controls. Nothing happens.

JOSH

Huh.

Mia and Ariana watch Long Tooth approach.

MIA

Hurry.

Long Tooth gets closer.

JOSH

It's not working.

Mia stares at the fire truck.

MIA

Water. It needs water.

Josh pulls out a paintbrush. Jumps to the ground.

He frantically paints a red fire hydrant and a hose. He connects the hose to the truck.

MIA

Don't worry about this.

She motions Josh to get on the fire truck as she darts towards the fire hydrant.

MIA

Get up there.

Long Tooth roars as he approaches.

A jet of fire spews from his mouth and scorches the earth.

Josh scrambles onto the roof. Grabs the water cannon. Peers through a set of cross-hairs at Long Tooth.

He watches the jet of fire scorch the earth as Long Tooth flies towards them.

JOSH

Ready?

He glances at Mia. She gives him the thumbs up as she turns the wheel on the hydrant.

Water shoots through the hose towards the fire truck.

MIA

Now. Do it now!

Josh watches Long Tooth through the cross-hairs.

He hits the water release controls.

A jet of water shoots upward just as Long Tooth prepares to spew more fire. Extinguishing the flames and fire bursting from Long Tooth's mouth.

MIA

You did it. You did it.

Long Tooth coughs and splutters balls of black smoke as he crashes down in front of them. Covering Mia, Josh and the fire truck in soot.

LONG TOOTH

I want to thank you.

Mia and Josh gawk at Long Tooth.

LONG TOOTH

For a long time now I've had a Fire Frog stuck in my throat.

He coughs. A large florescent red frog pops out of his mouth and lands on the ground.

The Fire Frog burps a ball of soot and hops away.

Mia and Josh watch the Fire Frog retreat into the distance.

Long Tooth rears up on his haunches. Leans towards Josh.

JOSH

So, you... you weren't going to eat us?

Long Tooth chuckles.

LONG TOOTH

Things are not always what they appear to be.

He edges away from them.

Spreads his wings.

Rises into the air.

Mia emerges from behind the fire truck. She watches Long Tooth retreat into the distance.

Josh lands on the ground beside Mia. They watch Long Tooth vanish over the horizon.

Mia glances around.

MIA
What happened to...

Ariana crawls out from under the truck.

ARIANA
Has he gone? Is he still here?

She stands up. Looking rather clean. She scans a soot covered Mia and Josh.

ARIANA
What happened to you?

She steps towards Josh. Ruffles his hair.

ARIANA
My hero.

She pecks Josh on both his cheeks.

ARIANA
My knight in shining armor.

Mia shakes her head.

Josh pulls off his spectacles. Wipes them clean. Slides them onto his nose.

JOSH
Really. It was nothing.

MIA
Was that the best you could come up with?

She stalks around the fire truck.

MIA
A fire truck?

ARIANA
Now. Now. It worked, did it not?

Mia rolls her eyes.

ARIANA
He saved us.

MIA
From what? A vegetarian dragon.

Ariana steps towards Mia. Wipes soot off Mia's face and shoulders. Stares into her eyes. All serious.

ARIANA

I can see why you're upset.

Ariana examines her reasonably clean attire.

MIA

I seem to remember we were on our way somewhere.

ARIANA

Oh, yes.

Mia grabs Josh and they walk on.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

Zaeb stands at the pedestal. He stares at a blank page in the leather bound book. He clicks his fingers. The leather bound book floats into the air.

Zaeb spins around. He eyes Long Tooth.

ZAEB

Useless. Useless. Useless.

The book floats alongside Zaeb as he steps towards Long Tooth. Shaking his head in disappointment.

ZAEB

A simple task. Did I ask too much of you?

Long Tooth bows his head.

ZAEB

In you go.

Long Tooth jumps toward Zaeb and vanishes into the book.

Zaeb grabs the book. He stares at a painting of Long Tooth on what was the blank page.

ZAEB

Grimlouse.

Grimlouse appears.

ZAEB

The usual stuff doesn't seem to be working.

He slams closed the book.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - ANOTHER AREA - DAY

Ariana stands in front of Josh with the fancy paintbrush in one of her hands.

JOSH

When you called me the creator.
What did you mean?

Ariana hands Josh the paintbrush.

ARIANA

Use your imagination. Let it run
wild.

Mia watches them.

ARIANA

Paint the sky.

JOSH

I can't.

ARIANA

Yes you can.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

Ominous black clouds swirl across the sky.

Lightning forks sizzle.

Thunder rumbles.

ARIANA (V.O.)

You can create anything you want.

A high pitched shriek.

A huge Griffin emerges from a cloud carrying Zaeb.

They dart and weave their way amongst forks of lightning.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - ANOTHER AREA - DAY

Josh watches the black clouds swirl as he holds the paintbrush against the sky.

JOSH

I can't. There's too much.

He glances at Mia and Ariana.

ARIANA

You can.

They watch Josh make huge elaborate strokes with the brush.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

Zaeb's eyes widen

ZAEB

Grimlouse. Grimlouse.

The sky changes from black to blue.

White cotton clouds form and dance around Zaeb and the Griffin as they glide through the sky.

ZAEB

What's happening, Grimlouse?

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - ANOTHER AREA - DAY

Mia and Ariana watch Josh reach towards the last spot of gray and black cloud.

Josh makes several large sweeping strokes. He paints over the last dark patch of sky.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

Zaeb and the Griffin are framed against the globe of the sun as they swoop down towards the silhouettes of Josh, Mia and Ariana below.

ZAEB

Hurry Grimlouse. Hurry.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - ANOTHER AREA - DAY

Mia glances at the sky. She notices Zaeb and the Griffin.

MIA

Josh. Josh.

Josh and Ariana turn towards Mia.

JOSH

What?

They watch Zaeb and the Griffin land several feet away.

Zaeb jumps off the Griffin and marches toward them.

ZAEB

You are the creator?

He steps in front of them. Anger washes over him as he eyes the paintbrush in Josh's hand.

ZAEB

You did this?

JOSH

Do you have my sketchbook?

He edges towards Zaeb.

ZAEB

I will set you a series of riddles. Get them right and you will be allowed to leave. But you must promise never to enter this realm again.

JOSH

What type of riddles?

Mia steps forward.

MIA

What happens if he doesn't get them right? What then?

ZAEB

Do not get any wrong.

Ariana's eyes light up as she steps towards Zaeb.

ARIANA

You are him. My knight. My Prince Charming. Why do you never come for me?

Zaeb walks towards the Griffin and jumps on.

They watch Zaeb and the Griffin retreat into the distance.

JOSH

Ariana. Ariana.

He steps in front of Ariana.

JOSH

Was that him?

ARIANA

Yes. He is the White Warlock. The keeper of this world. He oversees everything that is created here. It is he that you seek. And I am sure that he will have your sketchbook.

JOSH

Does he have a name?

ARIANA

Zaeb.

EXT. JAGGED MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Multicolored birds circle a Translucent Crystal Tower.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Walls. Ceiling. Floor. Everything is translucent.

Zaeb sits on a crystal throne in deep thought. He stares at the images of Mia, Josh and Ariana in his crystal orb.

He glances past the orb at Grimlouse.

ZAEB

Let the games begin.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - ANOTHER AREA - DAY

Josh, Mia and Ariana make their way through tall grass.

Thunderous footfalls pound the earth behind them.

MIA

What the?

They turn around. Fear washes over them as they watch several gigantic elephants with long spindly legs stride towards them. Their feet thundering against the ground as they near.

Think Salvador Dali's, The Elephants. Their huge bodies carried by their spindly, long legs.

ZAEB (V.O.)

What is as big as an elephant,
looks like an elephant, but has no
weight?

The elephant's huge legs stride towards them.

MIA
Who's that?

JOSH
It's him.

Josh pulls off his spectacles. He watches the elephants approach, framed against the sun.

MIA
Josh.

ARIANA
They're getting closer.

The ground shakes under their feet.

Josh wipes his eyes. Puts his spectacles back on.

JOSH
As big as. Has no weight.

He stares at the elephants. His gaze shifts to the long, elongated shadows of the elephants spread across the ground.

JOSH
I know. I know. I know this.

The elephants tower over them.

MIA
Hurry.

Josh watches the long trunk of an elephant sway back and forth as it towers over them.

JOSH
Shadows. It's the shadow of an elephant.

The elephants evaporate in a puff of smoke.

ZAEB (V.O.)
Drats.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Zaeb studies the orb as he rises out of the throne.

He watches the images of Mia, Josh and Ariana make their way through the tall grass.

EXT. GRASSLAND - DAY

Zaeb appears in front of Mia, Josh and Ariana.

They watch him clap.

The scenery around them melts away.

MIA

Whoa.

JOSH

What's happening?

A sandy beach replaces the grass under their feet.

Ariana watches an ocean form.

EXT. SANDY BEACH - DAY

The globe of a red sun beats down.

Zaeb picks up a white pebble. Holds it up for Josh and the others to see.

ZAEB

White, isn't it?

JOSH

Where are we?

ZAEB

I believe this is known as the Red Sea in your world.

He tosses the pebble up and down in his hand.

MIA

Where the heck is that?

Zaeb steps towards the shoreline.

ZAEB

I believe this was taken from a painting of the coast, in a place called Taba. In a place called... Egypt.

He tosses the pebble up and down in his hand.

MIA

Egypt?

ZAEB

Obviously I have never been.
Anyway. Back to the matter at
hand. If you throw a white rock.

He studies the pebble.

ZAEB

In this case. A pebble.

He throws the pebble at the surface of the water.

Mia, Josh and Ariana watch the pebble skim across the surface
of the water several times and sink.

ZAEB

Into the Red Sea. What does it
become?

MIA

That's easy. It becomes re --

JOSH

Shush.

Josh edges towards the shoreline.

ZAEB

Time runs out, boy.

A clock appears in the air in front of them.

They watch the second hand tick anticlockwise.

Tick. Tick. Tick.

ZAEB

You do not know.

Josh scoops up a handful of water. It trickles between his
fingers. Droplets hitting the sand.

The second hand ticks toward midnight.

JOSH

Wet. It gets wet.

Zaeb stamps his feet.

ZAEB

You will not find the next one so
easy. I promise.

He clicks his fingers and disappears.

Mia and Ariana approach Josh.

ARIANA
That was close.

MIA
Sorry. Red Sea. White pebble.
Trick question, right?

Josh shakes his head as he stares at the reflection of the sun in the water.

EXT. JAGGED MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

The sun reflects in the translucent crystal tower.

JOSH (V.O.)
Not really.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - GAMES ROOM - DAY

Zaeb and Grimlouse walk along the large interior.

ZAEB
Grimlouse. I fear the questions
are too easy. They should be
harder.

He clicks his fingers.

A nine foot tall snowman appears.

He clicks his fingers.

Huge mirrors appear on the walls and ceiling.

He clicks his fingers.

A rainbow forms. It weaves its way around the room and comes to a stop in front of Zaeb.

He clicks his fingers.

Rain clouds form across the ceiling.

Lightning forks.

Thunder rumbles.

Zaeb steps in front of a mirror.

ZAEB

So many to choose from.

He stares at Grimlouse's reflection behind him.

ZAEB

This way, Grimlouse.

The glass of the mirror ripples around him as he steps into it and vanishes.

GRIMLOUSE

Master.

He follows Zaeb into the mirror.

EXT. SANDY BEACH - DAY

Mia, Josh, and Ariana stand at the shoreline.

The ground shakes and tremors under their feet.

Mia and Ariana scream.

MIA

What's happening?

They struggle to stay on their feet.

The ocean and beach melt away.

ARIANA

Josh?

The colors of the scenery fade away.

JOSH

It's happening again.

They watch the last of the colors melt away.

All that's left is the --

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

The final streaks of color wash away.

A white void of nothing.

Fear washes over Mia, Josh, and Ariana as they appear to float in the white void.

ZAEB (V.O.)
Welcome to a world without color.
Devoid of imagination.

Josh stares into the white abyss.

ZAEB (V.O.)
Devoid of creativity.

JOSH
Is this a riddle?

Zaeb laughs all around them.

A wind howls.

Tiny snowflakes fly towards them from every direction.

Mia and Ariana catch snowflakes in their hands.

The snowflakes grow in size as they zoom past them.

The howling wind intensifies.

A snow storm brews.

Josh, Ariana, and Josh huddle together.

JOSH
Grab. On. To. Me.

They fight against the wind.

The snowflakes are almost the size of tennis balls as they streak past.

MIA
Watch out.

Mia and Josh duck down just as several large snowflakes fly over their heads.

JOSH
Hold on.

A layer of snow forms under their feet.

They watch a snowy landscape materialize around them.

EXT. SNOWY LANDSCAPE - DAY

The three children hold on to each other for dear life.

The ground rumbles and shakes.

Hundreds of snowmen of various shapes and sizes spring up from the newly formed snow on the ground.

MIA

What are they?

JOSH

They look like snowmen. Hundreds and hundreds of them.

Hundreds of snowmen emerge out of the snow covered ground.

Tiny snowmen. Tall snowmen. Fat snowmen. Twenty feet tall snowmen. Stand all around them.

The beady eyes of the snowmen stare at Mia, Josh, and Ariana.

The ground shakes.

MIA

Oh, no!

A snowman marches on the spot.

Followed by another snowman and another. Until every snowman marches on the spot.

The ground trembles under their feet.

ARIANA

I don't like this.

MIA

Do something.

JOSH

What do you want me to do?

The snowmen march faster. Their footfalls grow louder.

MIA

I'm scared.

ZAEB (V.O.)

Do not be frightened.

Zaeb appears in front of them.

He clicks his fingers.

The snowmen stop marching.

The snowflakes slow to a trickle and stop.

Zaeb moves towards Josh.

ZAEB

An imagination is key to
everything. Without it. We are
lost.

JOSH

Is that the riddle?

The globe of the sun appears overhead.

ZAEB

No. No. No.

He stares at the sun.

ZAEB

Just something for you to think
about.

He watches water droplets form on a very tall snowman and
glisten under the sunlight.

ZAEB

What do you call an old snowman?

The snow under the feet of the children starts melting.

Josh watches the snowmen lose their shape as the sun beats
down. They start to melt under the sunlight.

Pools of water form all around them as the snow melts.

JOSH

Old snowman. Melts.

He glances at the pools of water forming all around them.

Fear washes over Ariana and Mia.

JOSH

Ice. Water.

A smile spreads across Zaeb's face.

ZAEB

You do not know this one.

The level of the water rises as the snowmen melt away.

Josh watches a snowman melt and topple over.

JOSH
When they melt away. They leave
nothing but water.

He stares at Zaeb.

JOSH
The answer is water. An old
snowman is called water.

ZAEB
You cannot know them all.

He clicks his fingers and vanishes.

The level of the water rises around them. Forming a --

EXT. ENDLESS OCEAN - DAY

They watch the water rise to their waists.

MIA
I really don't fancy swimming.
Josh pulls a paintbrush from his backpack.
He paints a small wooden boat.

JOSH
Get in.
He helps Mia and Ariana into the boat, and climbs in.
Mia, Ariana, and Josh watch snowmen collapse into the water.

MIA
How many's that?

JOSH
What?

MIA
How many riddles so far?

JOSH
Elephants. Pebbles. Snowmen.
Three, that's three so far.

A very tall snowman lists and crashes into the water.

ARIANA
How many more?

JOSH
I don't know.

MIA
Great. This could go on forever.

She leans over the boat and stares at her reflection in the rippling water.

Zaeb's image appears in Mia's reflection.

MIA
Look.

She grabs Josh. Points at the water.

JOSH
What? There's nothing there.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - GAMES ROOM - DAY

Zaeb watches the images of Ariana, Mia, and Josh fade away in a mirror. He stares at himself.

EXT. ENDLESS OCEAN - DAY

The sun beats down.

Mia, Ariana and Josh stare at the ocean all around them.

Zaeb laughs and cackles all around them.

JOSH
What now?

MIA
Look.

An enormous hand, the size of a car appears above them. It reaches into the water and pulls out a chain attached to a huge drain plug.

Water gurgles.

The boat lurches forward as an enormous whirlpool forms.

Mia and Ariana scream.

MIA
We're going to die.

Josh grabs Mia.

JOSH
No. It's just a test.

All three of them hold hands.

EXT. SKIES OVER ENDLESS OCEAN - DAY

The boat with Mia, Josh and Ariana disappears down the swirling whirlpool.

Their screams fade.

The water vanishes down the plug hole. Leaving the white void of nothing.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

Mia, Josh, and Ariana tumble through the void.

MIA
Where. Are. We. Going?

JOSH
I... don't... know.

The three children tumble into the distance.

INT. CIRCULAR ROOM OF MIRRORS - DAY

Mia lands on a mirrored floor. Followed by Ariana and Josh.

Mia sits up and pats herself down.

JOSH
Are you okay? Is anyone hurt?

Mia and Ariana shake their heads

MIA
What is this place?

ARIANA
A room of mirrors.

They stare at the mirrors covering the floor and ceiling.

MIA
Spooky.

She gets to her feet. Goes toward a mirror. She stares at herself in the mirror. Her reflection goes on forever.

All three of them look at their reflections.

Zaeb cackles all around them. He rises out of a mirror on the floor and steps towards them.

ZAEB

Look at my face and you see somebody.

He turns away from them.

ZAEB

Look at my back and you see nobody.

He stares at their reflections in the mirrors.

ZAEB

What am I?

Josh steps towards Zaeb.

JOSH

That's too easy. It's a mirror.
The answer is a mirror.

He eyes himself in a mirror.

Zaeb turns towards them.

ZAEB

Very good.

He clicks his fingers.

The interior melts away.

The room spins around them.

EXT. MAGNIFICENT GREEN LANDSCAPE - DAY

A rainbow arcs across the horizon.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

The silhouettes of four people stand on the highest point of the rainbow.

EXT. RAINBOW - DAY

A slack-jawed Ariana, Mia, and Josh stand opposite Zaeb.

They eye the green landscape below.

MIA
What happened?

JOSH
Where are we?

Ariana glares at Zaeb.

ARIANA
Why must you always test those that
come here?

ZAEB
They must be worthy.

He goes towards Josh.

ZAEB
I am purple, red, yellow and green.
The king cannot reach me...

He clicks his fingers.

Mia and Ariana watch Josh's clothes change to that of a king.
A crown appears on Josh's head.

JOSH
What? What is it?

Ariana and Mia laugh.

Mia points to her head.

Josh removes the crown from his head.

ZAEB
... and neither can the queen.

Josh watches a crown appear on Mia's head. And her clothes
change to that of a queen.

Josh laughs.

ZAEB
Show my colors after the rain. And
only when the sun comes out. What
am I?

ARIANA
Why must you always taunt me?

She stamps her feet as she stares at Mia's outfit.

JOSH
I do not understand.

He fiddles with his robe.

JOSH
A king? A queen?

ZAEB
Ah... you do not know this one?

JOSH
I didn't say that.

Zaeb clicks his fingers.

A large wooden chest appears in front of him.

The chest opens. Zaeb pulls out a handful of gold coins.

ZAEB
A part of heaven, though it touches
the earth. Some say it's valuable,
others... no worth.

The gold coins fall from Zaeb's hand.

They bounce on the rainbow. And tumble over the edge and
plummet towards the green landscape below.

ZAEB
What am I?

They watch the coins fall away.

ZAEB
Two for the price of one.

He flicks a coin at Josh.

Josh reaches out and catches it.

ZAEB
Come lad. This is no harder than
the others.

A clock appears in midair with only a second hand.

Tick. Tick. Tick.

The second hand moves toward the 12.

MIA
Josh.

They watch the second hand.

ARIANA

Why must you always do this?

MIA

Josh. Hurry.

The second hand ticks.

Five. Four. Three...

MIA

Hurry.

Two. One.

An alarm buzzes.

ZAEB

Time's up.

The scenery melts away.

Josh glances at Mia and Ariana.

He reaches for them as they fade away.

MIA

Josh. Josh. Help.

Zaeb laughs in the background.

EXT. WHITE SANDY BEACH - DAY

The reflection of the sun glistens in the water.

MIA (V.O.)

Josh. Josh.

Josh lies in the shade at the base of the palm tree.

He bolts upright. Glances around.

A black cloud moves across the horizon.

JOSH

Mia. Ariana. Where are you?

He gets up. Edges towards the shoreline.

His eyes narrow as he watches the black cloud move in his direction.

JOSH

What have you done with them?

The black cloud grows larger as it approaches.

Distant high pitched shrieks echo from within the cloud.

ZAEB (V.O.)

Run, boy. Run!

Hundreds of silhouettes of black bird like creatures with red eyes move within the cloud.

Josh's eyes widen.

JOSH

Oh, no. It can't be.

ZAEB (V.O.)

Run, boy!

The mass of black swoops down towards Josh.

Hundreds of red eyes glisten in the sunlight.

Josh sprints toward the outline of the canvas. He glances back. Sees the bats. The ones from his sketchbook.

The piercing red eyes of a bat glare at Josh as it breaks away from the mass and flies towards him.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh drags himself out of the canvas.

Followed by several shrieking black bats.

Josh ducks out of the way as they dive bomb him.

Zaeb's face appears on the canvas.

ZAEB

If you want her back. One final task you must perform.

Zaeb laughs.

Josh grabs a jar of water off the desk. Throws it over the canvas.

The bats drop from the air one after another as globules of black paint.

Josh watches the concoction of colors drip down the canvas.

EXT. WHITE SANDY BEACH - DAY

Zaeb stands in front of the outline of the canvas.

The scenery around him melts away.

He clicks his fingers and vanishes.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh sits on the edge of his bed. He stares at the canvas.

JOSH

I don't understand. What task?
You said nothing about any task.

A knock at the door.

ANNA (O.S.)

Josh. Josh.

The doorknob turns.

Josh grabs the bed sheet. Throws it over the canvas. Dives into bed. He turns off the night light.

The door opens.

Anna enters.

She glances around. She watches Josh asleep in bed.

As she walks towards him, she steps in a globule of black paint. She glances at the black paint on the underside of her bare foot.

ANNA

Josh.

Josh stirs.

JOSH

Mom.

He sits up.

ANNA

What's going on? I thought I heard something. Sounded like laughing. I thought I heard you talking.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

And why's there paint on the floor
again?

JOSH

Oh, that? I spilled some. Must've
forgotten to clean it up.

Anna's eyes narrow as she stares at him.

JOSH

Sorry.

ANNA

That's the second time. Make sure
you clean it up in the morning.

She glances at the canvas.

JOSH

I will.

He pretends to yawn.

ANNA

Good night.

She closes the door as she leaves.

The bedside light turns on.

Josh stares at the clock -- 2:57 AM.

He heads over to the window.
Stares at the globe of the moon.

EXT. SKYLINE - JAGGED MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

The red sun glares down.

Pterodactyls glide and corkscrew amongst white fluffy clouds.

They arc down towards the translucent crystal tower and fly
past it.

Zaeb's outline stands at a window at the very top.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Zaeb plops himself down on the throne. He stares at
Grimlouse and Mia.

ZAEB
His father died?

MIA
Yes.

Zaeb buries his head in his hands.

MIA
It was a boating accident.

ZAEB
I see. You must tell me more.

He pulls Josh's sketchbook from a pocket. Opens it. Stares at the photo of Josh and Mark.

Mia edges toward Zaeb

MIA
What are you going to do?

EXT. SKYLINE - HIGH TOWER - DAY

Long Tooth swoops down, framed against the sun. He goes toward Ariana's silhouette on the balcony.

MIA (V.O.)
And what have you done with Ariana?

EXT. HIGH TOWER BALCONY - DAY

Ariana stares at the mishmash of colors that make up the landscape around her. She watches Long Tooth streak past.

ZAEB (V.O.)
She's back where a princess
belongs. Away from prying eyes.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Mia steps in front of Zaeb.

MIA
You didn't?

Zaeb looks away from her.

MIA
You did, didn't you? You're mean.
How could you?

She stalks away.

ZAEB

Wait.

Grimlouse steps towards Mia.

ZAEB

Grimlouse.

He shakes his head.

ZAEB

Let her go.

GRIMLOUSE

But Master.

ZAEB

Grimlouse.

They watch Mia leave.

ZAEB

She is right. But we have more
pressing matters.

He flips to an empty page in Josh's sketchbook.

INT. JOSH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh, wearing a nineteen-thirties style pilot's uniform steps back from the canvas. He studies a painting of an airfield and a small yellow airplane.

The painting comes alive.

JOSH

Cool.

He grabs the backpack off the bed. Puts it on. Steps in front of the canvas.

The canvas grows in size.

Josh pulls his pilot's goggles over his eyes.

Takes a deep breath.

Josh edges forward. Steps into the canvas.

The wall clock reads 3:33 AM.

ON THE CANVAS

Josh's outline makes his way along the airfield towards the yellow airplane.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Zaeb stands at the window. He watches a similar sketch of the airfield and yellow airplane form on an empty page in Josh's sketchbook.

Long Tooth appears at the window.

EXT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - DAY

Long Tooth hovers in front of the window and stares at Zaeb.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Zaeb clicks his fingers.

He watches Long Tooth retreat into the distance.

ZAEB

Don't fail this time.

He spins round. Eyes Grimlouse near the throne.

ZAEB

The boy is on his way.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

The yellow airplane ducks and dives its way amongst large white clouds.

INT. COCKPIT OF SMALL YELLOW AIRPLANE - DAY

Josh holds a video game controller. He peers at a radar screen on the dashboard. He thumbs the buttons on the controller and fiddles with the joystick.

The airplane twists and turns.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

The yellow airplane corkscrews.

Josh screams in the background.

JOSH (V.O.)
Yee-haw!

Long Tooth's silhouette explodes out of a cloud.

EXT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - DAY

The reflection of the sun glistens in the walls of the tower.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Large crystal doors swing open. Zaeb and Mia enter. Zaeb leads Mia towards the center of the room.

Mia gawks at the very large, empty interior.

Her eyes dart over the crystal walls and ceiling.

MIA
If this is the jail. Where are the
prisoners?

Zaeb spins around.

ZAEB
Unfortunately, I've never been able
to hold anyone. It seems the
riddles I set are just too easy.

MIA
Not that easy.

ZAEB
Yes. Yes. On this occasion, you
are right.

He stalks away from her.

ZAEB
But that riddle, riddles were easy
enough.

MIA
And that's why you've kidnapped me?

ZAEB
Kidnap is a strong word. Besides,
it's tradition. I must be seen to
put up a fight. Otherwise we'd get
all types entering here.

MIA

If you ask me. It seems a little silly. Scaring away those that create a world on a canvas. Surely you'd be happy?

Zaeb steps towards her.

ZAEB

You'd think so, wouldn't you? If only once they'd finished painting and left it at that. But they're never satisfied. Paint this. Wash it off. Paint that.

MIA

Uh, I see. When you put it like that. It must get very annoying.

ZAEB

Just a little.

The crystal doors swing open. Grimlouse scurries in.

GRIMLOUSE

Master. It's Long Tooth. He's found the boy.

Mia's eyes widen.

ZAEB

Excellent. Let the final games begin.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

The yellow airplane bursts from a cloud with Long Tooth close on its tail. Long Tooth roars as he dives and rolls after the yellow airplane.

Long Tooth makes a grab for the tail of the yellow airplane and just misses.

JOSH (V.O.)

Is that the best you can do?

INT. COCKPIT OF SMALL YELLOW AIRPLANE - DAY

Josh stares at a blip on the radar screen. He flips a switch on the dashboard.

A screen appears with Long Tooth's image on it.

Josh watches Long Tooth corkscrew towards him. He yanks the joystick, the airplane arcs upward.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

Long Tooth watches the airplane loop-the-loop.

LONG TOOTH
This kid's good.

He flaps his wings. Gives chase.

Several white clouds explode as the airplane zips through them one after another.

The airplane rolls. Dives.

And ducks out of Long Tooth's reach.

INT. COCKPIT OF SMALL YELLOW AIRPLANE - DAY

Josh eyes the image of the sky on the screen.

JOSH
Where are you?

He glances out the canopy. Tries to look behind him.

Long Tooth rises up in front of him.

JOSH
Whoa!

He thumbs the video game controller.

Pushes the joystick.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

The airplane nose dives.

Long Tooth stops midair. He watches the outline of the airplane retreat into the distance.

EXT. COCKPIT OF SMALL YELLOW AIRPLANE - DAY

Josh grips the video game controller.

JOSH
No way.

He shuffles around. Watches the tiny blip of Long Tooth diminish into the distance.

EXT. SKYLINE - DAY

Long Tooth watches the airplane retreat over the horizon.

LONG TOOTH

Not everything is what it appears
to be. Good luck, boy.

He flaps his wings. Wheels around and heads off in the opposite direction.

INT. COCKPIT OF SMALL YELLOW AIRPLANE - DAY

The outline of the crystal tower draws closer.

Josh watches the tower fast approach.

He yanks the joystick.

EXT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - DAY

The airplane streaks past and arcs upward.

INT. COCKPIT OF SMALL YELLOW AIRPLANE - DAY

Josh watches the crystal tower below.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Zaeb stands at the window. He clicks his fingers.

He watches a landing field form on the ground outside.

INT. COCKPIT OF SMALL YELLOW AIRPLANE - DAY

Josh watches the landing field take shape.

JOSH

Wow.

He toggles switches on the video game controller. Pulls on the joystick.

INT. TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Zaeb watches the airplane land.

He glances at Grimlouse standing at the entrance.

ZAEB

Bring him to me.

GRIMLOUSE

Master.

The doors swing open. He leaves.

EXT. LANDING FIELD - DAY

The airplane slows to a stop.

The canopy opens.

Josh pokes his head out.

INT. COCKPIT OF SMALL YELLOW AIRPLANE - DAY

Josh scans the crystal tower. His eyes follow the tower upward. He watches the outline of what first appears to be Long Tooth. He rubs his eyes. Focuses.

A large GOLDEN EAGLE, almost the size of the plane, approaches and lands several feet in front of him.

GOLDEN EAGLE

My Master seeks an audience with
you.

Josh stands up.

JOSH

You sound familiar. Do I know you?

GOLDEN EAGLE

You must come.

JOSH

Where am I? What is this place?

Golden Eagle squawks.

GOLDEN EAGLE

Now. If you wish to save your
friend.

JOSH

Mia.

He climbs out of the cockpit.

EXT. LANDING FIELD - DAY

Josh approaches the Golden Eagle.

JOSH

How do I know I can trust you?

GOLDEN EAGLE

My apologies. I am Grimlouse.
Servant to the guardian of this
realm.

Josh watches the Golden Eagle morph into the Blue Manatee.

JOSH

You.

Blue Manatee morphs into Grimlouse.

GRIMLOUSE

I hope this is more to your liking.

He removes his hat and bows.

JOSH

What do you want from me?

GRIMLOUSE

Only what you seek.

He puts on his hat.

GRIMLOUSE

Now. To the Crystal Tower. If you
don't mind?

He morphs into the Golden Eagle.

GOLDEN EAGLE

Get on.

Josh climbs onto the back of the Golden Eagle.

The Golden Eagle spreads its wings and rises upward.

EXT. SKYLINE - TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - DAY

The Golden Eagle and Josh land on the rooftop.

EXT. ROOFTOP OF TRANSLUCENT CRYSTAL TOWER - DAY

Josh hops off the Golden Eagle. He stares at the floor.

JOSH

Is the whole thing made out of
crystal?

The Golden Eagle nods.

JOSH

Is it safe? It's not going to
shatter or anything?

GOLDEN EAGLE

This is the Crystal Tower. It will
not break.

Josh spots the diminutive outline of Zaeb in the large
circular room below.

JOSH

Where do I go?

Two crystal doors materialize and open.

The Golden Eagle points with one of its wings.

GOLDEN EAGLE

That way.

The doors swing closed as Josh enters.

INT. CRYSTAL STAIRCASE - DAY

Josh descends the stairs. He watches Zaeb's outline through
the crystal walls. He reaches a doorway.

INT. CRYSTAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Josh makes his way towards a set of large crystal doors. He
notices Zaeb's outline on the throne in the middle of the
circular room.

INT. LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

Zaeb watches Josh's outline approach the entrance.

He clicks his fingers. The doors swing open.

Josh stands at the entrance.

ZAEB

You finally made it. Welcome.

He gets up. Goes towards Josh.

JOSH

What have you done with her? Where
is she? Where's Mia?

He stalks towards Zaeb.

JOSH

Why have you brought us here?

ZAEB

To finish your journey. To finish
what you started. This is the very
edge. The border, the boundary of
this world.

He clicks his fingers.

The walls, ceiling, floor melts away. Leaving nothing but
the endless bright white space.

Josh gasps.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

The pedestal and the leather bound book appear in front of
Zaeb and Josh.

ZAEB

Everything that was, and ever will
be. Can be found in here. But
alas...

The pages of the book flip over until they reach the very
last page.

ZAEB

It is full.

The large leather bound book slams closed.

Josh watches his sketchbook materialize in Zaeb's hands.
Zaeb opens it. Flips through the pages.

JOSH
I think I understand. That's why --

ZAEB
Yes. Now you understand.

He clicks his fingers.

INT. LARGE CIRCULAR ROOM - DAY

The crystal walls, floor and ceiling take shape and form around them.

Zaeb pockets Josh's sketchbook.

JOSH
Give it back.

ZAEB
You must finish your journey.

JOSH
What journey? What are you talking about? I'm not on a journey.

ZAEB
Are you sure?

JOSH
Yes, I'm sure. I just want to get my friend and my sketchbook and get out of here.

Zaeb marches over to the throne and sits down.

ZAEB
If you say so.

Josh nods.

ZAEB
I shan't keep you here any longer than is necessary.

He claps. Grimlouse enters.

GRIMLOUSE
Master?

ZAEB

Is it ready?

GRIMLOUSE

Yes.

He bows and scampers away.

ZAEB

Master Josh. Time to prove
yourself. This way.

He heads towards the entrance.

ZAEB

Time grows short. Make haste.

Josh chases after Zaeb as he exits.

The doors swing closed behind them.

INT. HUGE CRYSTAL HALL - DAY

Josh's eyes widen as he stares at what looks like the
swimming pool and diving board at his school in the distance.

Huge hand drawn squiggly lines and scribbles cover the pool
and diving board.

Zaeb pulls out Josh's sketchbook. He flips to what's left of
the drawing of the pool and diving board.

ZAEB

I did what I could. Unfortunately
I didn't have much to work with.

Josh approaches the edge of the pool. He spots a palm tree
with a length of rope tied round the base of its trunk on the
opposite side.

He follows the rope upward and loses sight of it as it
disappears into the heavens. He watches the rope come back
on its self.

A crystal cage hangs from the rope. The silhouette of Mia
stands inside the cage.

JOSH

Mia.

He watches Mia slump to the floor of the cage.

JOSH
Everything's going to be okay. I'm
coming.

ZAEB
She can't hear you.

Josh steps closer to the edge of the pool. He stares at the rippling water.

ZAEB
What's wrong?

He points at the diving board several feet above the water.
Josh gulps as he stares at the diving board.

INT. CRYSTAL CAGE - DAY

Mia watches Josh.

MIA
Josh.

She hits the crystal bars of the cage.

INT. HUGE CRYSTAL HALL - DAY

Josh stares at the water.

JOSH
Why would you do this?

ZAEB
It's simple. Cross the water and
save your friend. Save Mia.

He points at the diving board.

JOSH
No. I can't.

ZAEB
Conquer your fear.

JOSH
I can't do it.

ZAEB
Yes you can.

Josh pulls off his backpack. Opens it.

ZAEB

Grimlouse.

Grimlouse appears behind Josh and snatches his backpack away.

JOSH

Hey. Give it back.

ZAEB

No cheating.

Grimlouse hands Zaeb the backpack.

Zaeb takes out one of the fancy paintbrushes.

ZAEB

Dive into the water. Swim across
and save her. Time's running out.

A burning candle appears at the base of the palm tree.

The candle's flame flickers under the rope.

The strands of the rope smolder.

INT. CRYSTAL CAGE - DAY

Mia hits the bars of the cage.

She watches the candle burn under the rope.

INT. HUGE CRYSTAL HALL - DAY

Josh climbs the steps to the diving board.

Zaeb watches Josh go towards the edge of the diving board.

Josh peers down at the water. He grabs hold of the railing.

JOSH

I... I can't.

ZAEB

Perhaps this will encourage you.

He pulls out the photo of Josh and Mark Tucker. Holds it up
for Josh to see.

JOSH

Dad.

Josh inches towards the edge of the diving board. He glances at Zaeb, and Mia in the crystal cage.

He closes his eyes. Takes a deep breath. Leaps into the air and falls towards the water.

INT. CRYSTAL CAGE - DAY

Mia watches the strands of the rope snap one after another.

The cage jolts.

She screams.

MIA

Josh. Hurry!

INT. HUGE CRYSTAL HALL - DAY

Josh swims through the water. He reaches the opposite side.

Zaeb stands near the diving board. He turns towards Grimlouse. Points at the candle.

ZAEB

Extinguish the flame.

GRIMLOUSE

Master.

He vanishes. And reappears at the base of the palm tree.

Grimlouse blows out the candle flame as Josh approaches.

GRIMLOUSE

Good day. Master Josh.

He bows.

Josh glances past Grimlouse. Watches the last of the strands of rope break.

JOSH

No!

The crystal cage plummets towards the floor.

Grimlouse jumps up and grabs the end of the rope. He lets the crystal cage descend slowly to the floor.

GRIMLOUSE

I'm not in the habit of letting things break. Master Josh.

The crystal cage lands on the floor and disappears.

Mia stumbles toward Josh and he grabs her.

JOSH

Are you okay?

She nods.

Zaeb walks across the surface of the water towards them.

ZAEB

I believe these belong to you.

He steps in front of Mia and Josh.

ZAEB

It's in your power to say goodbye.

He hands Josh his sketchbook, and the photo of Josh and his father.

A paintbrush appears in one of Zaeb's hands.

ZAEB

Here.

He hands Josh the paintbrush.

JOSH

What about paint?

Zaeb laughs.

Josh considers and starts making --

Sweeping movements with the paintbrush.

Mark takes shape in front of him.

JOSH

But he isn't real.

ZAEB

He's as real as you want him to be.

JOSH

I think I understand.

Mark stands in front of Josh.

MARK

Son.

JOSH

Dad.

They step towards each other and hug.

MARK

Take care, Son.

JOSH

I love you, Dad.

Josh steps back. He watches his father burst into glittering stardust and vanish.

Everything turns white as Josh glances at Zaeb, Grimlouse and Mia. Slowly it changes and becomes the --

EXT. WHITE SANDY BEACH - DAY

The white sand sparkles under the sun.

A set of footprints lead from the base of the palm tree to Josh, Mia, and Zaeb standing in front of the canvas frame.

Josh and Mia hug Zaeb.

ZAEB

Are you sure there's nothing more
that I can do for either of you?

Mia's eyes light up. One last thing, perhaps.

INT. PRISON CELL IN HIGH TOWER - DAY

Ariana sits on the edge of her bed playing with her hair.

In the background, the flapping of wings.

Ariana glances at the entrance to the balcony.

ARIANA

Leave me alone.

She watches a silhouette approach the entrance.

The silhouette enters and steps towards her.

ARIANA

I said...

She watches someone in a shiny knight's suit of armor.

ZAEB

Princess.

A slack-jawed Ariana stares at the suit of armor. She watches them flip up their visor.

ARIANA

You.

Zaeb stares at her.

ZAEB

Shall we?

He holds out a hand. Ariana grabs it.

Zaeb pulls her towards him and they kiss.

INT. JOSH'S SMALL HOME - JOSH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Josh and Mia watch the canvas shrink back to its normal size.

A cockerel crows outside.

They dart to the window. And watch the sun rise.

JOSH

It's good to be home.

They hug.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

The sun glares down.

WARTSBOTTOM (PRE-LAP)

I hope you all had a great summer vacation. And I'm sure that you're all thrilled to be back.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - ART CLASS - DAY

Wartsbottom stands at the front. She scans the children. Her gaze falls on Haley, Kayla, Josh, and Mia.

She watches Haley flick a rubber band at Josh.

WARTSBOTTOM

That'll be enough of that.

She goes towards Josh. Picks up the rubber band.

Mia sits next to Josh, watching him scribble in a large sketchbook.

WARTSBOTTOM

It appears some of you are still
full of beans.

She eyes Haley and Kayla.

WARTSBOTTOM

You obviously didn't do enough to
keep yourselves busy.

Josh pencils a caricature of Haley making a funny face.

Mia laughs as she glances at Haley and Kayla.

KAYLA

What's so funny?

MIA

Nothing.

Kayla and Haley watch Mia whisper in Josh's ear.

KAYLA

We'll get him at swim.

HALEY

Maybe throw him in.

KAYLA

You mean push him in.

They laugh.

WARTSBOTTOM

Would you like to share whatever it
is that you find so amusing, girls?

She glares at Haley and Kayla.

HALEY AND KAYLA

No, Miss.

Wartsbottom turns towards Josh. She watches him finish the caricature of Haley. She grabs the sketchbook, flips the page to a drawing of Kayla.

JOSH

Miss.

WARTSBOTTOM

Very good. Excellent detail.

She raises an eyebrow as she stares at Haley and Kayla.

WARTSBOTTOM

Have you been practicing?

JOSH

I did a little over the vacation,
Miss Wartsbottom.

WARTSBOTTOM

You should share these with the
class.

JOSH

Miss.

Wartsbottom hands the sketchbook to a Skinny Kid sitting at the front of the class.

WARTSBOTTOM

Pass this around.

Skinny Kid eyes the drawings of Haley and Kayla and laughs.

He passes it to a Freckled Girl behind him.

She bursts into laughter as she glances at Haley and Kayla.

HALEY

What is it? What are you laughing
at?

The children laugh and whisper amongst themselves.

Haley grabs the Sketchbook. She stares at the drawings of her and Kayla.

KAYLA

Funny. Real funny.

Haley studies her caricature.

HALEY

You're really going to get --

WARTSBOTTOM

Quiet.

She glares at Haley and Kayla.

WARTSBOTTOM

If you dish it out. You have to be able to take it.

A school bell rings.

Wartsbottom grabs the sketchbook from Haley. Hands it back to Josh with a smile plastered across her face.

Children grab their gear and dart out the exit.

WARTSBOTTOM

Perhaps you could do some of the teachers at some point. Maybe even do the rest of the class.

Josh stares at Wartsbottom.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - SWIMMING POOL - DAY

The sound of laughing children. Splashing water.

WARTSBOTTOM (V.O.)

Just an idea. You have a talent, Josh Tucker. Do not waste it.

INT. SWIMMING POOL AREA - DAY

Josh stands at the edge of the diving board. He eyes the water below.

Haley, Kayla, and the other children stand behind him.

KAYLA

What's wrong, chicken?

She clucks.

HALEY

Would you like us to help you in?

She glances at Kayla and the children.

HALEY

I think we should help him in. What do you think?

Josh spins around. Runs towards her.

JOSH

Not anymore.

They watch Josh run towards the front of the diving board.

HALEY

What?

Josh jumps off.

JOSH

Yee-haw!

He flails his arms as he splashes into the water.

Shock washes over Haley and Kayla.

Josh laughs as he treads water.

He waves at Haley and Kayla on the diving board above.

He glances at Mia standing at the edge of the pool.

Sunlight glistens on the surface of the water.

EXT. ENDLESS BRIGHT WHITE SPACE

The leather bound book lies on the pedestal.

The cover opens. Pages flip by.

ZAEB (V.O.)

Hey. Boy. My tines are long. My
tines are short.

Lightning crackles in the background.

ZAEB (V.O.)

My tines end ere. My first report.

The leather bound book snaps shut.
And spins on the pedestal.

ZAEB (V.O.)

What am I?

Zaeb laughs. His laughter fading into the distance.

ZAEB (V.O.)

What am I...

FADE OUT.