René Kaiser

Julian and the Glowing Compass

Book 3

The Cave of a Thousand Echoes



Kostenlose Leseprobe

The Cave of a Thousand Echoes (English PDF)

Originalseiten mit den ersten zwei Kapiteln der englischen Ausgabe; zusätzlich Cover und Inhaltsverzeichnis.

Inhaltsverzeichnis des vollständigen Buches

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CHAPTER 1

The Whisper in the Compass



It was a Friday evening. A strong wind was blowing outside. Tree branches swayed in front of Julian's bedroom window, and every so often a leaf tapped against the glass. Julian sat on his carpet, building an especially tall tower with his wooden blocks.

“One more,” he murmured.

Carefully, he placed a red block on the very top. The tower wobbled. Julian held his breath. One second. Two seconds. Then it stayed still.

“I did it!”

Julian jumped up and threw his arms into the air with a cheer. As he did, he accidentally bumped into his desk. CLONK! Something fell. Julian turned. The glowing compass lay on the floor.

“Oh no!”

He picked it up at once. Luckily, the glass hadn't broken. The two golden stars on its face were still shining. The first star stood for courage. The second for listening. Julian gently stroked the case.

“I'm sorry.”

Suddenly, a voice spoke.

“Apology accepted.”

Julian gave a start.

“Lio?”

No answer. Instead, he heard a quiet echo.

“...accepted... accepted...”

Julian looked at the compass. Its needle began to turn. Once. Twice. Then it stopped. It pointed at the wall behind his bed.

A tiny silver crack appeared there. Julian stepped closer. A voice came from the crack.

“The truth...”

Julian paused.

“What truth?”

The echo answered:

“...truth... truth...”

Suddenly, something silver leapt out of the light. It landed right on Julian's tower of wooden blocks. CRASH! All the blocks tumbled down. Julian stared at the mess. Lio sat in the middle of it.

The silver fox shook his blue scarf into place.

“A decidedly bumpy landing.”

Julian folded his arms.

“My tower!”

Lio looked at the scattered blocks.

“An interesting building. Very flat.”

In spite of everything, Julian had to laugh. Then he pointed at the compass.

“What's happening this time?”

Lio's smile disappeared.

“Julian, we have to go to the Cave of a Thousand Echoes.”

“Why?”

Lio looked at him gravely.

“Because a truth has disappeared there.”

CHAPTER 2

The Crystal Door



The silver crack behind Julian's bed grew larger. It spread across the wall like lightning. But instead of damaging the wallpaper, it turned into a glowing frame. Countless little crystals appeared inside it. They sparkled blue, purple and gold. Julian stared in wonder.

“It looks like a door made of jewels.”

Lio nodded.

“A crystal gateway.”

Julian picked up his backpack. Since his first adventure, he had learned that being prepared was a good idea. He packed his water bottle. A torch. A cereal bar. And the little blue stone Brumo had given him at the River of Whispering Stones.

Then he held up the compass. The two golden stars began to shine. A message appeared on the lid:

“Not every truth is easy. But all trust needs it.”

Julian read the sentence twice.

“That sounds rather serious.”

Lio sat beside him.

“It is.”

Julian looked at the crystal gateway. Through it, he could see a narrow path. It ran between tall rocks. A purple sky hung above them.

“Are you coming with me?” Julian asked.

Lio raised an eyebrow.

“I'm already here.”

Julian grinned. Together, they stepped through the gateway. A bright note filled the air. Diiiing. Then Julian's room vanished.