**Long, Lost Canopic Jar.**

Bright and early the next day, the children raced down to the station to where they hoped to hide on board a train that would take them to Egypt. Excitedly, they ran along the compartments until they found one they felt safe in. The more Lil thought about the adventure to come, the more impatient she became. "Hurry up Tulip, hurry up Oz!” she yelled.

It wasn't long before they had set off and were steaming towards Egypt. Lil clutched the jar tightly in her hands, scared to let it out of her sight. The journey seemed to take forever but eventually, they reached Egypt. Together they clambered off the train, Lil and Tulip racing off ahead. As he was the more cautious of them, Ox took his time, looking around and ensuring they were safe. He then chased after the girls. "Wait! First we need to find Howard Carter. He will be able to help us. He will be at the dig site," he reminded his sister. Together, they carefully worked out a route which would lead them to the site of Tutankhamun’s tomb.

Minutes later, they were scrambling across the uneven, sandy path which led (hopefully) towards the site. Excited but nervous and apprehensive, they continued on their way until, at last, they reached the dig site. There was no-one there. Where was everyone? Perhaps they have given up trying to find the tomb? Was it going to be a waste of time?

Just as they were starting to give up, they caught a glimpse of a shadowy figure behind the tents. "Who's there?" came a soft, velvety voice. At that moment, a tired looking man appeared. He had dull, unkempt hair, wore dirty, tired, tattered clothes and on his feet were the most odd-looking shoes the children had ever seen before. They were made of strips of leather, held together by string. Was this the famous Howard Carter? The more the children looked, the more they were convinced this was the man they were searching for.

"We need your help," Lil explained. She told Carter all about the jar, the curse and their journey to the desert. Pulling it out of her pocket, she showed it to him.

"Hmm, the boy Kings lost Canopic jar," mumbled Carter to himself, as he shuffled slowly into one of the tent. It wasn't long before he emerged again, this time holding what looked like a small hand mirror. In fact, it was a mirror. "You will need this," he told the children. "This sacred Canopic jar needs returning to an ancient tomb, but that tomb is guarded by Anubis. He will not be pleased that this Canopic jar has been stolen and will take his revenge on anyone that holds it.” The children looked at each other in horror. “Anubis is extremely dangerous however, he is also very vain. If you can persuade him to look into this mirror, he will return to the underworld giving you time to return the jar to its rightful place. But beware, it will only be for a short period of time. You will need to make sure you get away as quickly as you can. Once he realises that he has been tricked, he will become furious and ferocious."

Thanking Howard Carter and taking the antique mirror, the children went on their way. Scrambling onwards over the uneven sand dunes, they headed East towards the place where the tomb lay. The closer they got, the more anxious Tulip became. "Are you sure this is such a good idea?" she asked, knowing what their answer would be.

"Of course, come on scaredy cat," Lil replied jokingly, pulling her along behind her.

After some time, the sun began to set and the desert grew eerily quiet. Ahead they saw the dark, looking shape of the entrance to the tomb ahead. Scared, frightened, worried, they ventured closer and closer, all the time looking out for the dreaded Anubis. Out of nowhere, they heard a deafening roar, as loud as thunder. They froze. Shivers ran down their spines. It must be Anubis. What if the mirror didn't work? What would happen to them then?

Suddenly, it appeared. Its body was that of a man, tanned strong, however it had long, alert ears and a pointed muzzle, the head of a jackal (black - the colour of death itself). It shuffled slowly towards them, growling and groaning ruthlessly. From beneath its brows, two beady malevolent eyes glinted dangerously. Their hearts beat furiously. It felt as if they were going to burst out of their bodies. Their legs turned to jelly and would not move! Slowly and silently, Lil pulled the antique mirror from her pocket and with all her might, threw it at the Anubis's feet, hoping and praying that Anubis would pick it up. Holding their breath, the children watched in desperation as Anubis (his curiosity getting the better of him) gradually bent down and lifted the mirror towards his face. As he stared into it, the most amazing thing happened. A flash of lightning filled the cavern of the tomb, striking the floor directly in front of Anubis, a noise seemed to beckon him down into the depths and he slowly, almost trance like, walked down to the Underworld.

Knowing that they did not have long, the children raced towards the spot where Anubis had emerged from. In front of them, they noticed a small dark opening which looked as if it were probably the entrance to a secret room. Tulip grabbed her brother's arm. "Come on! Quick!" she yelled excitedly, making her way into the depths of the darkness. As they reached the middle, they saw what they had come for... a golden chest with hieroglyphics on. Oz, being the expert on Ancient Egypt gasped “That’s it! Look Tutankhamun’s hieroglyphic! There Lil – put the jar inside the chest.” A huge pile of gold, silver, jewels and gems sparkled in front of their eyes- treasures of the boy King – but to touch it would anger the Gods. They had to complete their task and get out before Anubis returned.

Frantically but gently, they returned the Canopic jar to its rightful place, hoping that this would break the curse and save Lil’s Grandpa. Just as they were about to exit the tomb, a loud rumbling sound resonated throughout the tomb. Anubis! He was returning from the Underworld! As fast as their legs could carry them, they raced away from the tomb and the raging Anubis. Soon they reached the place where they had first met Howard Carter. As they glanced back, they could see the angry Anubis roaring with all his might, waving his long bony fingers at them. They were safe. All they had to do now was to reach the train station and get home. Lil couldn't wait to tell Grandpa her news.