The Lost City Below

By Victoria Shoemaker
Yvonne didn’t exactly want to go to Montana for her fall break, but she didn’t have a choice. She had family there and her mother had a job interview. The only good thing about it was that she could bring Chief. Chief was her horse, a five year old gelding. The only reason that she agreed to go was because there was a lot of open land, and she imagined the day-long trail rides that she could go on.

That was some time ago. Now she was on the endless car ride from Arizona, to western Montana. It had taken hours.

“Mom, are we there yet?” That is what she had been asking every ten minutes the entire ride. “No, not yet sweetie,” That is what the answer always was. The entire trip took sixteen hours. They only had five minutes left.

The next five minutes went by fast. Soon they arrived at the house. Yvonne dashed inside, she was actually pretty excited to see her cousins for the first time in two years. She looked around for a few minutes, but then realized that nobody was home. Her parents forgot to tell her that they would be on a trip to Maine.

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The next morning she woke up at noon. She got dressed, and went to go take care of Chief. She fed him, and decided to take him on a trail ride later. Then she went inside and ate a breakfast/lunch. She watched TV for an hour, and then went to tack up Chief for a trail ride.
She set out looking for a good trail, with a GPS in her pocket. After about fifteen minutes she found a trail, it was probably one that her cousin had made. Soon she decided to stray away from the trail a little bit. After all, she had a GPS.

She went a little farther and Chief started to act weird.

“What is up with you, boy?” She said to him. He was now jumping sideways and starting to buck. She urged him forward, but they fell in a hole. Yvonne went unconscious.

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Yvonne woke up. She was in a small town that she didn’t recognize. Everything was dark, and it was so messy and destroyed that it looked like a bomb had exploded. There was no one in sight except for an average looking man. Everything about him was average. He had brown hair, brown eyes, and everything an average size. The only thing strange about him was that his clothes were ripped and torn. Yvonne ran up to him.

“Sorry, I don’t mean to bother you, but where am I?” She asked.

“You are in Sinminvin, it looks bad now, but at one point we were a beautiful city. We were taken over and are now being ruled by the evil Meronop,” he said.

“Okay, but who are you? And how did I get here?” asked Yvonne.

“I am Manny. You must have slipped through one of the secret portals. Many people have done that,” Manny said, “They all get back out, but I’m afraid that you and your horse will have to stay for a while.”
Yvonne was in shock. She didn’t know how long a while was going to be, but she did know that her family was going back to Arizona in five days.

“Why?” she asked.

“There was once an ancient prophecy made. It said that Sinminvin would be taken over by Meronop, and that a hero would come through a portal. You fit the description of this hero. You will be the one to save us all,” said Manny. “I have been hoping ever since I was little that I would get to do this. I am your helper, and I have a plan.

“Ok. Tell me what you have,” Yvonne said.

“In order to successfully do this, you have to free King Mac from the Sinminvin prison. It would normally be an easy task, but the prison is heavily guarded and as soon as Meronop finds out that you are here, he will be after you himself. So my plan is that I sneak in and pretend that I am the hero. They have never seen me before, so they will go after me thinking that I really am. Even if they have seen me before, they aren’t very bright and won’t recognize me. You will sneak through, during the commotion, and free King Mac. Got it?”

“Okay, but where is the Sinminvin prison?” Yvonne asked.

“It is a few miles from here, so you might want to take your horse.”

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The whole ride to the prison was insane. Manny had a horse, so they both were horseback. Every few minutes or so, they would hear something, thinking that it was a guard or Meronop. It was always just a rat. They were finally there, after an hour of the harsh ride. The prison looked just as bad as the rest of the town.

They dismounted their horses and tied them up.

“I’m going in. Wait ten minutes and then you can,” Manny said.
“Ok.” Yvonne said. Manny went in. Yvonne waited, and it was the longest ten minutes of her life. When the ten minutes were finally over, Yvonne snuck in. There was a lot of chaos going on. The plan must have worked. She tip-toed down a long hall, until she saw a set of keys. She picked them up, and went to King Mac’s cell, and tried to unlock him. It took quit a few tries, but she got him unlocked. Inside the stall was a small, pale, very skinny man wearing nothing but smiley-face boxers. Yvonne grabbed him by the hand and dragged him outside. Manny was outside waiting for them.

“Great! You did it! Now watch carefully.” The city was magically repairing itself. The dark sky turned blue, the crumbling buildings came together, and King Mac looked healthy and plump and was wearing clothes. Meronop and the guards all dissolved. The city was the most beautiful thing that she had ever seen.

Everyone in the city was celebrating still, but Yvonne knew she had to leave.

“Come visit us again soon!” everyone cheered.

“Don’t worry,” She said as she started to go in the city with Chief, “I’ll be back as soon as possible!”