



By Eloisa Campbell

# The Water Stone Jewel

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## **Prologue – The Drought**

*Hi. I'm 15 years old. My name is Acura and I am in a tribe of brilliant hunter gatherers called The Cats Pride. We each have a loyal yet selfish dragon that hunts for us and carries us out in the Amaresont-Rainforest, for it is a very dangerous place out here.*

*To the towering West are the impossibly large mountains of Forget Me Not; to the East is the freezing sea of Water Stone; to the South, the unbearably cold snow lands of Thor, and to the North, more tall mountains. It is a hard life, for we are practically surrounded, unless you do the perilous climb up high snowy mountains, the almost-certain-death quest across the seas or the freezing snowy South Pole adventure.*

*Apart from that we are totally encaged by woods as well. Anyway, I was out on my dragon in the wood looking for any water (as was practically everyone else in the tribe) when suddenly the annoyingly loud bell rang furiously for us all to come back, so, feeling confused, Fire-Worm (my dragon) with me riding on her, bounded back to camp. There was a huge horror-struck crowd of hunter gatherers around something crumpled on the floor.*

*Being the princess, I kindly asked everyone to move out the way so that I could see what was there, but I soon regretted it. What I saw was my own grandfather (who is the king of our tribe) lying unconscious on the floor.*

*The guards had said he had fainted of lack of water so, after helping him back to his feet, I did LOADS of searching in the near villages. After weeks and weeks of no luck I finally found a mysterious person. They lived in a shaggy old hut, just as shaggy as its owner. When I entered I noticed them sitting in a ragged chair, wrapped in a dark, moth-bitten cloak and they had a horrible, rasping, scratchy voice. They told me that I needed to go on a dangerous quest across the seas of water stone to find the water stone jewel (which gives infinite water.) I put together an unbeatable team which consisted of me, Fire-worm, my intelligent sister Gabriela, her beautiful dragon Shimmer and brave Icarus (a new tribe member) with his ferocious dragon Spike-shiner. And so, we set of on our journey...*



## CHAPTER 1: Breaking twigs

And so it was, this amazing teenage dream team was walking along a dark woodland path heading towards the sea of Water Stone.

“Did we have to do this at night?” complained Gabriela.

“Oh shut up Gabriela!” cried Icarus, deeply annoyed since he had not had much sleep last night. He was having a dream about a hippo trying to eat him so you can understand why he was so exhausted. They were just about to get into an argument when suddenly they heard a twig crack. *CRACK*. Slowly all three of them turned around but saw nothing except the two halves of the twig lying still on the floor.

“This is creeping me out!” whispered Gabriela, clutching Acura tightly. It really WAS very creepy. As they heard more twigs crack they increased their speed until they were running as fast as physically possible.

“Wait!” called out Icarus. “I can’t run \*gasp\* any \*gasp\* longer!”

The pair stopped. Gabriela was gone. The crack-crack-cracking sound was disappearing. Their heartbeats calmed and they collapsed to the floor.

“We need to find Gabriela so we can continue!”

At first it seemed possible but then....*AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!*

## CHAPTER 2: Are minotaurs real?

Acura woke up taped to a chair in a dark, circular room. She tried to scream for Icarus and Gabriela but she couldn't for her mouth was tightly taped up with gorilla tape. Hang on a second, that wasn't gorilla tape, THAT was tree sap! Tree sap?! Why?! So instead because of this little inconvenience it came out more like "Mmmmmmm!! MMMMM!"

Suddenly a tall, brave figure stepped out of the shadows and scraped the sap off her mouth. It was Icarus. Acura let out a scream since tree sap is really very strong but she soon recovered and cried, "Icarus! Thank goodness you are here! Do you know where Gabriela is?"

Icarus smirked savagely. "No," he said sniggering "and I'm not Icarus either."

Acura sighed a long sigh "Icarus this is not the time for gam..." she didn't have time to finish her sentence because Icarus had started to change into a terrifying creature. It had the furry top half of a buffalo and the legs of a man with gargantuan feet. He was a Minotaur! Acura gasped horrifyingly and then she screamed "Ahhhhhhhh!!!"

Then the Minotaur cried "Minotaur!" In a soothing voice (if you can ever call a Minotaur soothing) "Minotaur Minotaur?" He asked with big thoughtful eyes. If you know about them you can tell that they impersonate certain people of how they really are inside. Of course, Acura didn't know this important information. However, her sister Gabriela did but she wasn't here to see it. Acura felt in her pocket and found a gadget her smart sister Gabriela had given her for her birthday which could translate any amazing language. She thoughtfully wondered if it would work on Minotaur language.

"Could you say that again please?" she said calmly.

"Minotaur Minotaur?" asked the Minotaur. Then Acura translated it into... "Are you okay?" "Oh." Said Acura, relieved that she wasn't going to be Minotaur lunch. "So do you know where my sister and Icarus are?"

(In later years of Acura's life she would not have had to ask this question. When she was older she had developed a great interest in Minotaurs. Minotaurs also apparently change into

whatever creature they see in the last five minutes as well as what they really are like, for in fact five minutes.)

"Minotaur Minotaurrrrr!" he said, which translated into. "I know where they are but I'll have to try and remember. Get on my back!" So Acura did. As soon as she was seated, the Minotaur bashed down the wall and it turned out she had been in a tree all along! That explained why tree sap was over her mouth! They crashed into two more trees until they found Icarus stuck with tree sap to another chair. At first Icarus was terrified until Acura explained what had happened and he started to calm down.

"We need to find Gabriela now so no time to chit chat!" cried Acura, as the Minotaur snapped through the tree sap and bucked Icarus onto its back. They travelled for an hour before they found Gabriela in a huge oak with spiders on her chair. The Minotaur roared at the spiders and put out his leg for Gabriela to walk up and soon the four friends were on their way again through the forest.

## CHAPTER 3: Not everyone is nice.

Little did our heroes know it, but the twigs had cracked for a reason and they weren't in trees by accident. In a small but roomy birch tree a terrible force of evil had been watching them ever since they set out on their quest.

"They mustn't reach the island!" a screechy voice like death itself whispered from deep within the darkness. A single black fingernail reached out, tapped the crystal ball and all fell silent.

#### CHAPTER 4: The harbour

They continued on their quest until they got to a harbour, but it wasn't just any old harbour: it was the Water Stone harbour. Then Icarus noticed something – there (as if it had been waiting for them) was the most beautiful ship they had ever seen. Its sails were made of soft silk and its mast was pure gold. The cabins were luxurious with real, warm baths, which seemed like luxury, for the Cats Pride bathed in cold rivers, and bed sheets as soft as the back of a lion's mane. The steering wheel had a red, black compass in the middle all ready and polished. My what a beautiful boat it truly was. Suddenly the huge red and gold cabin doors sprung open, revealing a handsome pirate. He had long blonde hair with a short trimmed moustache. His clothes were green and black and his skin was a soft peach colour.

"Hello." He said sharply as he slammed the door to the cabin. "What are you doing here? And just a side note, who *are* you?" He finished with a crazed giggle.

"We are members of the Cats Pride and we really need this boat so could you possibly...let us... borrow it?" Acura whispered anxiously.

"Borrow it?!" The pirate scoffed sarcastically.

"So..." Acura sighed as Gabriela dragged her into one of the cabins.

"Acura maybe we should ask him to just take us to Water Stone island instead?" Gabriela encouraged desperately. Gently Icarus pushed the door open to find Acura and Gabriela chatting. Meanwhile the pirate got bored of waiting (only after about ten seconds) so started combing his blonde moustache with a comb just as fancy as the ship itself.

"Oh, you're done with your little chat, are you?" he said five minutes later, "Good, the names Snoot," Snoot declared, staring into the sun, "and what is your business here again?"

"We..." Acura started but didn't have time to finish her sentence before Gabriela pushed her aside.

"We were wondering would you be happy you to take us to Water Stone island?" She said confidently.

"Water Stone island? Are you sure? No one has come back alive if they travel there! Sure, they've come back dead but never alive!" Snoot cried, surprised at their stupidity.

"We are sure, Snoot." Gabriela challenged, but made sure to spit out the word *Snoot*. She had never been a fan of pirates. Snoot stared at her for a moment or two but then reluctantly set sail for the east.

#### CHAPTER 5: We didn't forget

Now readers do not think we have forgotten about our heroes' dragons and the Minotaur, for that would be silly. Oh no, while these brave warriors were of on adventures their companions were having a lot of fun. They also got into a lot of trouble...

## CHAPTER 6: Discovering

Spike-shiner had decided to sneak off when their masters boarded the ship. You see, she had smelt the food. Around the harbour were some wonderful stalls, some sold delicious, sweet food, some sold warm clothes, blankets and scarves, and others sold potions. Spike-shiner (being the food magnet) was the first to smell French fries and hurried over to a green and red food stall. The Minotaur was next. He noticed his bulky human legs were starting to shiver, so he dashed over to a pink and blue clothes, blankets and scarves stall. Shimmer had always longed to do science like her master Gabriela and wondered if potions would help, then excitedly dashed over to a potions stall.

Fire-worm was not so keen for she had smelt another smell. The smell was like 20-year-old dead rats mixed with smelly socks, month-old bacon sandwiches and dropped-in-mouldy sweetcorn stew! She almost doubled over with horror but quickly came back to her senses.

**“Everyone!”** she screeched so loud she even scared herself. Immediately Spike-shiner and Shimmer stood to attention. Until Shimmer nudged Minotaur and he stood to attention as well.

**“We have a new smell to find!”** She cried. **“Follow me!”** They all scampered off through the trees back toward the forest prisons (though the Minotaur was a bit slower because he was wearing a rather fashionable pair of fluffy pink trousers!)

Suddenly Fire-worm stopped abruptly and signalled to the others that this was the place. Slowly they circled the birch tree and as they did a sound occurred, a whispery, eerie singing faint but heard. “You are a clever witch, you are a clever witch, they will not reach the island, they will not reach the island!”

## CHAPTER 7: Is it just the wind?

Back on the boat some clouds were brewing.

“Oh no!” said Gabriela. “How are we going to get past that?”

“No one ever said we had to go past it?” exclaimed Snoot.

“You’re not serious are you?” Acura gasped.

“Oh I’m as serious as a lion still wanting food after eating a blade of grass!” Snoot cried, for he had some good metaphors stored up in there! “All hands on deck!” As they sailed daringly towards the furious storm Icarus noticed a dark shape looming just underneath the surface of the water. Quickly, he scurried over to Acura.

“Ummmmm, Acura did you see that?!”

“See what?” Acura gulped looking a bit green. “I can’t... \*gulp\* ...see anything?”

“Ha ha must have been my imagination?” said Icarus doubtfully as he rushed back towards the cabins. Shutting the door behind him he noticed a dark shape in the corner of the room. Frantically, he thumbed around for the light switch until ‘ping’ the room glowed with bright gas lights.

## CHAPTER 8: What is this?

As Icarus looked into the centre of the room he saw a huge golden treasure chest! It had gargantuan chains wrapped all around it with a padlock on and in the middle of that padlock was a carved in eye patch. He was just about to make a lunge for the chest when he set his gaze on a desk in the corner. It was pretty much empty except for a skeleton pirate hunched over it! Now this was getting weird so Icarus tried to grab for the door handle but it moved and said something!

“Who goes there! Answer me, you imbecile!” Icarus tried to push the door open but in a flash and CLICK it locked.

“ACURA, GABRIELA HE.....” He had no time to finish his sentence before Snoot peered around the door.

“What are you doing in my room?” He cried shoving Icarus out.

“Your room?!” Icarus yelled over the sound of crashing waves. “I thought we were sharing a room!”

“No can do but you and your friends will share the cabin on that side of the boat!” Snoot sneered and pointed over to the darker messier side of the ship.

“Oh great,” sighed Icarus and Snoot shut his door.

#### CHAPTER 9: Bigger problems

Gabriela gasped as a huge wave smashed against the side of the boat.

“I know, right, it’s so terrible we have to share a room!” moaned Icarus.

“I’m not worried about that! We have bigger fish to fry!” Gabriela half sighed, half groaned.

“You really think we can eat that?” Icarus said pointing up at a simply ginormous electric eel hovering over their boat.

“RUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUNNNNNNNNN!!!!” screeched Gabriela as she began to sprint across the deck, dodging slashes of the sea monster’s poisoned, wavy tail. Acura however just stood there staring into the creature’s red, flashing eyes. It bent its hulking, great head over her.

“ACURA NOOOO!” cried Gabriela, but the monster didn’t eat her. Instead it let her touch its snout. Suddenly a rush of thoughts shot through Acura’s brain, filling her up and pushing her down! Her eyes glowed white and the thoughts sprinted through her until one stood out the most...help me.

BANG BANG CRASH!

The creature exploded into sparks and only one thought was left...thank you. That thought grew bigger as the eel explained it’s story.

#### CHAPTER 10: A creature’s story

When I was young a witch came and invaded our den. Her creatures had blood-red eyes. Wolves, tigers and lions scratched and bit all the eels in my den until I was the only one left. And that’s when the witch took me. There was nothing I could do but serve her for years, so after eleven years of serving her I decided to fight back. I went to find the Water Stone jewel, the fire path ruby and the underground emerald. I told her what I wanted to do but she just put me under even more magic that was like a magnet binding me to her. The only way I could have peace was to get help from a jewel keeper and now I’ve found you...



## CHAPTER 11: Sail on!

After every word disappeared from her head Acura's eyes filled with tears. How could this be! It must have been so hard to know that the only way to have peace was to leave this planet!

"We can't think about that now Acura," lectured Gabriela. "We have to move on."

As the boat slowly bobbed up and down along the water towards the sunset, Icarus thought about what he'd seen in Snoot's room. Had that pirate really come alive or was it his imagination? He eventually decided that it had been real and went to tell Acura.

"ACURA!" shouted Icarus. "I need to speak to you!" But just before he could reach to her, Snoot sped in front.

"What's going on, me hearty?" he sniggered. "Anything wrong?"

"No nothing?!" rasped Icarus desperately trying to peer around Snoot's smirking face.

"I think it's ME who has to speak to YOU boy, oh and by the way, the first question was rhetorical!" he chuckled, and with that Snoot led Icarus away to his chambers.

Acura stared into the distance, she couldn't speak. She couldn't even think! On the horizon a peculiar shape appeared.

"Land ho!" cried Gabriela rushing towards the rim of the boat. "Land ho!"

## CHAPTER 12: The mysterious island

In half an hour, they reached the island. It was, to their dismay, the most horrific, horrible island they had EVER seen! The only good thing about it was the tall, cramped trees with hammocks dangling between them.

"I...I don't understand?!" whispered Acura, while hysterically checking the map. "On the map it's a huge, blue, beautiful island! See, it even has a waterfall!!!" She waved the map in Snoot's face. "YOU are the WORST sailor I have EVER seen!!!"

"Now, now, Acura," soothed Icarus. "There is no reason to blame it on our dear friend Snoot..." He glanced wearily at Snoot then continued. "He could not possibly have got it wrong, maybe we missed something?"

"You're right," Acura sighed, calming down immensely. "Let's search the island!"

They looked for two whole days, searching, waiting for something to happen.

On the third day Gabriela reminded everyone about the Minotaur and dragons, so they hurriedly called them back.

On the fourth night, while everyone was asleep, Acura slipped out of the eighth hammock (Snoot 'kindly' slept on the luxury boat) and tiptoed away. To her utter astonishment the island was BEAUTIFUL at night! Water beings, fire people, earth conjurers and sky daemons roamed around the blue grasses. Some her age, some younger and even some earth pets! One parent had a pet that seemed to be one big fireball! Some greeted her with kindness, but others glared or glanced cautiously.

To her amazement, in the centre stood a huge, crystal waterfall, pumping out water galore! Running towards the crystal waterfall, Acura could notice that it wasn't just a waterfall. If you squinted your eyes, you could just see a huge glass dome hidden behind a downfall of water. It was one of the most outstanding sights she had ever seen!

## CHAPTER 13: Joey

Acura gazed in amazement at the glistening waterfall. How could something this beautiful even exist? Suddenly, she started to run. She ran all the way to the entrance and then screeched to a stop right in front of the glass dome.

“Wow!” she breathed. “Its incredible!”

Step by step she walked towards the door until a voice said, “Wait!”

She looked all around her but she couldn’t see anything.

Who’s there?” Acura asked.

“DOWN HERE!” the voice shouted, getting really quite annoyed now. Acura peered down. She had been just about to step in a puddle with glasses!

“Well that’s not something you see every day!” she murmured.

“For your information,” cried the puddle indignantly, “we are seen like this every day and its very rude to even attempt to step on us!”

Just then, the puddle (and glasses) shot up into the sky. A moment later the water came crashing down and Acura got drenched!

Once the mist cleared, Acura could see a sharp man with a tie and glasses. There was a strange thing about this man though, he was made entirely out of water! Apart from his tie and glasses.

“Are you here to visit the dome?” the man asked as he whipped out a clipboard, “or do you want to work here? Or are you here to exclusively visit the water stone jewel? Though that will cost a chunk of moss!” Acura hurriedly grabbed a chunk of moss off the floor and offered it to him.

“The water stone jewel, please,” she declared confidently. Just then, the moss flipped over. On the underside was an adorable little face.

“Are you my mamma?” the face cooed.

“UGH!” Acura gasped, and threw the moss as far as she could.

“Bye, mamma,” the moss cried.

The water man cleared his throat. “Uhm you can’t come in without moss!”

“Well where do I find non-talking moss?” Acura challenged.

“In your pocket.”

“What?! My pocket!” He was clearly mad! She reached inside her pocket and, sure enough, a huge chunk of moss came out!

“The jewel then?” muttered the man, “My name’s Joey, by the way.”

“I’m Acura.” Said Acura but the man was already gone.

## CHAPTER 14: The jewel

Acura followed Joey throughout the whole dome. The spirits all stepped away from her and one of the babies even cried. Joey just looked straight on and kept walking.

“So, you work here then?” Acura said. After ten minutes of silence she was trying to strike up a conversation.

“Yes.”

“What’s it usually like here?”

“Busy.” Joey was finding all possible solutions to not talk to her. Finally, they reached the jewel. Well when I say jewel, I mean the safe which the jewel was inside. It was a very complicated mechanism of gears, wires, cogs, levers and wheels.

“How do you open it?” Acura asked, as she stared at the gargantuan safe.

“Listen kid, I’ve known what you are here for since you almost stepped on me. We don’t need the jewel because our waterfall is an endless cycle. We don’t use it at all so, you can take it.”

Joey opened the safe by pulling on a door handle and took out the jewel. “Don’t tell my colleagues and I’ll only give it to you on one condition.” Joey said,

“What’s that?” asked Acura.

“You let me go on the boat with you! I need to get away from here!”

Acura agreed and took the jewel from Joey. Acura sneaked the jewel into her backpack and both of them walked out of the dome.

“I’ll be long gone before they find out anything!” whispered Joey in delight.

“Find out what, Joey?” Joey’s boss was standing behind them holding the door to the safe. “I said, FIND OUT WHAT JOEY!”

“Ruuuuuuuuunnnnnnnn!” cried Acura.

The three of them ran towards to boat at full speed.

“Get up!” cried Acura. “Get up and run for the boat!” Shimmer bucked Gabriela onto her back and headed for the ship. Spike-shiner got Icarus, the Minotaur got Joey and Fire-worm got Acura. They all landed on the ship, woke up Snoot and sailed off.

“That was a close call!” cried Joey. “Right, let me introduce myself. I’m Joey.”

“Hello, Joey,” everyone said in unison apart from Acura.

“I’m Gabriela and this is my dragon, Shimmer,” said Gabriela.

“I’m Icarus and this is my dragon, Spike-shiner,” muttered Icarus.

“I’m Snoot and this is my pet moss!” Everyone looked at Snoot in astonishment especially Acura. “Poor thing came flying through the air and I caught it!” Snoot cried.

“Oh no!” whispered Acura to Joey and they both burst out laughing!

## CHAPTER 15: Sail home!

As Acura, Joey, Gabriela, Snoot, Icarus, the Minotaur, Shimmer, Spike-shiner and the talking moss sailed home, they all began to settle down. Snoot wasn’t shouting as loudly anymore because they all knew they were safe...right?

Suddenly, a ton of arrows that were set on fire narrowly missed the boat’s sails. Acura whipped around and noticed four huge ships following them! An earth ship, fire ship, air ship and water ship were looming behind them.

“JUST WHEN I THOUGHT WE WERE SAFE?!” cried Gabriela as she flung herself down onto the deck.

“WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?” screamed Icarus.

“THE’YRE LIKE ME! MADE OUT OF THE ELEMENTS! THEY WANT THE JEWEL!” shouted Joey.

All of a sudden, the ship carrying our heroes flew into the sky! They all looked down over the deck. There, swimming with gallons of power, was the giant electric eel! It had come back to help them! The sky thundered above them as they shot way ahead of all the elemental boats. Then, Icarus remembered what he had seen in Snoot’s chamber and his eyes glowed with fear. He ran to tell Acura.

“Acura!” he screamed.

“What?!” She screamed back.

“I need to talk to you! Follow me!” They both ran below deck and Icarus started stumbling over his words. “When we were on our way here I accidentally rushed into Snoot’s chambers and saw a pirate skeleton and it was alive and then the door handle started speaking to me and... and... he had a treasure chest!”

“Calm down Icarus! Sounds like you’ve been having some bad dreams!” she laughed and walked away. Now readers, don’t be mean to the dragons because, as we know, they forgot about the witch in the tree trunk.

#### CHAPTER 16: The last chapter (a short one)

When they got home back to their tribe, it felt different. Even when they showed the jewel it still seemed strange being back. Snoot stayed for a bit longer and so did his pet moss. Little did they know, a slithering evil was waiting, watching, following them. And this evil was planning a plan...

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