

Through the Mystic Portal

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Through the Mystic Portal

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Chapter 1: Holiday



Aubrey put her head on her hands and stared out of the window sluggishly.

"Are we there yet?" her sister groaned. "I'm going to be sick!"

"No girls, we aren't there yet. Who wants to hear a story?" their father asked.

The girls loved their father telling stories. "Me!" the sisters said in unison.

Their father began to tell a story about a witch and a cat. Then he stopped.

"What's wrong?" Aubrey asked, frightened.

"We may be a little lost." Their father frowned.

"This might take a little longer. Maybe a couple more hours?" their mother reassured them.

"Why can't we camp here?" Aubrey suggested.

Their parents agreed, as they were ready to call it a day, and drove off to find a spot to park.

In the camper, the sisters chatted about what to do.

"We should go to the east of this forest," Aubrey said. "I did some research about this place while we were driving, there is a beautiful lake."

Abigail replied, "No, I thought I saw something sparkly while we were driving. I want to see that instead!"

The sisters debated until they were both out of breath.

"Okay, okay! We'll go to the sparkly thing."

Their father came in. "Go outside and play! You can relax!"

"We were just discussing where to go," Abigail said innocently. And with that, she dragged Aubrey out the door.

Chapter 2: Outside



As they ran outside, Aubrey tripped.

"Ow, my wrist is bleeding," she moaned.

"Sorry, I don't have anything in my pockets that would help," Abigail said. "But don't worry, it'll get better." She reassured her sister.

The fog around them blocked their vision as if daring them to come in. Around them were marmalade leaves floating gently to the ground. The breeze blew into them, they shivered quietly and huddled together. *Children everywhere will be huddled by a warm fire with their family, whilst I'm out in a cold dark forest,* Abigail thought, filled with regret.

It was getting dark, and the sisters reached a little cottage. The door was open, yet no one was inside. "Let's go back," Abigail said.

But something glinted from the door. Aubrey's eyes darted back and forth.

"Show yourself!" Abigail cried. The creature leaped out. It had sleek black fur and golden eyes.

"It's a cat," Aubrey whispered.

"Do I look like I've never seen one before?" Abigail hissed back.

"Do not fight." Surprisingly, it was the cat that had spoken.

"My name is Suki. I'm a witch's cat. I seek your help. My mistress Circe has been captured by a young wizard called Treacher who was more powerful, and my mistress was no match for him. He wants to collect power from wizards and witches all over the country," Suki told them.



"But we're just ordinary people... How could we help?" Aubrey asked, feeling baffled. "Come in, I'll tell you more," Suki told them.

They went into the dark cottage.

"I need help crossing the border between the two worlds. It won't let animals go through on their own," Suki told them.

The room got darker. A cauldron gleamed. "That's the sparkly thing I told you about!" Abigail exclaimed.

"Oh yes! My mistress was taken through it. It's a portal. Let's go inside. She needs rescuing!" Suki told them. "But if the wizard could capture a witch, what would he do to us?" Aubrey protested.

"It would be dangerous," Abigail said, frowning.

"Oh please!" Suki begged. "Only humans can activate the portal. I can only go in if you carry me through it. We need to go now or it will be too late!" She began to weep again.

While the sisters tried to reason with Suki, with Suki sobbing harder by the second, the mist began swirling over

the portal. It raged as if telling them to stop. Then all was silent. The mist began swirling like a typhoon.

"Arghh! What's it doing?" Aubrey screamed.

"I don't know!" Abigail cried, equally as loudly as her sister. The three of them held onto walls and poles, but it was no use. The typhoon was too strong. It sucked the sisters and the cat straight into the portal.



Chapter 3: Through the Portal



The portal widened. The rain slashed across the sisters' faces as they stepped through and out the other side. The sisters and Suki shivered and put Aubrey's coat over their shoulders. The place seemed to be endless winter.

"This must be Heinios," Suki said dreamily.

"Sorry?" Abigail asked, confused.

"This place is called Heinios," Suki explained. "It's said to be the most sinister universe in the multiverse."

They heard a 'CLANG!' over their shoulders and ran to hide in the cauldrons they noticed were piled up behind them.

"How did this end up here?" asked a man wearing a wolfskin cloak.

"I don't care, pick it up! I don't want more people ending up here! My dungeons are full!" A young boy demanded selfishly. The man in wolfskin picked up their cauldron, their key to back home! The rain pitter pattered, Abigail was too shocked. She couldn't take it anymore.

"Don't!" she said, before Aubrey could stop her.

The boy turned around. Abigail blew their cover! "Shhhh!" Aubrey put her finger to her lips. But it was too late, the

boy had heard. The trio turned to run. But the boy waved his hand, a rope wrapped itself around the girls and tied them up.

"Where did you come from?" the boy asked.

The girls struggled to break free. "W-we came th-through a p-portal," Abigail said, trembling.

"Okay, I've heard enough. What are you waiting for? Lock them away!" the boy ordered. The girls were so petrified, they didn't realize Suki was not with them...

The walk was hard. The snow crunched under their feet as they approached the grim dungeons of Heinios. The man in wolfskin threw them behind the bars...

Chapter 4: Escape



"What should we do now?" Abigail moaned frustratedly. "All of the ways out of here have a certain chance of death," Aubrey sighed.

"That's why we shouldn't have followed Suki!" Abigail cried.

"It's not my fault!" Aubrey argued back. They were so trembly, they didn't notice Suki was on the other side of the door!

"Are you finished?" Suki asked.

"Suki, You're a witch's cat! Get us out of here!" Aubrey pleaded. Sparks appeared on Suki's whiskers. She muttered some words that no one could hear and the doors flew open!

The crew tiptoed out, they needed to look for the witch and the cauldron. The trio sneaked around. Suki found a door coated with spiderwebs and scampering beetles. The door creaked. Luckily, no one heard. They peered in. The walls were as bare as prison walls, then again, they were in a dungeon. There was potion brewing equipment on cramped tables made of dark oak. Sat at one of the tables was the boy who had captured them earlier. He was

laughing maniacally. He made faces at a woman who was on all fours on the floor.

"That's Treacher!" Suki whispered. "And that's my mistress Circe! Oh no! He's draining her power already!"

Suki was right indeed. The woman called Circe was looking frail and bony. She screeched and twisted in pain. "No! Please don't! Let me go!" she shrieked.

The trio knew they had to do something. They made a plan. "Okay Suki, on three," Aubrey declared. They counted to three, and Suki freed the prisoners!

Treacher looked up. "What's happening?" he cried. "I'll finish you later." He waved a finger and cinched the door behind him. The prisoners ran around looking for an exit.

While Treacher was busy with the prisoners, the girls and Suki ran to the door. "It's locked, Suki, can you help?" Without any effort Suki moved the door open. Circe lay on the floor, feeling fidgety.

"Mistress!" Suki ran and leaped on a cluttered table.

"Suki, is-is that y-you?" Circe asked, quivering. Suki nodded anxiously. Circe's pulse slowed down and she wept tears of joy. She looked up at the girls and smiled at them. She slowly got up, holding onto the table. "Now, what's all the racket?" Circe asked. The girls told her everything. The door shook and swung open suddenly. Treacher came in.

"You idiots!" Treacher scowled. "That's it! I'm destroying the dang cauldron!"

"No!" Aubrey shouted frantically. The witch waved her wand, determined to stop him. But as Treacher had drained some of her power, the wand was not as strong. He waved his finger around. A broom nearby flew directly at him. Treacher kicked off and whizzed away.

The sisters glared at Treacher, now a tiny figure soaring in the air, through the window. Abigail started to lose hope.

"Girls, for helping us, I'll lend you my broomstick!" The witch handed the broom to the sisters. The bark was smooth and polished, the bristles had no tangles. They climbed on, Aubrey at the front. They kicked off and flew out the window. "Whoosh!" The broom glided swiftly, like it could sense the emergency. Suki pounced on.

Rain poured over their heads. A dark figure was gliding ahead.



It was Treacher! Not all hope was lost. He smirked over his shoulder.

"Let's get him," Aubrey muttered with rage. The broom sped up, until they were catching up to him.

"Hold tight, we're speeding up!" Suki told them. The girls did so, aware they were over the expanse of water. They concentrated as best as they could. Treacher kept looking

at them, not having any vision behind him. The sisters sped up, zooming towards him. Treacher wobbled a bit. The broom sped up again. "Swoooosh!"

When they got closer to Treacher, Abigail reached out towards him. Treacher snorted. "What are you trying to do?" He asked, tauntingly. The girls flew straight up to him and snatched the cauldron off his grasp from behind. "Hey! Give that back!" Treacher shouted. The girls tried to find their way back. They were hovering high above an infinite pool of water. Abigail gasped suddenly, remembering she had a fear of heights. Her hands were shaky, she dropped the cauldron!

"Nooo!" Aubrey screamed. The two brooms swooped down. "Quick!" Abigail cried. The girls whizzed as quick as a bolt of lightning. With a stroke of luck, they got it! Not so lucky for Treacher though as he lost control of his broom and disappeared into the sea. They flew back quickly.

The trio landed, and gave the broom back. The witch, Suki, and the sisters jumped in the cauldron together. "I'll send you home now, your parents will start to worry," Circe said gently. It seemed like she knew their parents wouldn't believe their tale. She whispered some words, and before they knew it they were in front of their camper.

The sisters ran up the steep little hill where they had parked. Before they got anywhere near the camper, their parents rushed out and embraced them. "Where were you? We were so worried!" Their mother asked. The sisters told their parents about their adventure. They didn't believe them. "Who taught you to tell such amazing stories?" Their father asked, winking. "Definitely not you," Abigail grinned.



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When sisters Aubrey and Abigail get lost in an enchanted forest, they find a witch's cottage with a cat that needs their help. They get sucked into a portal and are locked up. Will they escape, find the witch and get home before it's too late?

