

The Bracelet Mystery



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Alan M. Hofmeister

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Alan Hofmeister, author

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Albert closes the museum for the evening. Then, the bracelet is stolen! After Sarah and Eddie see the theft, they move too quickly and are caught by the thieves. Now the thieves might find Queen Kim's jewels. It looks like all may be lost!

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Chapter 1:

Queen Kim's Bracelet

A golden bracelet, its sides covered with strange markings, rested in a glass case. Next to it stood a mummy case.

The museum guide pointed to the glass case. "This bracelet was found in a pyramid," she said. "It once belonged to Queen Kim. Our museum is very lucky to have it."

The guide continued to talk about the bracelet. A crowd of people had followed her around for an hour. In the back of the crowd, Eddie put up his hand to ask a question.

"Yes," said the guide, pointing to a boy wearing a blue baseball hat. "What do you want to know?"

"What do the marks on the bracelet mean?" Eddie asked. "Is it a story?"

"We are not certain," explained the guide. "There are very few people in the world who can read the kind of writing that is on the bracelet. One of them, Dr. Ruth Fine, is coming to the museum tomorrow. She will try to read the inscription. Until then, what it says remains a mystery."

"Could it be a map?" asked Eddie.



"Some people think that's exactly what it is," said the guide. "They think it tells where Queen Kim's jewels are hidden. Whatever it says, we'll know tomorrow, when Dr. Fine gets here."

"Wow!" said Eddie. He turned to Sarah, his sister, who was standing next to him. "Wouldn't you like to know what it says on that bracelet?"

"I certainly would," said Sarah. "Perhaps we can come back tomorrow to see what Dr. Fine has to say about it."

The guide continued to talk about the mummy. She then moved out of the little room that housed the bracelet and the mummy. As she moved down a long hallway, the crowd followed her.

"In this next room we'll look at some beautiful paintings of the sea," she said. "I am certain you'll like them very much."

The guide led everyone into a large, gold room. As she said, the walls were lined with paintings. Some showed waves crashing on rocks; some showed ships sailing through terrible storms; others pictured quiet, rolling seas turned red by the setting sun. The guide moved from painting to painting as she stopped to talk about each one.

She told stories about the people who had painted the pictures, but Sarah and Eddie were not listening. Their minds remained on the mystery of the bracelet.

"I would give anything to know what the inscription on that bracelet says," said Sarah. "I would love to find Queen Kim's jewels!"

"So would I," said Eddie. "If we really tried, do you think we could read that inscription ourselves?"

"I doubt that we could," said Sarah. "The guide said only Dr. Ruth Fine and a few others could read it. Still, it would be fun to try."

"It would be a lot of fun," said Eddie, his eyes lighting up. "Come on. Let's go back there and take a closer look for ourselves."

As the guide talked on, Eddie and Sarah slipped away from the crowd. They hurriedly made their way back down the empty museum hallway. The sounds of their feet echoed as they walked.

"I wonder what kinds of jewels Queen Kim had," said Eddie. "What do you think? Could she have had diamonds?"

"Certainly," said Sarah. "All queens had diamonds! Some diamonds were as big as baseballs."

"Think of it," said Eddie. "Diamonds the size of baseballs. Wow!"

Sarah was so wrapped up in thoughts of giant diamonds that she failed to watch

where she was going. Suddenly, Sarah banged into a tall man wearing a brown hat. She fell down. When she looked up, the man was looking down at her.

“Why don’t you watch where you’re going?” growled the man.

“I’m sorry,” said Sarah. “I didn’t see you.”

The man didn’t answer. He gave Sarah a disgusted look. Then he turned and hurried down the hallway.



Eddie helped Sarah to her feet. "That man certainly was not very nice," he said. "He didn't even try to help you up."

"I think he was in a hurry," said Sarah. "People in a hurry have their minds on other things."

"Maybe," said Eddie, "but still he could have . . ." Suddenly, Eddie stopped. "Sarah, did you just hear something?"

"No, I didn't hear a thing. What do you think you heard?"

"I think I heard someone groan."

Sarah listened carefully. All she could hear was the sound of the man in the brown hat walking quickly away.

"That's funny," said Eddie, shaking his head. "I know I heard something."

Just then, from a nearby room came another soft groan and a cry for help.

"I heard it!" said Sarah. "Where is that cry coming from?"

"It's coming from the room across the hall--the red room," said Eddie.

"Why, that's the room where the bracelet and the mummy are displayed," said Sarah.

"Come on, let's take a look," said Eddie.