

OVER THE RIVER
AND THROUGH
THE THORN
BUSH

CHAPTER ONE – THE HERO

One sunny day on planet Earth, Hailey jumped out of bed, ran downstairs, and stuffed food into her mouth as her mom said, “What’s the rush?”

“Mphsfurp!”

“Honey, all I heard was ‘Mphsfurp’!”

As Hailey chewed and swallowed, she said “What I said was, my mouth is full! Now, where’s my backpack?”

“Right here sweetie.”

“Thanks. Bye!”, Hailey said as she ran. Not to school, but to see her best friends because they had a “surprise.”

Nikki and Ben were already under the bleachers – their meeting spot.

“Now,” Hailey said impatiently. “The surprise?!”

“Right...” Nikki replied.

Ben suddenly ran to a big dark bottomless hole. “Wow,” he said.

“What’s in it?” Hailey questioned as she glanced at the hole.

“Well, only one way to find out!” said Nikki, getting ready to jump.

“NOOO!” screamed Hailey and Ben at the same time.

But it was too late. She jumped down the bottomless pit!

Hailey’s only choice was to follow. “Uh, g-guys...” stuttered Ben.

“Come on scaredy cat!” came an echoing voice from the hole.

It was Nikki’s voice.

“Fine! But I’m not a scaredy cat.” assured Ben.

CHAPTER TWO – THE SILVER BRICK ROAD

Ben jumped down the long dark pit hoping to fall on something soft. Well, he fell on grass. But very soft grass.

He was in a sunny field. A magical field.

Doing cartwheels about 20 feet away was Nikki and Hailey.

They ran over to him and Hailey said, "Look at that huge castle in the distance!"

"It looks like it's at least 15 miles away!" shouted Nikki.

"Look at that road! It's so, I don't know how to describe it!"

"Wow, Ben! What a good explanation of the road," teased Hailey.

Just as Hailey finished saying "road" someone interrupted her.

"Nikki, we talked about interruptions."

"It wasn't me!"

"Yeah, right."

"Hailey, it wasn't me!"

"Then who was it?" whispered Ben.

"ME" came an echoing voice from the distance.

"H-Hello?" Nikki said, trying to be brave.

"She usually isn't afraid of anything," whispered Ben, also scared.

"I am a Kamoly. I am here to warn you."

"W-warn us?" asked Ben.

"Follow the silver brick road."

"Silver brick road?" said Ben, not sure what to think.

"That one?" asked Hailey.

"Ye-" the Kamoly froze, looking at Hailey.

"Yes or no? Choose your answer."

The Kamoly unfroze and said, "You're the chosen one. I'd know you even with the thickest fog in front of me."

"Weird," said Nikki.

"If you know me, why don't I know you?"

"Well, if you want to know, I'm... Jyotie."

"Jiuty?"

"Ji-o-ty. You'll get it."

"OK, Jiuty."

"JYOTIE!"

"Sorry."

"When will you end this conversation?" asked Ben.

"Yeah," said Nikki, impatiently.

"Now?" suggested Hailey.

"Anyhoo – follow me – "

"WAIT!" yelled Hailey.

"What?!" asked Jyotie, annoyed.

"You never answered my question."

"Oh right. Yes!" answered Jyotie.

"Now. I have another question. Wait. Two other questions," said Hailey.

"Okay, start asking. This will go on for hours," teased Nikki.

"Question #1, why do you have feet sticking out of your head?"

"I don't know," said Jyotie.

"Question #2, can you walk on your head?"

"Yes, I think. Maybe."

"That does not make ANY sense," said Hailey.

"NOW will you follow me?" asked Jyotie.

"Okay Jyotie. Hey, I said it!" said Hailey happily.

"Right this way!"

CHAPTER THREE – WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

As they stepped onto the silver brick road, everything felt different.

Everything became colorful and it felt like the trees were talking to them. Beautiful flowers swayed on the side of the road. The castle was getting closer.

It sounded like the trees were saying, "Don't go... don't go..."

A huge flock of Kamolys flew by them.

"What is this place?" questioned Ben.

"Planet Beauty.

"Or it WAS planet Beauty."

It seems as if they walked out of the sunshine and into the darkness. The darkness was the woods. Then they came to a drawbridge of a castle.

Knock, knock!

"Who dares disturb me?" came a woman's voice.

The huge drawbridge opened with a bang.

"Enter!" came the same voice. They walked inside.

The woman stared at them, as if she had never seen children before. She didn't have an expression on her face – because she didn't have a face!

She had a head, and a body, but it was blank where her face was supposed to be.

"Uhh... JIOTY?!!?", said the woman in a surprised way.

CHAPTER FOUR – THE WITCH

The witch was walking towards them...

Everyone started to fade away...

Hailey called out to them but there was no answer...

Soon, there was just darkness.

And she woke up in her own room!

She looked out the window, and she thought she saw a Kamoly.

“Hello, Jioty?”

THE END