

Egypt Here I Come

By: Mileigh Kilburn

Kensey Hawkins, the most curious girl in fourth grade, thought her entire summer was all planned out. Her dad would work most of the time so she would explore at her nana's hoping to find another arrowhead for her collection.

"Kensey, hurry up. It's almost time to go!"

"One second. Dad, I can't find my suitcase!"

"Look under your bed; hurry up, we don't want to miss our flight."

"Okay, okay, I'm hurrying."

Kensey's dream is to be an archeologist. Last week when her dad announced that his next business trip was to Egypt, she begged him to let her go. Her mother passed away when Kensey was five, so her dad usually makes her stay with her nana when he has to travel. She couldn't believe it when he agreed to let her go.

"Hey Dad, can I go look around the gift shop?"

"Sure, but not too long. We'll be boarding soon."

Kensey notices a very unique compass with Egyptian engravings on the back. “Umm, I wonder what this means; I’ll research it.” She pays for the compass and returns as boarding seats are announced.

Phillip is a good dad but stays busy with work and seems sad. Kensey remembers the way he laughed when her mom told silly jokes. The memory still makes her smile. She inherited her mom’s dark brown hair and funny sense of humor.

“Tomorrow I’m going to be in meetings all day so I booked you a tour of the pyramids you’ve been reading about in school.”

“Awesome, Dad! My friends won’t believe it. I better charge my phone so I can take pictures.”

Kensey was pumped for the tour and took forever to fall asleep. When the alarm buzzed, she wasted no time getting ready. She filled her backpack with a water bottle, phone, the new compass, and headed straight through the lobby to the tour stand.

They drove an hour then the guide parked the bus and announced, “Here are the Egyptian Pyramids famous for King Tut’s tomb. Tutankhamen was a pharaoh who many believe has a cursed tomb.”

While observing King Tut’s tomb, Kensey notices a broken piece from the far wall. “I wonder why this fell?” She picks up the piece and replaces the

stone in the wall. Suddenly a section opens up. Kensey's curiosity gets the best of her. She climbs through the opening, stands up, and immediately the passage slams shut trapping her inside.

"Man, it's dark! Where are the lights?" Suddenly torches are lit. "Whoa, who lit those? Look at the hieroglyphics on the wall! But how do I get out of here?" Kensey tries to call her dad, but she has no service. "Thankfully I downloaded that hieroglyphic app when I bought the compass. It will help me read these walls and find clues to get out of here. The hieroglyphics seem to say go northeast and find the sphinx."

Kensey walks and walks, starting to give up until she sees a statue with a head of a man and body of a lion - the sphinx!

"No door. There has to be another clue somewhere. The hieroglyphics say to find the golden crook and flail. But what direction?" Hearing a low groan... *grrr*, she turns slowly looking over her shoulder to see a mummy fading in and out of the corner wall. Her instincts say run, but her curiosity says look. She studies the image and realizes it is pointing west.

"What's this? It looks like a staff and hook. Is this what I'm suppose to find? The hieroglyphics say that it's a scepter of a king. Could it belong to King Tut? There's only one way to go from here, so I guess I'll go on."

She sits to rest and drinks her water then realizes she's in the main pyramid chamber. "Wait a minute. If this is the burial room of a king then I'm at the end. According to history, there has to be a tunnel that leads out from here. All I have to do is find the hidden shaft. But how? My teacher showed us a video that said these seem to be invisible but contained treasures. They found one on the north by touching the walls."

Kensey places both hands on the wall and walks around feeling every stone. As her hand touches the last stone and a section opens up to a passage. She follows the lighted path back to King Tut's tomb and was relieved to make it out.

On the flight home, her dad says, "What do you get when you have a pyramid, a compass, and a curious girl? An archeologist in the making, yes, I miss Mom's jokes too."

"Dad!" laughed Kensey and they both smile.

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