René Kaiser

Julian and the Hidden Worlds

Book 8

The Island Without a Back



Book 8 · English edition

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Maps · Doors · Worlds · Connections

A New Page Grows Step by Step

Dear children and everyone reading aloud,

Beyond a great island tree, the landscape is missing. Asta shows Julian, Lio and Kaja the safe harbour jetty. Before drawing a new map, they ask about the people – and Vika, whose boat is stuck in a bay.

Yuna, the island keeper, collects plans and wishes. A little meadow can be a beginning. But not every sand sack is spare, and a finished-looking path isn't approved for every load yet.

The 25 chapters continue Book 7. Reading in order is recommended; important connections are explained again. The Atlas remains borrowed. Julian's compass with its ten stars stays home.

Load-bearing Atlas paper and paper-eating margin moths belong to this imaginary world. Ordinary paper doesn't become a floor. Adults recover boats, handle ropes and tools, and check building work.

Read together and pause. The new island may be different from the old. Joy about a safe route and sadness about a lost place can exist side by side.

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CHAPTER 1

The Jetty Before the Edge



Kaja opened the island letter at the eighth Atlas page. Julian brought the Atlas in his bag; Kaja carried the marked feeding roll. The door led onto a harbour jetty. A woman with a red flag stood before them.

“Stay behind the marking,” she said before Julian could ask a question.

He stopped. So did Lio.

The woman was Asta. She guided the island boats. Beyond the great tree, the landscape ended suddenly. A white area began there, offering no support for a foot.

“Our back is missing,” Asta explained. “The path from harbour to village used to be there.”

Kaja set down the roll of clean paper strips.

Julian asked about the people first. All the residents were on the firm front side. But a fisherwoman was stuck with her boat in a narrow bay.

“Then let’s go to her, rather than the white edge,” he said.

Asta nodded and led them along the marked safe jetty.

Julian stopped before the marking. The white behind the tree looked like an unwritten page. It wasn’t somewhere you could walk simply by being brave enough.

Asta showed him the firm railing and the approved jetty. He didn’t need to approach the edge to understand her explanation.

Kaja set the feeding roll where no envelope could slip among the loose paper strips. The way home stayed in a separate pocket.

Lio studied the white. “Today I would be very much in favour of extremely ordinary ground.”

Julian asked about the residents again. Their safe places came before any drawing of the missing landscape.

CHAPTER 2

People First, Then the Map



Asta led the friends to the firm harbour square. There was room to wait behind the railing. Kaja put the feeding basket where it wouldn’t block the jetty.

Julian asked about the residents again. Yuna arrived with a board showing the available places. Everyone had accommodation on the undamaged front side.

“The fisherwoman too?” he asked.

“Vika is still in her boat,” Asta said. “We’re going there now.”

She showed them the safe approach to the bay. The white area behind the tree remained beyond the marking. Nobody needed to step towards the missing island edge to admire the damage close up first.

Lio stayed beside Julian. “A very decent order: a person first, then some particularly puzzling white.”

Yuna put the accommodation chart in its slot. A safe place for today wasn’t a lasting solution for the whole village yet. After the rescue, she would keep planning with the residents.

Kaja took only the letter they needed. The basket of clean paper scraps waited at the harbour. It contained nothing useful for helping at the bay.

Asta called an adult harbour helper. They checked the pole and rope before entering the marked path.

Julian walked behind them with Kaja. The children stopped at the firm railing.

CHAPTER 3

A Boat Between Two Shores



The fisherwoman Vika waited in her boat. The white area lay behind her; a large rock stood in front. The waterway between them had become too narrow.

“I can’t row!” she called. “The oars hit the sides.”

Asta secured a rope on the firm shore and attached a soft handle. Julian waited with Kaja behind the fixed railing. Vika caught the handle but didn’t pull immediately.

Lio watched the keel. A small net containing fish lay beneath it, caught on a tooth of rock and holding the boat.

Vika released the net line from her boat. With a long pole, Asta eased its edge over the rock tooth.

Only then did Asta and an adult harbour helper guide Vika's secured boat through the narrow channel.

At the jetty, Vika held the railing for a long time.

Julian didn't press her for an explanation. Kaja brought water; Asta brought a blanket.

The net stayed in the bay. They could retrieve it later with suitable equipment.

Asta signalled to the harbour helper before the rope tightened. The children stayed behind the dry railing. Julian could hear Vika without jumping onto the narrow rock himself.

Vika had first freed the boat from the net. Pulling harder wouldn't have made the snag disappear.

Lio reported only what he could see beneath the keel. The experienced adults handled pole and rope.

Asta didn't release anything too early. Vika's feet were firmly on the jetty first.

The net remained underwater at its known location. Retrieving it would be a separate, prepared trip.