

KING'S RING

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Chapter 8

Blackout

Mick and Liv cram into Hall 3 with the rest of the class.

“What a hectic hall this is,” Mick grunts. “They all just want to get to the ring, as you do, Liv!”

A tall stand is at the end of the hall. On top of the stand is a big glass box.

King Chid’s ring is set in the box. It has a big red rock that glints.

A cop stands at the back exit. Mick thinks the cop’s back must be stiff from standing there all day. That is not a fun job!

“There is the ring!” Liv grabs Mick’s hand and yanks. “Do not just stand there, or we will miss the best of all!”

Mick and Liv pick their way to the stand.

A big kid is in front of Mick and Liv. He steps on Mick as he jumps up to check out the ring.

“Stop it!” Mick blasts.

He just does not get why this ring is such a big thing!

“This fabric must be from Chenin,” Liv gasps.

She bends and pats a rug next to the ring stand.

“This is stunning! And these are the rugs we can step on,” she says.

Mick is not into the rugs or the ring.

Then, Mick spots him. The man in black is next to the glass box.

He grins as he inspects the ring.

“He was just in the lunch hall,” Mick thinks. “How did he get to the stand that fast? This hall is hectic!”

Just when Mick and Liv get to the glass box, the hall gets dim and then black!

Next, there is a smash.

Then, with a blinking flash, the lamps are back on.

But the ring is not in the glass box!

“The ring! It is missing!” Liv yells at the top of her lungs!

Chapter 9

Lockdown

The cop at the front yanks down on a red rod on the wall.

A bell rings and rings in the hall.

“Stay where you are!” men in red tops yell as they run into Hall 3. “We are in lockdown.”

“Let me pass! Let me pass!” says the cop by the back wall as he runs to the ring stand.

Mick spots a man standing still by the back wall where the cop was. He spots his cap and the red rash on his neck. Plus, he has a cut on his hand.

It is the man in black!

When did he get to the back wall?

He was just next to the stand!

The man in black brings out a rag from his backpack and rubs the cut on his hand.

Mick grabs Liv.

“I think that odd man from the van got King Chid’s ring!” Mick gasps. “We must tell the cops!”

The man tugs his black cap down.

In a flash, he ducks and slinks out the back exit of Hall 3.

“The man in black has the ring?”

Liv asks in shock. “Is he still in this hall?”

“I cannot tell,” Mick says.

“What did you say?” she yells.

With the bells ringing, she cannot tell what Mick says.

“I cannot spot him,” Mick yells back.

“Where did he go?” Liv asks.

“I think he snuck out to the hallway,” Mick yells to Liv.

The staff cuts off the bells, and the ringing stops at last.

“King Chid’s Display is in lockdown until we get the ring back!” a man on the staff says.

“We had to lock the exits,” a cop adds. “We must inspect all of the halls. We will get you out as fast as we can.”

The rugs next to the ring stand have bits of glass in them. Miss Dunn brings the kids to the back wall, where there is no glass.

The kids sit and rest.

“Can we just go, Miss Dunn?” sobs a kid. “I want to go back to the bus!”

“Not yet,” Miss Dunn hugs the kid. “We are in lockdown. I bet the cops will get the ring back fast. It must still be in the halls.”

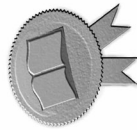


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