

Chapter 6

The following morning, I woke up to the sound of Delphi shouting in my ear.

“I can’t believe you let them get away, Olivia,” yelled Delphi.

“What time is it?” I groaned.

“Time to get up,” said Delphi.

I could feel the map rubbing against my leg as I sat up and looked around. The trees seemed less sinister in daylight. I wondered who the mysterious stranger was last night. I was worried they’d return. They seemed determined to steal the map. Without the map, there would be no hope of me ever finding the portal keeper or the potion ingredients, for that matter.

“Hello, earth to Olivia,” said Delphi.

“Sorry, what did you say?”

“Oh, never mind,” Delphi said. “I’m going to find some breakfast, see you later,” and she fluttered off in a huff.

“I wouldn’t trust a pixie, if I were you,” a familiar voice said from behind.

I spun round quickly and tripped over the map, grazing my knee on a sharp stone.

“Nice to see you’re so co-ordinated,” Opie said, sarcasm in every syllable.

“What on earth are you doing here?” I said.

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“I forgot to tell you about the sorceresses’ side-kicks,” said Opie, “they are twin boys aged 13 and their names are Frankie and Freddie. They are identical, except for their eyes. One has green eyes and the other one has brown eyes, however, you only need to worry about Freddie – the one with green eyes. You know the mysterious stranger that tried to steal your map? That was him!

“So let me get this straight, I’ve got to find the missing portal keeper, find the potion ingredients to save them AND worry about a thirteen-year-old delinquent boy who wants to steal the map?” I said.

“Well, when you put it that way, it sounds hard.”

“You think?”

“Surely a girl like you can easily handle a thirteen-year-old boy?”

“Oh surely, a sensitive cat like you would have more consideration for others,” I replied.

“Somebody’s moody today,” Opie said as he prowled off into the trees with his tail in the air.

Then, ahead of me, in the bushes, I saw a pair of bright green eyes glaring at me from beneath the thicket. I belted towards the map but tripped and landed face down in a muddy puddle. I heard heavy footsteps. I couldn’t see anything because of the mud in my eyes but I knew who it was. I tried to get up but he’d rolled a log onto my legs which prevented me from sitting up. “Delphi,” I screamed. But she didn’t hear me. Freddie got away

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with the map and my chances of ever saving the portal keeper evaporated.