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Julian and the Glowing Compass

Book 6

The Lake of Quiet Stars



Kostenlose Leseprobe

The Lake of Quiet Stars – Julian and the Glowing Compass, Book 6 (English PDF)

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

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CHAPTER 1

The Night a Star Disappeared



It was a Sunday evening. Julian lay in bed, unable to fall asleep. He had had an exciting day. In the morning, he had ridden his bicycle. Then he had played football. In the afternoon, he had built an enormous spaceship out of blocks.

He ought to have been tired. But his thoughts simply would not settle down. He thought about the football match. About the difficult school day waiting for him tomorrow. About his spaceship. And about all the adventures he had already shared with Lio.

Julian rolled onto his left side. Then onto his right. Then back again.

“Why can’t I fall asleep?” he muttered. The Glowing Compass lay on his bedside table. Five golden stars sparkled on its face. Courage. Listening. Honesty. Gratitude. Self-confidence. Julian picked up the compass.

“Perhaps I just need another adventure.” Suddenly, he heard a quiet sound. Pling. Julian looked up. Pling. A tiny silver point of light floated above his bed. Then a second appeared. And a third. The lights moved

slowly around the room. They looked like little stars. Julian stared in wonder.

“Wow.” But suddenly, one of the stars went out. Then another. And another. Julian sat up.

“What’s happening?” A familiar voice spoke.

“I’m afraid that isn’t a good sign.” Julian turned around. Lio was sitting on his windowsill. The silver fox wore his blue scarf and was watching the disappearing lights with concern.

“Lio!” The fox leapt onto the bed.

“Hello, Julian.” Julian pointed to the stars.

“Why are they disappearing?” Lio looked at the compass.

“Because the Lake of Quiet Stars is losing its calm.” Julian frowned.

“A lake can lose its calm?” Lio nodded.

“And when that happens, even the starry sky can grow dark.”

CHAPTER 2

The Moonlight Gateway



The compass began to glow. Its needle turned slowly. Once. Twice. Then it stopped. It pointed straight towards Julian's window. A silver beam of light appeared there. It grew wider. And wider.

At last, the light spilled from the window onto the rug. There, in the middle of the room, a moonlight gateway opened. Beyond it lay a beautiful lake. Its water was deep blue. A thousand stars were reflected in it. Silver trees lined the shore, their leaves chiming softly in the wind.

Julian stared in wonder.

"That looks beautiful." Lio nodded.

"The Lake of Quiet Stars." Julian gazed at the water.

"And what's wrong there?" Lio pointed at the sky. Julian looked more closely. Dark patches lay between the many stars. Something was missing.

"The stars are disappearing." Lio nodded.

“Yes.” Julian jumped out of bed. He put on warm clothes and fetched his backpack. He packed his water bottle. A cereal bar. His torch. And two little keepsakes from his earlier adventures: the blue stone from Brumo and the red stone from Bruno the giant. He left the golden flower from the Garden of Little Wonders in its little pot on the windowsill. It would wait for him at home. Then he picked up the compass.

“Ready.” Lio grinned.

“Let’s go, then.” Together, they stepped through the moonlight gateway. A cool breeze brushed Julian’s face. The air smelled of fresh water, moss and night flowers. When Julian opened his eyes, he was standing on the shore of the mysterious lake. But something was strange. Although everything looked beautiful, the air felt restless. As though the whole lake were waiting for something.