IN THE DESERT

ACCOMPANYING ILLUSTRATIONS



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For more information on The Adventures of Archibald & Jockabeb series, visit our website at www.TheAJAdventures.com

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SPOILER NOTE

These pictures show scenes from In the Desert—so don't peek ahead!

Follow along with each illustration as you get to that part of the story.

PROLOGUE

"That's the problem,' shot back Jockabeb with a laugh. 'No matter how safe someone may think it is, we always seem to find a way to get into trouble.'

As the two brothers made their way home, they worked on a game plan to win their parents' approval for the field trip to California—a field trip that just might change their life forever!"



PROLOGUE

"Treading slowly down the cave's slick, winding stone staircase, the boys discovered an enchanted underground lake that stretched as far as they could see.

It was out on that lake when they first met Haktu, the young Indian brave who'd been trapped in the body of an underwater dragon after evil warriors cast a spell on him many years before.

...

As Archibald approached the front porch of his home, memories of Haktu and Uno, the young brave's pony, were swirling in his mind."



Haktu and Uno

CHAPTER 1
LAST-MINUTE PREPARATIONS

"As he plunged down into the dark abyss, he recoiled as several wolf-crows flew around him.



Wolf-crow, devil cat, and black jaguar

When he finally hit bottom and raised his head, he found himself staring straight into two pairs of gleaming yellow eyes that he'd hoped never to see again.

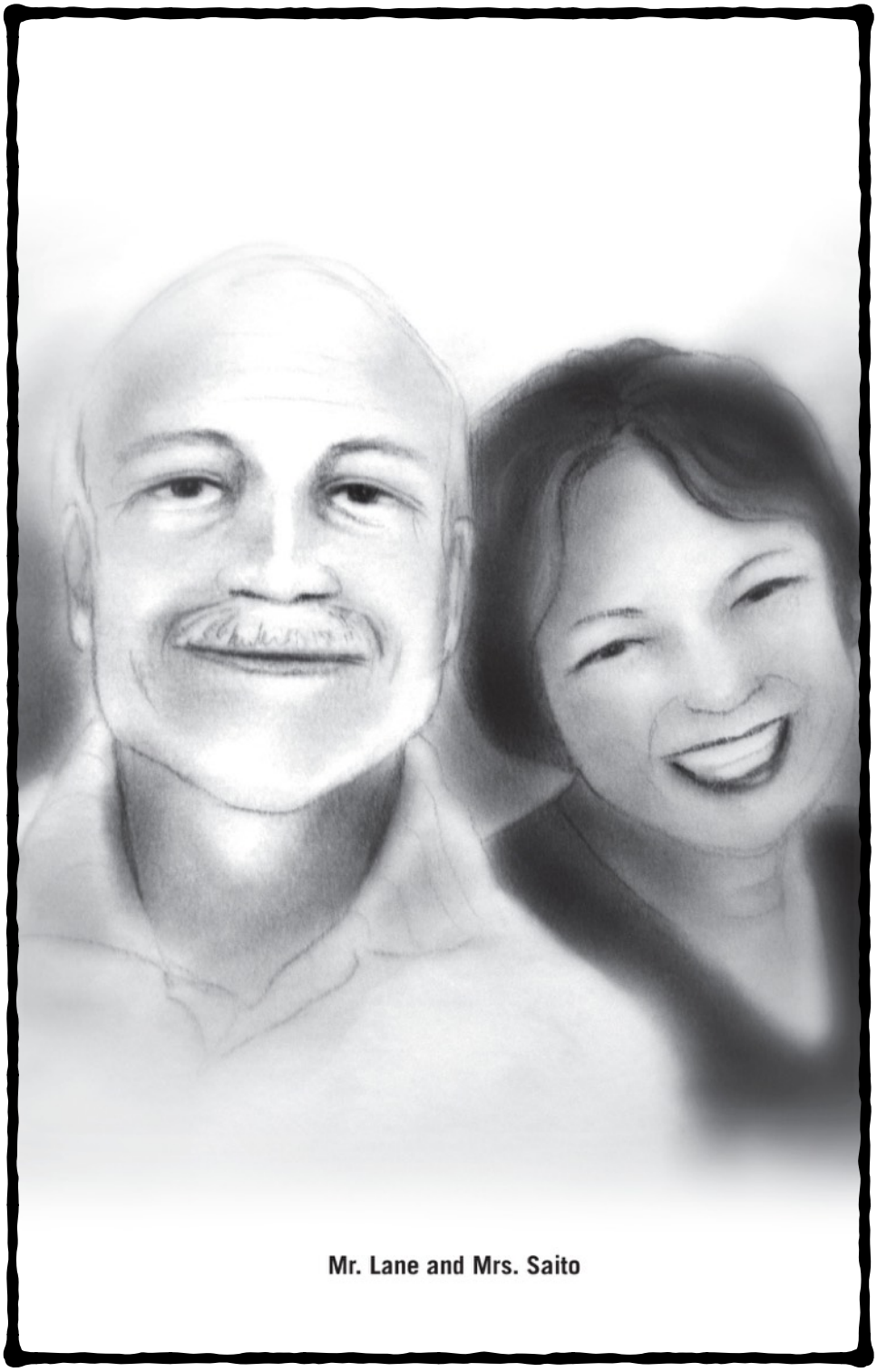
One pair belonged to the dreaded devil cat that had been killed, or so he thought, during the Lightning Bolt Ceremony that had been performed near Camp Bear Claw.

The second set of evil eyes belonged to the supernatural black jaguar that had been destroyed by the Minauri tribal warriors down in the Amazon."

CHAPTER 1
THE JOURNEY WEST

"It wasn't long before the two chaperones—Mr. Lane, who was Archibald's science teacher, and Mrs. Saito, who taught Jockabeb's history class—welcomed the students.

Using the microphone at the front of the bus, Mrs. Saito began by telling the kids to make themselves comfortable because they'd be driving straight through to San Diego with only brief breaks for meals or when the bus needed to stop for gas."



Mr. Lane and Mrs. Saito

CHAPTER 1
THE JOURNEY WEST

"'Okay, boys, settle down,' Mr. Lane said, laughing. 'No matter who's gotten who into trouble in the past, no one's getting into trouble as long as I'm chaperoning this trip. Got it?'



Bob and Harry

After both boys nodded their heads in agreement, Mr. Lane walked back to the front of the bus and proceeded to introduce Bob and Harry, the two bus drivers who would share the driving duties to and from San Diego."

CHAPTER 1
DRINA PETALA

"Looking up from the large stack of oversized, brightly colored cards that lay before her, the old fortune-teller's heavily wrinkled face broke into a broad, welcoming smile. She was missing several teeth, and those she did have were crooked and badly stained. Wisps of wavy silver hair escaped from the bright red painted scarf she had wrapped around her head and, despite the heat, she wore a black dress and shawl that were accented by a large silver necklace dangling loosely from her neck.

Jockabeb was somewhat taken aback by what hung at the end of her necklace. It was a hammered silver disc in the shape of a giant eye—an eye that seemed to be staring straight at him!"



CHAPTER 1
DRINA PETALA

"The moment the dark figure on the card's face became visible, Drina Petala's eyebrows arched and her eyes opened wide.



Death, Devil, and Knight of Swords tarot cards

Then she said one word that took Jockabeb's breath away—'Death!'

...

'Ah, the Devil card!' announced Drina as she looked up at the beads of perspiration forming on Jockabeb's forehead.

...

Jockabeb reached for the card that was farthest away as he made his last choice. It turned out to be the Knight of Swords."

CHAPTER 1
DINNER IN ALBUQUERQUE

"Jockabeb eagerly broke open the brittle cookie and pulled out the narrow piece of paper inside. Turning to his brother, he said under his breath, 'This better be a good one.'

After silently reading what was printed on one side of the paper, he moaned and then repeated the two sentences to his brother: 'Remember that the Chinese word for crisis is made up of two characters. The first signifies peril and the second opportunity.'

Seeing there was printing on the other side, Jockabeb flipped the piece of paper over. The words printed there sent a shiver racing down his spine: 'Strong winds of change will blow you in a very different direction.'"



Fortune cookie and fortune

CHAPTER 1
DINNER IN ALBUQUERQUE

"Members of the Ting family, the owners of the restaurant, began to bring plates of egg rolls, spring rolls, and deep-fried wontons to the tables, followed by bowls of steaming egg-drop soup.



Mr. and Mrs. Ting

...

Mr. Ting and his family all bowed and smiled broadly as the students clapped for what seemed like an eternity to Jockabeb.

As much as he wanted to hear what Archibald had to say, he didn't want to be rude to the Ting family after they'd prepared such a wonderful meal, so he clapped along before leading the group out the door."

CHAPTER 1
THE LONG NIGHT

"The gas gauge needle was just about on empty when Bob saw the sign noting that Gila Bend was another fifteen miles away.

Rather than chance running out of gas, he decided to pull into a small roadside cafe with a single pump standing out front.

Bob stopped the bus in front of a dilapidated old building with a faded wooden sign nailed above the door.

Chuckling, he looked back at Harry, whispering, 'Seems like an appropriate place to stop—the Last Ditch Cafe!'"



Last Ditch Cafe

CHAPTER 2
THE MYSTERY OF LIZARD FLATS

"The old man instantly recovered his composure as a broad smile lit up his wrinkled, leathery-brown face.



George Washington Natonto

Archibald wondered if the stranger had some Native American blood in him because his long gray hair was braided and he sported a large black feather in his silver hatband.

When the old man spoke, it was with a slight Mexican accent.

...

Extending his hand, the old man added, 'By the way, I'm George Washington Natonto.'"

CHAPTER 2
THE BLACK SAND DEVIL

"The vicious leader of this war party had a name that translated in English to "Howling Wind of Death." If you don't mind, I'll just shorten it and call him Howling Wind.

...

It's said that Howling Wind's eyes and hair were as dark as coal, and everything he wore was black too. He rode a large black stallion, and there were two huge mountain lions that he'd trained as cubs always by his side to protect him. He had no family or friends. In fact, even the fiercest braves in his war party were terrified of him.'"



Howling Wind

CHAPTER 2
THE BLACK SAND DEVIL

"'Oh, yes, the Tohono O'odham Tribe held an emergency meeting, and the elders selected their brightest young member to devise a plan.


Little Dove

Her name was Little Dove.

...

As the legend goes, a full moon shone brightly that night, just as it had each time the renegade band had previously attacked.

Little Dove positioned herself directly in front of the stacked wood. A dozen nervous young braves stood behind her with tomahawks in hand.'"

CHAPTER 2
THE BLACK SAND DEVIL

"Then suddenly, as if by magic, the wretched renegade chief, his horse, and the two mountain lions all merged into one dark shape that started to spin.

After a few seconds, the swirling dark mass shot out of the pit and disappeared into the cold night air.

...

But worst of all, there were reports of a giant black whirlwind that swallowed everything in its way.'"



Black sand monster

CHAPTER 2
UNDERGROUND AT LIZARD FLATS

"However, before Archibald could finish his question, the boys were thrown against the dashboard when a strong gust of wind slammed into the side of the truck. Visibility suddenly dropped to almost nothing as the sand began to blow from every direction. This seemed to snap Mr. Natonto back to reality, and he returned to his good humor, saying, 'Whoa! Good thing my place is just up ahead, because I think we're in for one doozy of a sandstorm!'



Sandstorm

...

The moment the boys opened the door and stepped onto the desert floor, the full force of a raging sandstorm slammed them back into the truck."

CHAPTER 2
THE BLACK SAND LIZARD

"By the time the black sand monster landed nearby, its transformation was complete. There, perched on four clawed feet, stood a giant black lizard.

...

When the giant lizard opened its mouth, a long, slimy red tongue shot out from behind jagged teeth and snatched a flying hawk right out of the sky, swallowing it whole.

...

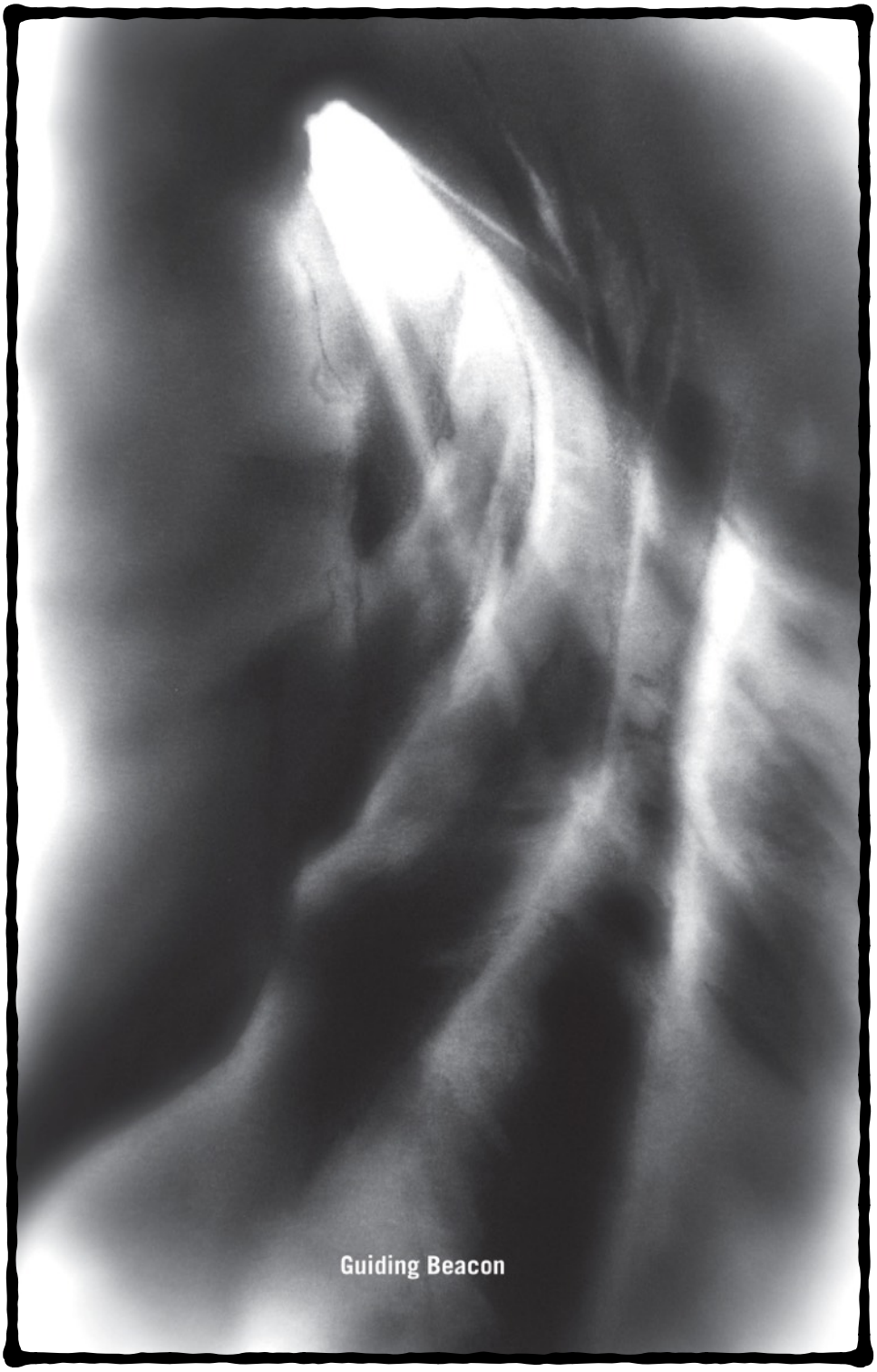
Jockabeb froze as he saw the length of the lizard's scale-covered body and its long, crocodile-like tail."



Black sand lizard

CHAPTER 3
TOWARD THE LIGHT

"With Jockabeb shouldering the bag of supplies and Archibald pointing the flashlight to light their way, the boys began their silent trek up the narrow ledge toward what they now called their 'guiding beacon.'


Guiding Beacon

As the incline of the trail became steeper, their spirits were buoyed a little.

Could they really be heading out of this underground prison? And, more importantly, was it the first leg of their long journey home?"

CHAPTER 3
OFFICER HERNANDEZ

"Officer Hector Hernandez was finishing the graveyard shift and heading back to the station when the emergency call from dispatch came over his radio.

...

Back in his patrol car, Officer Hernandez called in his report and waited for instructions. When the dispatch officer said he'd reassign the search to another state trooper, Officer Hernandez thought of his own two young sons and how he'd feel if they were missing. Then he clicked his mike to transmit mode and said, 'If it's all the same to you, I'd like to do a little more checking before I wrap up my shift.'"



Hector Hernandez

CHAPTER 3
OFFICER HERNANDEZ

"Slowly giving them each a bit more water to drink, Officer Hernandez glanced around and noticed something very strange at the base of their feet.



There were shallow ruts stretching out into the desert as far as he could see. As unlikely as it may have been, it appeared the boys had been dragged to this spot and then left to die.

...

Removing his hat and scratching his head, he said out loud, 'What in blazes made those strange tracks in the sand?'"

CHAPTER 3
RETURNING HOME

"As he turned out the light, Jockabeb thought back to the fortune cookie he'd opened at the Shanghai Delight restaurant.

What was printed on one side of the narrow piece of paper had stuck in his mind ever since—'Strong winds of change will blow you in a very different direction.'

Nestling down in his comfortable bed, he pulled the covers up to his chin and whispered out loud, 'You can say that again!'"



Fortune cookie and fortune

SECOND EPILOGUE

"The moment that Jockabeb slit open the edge of the package and reached inside to feel the contents, he knew what they were—tarot cards!



Magician, Wheel of Fortune, Moon, and Sun tarot cards

When he took the four tarot cards out and flipped them over, the Death, the Devil, and the Knight of Swords cards he'd drawn from Drina Petala's deck weren't among them.

Instead, the names underneath the strange images on the cards read: Magician, Wheel of Fortune, Moon, and Sun.

And for some unknown reason, the Sun card had been ripped in half."

THE ADVENTURES OF ARCHIBALD AND JOCKABEB CONTINUE WITH BOOK 5:

IN THE CARIBBEAN

