

The Stamp

Anna

“Owww..”

“Geroffme!”

“I’m stuck.”

Rusty wearily lifts his head up, only to be pushed back down by Rina’s elbow. Right now, Red was (unluckily) at the bottom, Rusty in the middle, getting squashed by Rina, with Rina at the top, glaring like mad at the strange vortex above them.

“I’m stuck guys, maybe you could get off me now? Like it hurts. Owww..”
Red groaned.

“Oh yeah, sure, gimme a sec.”

They all got up and looked around.

“Uh... do I know you? I’m Red by the way. I got here by looking at a stamp for too long..?”

“Rusty, same here, it was *weird*”

“Rina, how do we get back, and uh... guys? Why are we in the *middle of the road about to get trampled by horses?!?*” Rina yelled, terrified, and dumbstruck at the same time.

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The group ran as fast as their legs can carry them. They collapsed after about 10 miles of running, where they took a sharp turn, and lost it.

“WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE,” Rusty fumed in a corner. *“WE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE, AND THEY HAVE THE GALL TO NEARLY TRAMPLE US. HOW DARE THEY.”* Rusty picked himself up from the ground and shot fireballs from his mouth. Ok, maybe the last part wasn't true.

After a while, they notice their surroundings. Apparently, the carriage chased them into a big urban city.

“Oh, I just realized. How do we get back? Except maybe you, Rusty. Maybe you'd fit in around here” Rina scoffed.

“Well what would you know about that?” He retorted.

“You have a clue on how to get back?” She snapped.

“Shush! I found a riddle.” Red hissed.

If you want to go back to the place you call home,

You must solve the riddles in this tome.

The next tome will be awaiting at your destination,

Where you'll read it in utmost elation.

High in the dark night sky,

You'll find a vessel that is nice and dry,

To lift you up above the fluffy clouds,

To bypass the demon that completely enshrouds.

“What do you think *that* means?” Rina questioned, squinting at the tome.

“I dunno, maybe the vessel could be a boat of something? But here's the thing: a boat cannot fly, like, yes. Nearly 100% sure there-” Red replied.

Rusty intercepted him. “Hey, uh guys, d’you guys know what the demon thingy is? Y’know, the one that ‘completely enshrouds’ nonsense?”

They both shook their heads, perplexed.

“Eh, whatever. Let’s get going.”

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After a while of trudging around the city, they notice that the city seems to be abandoned. Apparently, there is a curse of some sort over the city so everyone fled.

“Hey, guys, what do you think of the giant shadow in front of the moon is?” Rusty asked casually.

“HOW ARE YOU SAYING THAT CASUALLY?!” Rina shrieked in fear, *“THAT’S PROBABLY THE FREAKING DEMON.”*

As she said that, an eerie mist covered the city, while tremors through the earth shook the ground, where the three of them stood.

“Ok, so-last-ditch-idea-for-life-and-death-sake, let us jump into that canoe outside of the sports shop. And hope to ‘fly’” Rina groaned.

They clambered on, and then the canoe slowly lifted off the ground.

“Hey guys, we’re flying.” Rina said in a dumbstruck voice. “I seriously didn’t think that would actually work.”

The monster opened its dark, ruby red eyes, and roared. They slowly gained speed, and took off towards the north, with the monster growling and clawing the air in rage.

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The canoe drifted north, with the three of them looking over the railing in slight fear and exhilaration.

“Where do you reckon we’re going?” Red asked.

“I dunno,” Rusty replied, “Probably to the next riddle, I suppose?”

They peered over the edge, with the wind tugging at their hair and they shivered, remembering that they only have a sweater to keep warm. The canoe, however, started to gradually descend towards the ground.

“Oooo hey guys! Is that a village or something?” Rina called out, “Maybe they could give us a clue, but I don’t want to get our hopes up, or anything.”

The canoe came to a thud on the snow, and the villagers crowded around the three of them, looking excited.

“Hello, visitors. The stars have predicted your return. We now hand you something preserved through many generations of our kind! You shall bring peace and fortune to us! Now, behold the Tome of Riddles!” The chief of the village declared grandly.

“Um... Mister, I think you got it wrong. We have no idea what you’re talking about. We came here for the riddle to get us back home...” Rina trailed off.

“Don’t worry, we have a guide to explain!” He answered cheerfully. “Come along, and meet Riddle!”

The guide, who is supposedly called Riddle, went up to the three of them, and raised his hand in a wave.

“Hi, my name’s Riddle. My family has always been dedicated to the Tome of Riddles, hence my name. We think it holds great fortune and prosperity, and you can help us solve it!”

Rusty interrupted him. "Yeah totally, fortune stuff, can you show us the tome already?"

Riddle glanced at him, mildly annoyed.

"Sure, follow me."

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On a pestle at the far end of the room, was the tome. Flipped to the middle of the tome, was the riddle.

You will need to scour the land,

For the chest of treasure buried deep beneath the sand,

On an island far right,

To follow the light,

And get yourself back home.

"Hey, Riddle, d'you know of an island east around here?" Red asked.

"Yeah, we only have one: Rockback Island. We never go, because we believe that there is a curse, and whoever goes there, ain't coming back."

"D'you have a... nevermind." Red stopped, and remembering that they have a canoe already, grabbed Rusty and Rina, and sped off, yelling "Thanks!" behind him.

"You havn't told me what it mean't yet..." Riddle trailed off.

"Heyletgoletgo!" Rina squealed.

Red skidded to a stop in front of the canoe, and said hurriedly, "Get in!"

“Would you care to explain?” Rina grumbled, as they clambered in.

The canoe lifted itself up, and set course for Rockback Island.

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“Now can you tell us where we’re going?” Rina grumbled.

“We’re going to Rockback Island to find a chest of some sort.” Red replied.

The canoe did its gradual descent towards a pearly-white beach, with a giant ‘X’ on the ground, where the chest supposedly is.

“Let’s dig this thing up!” Red shouted jubilantly. They got out, rocketing towards the spare shovels that lay scattered around the area.

An hour later, they were able to heave the chest out of the ground, and they pried the lid open, revealing tons of gold coins, spilling onto the sand underneath.

“Whoa.. Look at this! We’re gonna be rich!” Rina squealed.

Red and Rusty don’t care about this; they plunged their hands into the chest, and pull out a gleaming machine, with buttons and whatnot. The two started it up, and they all disappear back home and the last thing you here is Rina saying, “My treasure, no....”