

# **THE RIDDLE OF THE CLOUD KINGDOM**

**By Divad Anirbas**

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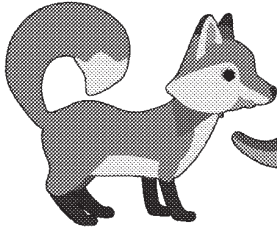
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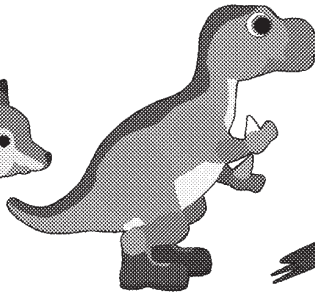
**Dedicated to Hazel, Lark, Isaac, Jacob,  
Alex, Max, Emma, Jack, & Gavin**

**Special thanks to Rowan, Laszlo, Kate,  
Maddy, Matt, and Hazel**

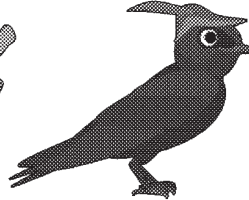
# ∞ The Cousins ∞



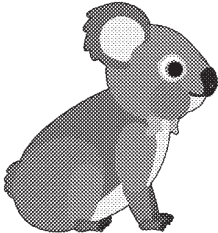
**Jacob**  
Fox



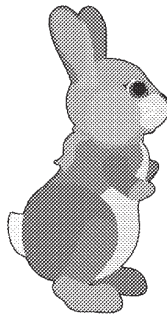
**Isaac**  
Iguanodon



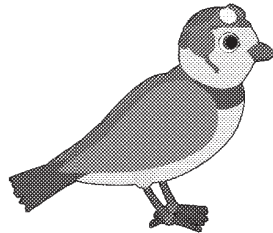
**Jack**  
Purple Martin



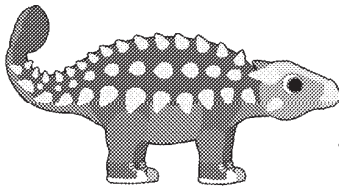
**Gavin**  
Koala



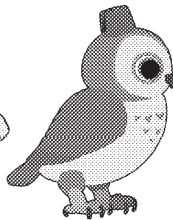
**Hazel**  
Rabbit



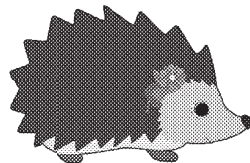
**Lark**  
Horned Lark



**Max**  
Ankylosaurus



**Alex**  
Barn Owl



**Emma**  
Hedgehog

**Dear Readers -**

**The book you are about to read is special. You will not simply read this story straight through from page to page.**

**This is an adventure book. As you read, you will make choices, test your luck, and demonstrate your cleverness. You will need your Adventure Log to record your journey and also your special 6-sided die to use as your Lucky Charm.**

**If you are persistent and observant, then you will solve the Riddle of the Cloud Kingdom.**

**And, if you can, read this book with others, as adventures are always better when shared.**

**Good luck!**

**Divad Anirbas**

**p.s. - You can always find a spare Adventure Log at [ludoliminal.com/adventure](http://ludoliminal.com/adventure)**



Are you starting your adventure from the beginning?

*Yes, let's start from the beginning, go to 2*

*No, I'd like to continue an adventure in-progress, go to 3*

## 2

It's a lazy afternoon at Grandma's house. Hazel, Lark, Isaac, Jacob, Max, Alex, Emma, Jack, and Gavin are scattered about Grandma's basement, playing all sorts of things. Over the course of the afternoon, the cousins pull almost every available toy and activity off the shelves and out of the closets. There is train track laying, board game playing, fort building, ball throwing, horse riding, robot tinkering, and more.

Suddenly Gavin calls out to the others, "Hey! What's that?" as he points to the lower back corner of a shelf in the far recesses of an emptied closet.

"What's what?" asks Emma.

"That!" Gavin points again.

The cousins crowd in and peer into the dark closet.

"I don't see anything," says Lark.

"I do," says Jacob, squinting at the shadows. "Looks like a piece of crumpled paper."

"It's probably nothing. Let's keep playing!" says Alex.

What should the cousins do?

*Go back to playing, go to 4*  
*Investigate the dark closet, go to 5*



Back at Grandma's house, the cousins check their notes and decide what to do next.

Where should the cousins go?

*With Isaac, Jacob, and Jack to the Wondrous Woods, go to 24*

*With Hazel, Lark, and Gavin to the Mystic Mountain, go to 28*

*With Alex, Max, and Emma to the Salty Sea, go to 32*

*Or do something else...*



## 4

The cousins decide to keep playing. But as they spread out across the basement playing various games, they can't stop thinking about that mysterious object in the corner of the closet...

What should the cousins do?

*Continue playing, go to 4*  
*Investigate the dark closet, go to 5*

"It's too dark," says Jacob. "Does anyone have a light?"  
CLICK!

A burst of light appears as Alex runs up with a flashlight. Now the cousins can all see what looks like a crumpled-up cloth in the corner of the closet. Max swipes his tail back into the closet, hooking the cloth with his spikes and dropping it out on the carpeted floor.

Hazel and Isaac spread out the cloth and everyone stares down in amazement. "Oooooooo," they all murmur as they realize that the tan, faded cloth is actually a map!

The map looks old. Some of its edges are torn and there are various smudges of dirt on the surface. But they can make out a mountain range to the north labeled "Mystic Mountain", an island off the east coast labeled "Salty Sea" and a forest to the west labeled "Wondrous Woods," each with a large red X marking the location of...something.

"A treasure map!" exclaims Hazel excitedly.

"There's something written in the corner," notices Jack.

Isaac leans in and begins to read:

"SEEK OUT THE MEDALLIONS THREE  
BRING TOGETHER FOR THE KEY  
THE RAINBOW WAITS, YOUR DREAMS TO SEE  
AND HERO OF CLOUD KINGDOM BE"

"It looks like we've got a quest," says Emma.

"I think you mean THREE quests!" says Lark.

Which quest should the cousins do first?

*Isaac, Jacob, and Jack in the Wondrous Woods, go to 24*  
*Hazel, Lark, and Gavin on the Mystic Mountain, go to 28*  
*Alex, Max, and Emma in the Salty Sea, go to 32*

The cousins suddenly find themselves falling down a dark endless hole. Infinite, featureless blackness is all around them. They can only see each other as they tumble down, down, down.

"AAAAAAH!"

"WAAHWAAHWAAHH!"

"WHEEEEEEEEEEE!"

"FOOWAHFOOWAHFOOOO!"

"DOOBITYDOOBITYDOOBITY!"

As they continue to fall, the cousins transition from screaming to just making silly noises. It helps to pass the time since there seems to be no end to their falling.

Finally, someone asks, "Hey, how did we start falling anyway?"

"I don't know."

"I don't remember falling in any hole."

"I'm not sure."

No one can remember how they started falling.

Someone says, "We just turned to the next page and..."

"You just turned to the next page?" says a mysterious voice booming from the darkness around them. "That isn't how this works! You have to follow the choices on the page. You can't just flip to the next page willy-nilly!"

"Ooops! Sorry about that!" the cousins apologize.

"Well, alright," says the mysterious voice. "So long as you understand how this works. Now then, let's get back to your adventure, shall we?"

*To stop falling, go to 2*