

THIS IS JOSH'S NOTEBOOK.
KIT AND ALITA, IF YOU MESS
WITH IT I WILL KNOW. I
HAVE RECORDS OF YOUR
FINGERPRINTS SO I WILL BE
ABLE TO DUST THE COVER
FOR PRINTS. YOU HAVE BEEN
WARNED. I HAVE READ A LOT
OF DETECTIVE NOVELS SO I
KNOW ALL THE TRICKS.

Dear Future Josh,

*In case an evil future wizard has
done a mind-wipe spell on you,
here are some notes about what
happened this summer. Spoiler:
it was INTENSE with a capital
everything!*

1) We discovered that our local librarian, Faith, is a wizard and my friend Kit is one too.

2) We found out that a dragon sleeps beneath the library, and it's a wizard's duty to keep it asleep.

3) Our local library was attacked by an evil businessman who wanted to wake up the dragon.

4) We beat him, because we are an incredible team of magical library protectors.

5) THEN, later in the summer, Kit's magic started going wrong.

6) We tracked down the source

of her problems: there was a monster in the lake in our local park! It had been kicked out of its home in Scotland by evil mermaids.

7) We went to Scotland to talk to the mermaids. It turns out they weren't evil... They were being controlled by evil ghost rats from the dawn of time!

8) Kit did a big spell with some help from me and Alita. We beat the evil ghost rats and freed the mermaids.

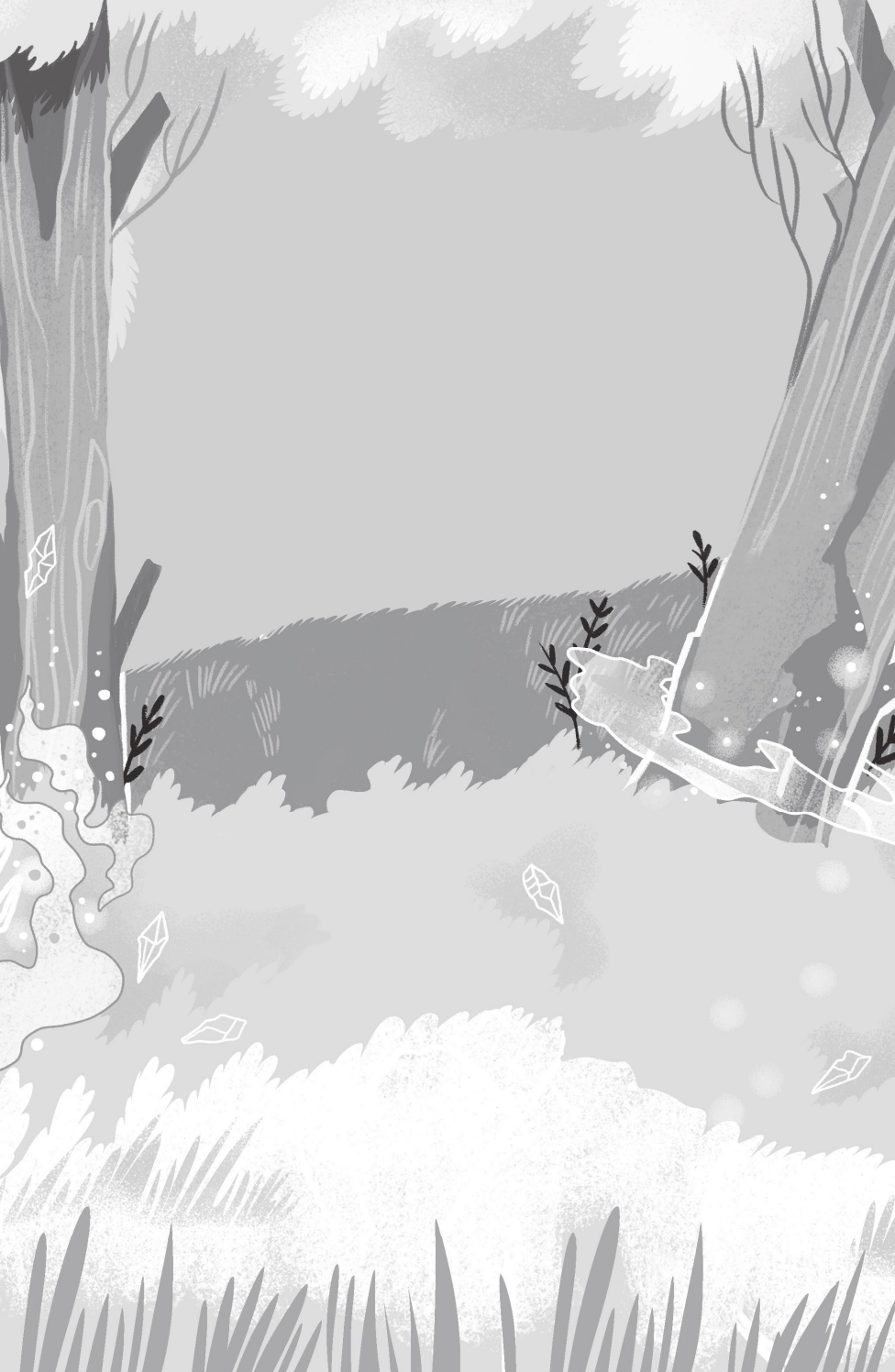
9) The mermaids still weren't very nice but the lake monster was able to go home and everything went back to normal. Well, sort of. Our lives are still quite odd.

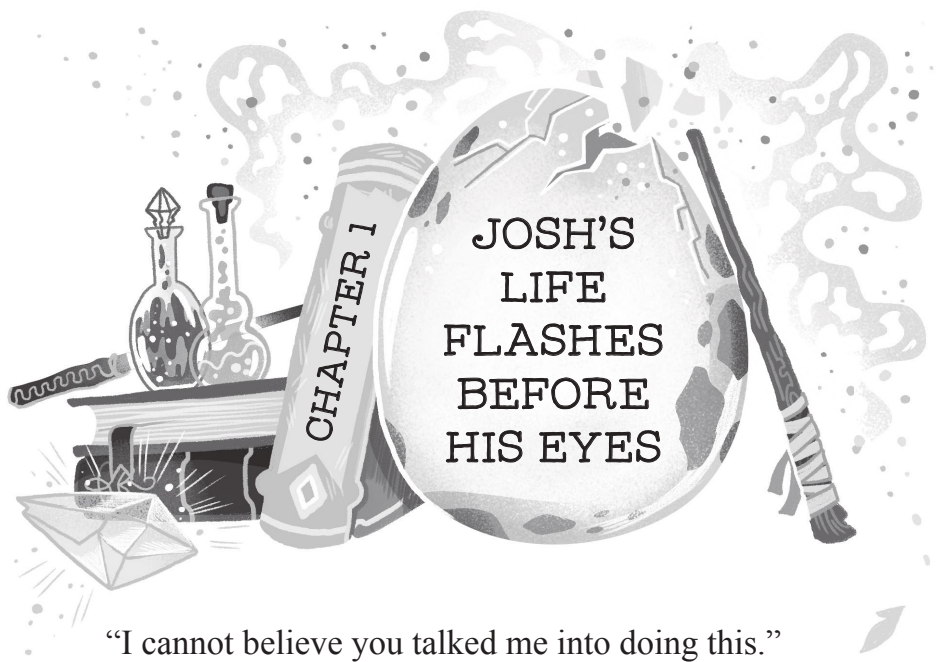
I think that's it. But every day I'm finding out more about the world of magic. I wonder what I'll find out today. Oh. Kit's telling me we have to go.

YES WE DO. COME ON. DON'T BE BORING. LET'S GO! TREES TO CLIMB! WORLDS TO SAVE!

kit







“I cannot believe you talked me into doing this.”
Josh gripped more tightly on to the branch that he and Kit were sitting on.

“It’s what children do in the summer holidays,” said Kit. “It’s called fun. Look! There’s a squirrel over there!” Kit stood up on the branch, causing it to shake and making Josh hold on even tighter.

“I don’t call this fun,” muttered Josh. “I call this terror. My life is flashing in front of my eyes. Wow,” he added through gritted teeth. “I did a lot of reading and ate some good jollof rice.”

The first day of the new school year was only a few days away, and Kit wanted to milk every last

moment of freedom. Josh was more focused on not crashing down from his perch and breaking every bone in his lanky body.

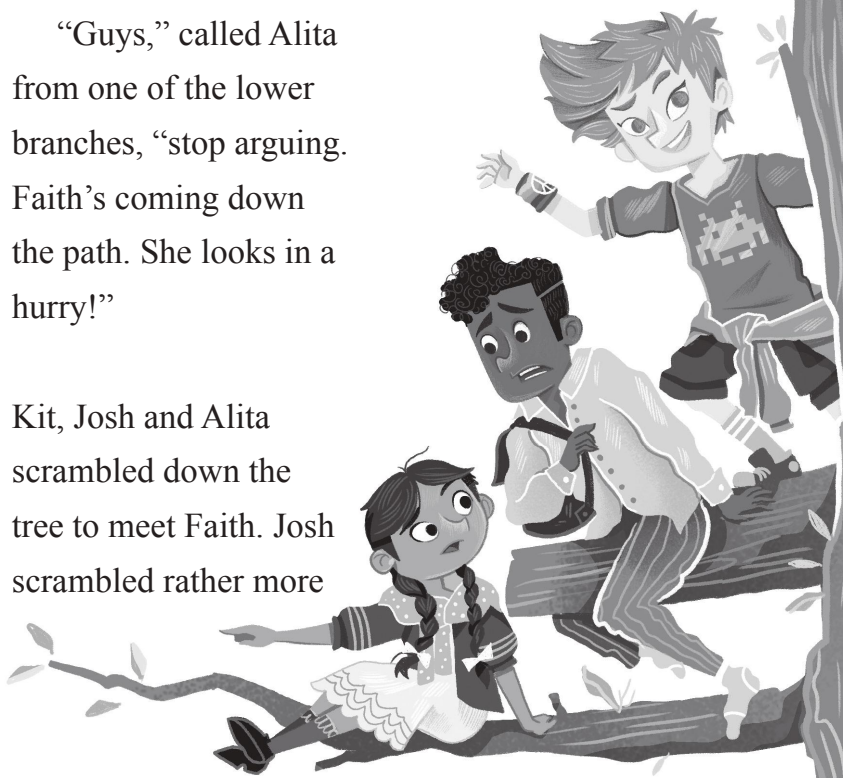
“The thing is,” Josh said, “this isn’t natural. Humans are not tree-dwelling creatures. We’re supposed to be on the ground.”

“Since when is being natural the only way to do things? If everything was natural, we’d all be living in caves,” objected Kit.

“At least caves are on the ground,” said Josh.

“Guys,” called Alita from one of the lower branches, “stop arguing. Faith’s coming down the path. She looks in a hurry!”

Kit, Josh and Alita scrambled down the tree to meet Faith. Josh scrambled rather more



slowly and carefully – he hadn't wanted to get his shoes dirty on the tree, and so he was barefoot.

“Hi, Faith. Is everything OK?” Alita gasped. “Did Kit's mum tell my mum we went out instead of playing at home? Is she here? Is she mad?”

Faith smiled. “Everything's fine. I have good news, actually.”

“What?” asked Josh, sitting down to put on his pure-white trainers. “Has the new Danny Fandango book been released early?”

“Well, no, nothing THAT exciting,” said Faith. “But the Wizards' Council want to meet Kit. And they have a present.”

“Oh?” said Kit. She wasn't exactly excited about meeting the Wizards' Council. Everything Faith had said about them made them sound very old and very grumpy. “What's the present?”

Faith motioned zipping her lips and waggled her eyebrows. “It's a surprise.”

“Can we come and meet the Wizards' Council too?” asked Josh.

“Sorry, no,” said Faith. “The headquarters is a wizard-only zone.” She shrugged. “Part of the whole secrecy and security thing.”

“That’s not fair,” said Kit.

“Have I ever accused the Wizards’ Council of being fair?” asked Faith.

“I don’t mind,” said Alita. “I want to spend as much time as I can with Dogon! I’ve hardly seen him in days because of my aunty’s wedding. I thought it’d never end!” She splayed her hands, showing the intricate henna design on her palms. Dogon was the furry, scaly creature who lived beneath the library: half dog, half dragon, and always hungry. “I’m going to miss him so much when I go back to school.”

“He’s going to miss the snacks you bring him, that’s for sure,” laughed Faith. She turned to Josh. “Why don’t you go and read to Draca?”

Draca was the dragon who slept beneath Chatsworth Library, and like all dragons, she didn’t belong in the waking world. Instead, she wandered

through her own dreams, made up of the stories that were read to her as she slumbered through the years.

“Perhaps you could start a new book?” suggested Faith.

Josh’s eyes lit up with pure excitement, as though Faith had just offered him a ride on a unicorn, through space.

“Oh yes! I can read her some poetry. I don’t think I’ve read her any of that before!”

“How are we getting to the Wizards’ Council?” asked Kit.

“From the library,” said Faith. “So let’s all head there now. One last time before school starts.”