

## The Island of the Lost Jewels

Catherine, Lucy, and Jake are into mysteries. Jake is Chef Kevin's son and Jake are friends with Master Bobs 2 daughters. Master Bob has three identical daughters, but Electra is not that much into mysteries. Also she is getting ready to go to college. Jake has a little sister named Sally but she's home with her mom.

### Chapter 1



Jake, Catherine and Lucy are in Miami Florida on vacation for the Fourth of July weekend with Jake's father. They are all the same age. They came from their hometown, Aster New Jersey where Chef Kevin's Pro Restaurant is.

"It's so hot out here," Jake said outside their hotel.

"Where are we going," said Catherine.

"We are just going to tour around for a few hours. It is 12:00 and we have to be back here at 5:00," Jake said.

"Let's go into that Miami tourist shop by the hotel and we could get some maps or guides," Lucy suggested. Lucy likes to wear different colors in her wardrobe. Today it was blue sleeveless shirt, green shorts, purple hair bow, and white sandals.

"Okay," Jake said "let's go into the Miami tourist shop," they enter the shop and they see some fake jewelry that are for sale on the wall and fake jewels in buckets too.

"Jake is getting some guides for us," Catherine said. "Let's go buy some necklaces or bracelets from the wall."

"You guys are buying necklaces and bracelets." Jake joked; "you know they are fake told Lucy."

"We are girls," they said. "We have to have our jewelry," Catherine said. Jake laughed at the girls.

"Are you getting anything for your sister?" Catherine asked. "Yea, I got a cool fake necklace with diamonds on it for Sally," Jake said. "What about you? Did you get anything for Electra?" he asked.

"Yea, I found a cool pencil with diamonds all over it," Lucy said.

They saw a picture of an old lady with lots of jewels and a diamond necklace on the wall above the 2 fake crossed swords.



Under the picture it said that *her name was Emily Cancan.*

"Who's Emily Cancan," Jake wondered. "Maybe she is a famous person" Catherine thought. Does it say anything in one of the guides you got? "Jake looked at the guide," Yes he told them.

He read it out loud. *Emily Cancan was the first famous women who founded the Island of Jewels. They say that the area of the Island is nice. She don't live there anymore, she now lives in upper Miami. It is a small town on the island. It's now for tourists to go see the Island. There is a replica of her house on the Island. There is a statue of her on the Island.*

"Why don't we go see the Island," Lucy said. "Does it say where to go to get there?"

"No, said Jake but we could ask somebody. There is a picture of the island though; it looks like it's by water. We probably have to take a ferry ride to the Island."

They walked to the counter and asked a man how to get to the Island of Jewels. The man said that the ferry leaves at 1:00 down by the harbor beach. "You kids better hurry," the man said.

He is an older man that had on a blue shirt and had on a cap that says welcome customers. His name tag said his name was Paul. The kids thanked the man and went outside.

## Chapter 2

Jake looked at his watch, it is 12:45 he said. Lucy was walking down the board walk and saw some games. It's getting warmer every second and they just wanted to get on the ferry.

"Sorry Lucy," Jake said, maybe after we come back from the Island or tomorrow."

"Where do we get the tickets for the ferry?" Catherine asked.

"Good question," said Lucy, "Oh there's a bunch of people going by that man."

"I will go buy the tickets girls" Jake said. "You girls get on the ferry; I'll be right behind you."

Jake thought he saw somebody following them a few miles away. "I guess it was my imagination," he said.

Jake, Catherine, and Lucy were sitting on the boat looking over the water, in the sky there was a skywriting plane. It wrote Tomorrow at nine, there will be fireworks here on the Island of Jewels. The ferry had central air and the seats were cushioned. It felt nice for the kids.

"That's cool," said Lucy, "Tomorrow is the Fourth of July anyway." The horn blew loudly and the conductor said, "You all have to be back on the boat by 2:30 and have a great time."

The kids got off the boat and looked around.

"Wow! It is a very nice area on the Island," Jake said. There's a medium-sized blackboard saying Welcome to the Island of Jewels.

Lucy saw the replica of her house, "I think it is a pretty nice house," she said. "I bet inside the house there is a gift shop," Catherine said.

"Let's go see girls," Jake suggested. They saw a woman who dressed just like Emily Cancan.

"Hi, I'm Jake and these are my friends," he told the women. He asked her, "What does that sign say up above the gift shop?" It was in some language that the kids can't understand.

**Kutanabahi**

The sign said Kutanabahi.

She said that Emily Cancan was half American and half African and the sign said Be Aware.

"Be aware of what," Jake asked.

"There is a superstition that on this Island there is always somebody watching over this island," the woman said. "They say there are also some lost jewels somewhere around the Island." "I have never found any jewels or I do not believe in some superstition and I have been here for 2 years" she told the kids.

Catherine asked, "Who is supposed to be always watching over here?"

The women said, "It was something that Emily said to people whenever they came to her island. Emily said that to just scare them a little." "She meant no harm to the people and no one ever believed it because it said to be just some superstition," the woman said. "I have to get back to work, bye kids."

"One more question if I may," said Lucy. "Were the jewels already lost when she was here?"

The women said, "No, Emily deliberately put them some where around the Island, but I don't know why though. I guess she wanted people to find them. Anymore questions," she asked the kids. They said no.

"Do you believe what she said?" Jake asked the girls "Maybe about the jewels but not about the superstition," the girls told Jake. "Why would she do something like that anyway?" Catherine asked "What about you Jake?"

"I don't know he said but, I guess you girls are right, Jake said. I'm going to buy a gift for my dad and then we could go see the sculpture of her outside."

After the kids bought something at the gift shop, they went outside.

Jake saw a teenaged man outside possibly watching them.

"Catherine," Do you see that teenaged man by the old fashion jail house?" asks Jake. "Yes, I do" Catherine said. "I believe that was the guy in the hotel tourist shop."

"Why would he be here," Lucy wondered. "Maybe it was just a tourist looking around like us," Jake said.

The teenaged man spotted the kids talking and took off.

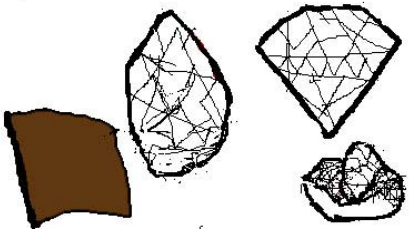
The kids gave up looking for him and they stopped to eat lunch at the old fashion bar house. Jake had 3 turkey sandwiches, Catherine and Lucy had turkey and cheese sandwiches. They all had a coke with their sandwiches.

"Where did he go?" Lucy said as she bit into her sandwich.

"Let's forget the guy," Jake said, "I'm going to sit on that rock and look at her statue while I eat my last sandwich."

Jake thought about the guy that he imagined following them by the boardwalk. Maybe it was him following us. It was so hot; he didn't know what he saw. Now he knew someone was following them.

Catherine followed him to the rock. As they were sitting on the rocks, Jake found hidden under one of the rocks were Jewels.



"Are they real jewels?" Lucy asked. Jake nodded, "unfortunately yes they are," he said.

### Chapter 3

There was all kind of jewels hidden under the rock. There were Rubies and Diamonds and Sapphire stone rings too.

"What are we going to do now," Lucy said. "We can't give them to anyone."

"They would think we stole them," Catherine said.

"It was 2:15 and he said no, we can't, but we could give them back to the real Emily Cancan," Jake said.

"We don't know how upper Miami she lives," the girls said. Jake gave the jewels to Lucy and she put them in her pocket.

"I would like to go back to the boat now and we could talk about it there," Jake told them.

Jake and the girls were drinking lots of water. The temperature was in the 90's he saw on a thermometer by the old fashion jailhouse.

"What's wrong Jake?" The girls asked him. "I'm just hot; I thought that since we are by the water, it would be cooler," Jake told them. There was no breeze and he was just hot. Any way it was almost 2:30.

The kids got on the ferry; they felt the central air go right in their faces. Jake, Catherine, and Lucy felt much better.

Catherine noticed the teenaged man sitting in a corner with his back to them. Lucy felt her pockets, the jewels were still there.

Jake, "I think I was wrong when I said that was the guy from the tourist shop," Catherine said.

"I knew it wasn't him, Catherine," Jake said. "He was too young to be Paul from the tourist shop as he saw the man talking on a cell phone."

"Well then who is he and why was he following us?" Lucy asked

"That's what I am going to find out," Jake said. Jake sat on the opposite side of his back and tried to hear the conversation.

Some kids finally found the jewels he said. What do you want me to do with them Emily? Jake heard somebody on the other end, it sounded like a woman. Do absolutely nothing my son, she said. Good job, now you can come back to the house or you could keep following them, but don't get up too close.

Jake went back to the girls. Jake told the girls that this guy was Emily Cancan's son and that she wants him to still follow us or go back home.

"I thought that Emily had no children," he told Lucy and Catherine. "We might have to give them back to him," Jake said. "But how are we going to know that is actually her son?" Lucy asked.

The horn blew as the ferry slowed down. The kids walked off the ferry as they were talking. The coolness of the air went away and the warmth of the Miami air came right back to their bodies.

"Let the guy follow us to our hotel and we could see what he does," Jake said. "If he goes home then we could see where she lives. If he follows us, he can't come in to the hotel or we might call the police. We could try to talk to him again. I could buy some fake jewels and put them in a bag then give them to him outside."

"We tell them what," Catherine said, "that we found Emily Cancan jewels and some thugs are trying to steal them from us." They will think we are doing a prank joke."

"Not if we show the Police her jewels" Jake said. "Then tomorrow we find Emily Cancan's house and give them back to her."

The teenaged man starts running after them because he heard them talking, they thought. The kids start running down the board walk then Jake stopped.

"What are you doing?" Lucy said. "You were right my plan was wrong, I'm not going to call the police!" Jake yelled. The teenaged man stopped too from a far.

"What are you talking about kid?" he said. "I wasn't running told you. I was running to get to the ice cream truck. Thanks to you, it drove away."

"So you did not hear anything we were talking about?" Jake asked the man. "You are crazy," he said and walked away.

"Did you girls see an ice cream truck?" he asked. They said no while they were walking.

They stopped into the tourist shop to buy some fake jewels if that man ever came back. Paul wasn't working there now, "It was 4:30, the conductor of the ferry took his time coming back," Jake said.

He came in for a second to look around the shop then he found the bag of fake jewels that the kids left by the door then he walked out.

"I might have dropped my room key when we were running in here," Catherine said. "Now we have to call the police," Lucy said. "He will be waiting for us." "NO! Not literally," Jake whispered. "The teenaged man came back in to buy a poster for Emily, that's why she said that, but I don't think he heard you, Catherine. He had his I-pod on and his headphones."

"I got some fake jewels for you Catherine," Jake said. "Let's go out with him and then we could go back to our hotel room and talk about it there."

## **Chapter 4**

It was after 5:00 and they were in their hotel room. They all took nice cold showers to get the sweat off them. Lucy put the real jewels under her pillow. After they took their showers, the kids were talking on the couch. "We know that she lives in Upper Miami, but we don't know where," Jake said.

As they were talking Jake's father Kevin walked in, "what did you kids do today?" he asked. The kids told Kevin what they heard about the Island and they said they found some jewels that were under Lucy pillow now.

"Could I see the Jewels?" he asked. Lucy went to the room and pulled out the diamonds and the jewels.

"Wow!" Kevin said. "Yes, they are real Jewels." "What are you planning to do with them?" he asked.

Jake told his father he was going to find her house and give them back tomorrow. "There are going to have fireworks at the Island too," Lucy said.

"Is it safe to go to her house anyway?" Kevin asked. "She might not want her jewels back. She left the jewels for people to find them." "Right kids," said Jake's father.

"Well I just want to meet her and ask her a few questions," Jake said. "And we want to see how much jewelry she has," Catherine and Lucy added.

"I could find out where Emily Cancan's house is for you," Kevin said. "Let's go downstairs to the diner to eat," he suggested. They all went to the hotel diner to eat.

Jake saw a bunch of people sitting at tables, at matter of fact they saw Paul the older gentleman from the tourist shop.

"Hey kids," he said. "Did you catch the ferry to the Island of Jewels?" The kids said yes and they did.

"I forgot to tell you that if you want to go see her real house and meet her, Emily for your self. Her mansion is up a hill on 4th street main rode. Her mansion number is

208. You can't miss it because she has flags all over her yard and two black cats. I'll give you directions too."

"Does she have a flying broom too?" Chef Kevin joked. "I don't think so but I don't really know," Paul said. "No one was ever brave enough to go to her house. Whenever people went to her house, I heard they see her house and the people turn right back around."

"Is she that bad?" Jake asked. "Why were people scared of her?"

"I'm sorry, I can't answer those questions," Paul said. "Good luck if you are planning to go see her house." "Have a nice dinner," he said.

They all found a table and the waitress asked "what kind of drinks do they want?" They all had a cold homemade raspberry Ice tea with their dinners. The girls had Chicken sandwich burgers with fries, Jake had a double bacon cheese burger with fries, and his father had a chili cheese burger with bacon and chili cheese fries on the side.

Miami was famous for their chili peppers; they make their peppers really hot, so his burger was spicy. He must have drunk 3 cups of ice tea with his burger.

"Was it hot enough, dad" Jake joked. "Yes, it was hot but not as hot as the New Mexico peppers that I got imported at my restaurant," he said.

"Do you kids want ice cream?" the waitress asked. The kids all had ice cream sundaes that had strawberries and whipped cream on top. After the kids ate their sundaes, they paid the waitress and gave her a tip too.

The kids saw a man at the counter and it wasn't a teenaged man, this time it was a man asking where is our room. The manager told him, so he went up. Jake, Cat, and Lucy ran to their room. They found the door opened and the beds made, but the couch was a mess. "Are the jewels still under your pillow Lucy?" Jake asked. Lucy looked under her pillow, came back and said they were gone.

"How could this happen?" Catherine said. "The door was locked when we left for the diner. I remember I saw Jake put the key in the door to lock it."

"Maybe the maid took them while she was making the beds," Kevin said.

"Why would she only make the beds but not the couch?" Jake asked. "I think it was that man that we saw at the counter. I don't get why he only messed up the couch and not the beds." How did anyone know that we had the jewels anyway unless, it was Emily's son? Catherine asks.

"Who was that guy anyway?" Lucy asked. "Let's go downstairs and ask the manager," Jake suggested. The kids went downstairs but Chef Kevin stayed in their room. When they got down there, the manager said "he was a cop that asked for your room."

"Did he have a badge?" Jake asked. "He did show me a police card" the manager said. "Did any maid come to our room?" Catherine asked. "Would any maid take anything from the room?" The manager said "Yes," after you guys came down to the diner and "No," if the maid took anything of yours, she would be fired. "Was anything taken of yours?" he asked.



"No," Jake immediately said. "We have to go back to our room." As the kids walked back to their room, Jake told them why he said no to the manager.

"We can't tell him about the jewels," Jake told the girls. "He will think we are nuts and he will not believe us anyway" Lucy added. "Maybe we could talk with the maid who came to our room tomorrow."

"I think I have a hunch who took the jewels anyway" Jake said. "That man didn't look like a cop, he was wearing a trench coat and it so hot out why would anyone wear a trench coat in Miami Florida. I just thought of something. Maybe he wasn't finished looking around and he might still be in there with my dad!"

## Chapter 5

The kids rushed upstairs to their room as they were talking. If he was a cop, he would have waited for us instead of breaking in.

Kevin was gone but the jewels were back on the counter. "He took my dad!" Jake yelled. The trench coat guy was no where to be seen and my dad was gone.

"We don't know that yet," Catherine was trying to comfort him. "Maybe he tried to catch him his self." "My dad will never do that," Jake said. "I'm going to go look for him." "Do you girls want to come?" Jake asked.

It was already late but the girls can't say no to their friend. They went downstairs and found the trench coat man talking on a cell-phone.

"Where's my dad?" Jake whispered to the girls. He tried to listen as he talked.

"I took the jewels and I took somebody's ring," he said. "I escaped from a cop that was holding me to transport me to prison." "I was in the room when the kids were not there but there was a maid in the room." I asked, "Her to leave for a second then I heard them coming so I hid in the closet," he said. He hears something on the other end. He wonders what's going on. "So after they all left, I just found them under one of the pillows and took them. I think I got them all but then you called. I was following the kids from the start to the island." "I'm going to bring them back," he said. The police were at his door and the other guy was silence, the trench coat guy, says.... "Mike!!" "Mike!!"

The kids couldn't hear the whole conversation. "No, he didn't," Lucy whispered, "unless he took the fake jewels with out knowing, because I switched them before we went to dinner."

"You did what!" Jake said.

"Oops, I guess I forgot to tell you," Lucy said. "Where are the real jewels then?" Jake asked. "I put them in a dresser," she said. "He must have found them but forgotten to put them in the bag."

As he was trying to talk a police car came with their sirens on. He hung up and ran. The kids tried to stop him but the cops chased him all the way down the street. The police caught him but my dad was still missing.

"Who called you in?" Jake asked.

"Some guy who name was Chef Kevin and he told the dispatcher that he was wearing a Trench coat and has short hair and brown boots," the policeman said.

He said "he only saw him from the back." "It sounded like Hank Ballman Cancan that escaped this morning. He told us where to go to find him. So we drove here and found him."

"There's another guy out there," Jake told the policeman. "I know," he said. "We just caught him as the dispatcher called it in. Here are your jewels and a ring that I found in the bag." "I laughed at him when I noticed they were fake except the wedding ring," he said.

"That is my dad's wedding ring, also my dad called you in and I don't know where he is," Jake told the cop.

"I'm sure your father is fine," the policeman said. "We caught both of the guys and also we would have heard something over the intercom radio."

The police left with Hank and the kids were wondering where is Chef Kevin. Jake, Catherine and Lucy went out looking for his father. It was already dark out and street lights were on. It is after 9:00 and the kids were walking around town.

"Where could my dad be?" Jake asked. "I don't know," Cat said. "Hey, isn't that your fathers car by the Dunkin Donuts."

"Maybe he's in there getting an ice coffee" Lucy said.

Catherine went in and asked the women, "if she seen a guy who is wearing a green short sleeve shirt and red shorts, he has glasses on too?" The woman said yes, "He came in and bought a Mocha Ice Coffee and left a few minutes ago." "He also asked for a tow truck number" the woman said. Catherine thanked the woman and went out.

"Your father's car rental broke down," she said. "He asked for a tow truck number and left."

"Why isn't he here waiting?" Jake asked. "He probably walked to the gas station and showed him where to go," Lucy guessed.

Suddenly a tow truck came around the corner. It said on the truck, Sal's Tow Truck and Gas Station Company.

"What are you kids doing here?" Kevin asked as he got out of the tow truck.

"We thought that you got kidnapped, but the police said you called them," Jake said. "By the way they caught both of the guys."

"You all thought I was dad-napped," Kevin said. "Wait until I tell your Uncle Matthew about all of this. He will laugh. I'll tell you what really happened."

"I heard him talking in our room when I left to get an iced coffee so I called the police," Chef Kevin said. "I saw him from the back he looked like Columbo with that brown trench coat on." "I went out right after you to get the coffee and I saw you talking to the Manage, I didn't think of stopping to tell you," he said. "Then my rental broke down, I tried to call you, but there was no answer in the room." "There was also a maid outside the room when I went out, she thought that guy was a cop," Kevin said. "She

asked me if he was done asking question." "I didn't know what she was talking about," he said.

"The bad guy was pretending to be a cop to get in our room," Jake said.

"All done," Sal said. "I'll call you when I'm done with your car." "Do you guys want a ride to your hotel?" he asked. They all said "yes" and went in the tow truck.

When they got to their hotel, they went upstairs. The first thing Jake checked if the jewels were still on the counter. They were still on the counter just as they left them. Kevin was wondering why the jewels are on the counter and what was in the bag. The kids forgot to tell Kevin about the jewels. Jake gave back his father's wedding ring.

"Here's another thing you can tell my Uncle Matt," Jake said. "Lucy switched the jewels and we are guessing that the bad guy forgot to put the real jewels in the bag." "He took them out of the drawer," Lucy added as she yawned. "We should all get to bed," Kevin said. "You kids have a big day tomorrow."

## Chapter 6

As the kids slept through the night, Jake was dreaming about the time Catherine and Lucy first met and this crazy day. It was the day after Chef Kevin's 12th anniversary party and that's when they realized they all like mysteries. As Jake slept, he dreamed about what the policeman said about Hank and he tried to picture what he had looked like and compare Emily's picture to his face. He did look like Columbo with that brown trench coat on but a little bit taller. Jake just realized that Hank is related somehow to Emily as the sunrise in his face and he woke up.

"Catherine, Lucy; wake up, its morning," Jake said. "I have a theory about Hank and I know who he is."

"What's your theory?" Catherine and Lucy said as they open their eyes.

"I think he is Emily Cancan's husband," Jake said. "I just remembered what the policeman said his name is Hank Ballman Cancan."

"Yea, he has the same last name as Emily," Catherine said. "Why would he be stealing his own jewels?"

"Maybe Emily was hiding the jewels from him," Lucy said.

"That's what my theory is, also I think when we found the jewels that Emily son wasn't watching or running to us, I think he was watching his father, but that's only a theory," Jake said as he finish their theory. The kids went to see if Kevin was awake, he was and they all went downstairs to eat breakfast.

"Did you kids sleep well last night?" Kevin asked.

"Yea, we slept great," Jake said. "I had a dream about the time we girls first met." "Oh yea, it was after your father's party," Lucy said. "Our father introduced us too you. Did we like each other when we did meet?"

"I think so, we did like to read mysteries together," Catherine said. "We got lots in common too." As they were reminiscing, the waitress asked the kids what they want for breakfast. They all ordered different things.

Jake ordered chocolate chip pancakes and scrambled eggs, Lucy ordered strawberry waffles, Catherine ordered 2 sunny side eggs and a whole wheat English muffin, and Kevin ordered Banana strawberry pancakes topped with chocolate chips. They all had orange juices with their breakfast. Kevin paid for their breakfast. After they finished eating, they took the jewels and put them in a bag. They were off going to find Emily's house. Jake promised Lucy that she can play a couple of games down by the boardwalk.

"It is not that hot out today," Jake said as they were walking out of the hotel. "There was actually a light breeze today."

"It will be a great night and day for fireworks," Lucy said. "By the way are we going to the boardwalk?" Lucy is wearing Fourth of July colors; she is wearing a green short sleeve shirt, red shorts, and white high sandals.

"Yes we are," Jake said. "I promised all of us that we could play a few games before we find Emily's house."

As they were buying tickets for the games, Catherine noticed they were setting up the fireworks for tonight and something else too.

"What are those people doing over there by the table?" Catherine asked Jake.

"Oh that's the annual Pie Eating Contest; it's a big thing in Miami," Jake said. "Just like the Hotdog Eating Contest in New York."

"Oh wow, I didn't know that other places have traditions," Catherine said. "I thought everyone only did fireworks to celebrate Independence Day and only New York did the tradition hotdog contest."

"No, Catherine," Jake said. "Other states also do something addition to the fireworks to celebrate the 4th." "Yeah, they also have parades and floats too," Jake said. "It's still early so they might do the parade."

"All right lets play some games," Lucy said.

Jake played a basketball game, Lucy played a water target aiming game and Catherine played a dunk tank game. They all won something. While they were playing the games, they stopped to watch the parade and floats coming down the street. Lucy saw people on floats and people singing, also giant figured animals. It was nothing like the NYC parades. It was more like the Marty Graw Day parade but a little bit different like people were dressed like the father of our country and other costumes too.

After the kids finished watching the awesome parade, they walked off the boardwalk to try to find the street that Emily lives on.

"Where are we going?" Catherine said. "We been walking for miles and I don't see a hill anywhere."

"Are we going the right way?" Lucy asked.

"Yea, we should be on the hill any minute now," Jake said. "According to Paul's directions," he said "go off Boardwalk Avenue and turn right on Spook Street and the hill turns into 4th street main rode. There will be a bunch of mansions. Her mansion number is 208."

The kids found the hill and went up it, it did turn into 4th street and when they got to the top. The kids found her house but they can't believe what they saw. There were flags all over the yard but its African flags.

"No wonder, why everyone always turned right back around," Jack said. "Her mansion looks like a haunted house. The windows were dark and the porch was looking as it was fragile. There were no lights on in the house except the top window has a lighted candle that was on."

"It looks spooky in the mansion," Lucy said. "How could Emily live in a house that was so dreary?"

"It's only dreary from the outside, maybe it looks better inside," Catherine said.

As Jake and the girls were talking, something furry was wrapping around Jake's and Catherine's leg. They screamed like girls. Jake and Catherine did not know what it was. Lucy looked down and saw two black cats.

"It is Emily Cancan's two cats, girls," Lucy joked while she was laughing.

The kids went to Emily's door and rang her door bell. Some guy opened the door; the kids hoped it was only her butler. He looked like Lurch from the Adams family. "We were expecting you," he said.

## **Chapter 7**

"Come on inside," the butler said. "Max and Draft come inside before you get to hot, the cats ran inside right between Lucy's legs." "Emily will be right with you," he said. "Please sit down on the couch." The living room is pretty big and the whole mansion is carpeted.

"Wow, this mansion is big," Jake said.

"Yea it is nice," Lucy said. "This mansion blows away the replica of her house on the Island."

"Do you kids want to have something to drink?" the butler said. "Yes, please," Catherine said. "I would like lemonade." The other two kids said no thank you.

"Hello kids," Emily said. "I hear you found my jewels." Emily was wearing a light green shirt and a dark green skirt. She has long gray hair just like the picture.

"I'm Jake and these are my friends," he said. "You know Mrs. Cancan; these jewels were hard to keep accounted for," Jake said. "Some guy was trying to steal them from us."

"We believe it was your husband and some other guy too," Catherine said as she took a sip of her lemonade.

"Yes, unfortunately that was my criminal husband and son-in-law," Emily told them. "He's been looking for them all over and that's why I had to hide them." "Those jewels are the piece to his world," she said. "I didn't know he was a criminal until after I married him. A year went by and all my necklaces and jewels were all going missing one at a time. I thought that my daughter was borrowing them but I asked her and she said no, then one day I saw Hank my husband putting my jewelry and jewels in a bag." "I called the police and told them that Hank is trying to steal my things," Emily said.

"You do have children," Jake said. "I thought that you had no children because I didn't see anything about that in the short paragraph in the guide book."

"Yes, I do have children but I didn't want to tell the public," Emily said. "We had two children in that year I guess to distract me of what he was doing. I have one daughter and one son." "Their names are Theo and Sasha," she said. "My daughter's husband is my husband's accomplice. So Hank was a criminal but we did have children and then my daughter married Mike who knew Hank but my daughter didn't know that he was a criminal too."

"Wow," Lucy said. "Your family is crazy! Did you or your daughter have a divorce or a restraining order?"

"Yes sweetie my family is crazy," Emily said. "I did both but my daughter only got a restraining order which I don't know why. Thank god my son is not married yet, and I don't think there are any women Jewel thieves."

"Where is your son?" Jake asked.

"I bet you heard the superstition about somebody is always watching over the island," Emily said. "You sound like a trusted bunch of kids but don't tell anyone this. Theo is supposed to watch over the Island for me and if someone finds the jewels, Theo is going to tell me. Some people have found the jewels but, just too scared of picking them up." "You were the first to pick the jewels up but there are more," she said. "So that's why he's not home yet but my daughter moved to New Jersey after her husband Mike went to jail. Sasha comes back here whenever she gets off from her work. She's a guidance councilor in one of the schools in New Jersey."

"The woman who was dressed like me in the replica of my house is actually my mother," Emily said. "I told her to say that to people when ever they ask about me. So Theo goes out there every morning and comes back here every night."

"Do you kids want anything to eat?" Emily asked. "I'm going into the kitchen to ask my chef to make me something." Jake, Catherine, and Lucy said, "Sure they will have something to eat."

While Emily was in the kitchen the kids were talking a little bit. "She is a very nice lady," Catherine said. "I don't know why people were scared to come here. It might be scary outside of the house, but the inside is very pretty."

"Yea, I agree Emily's house is very nice," Jake said. "We should promise her that we won't tell anyone about what she said." Emily came out with a bunch of tuna fish sandwiches.

They all said that they promise they will not tell anyone about who is watching the island. Jake said it first, and then the other girls went.

"Thank you kids," Emily said. "You didn't have to promise me but, it is very nice. The reason why I said don't tell anyone is because I don't want my son to be in the spot light, because he is Emily Cancan's son but, if it does get out, its fine." "Thanks again," she said.

"What is your African culture?" Jake asked as he took another sandwich. "I saw that sign in your replica house, and I was wondering what is your African language." "Your mother told us what it means but not what language or what culture you are," Catherine added.

"My language is Swahili," Emily said. "Swahili is spoken in Central and East Africa and this language is the most widely spoken language, over 50 to 100 people speak Swahili in that part of Africa." "I use to live in the Central East Africa in a part called Tanzania that borders Kenya," she said. "I lived just by Kenya that's where my mother is from so I lived at the end of Tanzania."

"Do you have relatives back in Africa?" Catherine asked.

"Yes, I do have relatives in Africa," Emily said. "I don't get to see them that often because they have their own lives. They do have a license to come to America but they have children and they are getting home schooled." "I tried to talk them into going to America schools and living in Florida, where they are use to the warmth," she said. "I lived in Florida for a while now. I don't go to Africa often either because it's a very long flight. I do miss them but I can't keep on asking them. My mother came to Florida right after I came."

"Can we take a tour around your mansion?" Lucy asked as she bit into her sandwich. Mrs. Cancan said, "Sure you can." The kids finished the sandwiches and went upstairs.

The upstairs was quite nice and big. The rooms were outrageous and there were two rooms that were not locked but were closed. Emily showed the kids every room but these rooms.

## **Chapter 8**

"What are in these rooms?" Jake asked. Emily was reluctant to show them the rooms but finally she showed them. The first room is filled with wigs, costumes and make up, also some weird brushes.

"This room is for when ever I go out anywhere," Emily said. "I disguise my self so people won't know who I was. I use to be in the Independents Day parade but for some reason they didn't ask me this year." "Also I use these costumes for when I use to go out to the Island" she said.

"Why do you have to disguise yourself?" Jake asked.

"I use to get so many photographers by my house," Mrs. Cancan said. "I would never get out of my house. Now since I'm semi-retired I don't have to worry that much."

"Does your mom ever have to disguise herself as someone else too?" Catherine asked.

"No," Emily said. "The paparazzo's doesn't know that she is my mom. All they know is that she works on the Island. I am the one that the paparazzos have to worry about. I

founded the Island of jewels when I first came to America so I will get some attention but I didn't want all of these photographers around me."

"How did you get these jewels and jewelry?" Lucy asked.

"I got my jewels back in Tanzania Africa," Emily said. "We were the only family that won the big lottery and became rich in Africa but my mom and I couldn't take the people. All the people wanted to burrow our money, we gave them some but they kept on coming back for more."

"We are not selfish but the people just wanted more," she said. "My relatives are not that lucky as we are." "Does that answer your question," Emily asked Lucy.

"Yes, it does," she said. "Thank you. I was wondering because of your husband."

"If you were thinking I found Hank Ballman in Tanzania Africa and not in Miami Florida, you are wrong," Emily said. "I found Hank here and when I first met him, I don't know why but something just clicked. We got married not knowing that he was a criminal." "There are absolutely no criminals in Africa but I thought that in Miami, the police will keep me safe with my things" she said. "At first I didn't tell anyone about my jewels but since my jewels were going missing one at time, I had to tell someone."

"I just remembered what you told us before," Jake said. "There are more jewels on the Island that we don't know about!"

"Yes," Emily said. "There are more Jewels on the Island but I-." Then the phone rang. "I'll be right back" she said. Emily did not finish her sentence.

"They could be somewhere farther away of the island but I'm not certain why she can't tell us where though," Jake said. "We didn't go all the way around the Island because it was just too hot yesterday"

"Why would she do something like that," Catherine said. "We should really ask her." "She told us why," Jake said. "It's because of her husband."

"What if someone steals them?" Catherine said. "You know some people aren't as generous as we are." "Here she comes," Jake said. "Let's find out."

"That was Theo on the phone," Emily said. "He will be home soon." "Where was I?" she said.

"You were going to tell us why you can't tell us where the other jewels are" Jake thought that she would say.

"Oh yea, I was going to show you the next room," Emily said. "Why did she change the subject," Jake and the girls wondered.

"I'm sorry Jake I can't answer that question," Emily said. "What if you want to find them for yourselves or somebody else?"

"Aren't you scared of people stealing them," Catherine said.

"No, because as hard as the people look," Emily said. "The people will not find them; I hid them where people don't even want to look." "I have some of my jewels and jewelry in my room as you saw and that's plenty for me." As Emily closed the costume door they were going to the next close door. The kids are wondering what's coming next.



As they entered the room they couldn't believe their eyes.



This room is filled with all kinds of masks and some kind of music. The masks were all kinds including leather, metal, fabric, and various types of woods. There are some traditional African Instruments in the back too. The wall paper has African animals on it and stripes.

"This is my African room and it makes me feel like I'm at home," Emily said. "These are African masks, and this is African music CD's." "It's a part of Africa that I miss," she said.

"These are very nice African masks," Lucy said. "I like how they are all different kinds."

"Thank you, Lucy," Emily said. "I use to where a few of these masks for African dancing ceremonies. It was part of my culture and town did African dancing."

"In general number of African cultures have lost some of their tribe identity, so there are no longer having masked ceremonies because they are being more like Americans," Emily said.

"I read in history that these masks have meaning or represent something," Catherine said. "What do these masks represent?"

"Well when I use to dance it represent different things," Emily said. "Some of them meant to warn off evil spirits and bring good to the earth, others represent spirits of ancestors, mythological beings, good and evil, the dead, animal spirits, and some believe to have powers over humanity. When they danced with the masks, it believed that the dancers went into a trance, they could communicate with any kind of spirit or ancestors." "You kids don't have to believe anything I say, I'm just telling the truth," she said.

The kids were looking at the instruments and beside the drum is a strange instrument. Jake asked, "What this instrument is called that they have never seen one like this?"



"This instrument is called an African thumb piano," she said. "It's also called a sanza and other names in Africa. They use to play these instruments while we were dancing."

"Can you play something on the thumb piano?" Lucy asked. "Sure," Emily said. "The metal on the thongs makes high and low sounds," she said.

As Emily pressed down on the thongs without the metal made low sounds but with the metal, it played high sounds. She played a calm Melodic rhythm on the sanza. Jake noticed while she was playing in the back of the thumb piano is a hole that makes the sounds vibrate.

"Are you using that hole in the back to vibrate the sounds?" Jake asked.

"Yes, I am," Emily said. "When I press the thongs down, I move my finger around this hole for more vibrations to make sounds." "There are different kinds of thumb pianos but this kind of piano is special," she said. "This sanza was my mom's then she gave it to me. Let's go downstairs, I want to give something back to you."

"What does Emily want to give back to us?" Catherine asked Jake. "I'm not sure, I guess we will find out," Jake said as he closed the door behind them. As the kids walk down the stairs they hear the front door open.

## Chapter 9

"I'm home mom," Theo said as he closed the front door. Theo sees some kids walking down the stairs. They introduced themselves by the living room. Max and Draft was sitting on top of the couch. Jake saw the time on the clock when he sat down on the couch, it is 3:58.

"I believe we met by the boardwalk," Jake said. "I didn't see any ice cream truck yesterday when I stopped you. Who were you actually running toward?"

"I was actually running to my father to see how he got out," Theo said. "I saw you find the jewels under the rock after you chased me around the Island. I found out after I got off the Island that my father escaped from jail." "I couldn't just tell you that I was running told my father," Theo said. "I promised my mom that I wouldn't tell anyone that I'm her son. I'm sorry that I called you crazy. There is usually an ice cream truck working there but it was the day before Forth of July. The guy probably had the day off. He wasn't

there today either. Yes, I did hear a little bit what you were talking about and I may have told my father that you had the jewels."

"You were the one to blame for thinking that Jakes father was kidnapped by him," Catherine said.

"What are you talking about?" Theo asked. "My father is a Jewel thief. He's not even smart enough to kidnap anyone."

"Good thing I switched the jewels with the fake ones," Lucy said. "Apparently he didn't know the difference from real jewels and fake jewels or he forgot to take the real jewels."

"Was your father in the room when he was in the hotel?" Theo asked.

"Yes and no," Catherine said. "He was in the room before we left to talk to the manager, but not when we came back." "Hank was hiding in the closet when we left and my father was still in the room until he left to get a coffee," Jake added. "So that's why we thought that he was kidnapped."

"Can I have a cup of lemonade please?" Jake asked Theo. "Sure, "I will get it for you," Theo said.

As he was in the kitchen, Jake asked the girls "Is there something fishy going on around here?" "If Emily really left her jewels for people to find on the Island, why would she put them where people don't even want to look?" "Does that make any sense and what does she want to give back to us?"

"No, it doesn't make any sense," Lucy said as she petting one of the cats. "Could we ask Theo about the other Jewels?" Catherine asked as she petting the other cat. "Yea I think we should ask Theo," Jake said. Theo came out with two cups of lemonade, one for him and one for Jake.

"Can you tell us where the other jewels are?" Jake asked as he took a sip of lemonade.

"I can't tell you where the jewels are and people could find them if they really try," Theo said as he took a sip of his lemonade. "The other jewels are actually not that far away from where you found these jewels."

"What did Emily mean when she said the jewels are hid where people don't even want to look?" Jake asked.

"Emily only meant that the jewels are somewhere under the soil in a bag," Theo said. "I had a sign saying the jewels are somewhere here but Emily made me take it down. I never have known why she made me take the sign down because my father was already in jail. I will give you a hint though. There is a hole that looked like someone had dugged in the green grass somewhere by that rock you found these jewels."

"If a person finds the jewels, what exactly do the people do with them? Catherine asked. Apparently Mrs. Cancan doesn't want them. Could they sell the jewels and get money for the poor and for themselves or could they bring them home?"

"Yes, they could sell the jewels if they wanted but I don't recommend you taking them home," Theo said.

"Why not," Lucy asked. "You know that superstition that someone is watching the island, that's only half of it, Theo said. Emily's mom always told me that if people do find those jewels under the ground that they should be careful. I never believed it until one person walked over to that hole and he touched one of the jewels and he disappeared."

"Oh my goodness, is that really true?" Lucy said. "Are you joking?" Jake asked.

"Of course I'm joking, that could never happen," Theo said. "People have never found those jewels under the soil and no one ever had the courage to come to Emily's mansion, also no one asked about if theirs other jewels on the island. My grandmother only told the people that there are lost jewels some where on the island. She would never tell the people where they are. It would be like a hunt and if a person finds all the jewels which so far the people only found the jewels under the rock. I doubt that people even know there's a hole there. They could either sell them and get money for the poor and for themselves, bring them home, and like what you did come see Emily's mansion. Most of the people except you kids were scared to pick them up and come see my mom."

"Now do you get what to do with the jewels?" Theo asked. "I love telling that story to people. When people come to the Island on Halloween, I always like to tell that story in my own way without making it true or blurting out where they are. The people would only think I'm telling them a ghost story anyway."

"Yes, we do get it now," Catherine said.

"We should better get going, it's almost 4:30," Jake said. "Thank you for all your hospitality." As the kids were walking out the door, Emily came out with a bag in her hands. Emily said to Jake, "Do what your heart tells you too?" and walked back in the mansion. "Are those flags from Tanzania and Kenya?" Catherine asked before she could close the door.



**Tanzania**



**Kenya**



**Central African Republic**

"Yes, Emily said they are from Tanzania and Kenya but the flags represent Central and East Africa too." "Thank you," Catherine said and they walked away.

## **Chapter 10**

"What's in the bag?" Lucy asked. "Its not the jewels, we just gave them back to her. Right"

Jake opened the bag and looked inside and said "yes, it is the jewels. There is a note attached to the bag too."

"What does it say?" Catherine asked. Jake read the note as they were walking back.

The note says: *To Jake and friends,*

*You could do what ever you want with the jewels. I never thought that way about the poor like you do. There are six jewels in the bag. You could take all six and give some money to the Salvation Army and some for yourself or you could take three and leave three on the island. You could leave all six too. As I said in Jakes ear do what ever your heart tells you to. Thank you for getting me out of my hard shell.*

*Emily Cancan*

"Wow," Lucy said. "I did not even know that Emily was listening to us. I thought that she didn't want us to take the jewels."

"What did she mean about getting me out of my hard shell," Catherine said.

"I believe Emily meant that she did not want us to know about the jewels and she did not want to give anymore to the poor," Jake said. "Emily wanted the people to only find the jewels under the rock and that's why she never told the people that there are more jewels on the Island. She said that because Emily didn't know what else to do so she hid the jewels but she never told the tourists where they are and now we are hoping that she's going to open up and tell the tourists where they are. The tourists will decide what to do with them."

"How much are these jewels worth?" Lucy asked as they turned the corner of Boardwalk Avenue. "I'm not actually sure, I'm guessing about fifty thousands but they could be more or less," Jake said. As they enter the hotel they see Jakes father by the diner.

"So how was Emily Cancan?" Chef Kevin asked.

"Emily was very interesting; at first I didn't know what I would think," Jake said. "Then when we asked her about the jewels, Emily didn't want to tell us anything."

"I'm guessing Emily didn't want the jewels back and that's what's in the bag." Kevin said. "You guessed right Kevin but different jewels," Catherine said. "What are you going to do with the jewels now?" Kevin asked as they sat down to eat dinner.

"Emily gave us a note and she told us to do what ever we want with the jewels," Jake said as he gave the note to his father. "So we are planning on leaving three on the island and getting the other three praised to see how much they are worth. We could see after the praising what we could do with them."

"That's a wise decision," Kevin said. "If Emily has a mansion and founded an island. Those jewels must be worth thousands or millions to have all that. By the way Sal called the hotel and my rental is ready. So after dinner you go to the island and I will catch up with you." The waitress came over and asked them what do they want for dinner? They

all had cheeseburgers and fries also four Raspberry Ice Teas. As they ate their dinners Jake talked to his father.

"I think we should go all together to get the rental," Jake said as he bit into his burger. "I need to find out when the ferry leaves to get to the island if the fireworks start around nine. Are you girls okay with that if we go together?" The girls said, "That's fine to Jake." They all finished eating and went out of the diner and paid the waitress. As Jake walked out of the hotel diner, he saw Paul walk in.

"Paul," Jake said as he stopped him at the door. "Do you know when the ferry leaves before the fireworks start?"

"You kids have to be on the ferry by 8:15 to get around the fireworks," Paul said. "They set off the fireworks usually around nine. You kids have plenty of time before it leaves. It is only 6:39, Have fun seeing the fireworks. I hear this year it's going to be spectacular." Jake and his friends thanked Paul and walked out of the hotel. They walk down town and pass the Dunkin Donuts.

As they enter Sal's gas station and see Kevin's rental. "Hey Mr. Kevin," Sal said. "I'll get your car, there wasn't actually anything wrong with it. The only thing was a busted tail light and the engine was pushing on the start key. Those two things were easy to fix. So are you guys going to see the fireworks at nine?" "Yes we are," Catherine said. "We were just leaving after we get the car." Kevin paid Sal and they got in the car to drive to the hotel. "Can I borrow your cell phone Lucy? Jake asked. "I want to call my Uncle Matthew and tell him all about this weekend."

"Sure," Lucy said. Jake dialed the number (954-854-6380). "Is it ringing?" Kevin asked as he was driving. "Yes it is," Jake said. Matthew picked up the phone.

"Hello," he said. "Uncle Matt," Jake said. "Hi, How's Miami Florida?" Matt asked. "Miami is wonderful, yesterday it was hot but today it is nice," Jake said. "We met this peculiar African American woman named Emily Cancan and she has jewels in her mansion and on her island too that she founded. She gave us some jewels. We found some of the jewels on the Island and we thought that she wanted them back but we were wrong, she wanted to get rid of them."

"Whoa, step back there," Uncle Matt said on the phone. "She gave you some of her jewels. That's awesome!! What are you planning on doing with them?"

"We don't actually know yet," Jake said.

"Are you going to tell him about you thinking I was dad-napped?" his brother said as he was parking the car. "I was getting to that dad," Jake said.

"What did I just hear my little brother say?" Matthew said with a chuckle in his voice.

"Yes, you heard right, we thought that he was dad-napped because there was a bad guy in our room at that time and we didn't know that your brother left the hotel for an Ice Coffee," Jake said as he was getting out of the car but they caught them. The criminals

are related to Emily, her family is criminal crazy. She married a bad guy without knowing and she had two children in that year so her daughter married a bad guy too. They were bought in cahoots with each other" Jake said. So we are guessing that the jewels are worth thousands or millions," he told Matthew.

"If this woman founded an island probably millions," Matt said.

"We are just going to see fireworks at the island," Jake told Matt and I'm going to give the phone to your brother and I'm going into the hotel for a minute then we can walk to the ferry he told his father. Matthew said bye to Jake as he was handing over the phone.

Jake ran inside the hotel and up to their room to put the bag of jewels nice and safe in a drawer but he took out three Sapphire diamonds and put them in his right pocket then he locked door and came right back downstairs. Jake saw the time on his watch and it said 7:30. As he was exiting the hotel he saw his dad giving the cell-phone back to Lucy. "Who won the pie eating contest?" Catherine asked Jake as they were walking to the boardwalk to buy four tickets. "I'm not sure Catherine," Jake said as they were getting in line. "I guess we will find out later."

They all got on the ferry and found a seat. Jake looked at his watch it was about 8:15. The ferry was moving very slowly to get around the fireworks. Jake saw an African woman that looks someone related to Emily.

"Are you Sasha Cancan?" Jake asked. "Let me guess, you want to find the jewels but you won't go inside her mansion," Sasha said.

"You know the people very well," Jake said. "That's not why I was asking. Your mom said you don't get much time off. By the way we actually found the jewels and we were the first to go inside the mansion."

"I've actually been here the whole week but I never told my family," Sasha said. "I want to surprise my little brother. I have been here on business; it's a fellow teacher's convention. You're the first to find the jewels but did you find all the jewels?"

"So you're a teacher, Catherine said but your mom said"... "Yea I know what my mom said as Sasha cut her off. My mom said I was a guidance councilor; Emily is ashamed that I became a teacher instead of work on her precious island. The truth is my school doesn't even have a guidance councilor. Theo is proud of me that I got my teaching degree."

The horn blew to tell the people that the ferry is docking.

"You sound like you are jealous of your mom for founding this island," Jake asked as they were walking off the ferry. "No we didn't find all the jewels," Lucy added. "We don't know where they are."

"No, I'm not jealous, Sasha said but when my mom got all this money and jewels. Emily could have given some toward the Salvation Army or one of the other charities where they need it. She doesn't even want the people to find these jewels on the island. If they find the jewels, you can't even imagine how much they are worth. If I was running this island, I would keep 2 million dollars and give the rest of the money and jewels to charity. I would use the 2 grand to make this island a small carnival year round and when the people first come here. They would pick a charity and the money would go towards Africa and your charity. If that happened the boardwalk will shut down and the people will get laid off."

"Wow, that's really generous" Jake said. "It was good idea though. I know how poor Africa is."

"Maybe you can still do that?" Catherine said but without the carnival. "When people come here, you can offer some charities and they could shop at Emily's island. The money you get will go to Africa and their charities." "Have you talked to your brother about your idea?"

"My brother and I tried to talk to our mother about this, Sasha said but she would always say the charity has enough of money and Africa I gave to them already. I always say there's never enough of money to give to charities."

"Well good luck," Jake said.

"Today we went and talked to your mother and Emily might have changed her mind about telling them where the jewels are, Lucy said if you just look over there where Theo is standing. Cool, I'm going to surprise him so I'll meet you over there.

"I'm going to check out Emily's replica house, Chef Kevin said if you guys are looking for me.

Jake and the girls walked over toward Theo with a pole in his hands. "Have you met my sister? Theo asked. "We met on the ferry," Sasha said.

"Did you two ever fight when you were little?" Jake asked. It doesn't seem like it the way you two are acting. My little sister and I always fight about little things. I think we fight because we love each other.

"Did we ever fight when we were little?" Sasha asked Theo. "I really can't remember when we did fight. We rarely fight I admit," Theo said. "Apparently Emily changed her mind about not telling the people where the jewels are. She asked me to put this pole back saying the jewels are somewhere here.

"Here are three more you can add to them," Jake said as he was handing over them.

"Thanks," Theo said. "So you decided to take three of the jewels."

"Yea, we couldn't take all six of them back to Aster New Jersey," Jake said. "That was nice of her to offer those to us." "We don't even know how much they are worth," Catherine said.



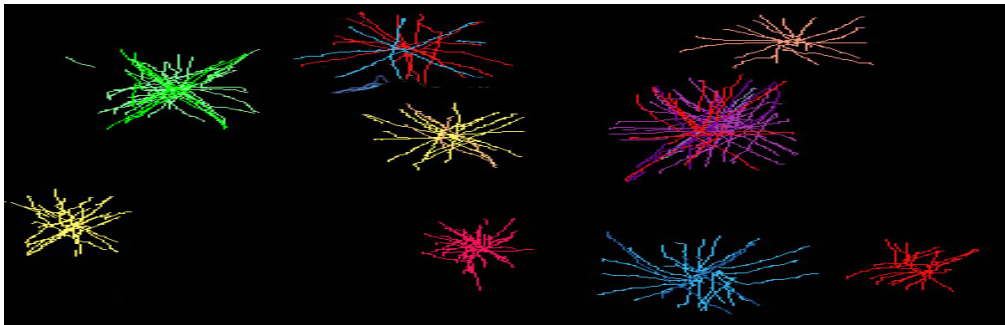
"I bet you will know soon," Sasha said. "We are going to watch the fireworks by the pottery barn. I think it's a better view to see the fireworks."

The announcer came over the microphone and said Vincent Von Num-chuck the winner of the Pie Eating Contest will light the first firework of 100.

Chef Kevin found Jake and the girls by the old fashion jail house as they were looking up in the night sky watching the first firework shoot up.

Emily was walking towards Jake and whispered in his ear and said \_\_\_\_ and walked away.

"Jake just stood there for a minute then he told his friends and his father. Right then and there he knew what they were going to do with the money. They are going to give half 202 million dollars of the money to the Salvation Army and the other half towards his father's restaurant.



Jake looked around and saw every family sitting together watching the colorful fireworks light up the night sky. He saw Emily, Theo, Sasha, and Emily's mom watching the colorful fireworks together. As Jake watched the fireworks shoot up in the sky he saying to himself that Sasha and Theo are what you call the perfect siblings. They tell each other everything and they are proud to be brother and sister just like my father and his brother.



Jake, Catherine, Lucy and Chef Kevin are watching the 100th firework light up the sky and wrote Happy Fourth of July.

The End

Those six jewels are worth two hundred and five million dollars.