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Julian and the Glowing Compass

Book 9

The Castle of Golden Keys



Kostenlose Leseprobe

The Castle of Golden Keys – Julian and the Glowing Compass, Book 9 (English PDF)

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

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CHAPTER 1

The Key That Fell from the Sky



It was a cosy Saturday evening. Julian sat on his bedroom rug, building a huge castle with his wooden blocks. It had four towers. A drawbridge. A large courtyard. And a secret room that could only be reached through a hidden door.

Julian was just placing the last block on the tallest tower.

“Finished!” He leaned back and admired his creation.

“This is my best castle yet.” Suddenly, he heard a soft chime. Ting. Julian looked up. Ting-a-ling. A small golden object was floating outside his window. It sparkled in the light of his desk lamp. Julian stood up.

“What’s that?” The object drifted slowly through the closed window. It was a key. A beautiful golden key. Its handle was shaped like a star. Tiny symbols were engraved along its shaft. Julian held out his hand. The key settled gently in his palm. It felt warm. Suddenly, the glowing compass on his desk began to shine. Eight golden stars sparkled. Courage. Listening. Honesty. Gratitude. Self-confidence. Inner Peace. Togetherness. Hope. Julian picked up the compass. Its needle turned.

Once. Twice. Then it pointed straight at the key. A message appeared on its face:

“Not every door opens with a key. Some open only with trust.” Julian frowned.

“That sounds mysterious.” A familiar voice spoke behind him.

“It is.” Julian turned around. Lio was sitting on his bed. As always, the silver fox wore his blue scarf.

“Lio!” The fox grinned.

“Hello, Julian.” Julian held out the key to him.

“What is it?” Lio studied it. Then his expression grew serious.

“A key from the Castle of Golden Keys.” Julian stared in wonder.

“A real castle?” Lio nodded.

“With nine towers.” Julian grinned.

“Then it goes nicely with the one I’ve built.” Lio smiled.

“There is a problem there, though.” Julian sighed.

“Of course.”

“The doors are locked.”

“All of them?” Lio nodded.

“Almost all.” Julian looked at the key.

“Then we should open them.”

CHAPTER 2

The Gateway of Golden Light



Julian fetched his backpack. He packed his water bottle. A cereal bar. His torch. And the little golden seed he had received from the Tree of a Thousand Dreams. Then he picked up the compass.

“Ready.” Lio grinned.

“Then let’s go.” Suddenly, the golden key began to glow. A bright beam of light shot from its handle. It struck the castle Julian had built. The blocks began to sparkle. Julian stared in wonder.

“Wow!” The little castle grew bigger. And bigger. Until it was almost as tall as Julian’s bedroom ceiling. Then a golden gateway appeared between the towers. Beyond it lay a beautiful landscape. Green hills. A wide river. Colourful flowers. And in the distance, an enormous castle. Its nine towers reached high into the sky. Julian gazed in wonder.

“That looks incredible.” Lio nodded.

“The Castle of Golden Keys.” Julian studied the towers. Some windows glowed. Others were dark.

“Why is it so quiet?” Lio grew serious.

“Because the people no longer trust one another.” Julian frowned.

“What does that mean?” Lio answered:

“They think everyone else is up to something bad.” Julian thought for a moment.

“But surely that can’t be true.” Lio shook his head.

“No.” Julian picked up his backpack.

“Then let’s find out what happened.” Together, they stepped through the gateway.