

Torono

Pitter, patter went the rain on the cold, glass window of 12 year old James Taylor's bedroom. He was lay on his soft, cosy bed, bored out of his mind. His dad had promised to take him to a football match, but out of the blue cancelled because he had to 'urgently' go into work.

James was just about to drift of into a cool, calm sleep, when he heard a huge 'thud' on his green carpet. He looked over to were the object had landed and saw to his amazement an enormous looking book. James gingerly walked over towards the object, to investigate, and as he did so he scanned his mind to see if he recognized this strange book. After a while of thinking, something struck in his mind and he remembered that his mam had taken the book out from the hidden library in the hectic town. As she thought he might be interested in mysterious books like this one. James took a glance at the front cover and saw brightly colored engraved letters spelling out 'torono'.

James opened the book, as he did so it made a little creak. As James turned each fine page he became very cautious of what he would discover. Examining the book he found what had been causing the rather terrifying creak, the large rusty bolts that had been holding the book together, where hanging at the spine of the book. On one of the very brital pages the writing was so unclear that it was hard for James to make out the small passage. This read 'This book has been written for my dearest friend Elizabeth, who I have spent many enjoyable adventures with, I will always keep her in my thoughts and the very special memories that we shared will live on forever' signed Rupert Silver.

James turned a few more off the delicate pages, until his eyes came upon a very decreitive one, which had written in humungous, black and white letters' **Chapter one, The meeting**'. He began to read and as he did so he felt something shiver down the back of his boney spine. He could feel the book shaking disturbly in his hands, the door began to rattle nervously and he felt a cold gust of wind hit his warm cheek. Something gold began to sparkle around the book and the pages began to turn quickly. Then he suddenly heard a big pop and the light that had been lighting up his room went out. It was very quiet but James could hear something shuffling behind him he turned around carefully to see what was a rather sinister object standing there.

The object came out of the black shadow and walked towards James. It was holding a rather large marble lanting which held a candle that kept on flickering impatiently. The object, which infact looked like a fairy, dew to its dazzlingly patterned wings that were just peaking out from behind a beautiful silver gown, was staring suspiciously at James. James stared back and couldn't help but notice the very pointy ears that where sticking out of the fairy's well proportioned head. After a while the fairy grew a sweet smile and said "hello James", cautiously James answered back by saying "em, hello". The fairy steadily stepped forward and as she did so, James could see a sparkle form around her.

The fairy spoke again, "I have been sent by Rupert Silver who is the ruler of our dying land, he has told me to tell you, that you must capture the platypus shell that holds a special liquid that can save our beautiful land". "but what if I don't want to capture this platypus shell" exclaimed James, "well, then we will have no choice but to let our land and everything in it die a devastating death", explained the fairy. "Ok then, I will do it, but where is this shell at" asked James "when you go into the land Torono you will meet one of my very special friends Grimsby the Great, who will hand you a map of how to find it" said the fairy. James was just about to say something, but before he could get the words out of his mouth, he felt a soft hand push him. He could feel a blow of wind hit him, causing him to fall quicker and quicker down what seemed like a very dark and scary passage way.

There was a big 'bang' and James came toppling out of the passage way, very dazed indeed. He tried to stand up but kept falling back down on something that seemed long and had a scent of liquorice swarming around it. James just sat there, but a little squirrel that was sitting on a rather large toadstool caught his eye. He stood up and walked towards the squirrel, to see that this was no ordinary squirrel, it was purple with very big beady eyes. The squirrel said something to James, but he couldn't quite hear what he said. The squirrel noticed this, so he shouted very loudly in a sort of Scottish accent "come here ma lad, I won't bite". James hesitated for a while. The squirrel then shouted to James "quick, quick, I haven't got all day" and then tutted angrily. James could see that the squirrel was beginning to get annoyed, so he ran straight towards him.

The squirrel just sat there and looked at James up and down. He then said "who are you then", James then replied nervously by saying "James Taylor, em I have been sent by a fairy to come to save some land called Torono, do you know where it is?". The squirrel looking quite shocked then replied "well your in Torono, where else did you think you were, anyway enough about that. I Grimsby the Great have been asked to give you this map on how to get the platypus shell". James then made a noticeable smirk at the squirrel's name. Grimsby noticed this so he then said "I have you know that I have served for Rupert Silver all my life and that isn't something to laugh about". "ok, I'm sorry" said James apologetically. Grimsby then handed a map roughly to James. It was on a piece of old, rotten parchment which had very detailed pictures drawn on. The squirrel explained to James that he had to follow each picture in turn to be able to find the platypus shell. He then gave James a sword that had a golden handle and a shining tip with a sharp blade. The squirrel then scurried away up into the tree and shouted down "good luck", and under his breath said "you'll need it".

James had been walking for quite some time he could hear his feet drop and pound against the cobble path that he had been following. James could feel his legs aching and was just about to take a rest on an odd looking toad stool, when he saw a blue, rippling river in the distance. He then checked his map and saw the exact same river that he had been looking at. James was so happy that he was actually getting somewhere, he sprinted over towards the cool river and saw a little wooden boat placed on a grassy side of the river. James carefully checked over the boat to see if it was safe to use, it looked like it was made out of, what looked like a strong oak wood. James then pulled the little wooden

boat onto the calm river. He then stepped into the boat trying to balance so he wouldn't fall out. He then sat down on a curved panel of wood and steadily took two long oars out of two round slots in the side of the boat and began to row down the river. After a while James arms began to ache and he began to grow tired, so he decided to lie down in the boat and take a rest. He could see that the boat was following the current, so it would be ok. After a while James had dropped off to sleep and the boat was floating steadily down the river.

Eventually the current began to grow faster and the boat started to crash heavily against huge rocks causing it to break and batter the wood. James was still asleep when the current dragged the boat and himself down to the tip of a blistering waterfall. The boat was just about to topple over the edge, when hundreds of brightly colored butterflies came swarming over. They picked James up with the little claws on their feet attaching to James now soaking wet cotton jumper. They dragged him over to dry land and placed him up against a humungous grey rock, letting the wooden boat fall and crash over the terrifying water fall.

It had been hours before James had woke up looking quite concust and disorientated. He looked around for a while until he could hear bolting groans coming from behind the grey rock that he was lay. James turned around worryingly and saw to his amazement two giant ogres guarding a rather large cave. The ogres where wearing cropped brown shorts with a long brown satchet to match. They had glistening swords each and looked quite dense. James looked on his map and saw a grey cave. He figured that this must be the cave that he needs to go into to find the platypus shell. James wondered for a while, as he knew that he could never get in with the ogres standing there.

After some thinking James saw some big rocks leading up to the cave, he realized that he could hide behind each rock in turn and then sneak behind the ogres and slip in the entrance to the cave without them even knowing that he was ever there. He decided that he would do this, so he quickly ran behind each rock taking a breath as he did so. James then scurried behind one of the ogres keeping close to the wall of the cave. The ogre took a huge step and James jolted as he did so, he then quickly ran into the cave.

The cave was dark and frightening, James couldn't see a thing. He put his arms out in front of him to make sure that he didn't bump into anything. James could see a orange flickering light in the distance he began to walk towards it, and as he did so he could feel heat coming off the light. It began to get warmer and warmer until he could see a silhouette standing there. James walked further towards the silhouette to see what it was, and as he did so he heard a huge roar and then a blaze of fire coming his way. James quickly sprinted over towards the side off the cave and slid across it round the back of what seemed like a dragon.

As James drew closer to the dragon he could see something brightly shining around its neck. James noticed that it was the platypus shell. He crept around the back off the dragon and then horrifically jumped onto the tail of the dragon taking light steps up its back. James could see the ribbon that was holding the platypus shell around the neck off

the dragon. James gently pulled out the sword that the squirrel had given him, from his smooth leather belt. He then lined up the sword and the ribbon and halted the sword and cut the ribbon. James grabbed hold off the platypus shell, but noticed that he had scraped the dragon's scaly skin with the sword, causing it to raw loudly and halt backwards. James fell off the dragon and as he did so the platypus shell flew out off his hand. The dragon then heavily turned around to face James. He could feel the sweat coming from his brow. James began to slowly walk backwards, and as he did so he bumped into something hard. James turned around to see a beautifully furnished bow and arrow leaning up against the wall. He could feel the dragon coming closer towards him, so in a rush he picked up the bow and arrow and fired it against the dragon. The arrow had hit the dragon causing it to pound to the floor. James quickly picked up the platypus shell and ran out of the cave in a hurry.

James panted for a while trying to get his breath back, when a beautiful tropical bird flew in and picked James up. They were quite slow at first but then began to soar through the sky. James could feel the cool breeze hit his face, he could hear the rippling water off the sea below his feet and could see a huge shell in the distance. The bird began to fly towards the shell and as he did so he began to drop lower and lower until he reached a beautifully curved entrance. The bird dropped James and then flew away. James looked at the door for a while and then gave three hard knocks against it.

After some time the door gently screeched open and James could hear a loud, deep voice ordering him to come in. James walked slowly across some marble tiles and as he did so he could hear his footsteps echo. In front of him, James could see a very sick man lying on a royal bed. James realized that it must be Rupert silver, so he ran straight up to him. James delicately pulled out the platypus shell from his pocket and handed it to the same fairy that he had seen before he had same into torono. The fairy gently placed the shell up against Rupert's dry chapped lips. As Rupert drank the liquid you could see him getting his strength back. After Rupert had drank all the liquid in the shell, he turned towards James, "hello" he said, James then replied the same and Rupert said "thank you James, you have saved my life and toronos life, how can I ever repay you". James thought for a while and then answered back "your welcome, and could you repay me back by sending me home". Rupert agreed and then placed the platypus shell around James' neck, it began to glow and James could feel himself whizzing back up the passage way and landing with a thump on his green bedroom carpet.

James could hear his mams soft familiar voice calling for him, but before he went he looked back at the book and saw the purple squirrel on the red toadstool wink at him. James winked back and then said gently under his breath, "thank you".

The end

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