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Julian and the Guardians of Time

Book 7

The Boy Who Wanted to Change Everything



Book 7 · English edition

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Moments · Questions · Routes · Time

A Question for Today

Dear children and everyone reading aloud,

Noah sits before a locked door called Yesterday. After an accident, his brother Elias is in hospital. Noah argued with him, took his model plane and said something hurtful. Now he wants to undo everything.

Julian knows the wish to change a memory picture. In the Valley of Unsaid Words, he and Noah look for the difference between personal decisions and events whose exact causes he doesn't know.

These 25 illustrated chapters continue the first six Time books. The borrowed Chrona already has Moment, Insight, Memory, Hope, Priority and Beginning. Reading in order is recommended for the story arc.

The valley shows thoughts as imaginary word pictures. The story doesn't promise worries will disappear after one conversation. Noah's mother and the guardian stay available; hospital staff and Elias decide about visits.

Read together, with time for questions and pauses. Nobody needs to describe personal blame, an accident or a hurtful sentence. You can stay with the characters.

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CHAPTER 1

The Question at the Door



The next morning, the Chrona still showed the closed door. Six golden hands surrounded the picture. The footprint stood at the top right; four places below it were empty.

Lio was still with the guardians. Julian showed his mother the clock instead of looking for a new connection alone.

The guardian came to the open picture frame. She checked the wide crossing to a bright entrance square.

“Lio is expecting you at the valley entrance. If you need a break or help, this connection to me stays open.”

A question appeared on the wood: WHAT DO YOU REGRET?

Julian read it twice.

“Do I have to tell something private here to make the door open?”

The guardian shook her head.

“No. The question is meant to help you think about the valley. You can answer generally or stay here.”

Julian thought of a boy he had once laughed at with others. He didn’t want to write a name on a strange door.

“I’ve said things I regretted afterwards. I’d like to learn what somebody can still do then.”

The wood grew lighter. Beyond the door lay a valley between grey mountains.

Julian waited until the guardian had cleared the solid route. Then he crossed the level threshold. His mother knew where the connection stayed.

He took his notebook. The question had given him a direction without making him give away his whole memory. At the first path stone, he stopped to wait for Lio.

CHAPTER 2

Words Beside the Path



“There you are,” said Julian as the silver fox came round the bend.

Lio straightened his blue scarf against a low bush.

“The meeting was longer than my patience. But the route here was clear.”

Julian showed him the stones beside the paving. One said THANK YOU. Another said: I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED.

Lio stayed on the wide path.

“Words lie here that haven’t yet been said within a connection.”

“Whose?”

“I don’t know for these stones.”

Julian was about to pick one up. Then he left it. A stranger’s sentence wasn’t an invitation to guess its owner’s story.

Farther on, an apology lay on a large stone. Behind it, a small one had almost vanished into the grass: I WAS WRONG.

“Why do some stay here so long?” Julian asked.

Lio considered it.

“There can be many reasons. Fear, pride or a conversation that hasn’t had the right opportunity. Sometimes somebody needs help as well.”

Julian thought of Anouk, who had been allowed to go to her grandmother first. An important investigation hadn’t demanded she give up her whole hour for it.

They continued slowly. The guardian stayed reachable through a little mirror at the entrance. Water waited beside a bench.

Behind a rock they heard a clack. Not a train, not clockwork. Something metal lay on a table there. Beside it sat the boy Julian had seen in the Chrona.

CHAPTER 3

Noah and the Key



The boy wore a rust-coloured sweater. A little key dangled from his hand. A hammer lay on the table where he had just put it down.

Behind him stood a great dark door. Above its frame Julian read: YESTERDAY.

“Are you Noah?”

The boy looked up.

“How do you know?”

Julian explained what the Chrona had shown. Nothing more: a door, a key, model pieces and two boys.

Noah jumped up when he recognised the clock.

“Then you can open it!”

“I don’t know that. What’s behind the door?”

“My yesterday.”

Noah didn’t reach for the hammer. He only looked at it.

“The key doesn’t fit. And the door won’t give way otherwise either.”

Lio pointed to a crack in the dark frame.

“We’ll have that checked first.”

Julian called the guardian through the entrance mirror. She came along the solid path and closed off the area right beside the door. Noah let her put the hammer in a closed box.

“You don’t have to hit a damaged connection to make us listen,” she said.

Noah stayed with the key on the bench before the barrier. Julian sat a little distance beside him.

“Why do you want to go back?”

Noah turned the key once between his fingers.

“Because of my brother.”

The guardian stayed within calling distance. Julian waited. The damaged door was no longer the only thing Noah could look at now.