

*Come*

*Home*

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## *Chapter 1: Grandpa*

"He's probably dead by now, sweetie." Mom says while putting on bright red lipstick, "Why waste money, it's already been 3 days since your grandpa's disappearance."

"He's your dad too, aren't you sad. . . don't you care?" I say defensively to get mom to agree with my thoughts.

"Oh, of course I care Hailey but sometimes the past is the past, you can't change it no matter how many times you try." She says while finishing her mascara.

"Oh dear, we're running late. I have to run Hailey. Mwah, love you my Hailey." Mom says running out the door.

"Children remember the usual drill okay? Bye love you children." She says talking to both me and my siblings.

"Love you!" We all say in unison. Yup Raphael, Amanda, and me Hailey. Raphael is first then Amanda comes then me. We all are the Turners family.

"No getting mom to agree with us huh." Raphael says leaning against the wall with his arms crossed.

"Yep, seems like it'll be harder than we thought." I say standing in the doorway of mom and dad's bedroom.

"Whatever guys I'm going to my room." Amanda says walking and yawning towards her bedroom to do whatever she had in mind.

I slide in front of her bedroom door, "No you aren't Ama, you're in charge of washing the dishes tonight." I say winking to Raphael. Raphael winks back.

"No it isn't you liar." She says trying to get past me into her little domain that I was blocking. I loved teasing my older sister even if that was something she would be doing.

"If you don't do the dishes I'll tell Mike Anderson you're cheating on him with Nick Fletcher." I say smirking.

"Ugh I can't believe you, you nosy little prick!" She says yelling, taking a quick glance at Raphael who is smirking and shrugging. Then stomps off.

"Oh and if you try to enter your bedroom once I leave I have Mike's number." I say waving the phone next to my face.

She glares at me and stomps off mumbling angrily at herself. I walk off toward Raphael, he laughs, shaking his head.

"How do you know that Ama's cheating on Mike Anderson Hails?" He curiously says wanting to know. I take out my phone to show Ralph, "How did you get the photo of Ama cheating?" He says looking at the photo with a question mark plastered on his face.

"From Lina my best friend." I say knowing the answer of my brother, also known as my overprotective brother.

"Look, she's a bad influence on you Hails please sooner or later you have to stop being friends with her and you should know that." He says seriously.

"Okay I'm trying." Then he gives me a look, "Really." He says through his eyes. "Look I am really trying I just can't get rid of her okay, I'm really trying Ralph." I say looking at him with plea.

"We've got to know more about grandpa and his disappearance." He says ignoring my plea while pacing the hallways of our home.

"I know I know I've tried looking around too." I say agreeing with Ralph nodding my head and holding my chin.

"We should first check out grandma and grandpa's home, maybe we can find clues and prove that grandpa didn't die!" Ralph says excitedly.

"Good point but I tried doing that already. Grandma's fine with us visiting but mom and dad doesn't want us to go, I already tried asking." I say with sadness.

"I know!" He says brightly, "We'll go at the dead of night." He says whispering quietly pretending it was already night. I laugh as he crawls the ground looking side to side.

"But what about grandma, what if she gets frightened you'd never know what could happen." I say looking down at him. He stands up dusting himself off.

"Good point Hails, anything could happen if grandma freaks seeing us." He says nodding in approval.

"We can try calling grandma about our visit that's going at night when everything is pitch black." I say pointing to my phone.

"Well it's worth a shot." He says looking at me smiling and grabbing for his own phone to call our grandma. So I put mine on the table next to me

But before we could even press one number to dial grandma My phone buzzed so me and Ralph turned to look at it. It was a voice message from grandma I grabbed my phone and opened the voice message,

"Hello my Hailey and Raphael you don't have to call me. I know you my sweet darlings are coming, don't worry."

Me and Ralph glanced at each other surprised about how grandma knew we were going to call her so they could come over late at night.

It was true our grandpa disappeared, he was a sailor who loved to find new lands. So on his last journey he disappeared and his men too. At first we weren't surprised when he didn't come back after a week but then after 2 weeks grandma started to worry and pretty soon we found out he disappeared at sea. Mom and dad sent a search party only for them to disappear too. But me and Ralph have this feeling deep inside that he's not dead.

## *Chapter 2: At the Dead of Night*

After the voice message from grandma we both separated to our rooms to pack a few things we were going to need for our journey by ourselves. Grandma lived 3-4 hours away from where we lived, Chicago, IL. Grandma lived in Indianapolis, IN. I put up a sign out my door saying "DO NOT DISTURB!" But Ama rudely came in and saw me packing, she looked curiously at me while holding nail polish with one hand,

"Why are you packing?" She said wanting to know why I was packing when she knew there were no vacations this month.

"I'm not packing. I'm just putting some clothes in the suitcase somewhere else." I say trying to reach for the drawer with my clothes I never wore.

"Ok then, why don't you stop with that..." she says using her hand to point at the mess I made while doing what I was doing before she rudely barged in,

"And put this perfect sparkly magenta nail polish on my perfect nails!" She says giving me her nail polish and the other hand for me to grab to paint.

I sat angrily not wanting to do it but if I said no she would get suspicious so I grabbed the nail polish and her hand to paint. I painted her nails listening to her yapping about boys, her looks, her weight, her clothes etc.

When I finished, she looked at her nails inspecting it carefully for no mistakes so if there was one she would give you a whole lecture about beauty, then she opened her mouth,

"Perfect, you know you could be my personal painter for my nails!" She said looking happily, I was good at being careful with nails when it came to Ama.

"Ok then, since I'm done with your nails why don't you start moving your bottom to the door and out!" I said smiling while pushing her out the door.

"Ok ok I'm moving my bottom to my room where I don't have to be pushed by any pushy sisters!" She said glaring at me and then turning away to her domain.

I sat down with a thumping, if Ama knew I was actually packing to leave at the dead of night then it would be the last of me.

I went back to my packing to hear the door squeak open quietly which made my heart race, was mom and dad home early?

"Are you ready?" I heard a voice say only to have my heart beat go back to normal, it was just Ralph asking me if I was ready.

I turned around to look at Ralph who was at the door looking at me and waiting patiently for my answer,

"I'm almost done, just have a few more things to pack and I'll be done." I said looking at him while folding the rest of my clothes and stuffing them in my small bag.

"Ok great, when you're done let's meet in the basement to discuss our escape plan!" He says looking at me and smiling.

"Ok, I'll be there soon you can survive waiting I think!" I said not very sure of myself if he would have to wait long or not.

"I'll bet I'll survive." He says laughing knowing I would take about 30 more minutes packing for everything to be ready to get moving.

"Seeya in the basement later!" I yell before he leaves for the basement for our meeting based on our escape in the dead of night.

I take a few more minutes packing my stuff. I look around to see if I've forgotten anything. I kneel down remembering I needed another t-shirt. I open up my drawer with my shirts. I take one of my t-shirts but once I pick it up I see something still in the drawer.

"What is that?" I say mumbling curiously while trying to grab for the small thing still lingering in my drawer.

I pick it up and look at it closely. It was a key, I never knew this was in my drawer, not until today.

"Ralph might want to look at this." I say while stuffing my shirt in my bag and picking it up to go to the basement of our house.

I go to the basement and Ralph is waiting for me. I plop down next to him and show him the key that I found in the drawer.

"What's this?" He says looking at the key then at me, going back and forth curiously waiting for an answer.

"It's a key I found in my drawer when I picked up one of my t-shirts." I tell him as I grab for a snack in my bag I had packed, then giving it to him.

"Cool!" He says then giving it back to. "You can put that in your bag, probably we're going to need it later on. Now let's get to the plan." He says happily ready to take action.

Once we finish our plan I'm pooped I head to my bedroom. Once I hit my head on my pillow I was fast asleep.

I woke up around 3:30 am in the morning and got ready to meet Ralph out in the backyard to get moving. Once I was out of my bedroom I stayed quiet and walked slowly to stop the floor from creaking to loud. Once I made it out in the backyard, Ralph was waiting while leaning against one of those statues mom bought from the store.

"Where were you? It's past 3:00 am by like 45 minutes!" He says, Ralph was very good at being punctual. He was imitating Ama when we were late for things that we were supposed to be punctual on.

"Oh I'm sorry, I lost track of the time." I say sarcastically laughing quietly since we still were on our property.

We laughed quietly together. If only Ama didn't grow up so much she would probably be doing this with us right now.

"C'mon let's get going." Ralph says. So we started moving toward the wooden gate door to leave our property to our grandma's home. But suddenly we hear a voice.

"What are you guys doing outside with your bags? It's so late at night, you guys should be in bed."

### *Chapter 3: The Journey to Grandma's*

Me and Ralph turned around slowly to whoever just spoke. If we got caught we would be dead meat. As we turned around I was looking at the ground so I noticed whoever was speaking must be a girl since they were wearing pink slippers. The only person that wore pink slippers in our family was...

"Ama?" I said looking up from the ground to see her in a mess, her hair was tangled, and she was still in her pajamas.

"Answer my question. What are you guys doing out here?" Ama said, trying to straighten out her hair.

"Eh well you see..." I say trying to come up with an excuse to get her moving back in the house but before I could answer she interupts.

"It's connected with your packing right, Hails?" She says looking at me. It seems like she didn't believe my excuse back in my bedroom.

"Ok it is." I say after a long pause and a nudge from Ralph. I'm just going back and forth in my mind if what I just said was right.

"Ok, good thing I packed my own bag." She says grabbing for her own bag behind her that I guess packed when I finished her nails.

"You packed your own bag?" I and Ralph said at the same time then smiling at each other then looking back at her.

"Of course, Hails made me suspicious and from her packing I could tell you were going on an adventure and no one can miss an adventure." She says looking at her nails.

"Well then let's get moving to grandma's home." Ralph said, smiling while turning around to get moving to grandma's home.

"Where are we going anyway?" Ama whispers to me as we follow the lead of Ralph who doesn't want to take the responsibility to tell her again.

"We're going to grandma's house to find any clues of grandpa's disappearance to see if that helps." I tell her as she looks at her hair and nails again.

After 1 hour we found Chicago Union station. Ama went to the stalls and quickly changed her outfit. Then once she was done Ralph told us he surprisingly had 50 bucks in his wallet so we took the ride from Chicago Union station to Indianapolis Amtrak station.

After a very long train ride we reached our destination. But what surprised me was that grandma was there waiting for us. We ran up and said our hellos and we moved on towards her home.

Once we reached grandma's home I felt great to be there. Before we reached Indianapolis Amtrak Station we planned we would search immediately but I don't think that was going to happen. I felt ready to go to my room in grandma's home and sleep. So we all agreed together we would take a rest before we started our big search to find clues on grandpa's disappearance.

I took a quick snack to eat before I went to sleep and think about grandpa. I missed him so much it felt great to be back at his home.

Once I was in bed I was all snuggly and cozy drifting away to the dreams awaiting me for such a long time. I was asleep in no time at all filled with thoughts and dreams I've missed for quite awhile since the train was so bumpy and jumpy I would wake every 5 seconds of the train ride. In just a snap I fell into a long happy sleep.

## *Chapter 4: The Attic*

I woke up to a horrible dream about my grandpa. He was getting sucked into some kind of black goo and my grandpa kept yelling for help and looking straight but I didn't move. I wanted to but I couldn't. Soon enough he was swallowed in that black goop.

When I woke up my face felt dry but I was sweating at the same time. I quickly ran out of the room and went to the bathroom to wash my face with cold water then I smelled delicious waffles, but I didn't feel hungry. My stomach was already filled with fear from my dream... or my nightmare.

I went downstairs to eat breakfast even if I felt full, I didn't want them to be suspicious so I trudged down. Everyone was already there eating breakfast and talking. I went over to listen to what they were saying,

"I had this dream that we were swinging on vines like monkeys in a forest!" Ralph said happily looking at everyone there, "Oh hey Hails!" Ralph said looking at me. I nod to him, forcing a smile, I couldn't let them know about my nightmare.

"I had a wonderful dream too, I was in the middle of a circle of makeup, nail polish..." Ama kept going on as Ralph rolled his eyes then looking at me,

"Did you have any dreams Hails? Or any nightmares?" He said looking at me mischievously eating a piece of his waffle then looking back at me again. I stare blankly at first but eventually I said,

"No." Not wanting him to ask me anymore questions I stand up, grab my plate of waffles, "I'm full." I say as I start walking away. Ralph grabs my arm quickly,

"Wait Hails..." Ralph says as my heart starts thumping loudly and quickly, "We need to find a place to start finding clues of grandpa's disappearance." He says slowly looking at each person. "Any ideas grandma?" Ralph says after he's slowly looked at each person. I felt anxious and scared about grandpa but I felt relieved there were no questions about anymore dreams or nightmares.

"Your grandpa loved working up in the attic, He probably left something up there." Grandma says smiling and pointing up to the attic.

"Thanks grandma." Ralph says thankfully while me and Ama just look, smile, and nod to grandma.

We go up to the attic and we start our search for any clues to help us. We searched for one hour and we didn't find anything, with the 3 of us we couldn't find it, well actually Ama wasn't helping so it was just 2.

"If I were grandpa, where would I keep my top secret stuff?" Ralph kept mumbling to himself while searching like that would help.

As I search I go back to the same areas I was at before. I notice some boxes and move them over scoffing at myself thinking there would be something.

"Hails great job!" Ralph says getting up and coming over to my side of the attic to see what I found which made me confused and clueless.

"Look it's a keyhole." Ralph said pointing at one part of the attic wall, at first I didn't see it but I squinted and tried looking harder and eventually I saw it. "You still have the key with you Hails?" He says looking at me.

"Of course!" I say excitedly as I skip steps down the attic stairs to my room and grabbing the key from my bag and quickly jumping back up the steps again.

Ralph grabs the key excitedly and puts it in the keyhole, he turns the key and opens. In those movies it's like, "Oh my god ahhh we found it!" But we were like, "Cough cough so much dust." That thought left me laughing hysterically,

Ralph looked at me curiously, I told him my thought about the movie reaction compared to our reaction which left him laughing too. Ama just thought we were acting like babies so she yelled at us to hurry up which made us laugh harder for some reason so she gave up yelling and went downstairs to grandma.

We finally stopped laughing and looked in the umm I don't know what to call it. We found a notebook that was full of wrinkled pages, lots of maps and a small chest. I took the notebook and the map and Ralph took the chest and opened it. It had a lot of I guess you can call gold coins.

We first decided to read the notebook then look at the map and show grandma the gold coins. We read the notebook and it seems grandpa found an island and wanted to check it out more so that's where he left on his last trip.

We looked at the map to find exactly where the island was and nothing really was on the map. We just pointed out first where we lived or actually where grandpa lived and then we circled it with a pen Ralph had in his pocket. I laid on the map feeling hopeless then I noticed something looked faded, a circle that looked faded. I quickly got back up from the map and circled it.

"Why'd you circle that?" Ralph said as he looked at the map then looking at me curiously and questionably.

"When I laid on the map I saw a faded circle so I circled over the faded circle!" I said being proud of myself.

"We need boat tickets!" Ralph said running down the steps while pulling me down with him to grandma.

"Grandma we..." Ralph says still holding on to me as he asks but then grandma surprisingly interrupts.

"Here you go." Grandma said handing us boat tickets which surprised me and Ralph very much since we hadn't even told her. "You should go pack for your boat trip tomorrow." grandma said smiling.

"Aren't you coming too?" I ask before I turn to my room which were now only a few steps away from me.

"No no, your grandma's to go on long boat trips any longer. She's got an old body." she says pointing at herself and smiling.

"Ok then." I say turning to my room and walking straight in. It didn't feel right that grandma was coming but if that was what grandma wanted so let it be.

I packed and after 1 hour and a half minutes of packing I'm ready to fall into a deep sleep. At first I hesitated. I didn't want that same nightmare again but before I could stop myself I'm off drifting into sleep.

## *Chapter 5: Grandpa Come's Home*

I wake up carefree, no nightmares, and early too. I happily walk downstairs where my siblings are already there.

"Ready Hails?" Ralph says looking at me, "Where's your bag?" Ralph says quickly again so I don't forget my bag.

"I'll go grab my bag." I say quickly racing up the stairs again to my room which would be leaving once again. I come back out of the room and downstairs again and we leave out the door.

"What about grandma?" I say as we walk to grandpa's car he left behind,

"We left her a note and we left the chest too so she can pay her expenses when she needs it." Ralph says smiling proudly.

We rode a long trip to the boat which was very close to leaving the harbor, but we fortunately made it there just in time. We get on the boat, and since we had thought that the day was so clear and sunny we didn't think there would be any trouble. We all went to take a rest, and took a quick nap. But we were eventually jostled up by the rocking of the boat. We all went to check what the commotion was, and once again we were thrown hard against the floor. It rocked once more, and found ourselves in the middle of nowhere- no, in the middle of the sea. No one had noticed that we had been thrown off the boat, so they had basically left us behind. None of us were good swimmers, so we just let ourselves float, arms and legs apart, with water in our ears. I don't know how but we had all drifted to a deep slumber, and once we had awoken we found ourselves to be on a weird but beautiful island.

We found a sign right next to the island's beach that said, "Whoever gets here I need help!" signed Arnold Whinston. That was our grandpa's name so I shrieked happily.

"Let's follow the arrows!" Ralph said, starting to follow the trail with me happily lingering behind.

"Umm I don't want to get my new pair of sandals in that." Ama said pointing at the mud that the arrows were on top of.

"C'mon Ama it's not that bad," I say handing out a hand so she can hold while she walks in the mud with her new sandals.

"Ugh fine!" Ama says angrily, pushing my hand away and then walking in front of Ralph who was in the lead who just got impeached by Ama.

We walk for 30 minutes and Ama gets tired right away which annoys me and Ralph because every 5 minutes she would complain, "Look at that," "Oh no not that," "I don't want to".

The arrows stop so we do too and sit on a log I look around feeling hopeless and I notice something fuzzy 5 feet away from me I walk over and climb on top,

"This is fun and fuzzy!" I yell down to Ralph and Ama so they would join me on this fuzzy thing.

"Careful Hails you don't know what it is." Ralph yells at me while he jumps off the log to come over to pull me off.

"It's completely sa-" I get cut off when I feel the fuzzy thing start to move. I'm surprised at first then I think it's nothing. Then it took off. Turns out it was a butterfly. It flew me toward a mountain.

I look behind me and I see Ralph and Ama on butterflies too. We all land on a mountain and find arrows again to an amazingly shaped treehouse. Ralph stops me from getting inside first since he's so protective of me and Ama,

"Hello anybody in there?" ralph yells in as the door surprisingly opens wide open even though nne of us touched the door,

"Ah guests we don't have many of those at these places." An old man comes in the doorway with his eyes closed holding a toucan on his shoulders. I immediately notice this person,

"Grandpa?" We all say together not the old man but Ralph, Ama, and Hails. We look in disbelief not knowing what next. The old man finally opens his eyes,

"Who knew it was my grandchildren who would save me." He says as he opens his arms wide open and tears falling down his cheeks as we fun up and hug him.

Grandpa takes us in for tea and at that second I forgot that we were stuck on an island but then Ralph brang it up.

"How will we get off this island?" Ralph says finishing up his cup of tea and standing up to start pacing around the room thinking,

"Say Hails what's in your back pocket?" Grandpa says pointing at a pen I've never seen before in my life.

"Uhh I don't know." I finally answer as I pull out the pen that mysteriously popped up in my back pocket.

I walk out of the treehouse for more light and I uncap the pen and the pen bounces out of my hand, it drops to the ground and there's a chariot with butterflies as the fliers for us and it looked great. We bounced in and I could finally say grandpa's coming home. Then I told them about my nightmare but that didn't seem so scary any longer. I felt fine, I felt great, I felt... relieved.

To the human eye our chariot that was in the air looked like a tiny airplane to us a beautiful chariot.

Once we got home mom and dad came racing toward us mom all red faced and saggy dad just so messed up had their face lighten up.

We went inside after all the hugs and kisses and we told our parents everything that happened. But what surprised mom and dad was grandma.

"So when did you go to grandma's home again Hailey? My mom asked in disbelief looking at me with those, 'are you lying?' eyes.

"Tuesday." I answered

"When did you get the voice message?" Mom asked.

"At 5:30 on Monday."

"But sweetie, that's impossible your grandma died at 1:30 on Monday from a heart attack!" Mom said unbelievably. I looked at grandpa.

"All that I love Isabel is that my wife, Karla, helped the kids save me." He says smiling then looking up.

It's been 2 months since grandma's death and I'm visiting her grave once more. I sit down beside the grave. Grandma helped us save grandpa. Grandma knew how to fight obstacles and go on adventures to defeat. She taught me well. If there's any obstacle or adventure I'm ready to succeed and tackle it down. Come my way, obstacles your gone. Any adventures are tackled down. I'm ready for the next. I miss her. I stare at that sunset for a moment longer. I get up and stand. I'M READY!