

## A Lucky Find

A funny thing happened on the way to school. I was walking with my best friend Eva, like we do every day. As we passed through our normal route in the park, she noticed something glowing at the base of a tree.

“Hey, look over there!” She pointed. It was a hole, with brilliant golden light streaming out of it. Stepping closer, she peeked inside, and then tumbled in!

I was so shocked, and reacted quickly, jumping in after her.

We landed in a heap, inside of what looked like an old minecart. Stepping out, I saw the source of the brilliant light I saw outside the hole. They were iridescent gems, covering the walls of the cave we were in. They gleamed and glistened, beautifully shaped in their natural, raw, form.

“Whoa,” I breathed. Eva and I stepped out, in awe of our surroundings. So engrossed in what was above us, we barely stopped ourselves from running into a rabbit! Suddenly, my peripheral vision expanded as I noticed the hundreds of rabbits at my feet. They were each focused, extracting gems from the cave walls, with what looked to be... their minds? Tiny waves of light were shooting from their foreheads, removing a gem and placing it into a minecart.

Turning to tell Eva about my discovery, I noticed that she was actually engaged in conversation with a rabbit, and it was talking! She noticed me, and waved me over.

“Maddie, meet our new friend, Captain Cody. Captain Cody, meet my friend Maddie.” I shook hands with the rabbit solemnly, trying to contain my curiosity, and amazement.

“I’ve told Cody all about how we got here, and he’s gonna show us the way out.” She says.

“Right this way,” I heard Captain Cody speak for the first time. He had a high pitched voice, but one that still had a tone of authority about it.

Eva and I followed dutifully behind him, talking to each other in quiet whispers.

“What’s this place anyways?” I asked.

“It’s a mine. A luck mine.”

“Luck mine?” I said, confused.

“Those gems you see, rooted in the cave? Those are luck gems. The rabbits in here mine luck, and ship it to wherever it needs to go throughout the world. And this isn’t the only luck mine. Cody says there’s a whole chain of them, but he’s just in charge of this one.”

“Wow, I breathed out.” I tried to process everything I just heard, and looked upon the cave with a fresh perspective.

“But if the luck mines are so special, how come the light coming from inside is so bright? Wouldn’t they want to stay hidden?”

“We most definitely do want to stay hidden,” Captain Cody’s voice interrupted our conversation.

“Actually, that light is magical, and should only be visible to luck miners, looking to make deliveries.”

“Then how come we saw it?” Eva asked.

“I don’t know,” Captain Cody said. “There hasn’t been a single human down here in 60 years, and they came during the last luck drought.”

“Luck drought?” I said.

“When humans around the globe stop believing in luck, there is a luck drought. The luck gems grow dimmer, and it becomes harder to make people happy. In fact, we’re in one right now.”

“How did you end the luck drought last time?”

“We had those humans spread the message of believing in luck to the outside world. Just through their words, they saved all of us.”

“Wow,” Eva said. “You know, we could do that too.” she lightly punched me in the arm.

“If so, that would be great for all of us,” Captain Cody said, as he opened a door, revealing a staircase to the outside world. “Because, between the three of us, I think you guys just might be our lucky find.”