

THE RING OF POWER

WRITTEN BY SHRINJAL MISHRA



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Written & illustrated by

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Chapter One:

It was mid autumn. There were leaves scattered outside. The trees swayed along to the fresh, crisp wind. All around were beautiful colours of red, orange and yellow and the happy tweeting of birds close by. People gripped umbrellas in the light drizzle of the fine October morning. Alice sat at the breakfast table, munching on toast and taking small sips of milk. She was about to leave for school. She waved goodbye to her parents and eight year old sister, Mira, (who was

unusually cranky and pale that day) and set off into the warm glow of the Sun's rays. Alice loved school. All day long, she worked extremely hard doing maths, science, literacy and chemistry. She flew from class to class, never being late. It was no wonder she came top in every test! Even the teachers liked Alice!

By the time she came home from school, Alice was exhausted. she went through the front door, only to find that Mira had been taken seriously ill. For the next few days, Alice's parents visited doctor after

doctor, but there was no cure for this illness. Every medicine that the doctor had prescribed was not working! Mira was constantly sneezing and her forehead was burning hot. Alice was growing increasingly worried. She may have been four years older than Mira, but the two sisters had always been there for each other. Mira meant everything to Alice. Alice was determined to help her sister. But how?

Chapter Two:

The next day, Alice tried to put ice on Mira's forehead, but it made Mira shiver and sneeze even more. Alice then bundled Mira up in countless blankets, trying to stop her shivering and sneezing. However, Mira's forehead became so hot that it turned puce. Finally, having almost given up, Alice put one cube of ice under Mira's pillow, wrapped her up in two blankets and held her hand tightly. After a few minutes, Mira suddenly sat up. Alice held her breath.

Was this the moment she had been waiting for? Was Mira finally cured? Unfortunately, Mira had only sat up to tell Alice that nothing had changed and she was still feeling poorly. Alice tried several more attempts, but all in vain. Mira was as ailing as ever, if not, more! Alice was listless with all her attempts and went upstairs for an early night. Just as she sank down into her bed, a ghostly voice filled the now dark room. "Go, find the Ring of Power and your sister shall be cured," said the booming voice. Alice was perplexed. What Ring of Power?

The next morning, Alice informed her parents about the voice. Her mum and dad looked at each other, as though communicating with their eyes. Her mum walked into the attic and brought back an old and dusty locket. She blew the dust off it, giving it a tint of magic. "This locket was found by your Great, Great Aunt Grace, who discovered it under Mount Fuji. Our past generations believe this locket has some ancient Japanese power which enables it to take you to a destination. Wear it and command it where you want to go. It will not only take you there, but it will also

help you when you need it," Alice's mum said. Alice peeped at the locket in amazement. Her mum handed her a backpack full of supplies. "Good luck!" She gave a wobbly smile. Alice whispered, "Take me to where the Ring of Power is!" Suddenly, she found herself whizzing around in a blur of red. She landed with a thump on a long velvet carpet. Still clutching the locket, Alice's gaze drifted upwards and she saw glistening chandeliers. 'How posh!' she thought. 'Surely this must mean I'm in some sort of mansion?'

“Ahem! What are you doing in my palace, may I ask?”
enquired a dignified voice with a sneering accent.

Chapter Three:

There, on a magnificent throne, sat the King. Alice’s locket glowed suddenly. Alice looked down at it. In silvery words were written, ‘France, King Bernard’s locked chamber is where the Ring of Power is kept’. Alice almost squealed with excitement. This was it! She must be in the right place! There was one problem

though. How was she going to get through a locked chamber? “AHEM!” said the King again, louder this time. “I asked a question!”

“S-sorry your majesty!” Alice stuttered and bowed. “I have come here for the Ring of Power!” The King raised his eyebrows. “The Ring of Power, you say? Well, I’m sorry, but that belongs to me!”

But King Bernard, it is for my sister, Mira! She is sick! I only want to borrow-” Alice began, but the King interrupted, “Anyone who is foolish enough to call me

by my name AND argue with me should immediately go to the dungeon! GUARDS! Take her away!” Two armoured guards marched into the room, hoisted Alice up by the armpits and when they reached the dungeon, they threw her onto the cool, hard slabs of stone.

Alice sat on the floor, weeping. There were cuts and bruises all over her. She had come here in the hope of curing her sister but had ended up in the dungeon. Was she ever going to get out? If she was, how was

she going to get past the locked chamber? Was Mira okay? Minutes passed. Or was it hours? Or days? Alice couldn't tell. It was her mum's backpack that had kept her going. Sometime later, King Bernard brought a nasty surprise to the dungeon. His bloodthirsty bulldogs! Alice was frightened to death. Animals were her worst fear. Weren't they going to bite her? The bulldogs bashed their teeth, as if threatening to tear Alice apart. Eventually, (and thankfully) they fell asleep. Alice seized this opportunity to take a clip from her curly red hair and pick the lock. The dungeon door slid

open easily. How was she going to find the locked chamber? The locket, as though reading Alice's mind, glowed and transformed into a map! However, there was no time to gape; she was free!

Quickly and quietly, Alice followed the map's route to the chamber. It was pitch black, but the map-locket somehow lit the way. With every noise Alice made, she froze for a moment before carrying on. Finally, she reached a heavily locked chamber door on which was engraved, 'King's chamber'. "Yes," Alice whispered. She had done it! She had found the chamber! Now she had to

get inside. Her clip was broken, due to all the pressure she had put into breaking out of the dungeon. Alice's locket glowed again and turned into a set of twenty keys, each key for one lock! One by one, Alice began to push the keys into the right lock. A few minutes later, she tiptoed in and realised that the room was not only heavily locked, it was heavily guarded too. Laser beams crept out of each of the sides of the chamber and two huge hammers swooped in and out. There were even spotlights! Alice gulped. She stuck her arm in. Then her leg. Then her arm, then her leg. She repeated this

process until she had crossed all of the laser beams. Next were the hammers. Alice focused on the positioning of them. After looking at them steadily for a good three seconds, she jumped. To Alice's utmost relief, she landed on the other side of the hammers. Then she slid around the room, carefully avoiding the spotlights. Finally, she reached a stand, bearing a velvet cushion. On top of it was - "The Ring of Power!" Alice gasped. It was here! She was seeing what she had come all this way for! She picked the ring up. An angelic chorus seemed to be playing. Alice's heart swelled with pride at what she had

achieved. Would other twelve-year-olds have been able to do what she had done? She stared at the locket, just as she had when it was given to her. "Take me home!" she cried. She was whizzing round again, in a blur of red. She landed in her living room. She was home.

Her parents rushed to her side, but Alice didn't stop to embrace them. There were more important things at hand. She rushed into Mira's bedroom and to Mira, who was sleeping at that moment. Alice placed the ring on her, and a blinding flash of light shot through it. Her parents rushed in, and when the light faded away, Mira's

eyes were wide open. “Why are you all looking so worried? Let's go outside and have some fun!” she said with a familiar twinkle in her eyes. Alice was slightly taken aback, but she lifted Mira out of bed and together, they ambled to the garden. Their parents watched from the windows, looked at each other and smiled mysteriously. Was it time to tell Alice about their other secret, their largest one yet?



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When Alice's sister Mira suddenly turns ill, it's up to Alice to find the special Ring of Power. But finding it is not easy. With obstacles at hand, will Alice be able to do it?

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