

Parry Hotter and the Magic Whale



by Joseph Gascho

Parry Hotter and the Magic Whale

This is the sixth in the JMAE book series by Joseph Gascho.

Fried Shoe Laces (2013)

Matilda Mouse and Her Most Fortuitous Encounter with

Jed and Maggie and Annali and Eriselle (2014)

Great-Great-Grandfather Gascho and the Blizzard of 1888
(2015)

*The Amazing Story of Four Crafty Cousins and the Thanks-
giving Cake* (2016)

Parry Hotter and the Picture of the Red Bird (2017)

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Parry Hotter and the Magic Whale

by Joseph Gascho (Papa)

This book, based on the 50th Wedding Anniversary Alaska Cruise taken by Papa and Nana Gascho and their children with their families, is dedicated to four grand grandchildren: Jed Gascho, Maggie Gascho, Annali Cooke and Eriselle Cooke.
- Papa Gascho, 12/2018



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Chapter 1. The 3 a.m. Sighting

Eriselle suddenly woke up; she didn't know why. Maybe it was the dream she was having about whales. Even though it was only 3 a.m. it was already light outside. She looked out the port window...and saw a whale...or, she wondered, "Am I dreaming?" She pinched herself to see if she was awake...and she was. She can't believe her eyes...because...the whale had a number on its fluke! She blinked hard, wiped her eyes and looked out again—and saw another number on the fluke! The fluke disappeared down into the water...and then, up it came again, much more quickly than usual...and had yet another number on it! Zap! It went down, but before Eriselle could take three fast breaths, up it came again, with another number!

Eriselle woke up Annali, who shook her head and said, "No way, flukes don't have numbers on them. You were dreaming, Eriselle." But when Annali looked out the window, there was the whale, there was the fluke of the whale, with a number on it, the first number that Eriselle saw. Eriselle and Annali sat dumfounded as the whale went through the same rigmarole—flashing four different numbers before it disappeared under the surface of the water.

The 3 a.m. Sighting



What should they do? Wake their parents? They would never believe the story, they would tell them to back to sleep, that they were dreaming, that they had eaten too many Starbursts last night. So instead they snuck out, after Annali wrote a note in cursive, and they ran around to other side of ship to Jed and Maggie's room. But how would they wake them up without waking their parents?

While they were deciding what to do, presto, the door opened! It was Jed, who was up at 4 a.m. like usual (an hour had gone by, it seemed like only two minutes). He was going to walk down to Nana and Papa's room. Eriselle whispered to Jed the story of the whale. He rolled his eyes, but Annali said, "Yes, it is true. I saw it, too." So Jed went back into the room and woke up Maggie, and they ever so quietly snuck out of the room.

The 3 a.m. Sighting



Chapter 2.

The Corroboration of the 3 a.m. Sighting

Jed and Maggie said, “Show us.” The children raced to the elevator and take it to the top floor. They ran out to the deck and looked—and, there was the whale again, and again the whale put on its show. Fluke up with number. Fluke down. Fluke up with number. Fluke down. Four times. 1 - 2 - 7 - 3.

Jed and Maggie and Annali and Eriselle went back to their rooms as quickly as possible so as not to be missed, left notes that they were going to Nana and Papa’s cabin, found Papa awake, took him up on deck, give him a Sudoku book (couldn’t find the Kakuro book) so he wouldn’t pay attention to them or the water. (Jed found it hard to put the book down and wanted to finish one puzzle before he gave it to Papa). The children mused about the numbers. What could they mean? A year? But the first number was not a 2, and if it was a year that started with a 1, what could they do about that? One of the children said, “Maybe it is a time.” But no,” Eriselle said, proudly. “The third number is a 7, and there is no time where the third number could be a number bigger than 6.” They thought and thought. “Aha,” Maggie says, “I wonder if it is not a room number on this ship. “Good thinking,” Jed said.

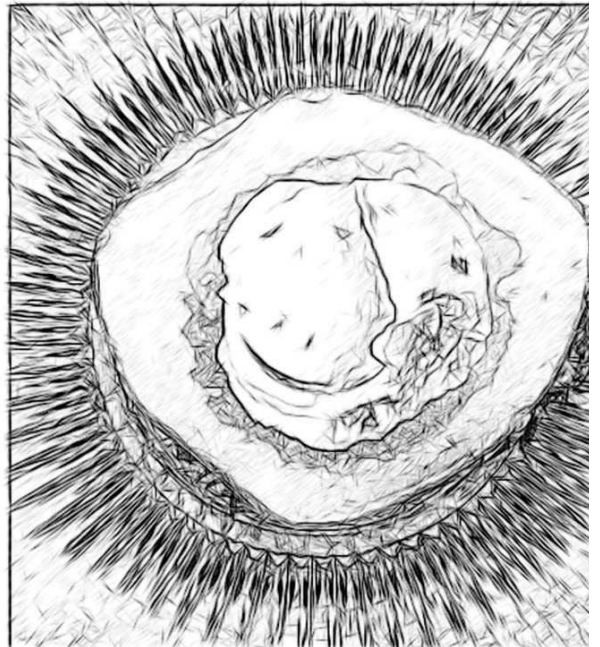
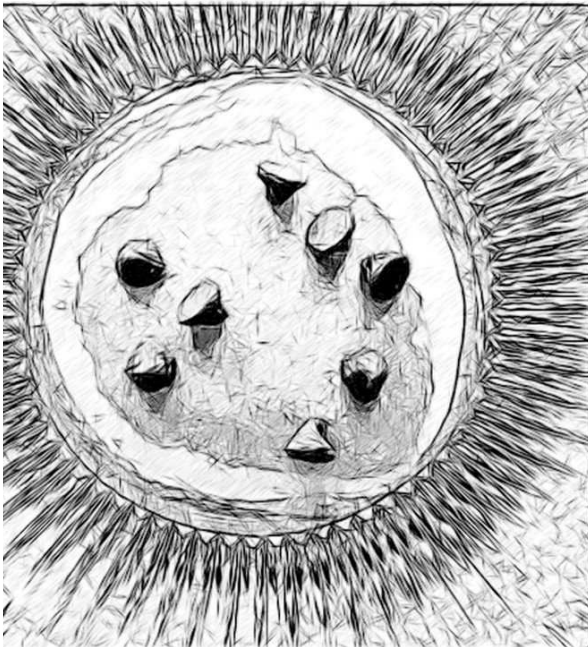
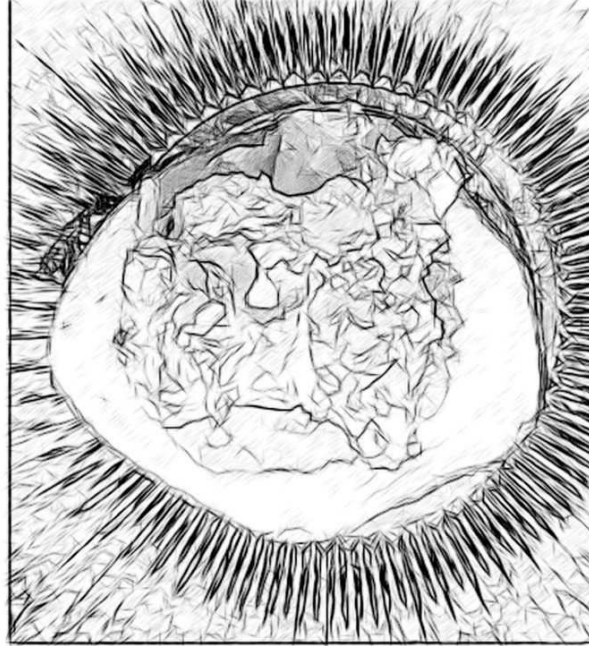
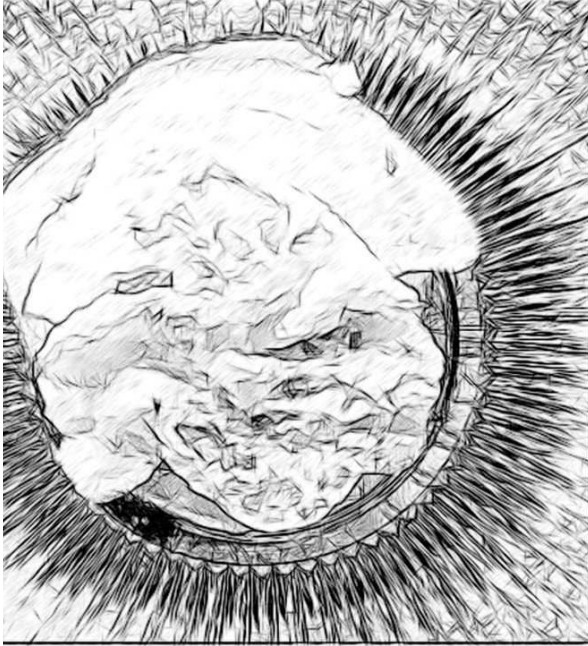
The Corroboration of the 3 a.m. Sighting



Chapter 3. Now What?

Now what should they do? It was now 6 a.m. So they went to the dining hall. Papa got an espresso, the children got food (they all had pancakes with maple syrup. Jed had a fried egg, Maggie a scrambled egg, Annali chocolate chips on top of her pancake, and Eriselle a scoop of strawberry ice cream). They told Papa they were going to walk around a little, told him there were four of them, they each had cell phones, that there was safety in numbers, that they would be ok. Papa said, “Yes, it is safe to do that. You are all responsible and good children.” They left, called him in 10 minutes just to let him know they were safe.

Now What?



Chapter 4. Room 1273

They walked up one flight of steps, then walked by room 1273, as slowly as possible but not so slow as to arouse suspicious. They heard loud shouting inside. They heard a dog barking. That should not be, because dogs were not allowed on the boat. The dog sounded scared.

Annali had gotten a card that had a “Happy Birthday” recording when she opened it. She had kept the card because she liked it so much. Jed had, before they left on the trip, gotten an iPhone app that could change a recorded card message to the sound of someone knocking on a door, and there was even a special part to the app that allowed the sound to be delayed. Annali blackened out her name on the card, Maggie set it outside the door, Eriselle started the timer, and then they all ran away. In 12 seconds the timer went off and there was the sound of knocking on the door. Someone opened the door and saw the card that said, “Happy Birthday”—and while the door was open a brown dog slipped out and raced away. The person who opened the door chased the dog but slipped on the ice that was in the room service tray. He knew he couldn’t shout because dogs were not allowed on the ship.



The dog (“Ginger” was on the tag around its neck) raced up the hall, turned around the corner, and found Jed and Maggie and Annali and Eriselle. He licked them all, because he remembered them—and they remembered him. Jed quickly wrapped his shirt around the dog and snuck back to Nana and Papa’s room. Nana has gone for breakfast with Papa. Ginger ate what remained of the room service food and even lapped up the last of the espresso. He then started to talk



Chapter 5. Ginger's Story

He told the children that Parry Hotter was in the room and that he was in grave danger. He and Parry had been kidnapped by two evil men who had been hired by Otto. Otto had been very angry about Harry escaping. Otto, Ginger said, was the leader of a gang of men that collected magic books. They thought that Parry had stolen one of the books when he left and so they kidnapped him and were trying to get him to tell them where the book was. He had not taken any books but he could not make them believe that. In only one more day the ship would dock in Seattle and they would deliver Harry to Otto who would take him back to his old house and lock him up so that he would never escape again. Ginger looked forlornly at Jed and Maggie and Annali and Eriselle. "Can you please please help?"

Jed and Maggie and Annali and Eriselle thought and thought. And finally they came up with a grand idea.

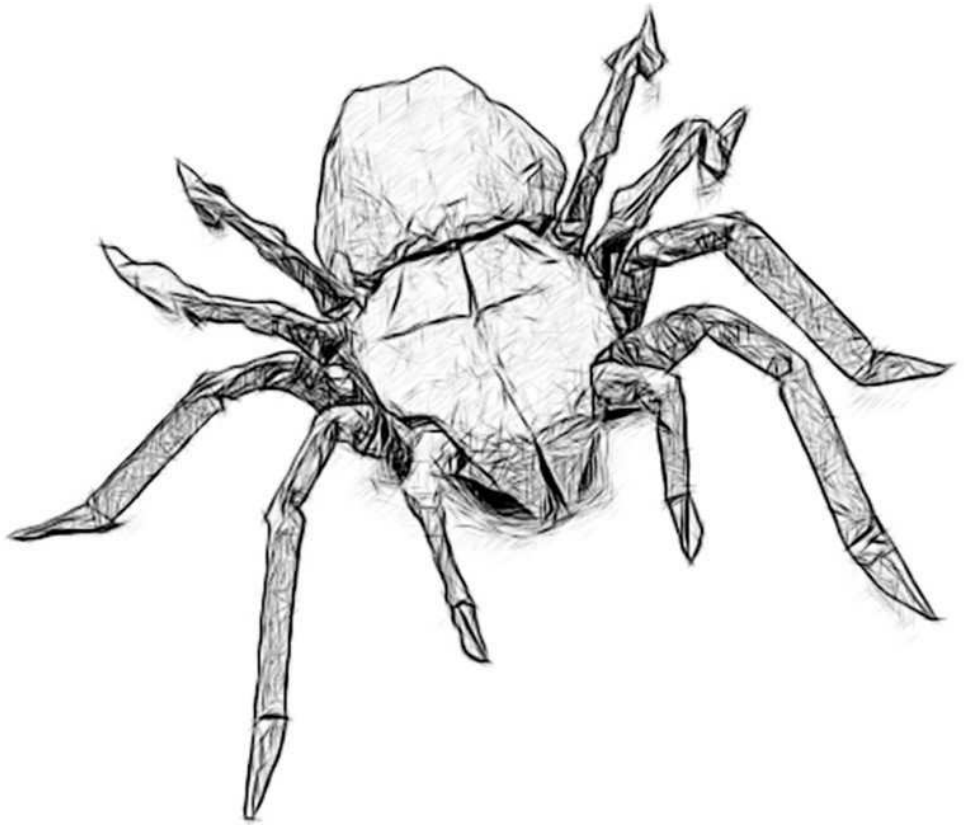


Chapter 6.

Tarantulas and Door Knocks from a Birthday Card

Jed found string and attached an origami tarantula spider to it and went to the deck above the room. Annali set the delay on the card (they were able to retrieve it; the men had left it outside the door) to 15 seconds. Maggie led Ginger to the door. Eriselle set the card outside the door, carefully, activated the card, and then silently ran away. The iPhones have been synchronized so that 15 seconds before the knocking sound was made, Jed dangled the fake tarantula from above so that it could be seen inside the room. The two men raced to the window when the real-looking tarantula appeared. And then the knocking sound was heard. One of the man raced to the door and opened it. There was Ginger. Ginger started to run, the man chased Ginger and—left the door open. And, presto--out slipped Parry! He heard a “Psst” and ran as fast as he could in the direction of the “Psst”, and disappeared around the corner—and there he found Maggie and Annali and Eriselle! He ran so fast that the man chasing him did not even see which corner he disappeared around. The children (except for Jed) rushed Parry to Nana and Papa’s room and slammed the door shut. Jed ran down one flight, covered Ginger with a sheet he had stuck in his backpack, and then walked casually, so as not

Tarantulas and Door Knocks from a Birthday Card



to arouse suspicion, to Nana and Papa's room. Nana and Papa were now back. They remembered Ginger and Parry from the camping trip, and they welcomed them. Ginger licked both of them.

Tarantulas and Door Knocks from a Birthday Card



Chapter 7. Magic Cloaks Revisited

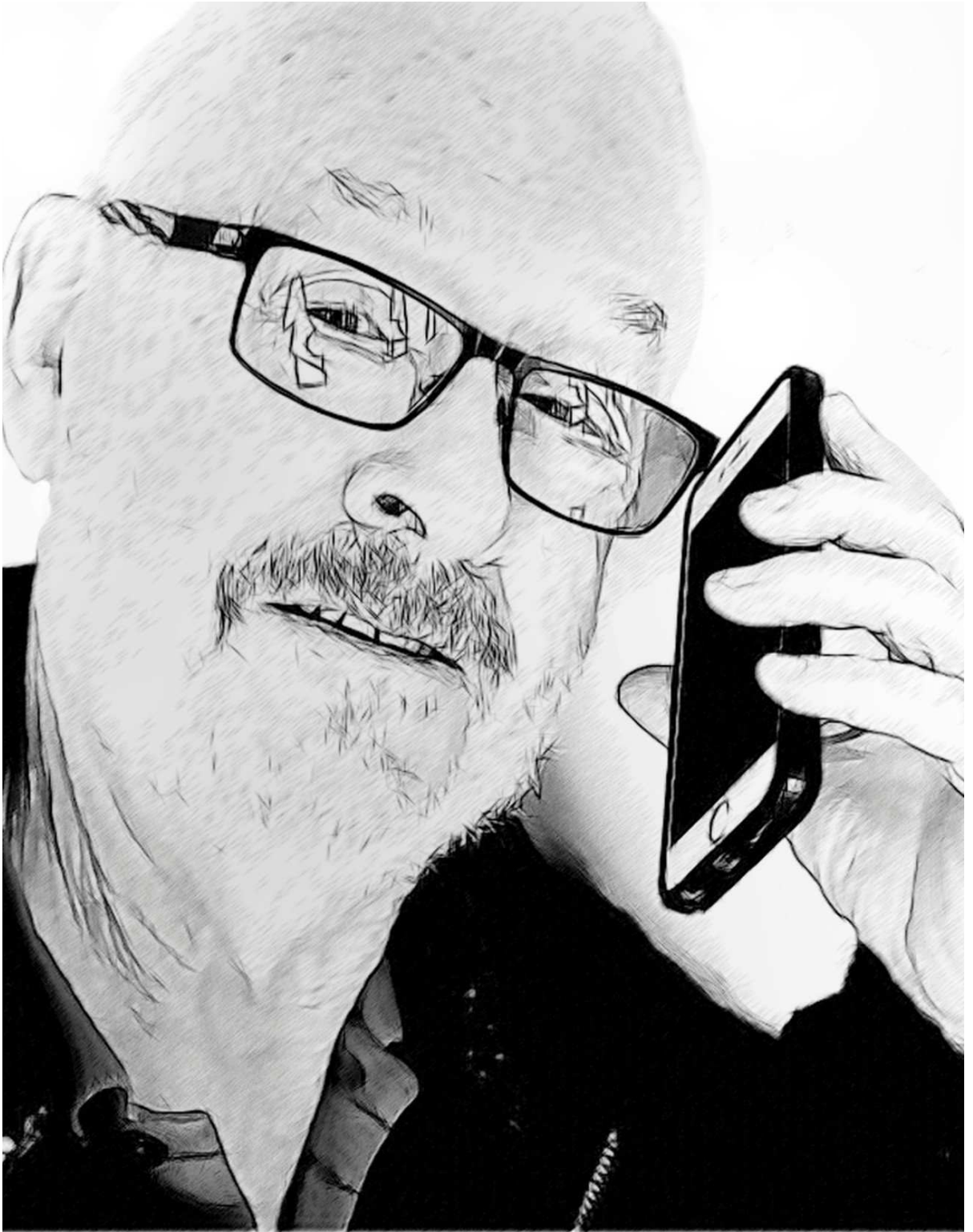
Jed and Maggie and Annali and Eriselle—and Parry—now pondered: What should they do?? The two men who were keeping Parry and Ginger in captivity were now as mad as wet hens. They would do everything they could to find Parry and Ginger. Even if Parry and Ginger stayed in this room until the end of the cruise, how can they be snuck out, when everyone must go off the boat, without being seen?

Suddenly Eriselle had an idea. Didn't Parry have a special cloak that made him invisible? Couldn't they make one for him—and while they were at it, make one for Ginger as well? Annali and Maggie shook their heads—how can we make one, let alone two, cloaks? Jed didn't think it could be done either, but then Nana asked, “What was that man's name, that old man with the beard and the red bow tie? It's too bad he's not here, he might be able to help us.” Parry said, “His name is Herr Lumderrood.” Papa heard them talking and said, “You know, I think I wrote down his name and email address and maybe even his iPhone number in my diary, and I think I can pull up my diary on the Internet. Maybe we could contact him?” And sure enough, Papa found his name and phone number. But when they tried to call



him, there was no answer, and the recorded message said his mailbox was full, had been full for a year now. So an email was sent, but no one was at all certain if he checked his email more than twice a year. Then Parry piped up, “I remember he had another email, the same as his regular email, but with two dollar signs and an exclamation mark at the beginning and a question mark at the end, before magiccom after the dot at the end.” So they tried that one, too, and lo and behold, in 5 minutes a reply came back! Herr Lumderrood apologized about his mailbox, said he’d been reading up on magic on spaceships in zero gravity and let his iPhone go dead.

There was silence on the other end of the phone for 12 seconds, and then Herr Lumderrood said, “Aha, I think I have the solution. Give me a minute.” It was actually 5 minutes that went by—they all thought the connection had been lost, but they heard the sound of books falling, loud cries of exasperation, a “Viola”, and then he was back on the phone, said he’d had to pull down a big book from the top shelf (up 18 feet), it had slipped from his hand and landed on his gouty toe, it had taken him a minute to find the right pages, but he had. “Take three green bananas, one over-ripe apple, a toenail (he didn’t say from what creature) and mix them together (for exactly 3 minutes and 17 seconds) in a quadruple double espresso and a vanilla and strawberry Smoothie. Dunk the clothing you want to use into it to make whoever wears it invisible.”



Chapter 8.

The Making of the Invisible Cloaks

Jed immediately headed for the cafeteria and found the bananas. He had to sort through 85 before he could find three that were not ripe. Maggie found one apple, at the very bottom of a pile, that was starting to rot. She held her nose and brought it back to the room. She had to hold it carefully so it wouldn't fall apart. Annali went to the espresso bar with her beverage card and said she wanted a two double double espressos. The barista looked at her as if to say, are you kidding? but Annali held her ground and said that she liked espresso, thank you very much. "Here is my card. I'm entitled to it. Please give the espressos to me." Eriselle borrowed the clippers from Nana and snipped off a tiny piece from her left little toe nail (there were no stipulations about size, fortunately). Nana said she was hungry for a Smoothie anyway, so she ordered two (she told the person at the counter the other one was for later). They found a bucket in the bathroom that the room cleaner had left, and put everything together and, using one of the iPhone's timers (they actually used three, just to be sure they would get the time right), they mixed it all together for exactly the right amount of time. The goop initially looked greenish yellowish brown with streaks of black (Eriselle said, "That looks like dog puke!") and

The Making of the Invisible Cloaks



then, within two seconds after they stopped stirring it (they used a fork left over from breakfast, they had to wipe off some old egg first, they wiped it very clean because they did not want to contaminate the mixture), it turned a bright purple.

Meanwhile Nana had stripped off a sheet, cut it in half, and pinned it together in the shape of a cloak and (she was very fast) slipped off a pillowcase that she fashioned into a smaller cloak for Ginger. They dipped the first pinned-together sheet/cloak and then the other sheet/cloak into the bucket and when they pulled them out, they almost lost them because they were now invisible! Luckily Jed kept holding the sheet and Annali the pillowcase! As if by magic the cloaks dried within seconds. They called in Parry and Ginger and slipped the invisible cloaks on them, adjusting them (it was hard to do, as they couldn't see the clothing!) until both Parry and Ginger were...invisible! It worked! They pulled off the new clothing and put it in the left corner of the top drawer in the bureau so that Ginger and Parry could be seen—otherwise they might be injured by someone barging into them.

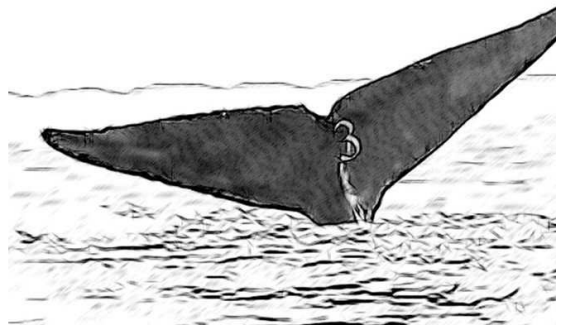
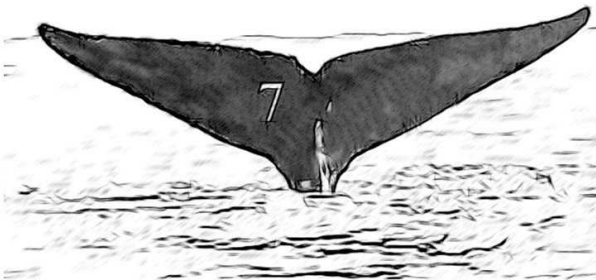
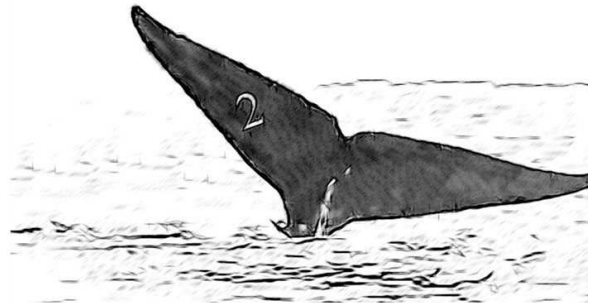
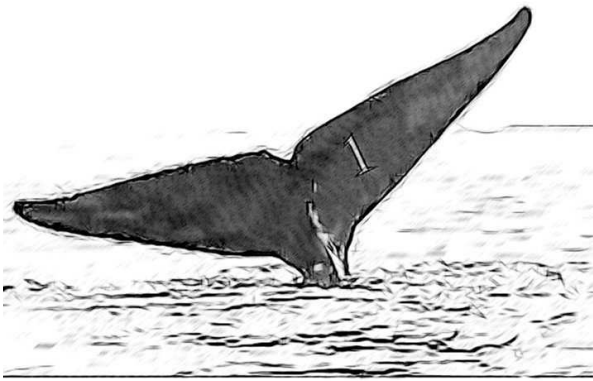
The Making of the Invisible Cloaks



Chapter 9. A Call Back from Herr Lumderrood

And then the phone rang—it was Herr Lumderrood calling back. “I forgot to tell you—I had a dream last night (and as you will recall, when Herr Lumderrood has a dream, it means something) that something had happened to Parry. I kept seeing a humpback whale in the dream and kept seeing the number 1273. I didn’t know what it meant—maybe tonight I’ll have another dream and will know—but I somehow knew I had to cast a spell out there, a very special spell. I threw the spell out the window and said ‘Abba Cadabra Badaqua Badaqua’ (it’s a very special spell I learned back 200 years ago). Do you know anything about this?” Jed and Maggie and Annali and Eriselle all looked at each other and yelled out, “Yes, yes, yes!”

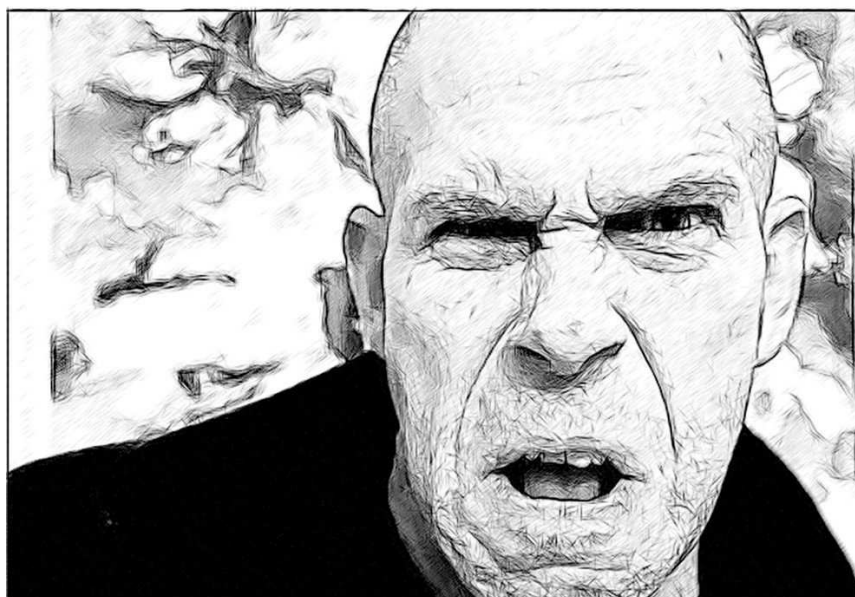
A Call Back from Herr Lumderrood



Chapter 10. Dinner the Last Night of the Cruise

At dinner that night, Heather and Joshua, the head waiter and the person who served the drinks, asked them, as they always did, what they had done today. “Ridden on dog sleds?” “Seen any bears?” And then, “Seen any whales?” The children did not look at each other because they were afraid they’d say something they should not say, and all said, together, “Yes.” While they were eating two men sat down at a table near them. They were glum and looked very angry. The children heard them say, “What do we do now? Where can that dog and that boy be? We will catch them.” The children were very quiet and kept eating the halibut and chicken and the apple cobbler desert, with vanilla ice cream. Maggie asked for cheesecake, and the waiter was able to scrounge it up even though it was not on the menu.

Dinner the Last Night of the Cruise

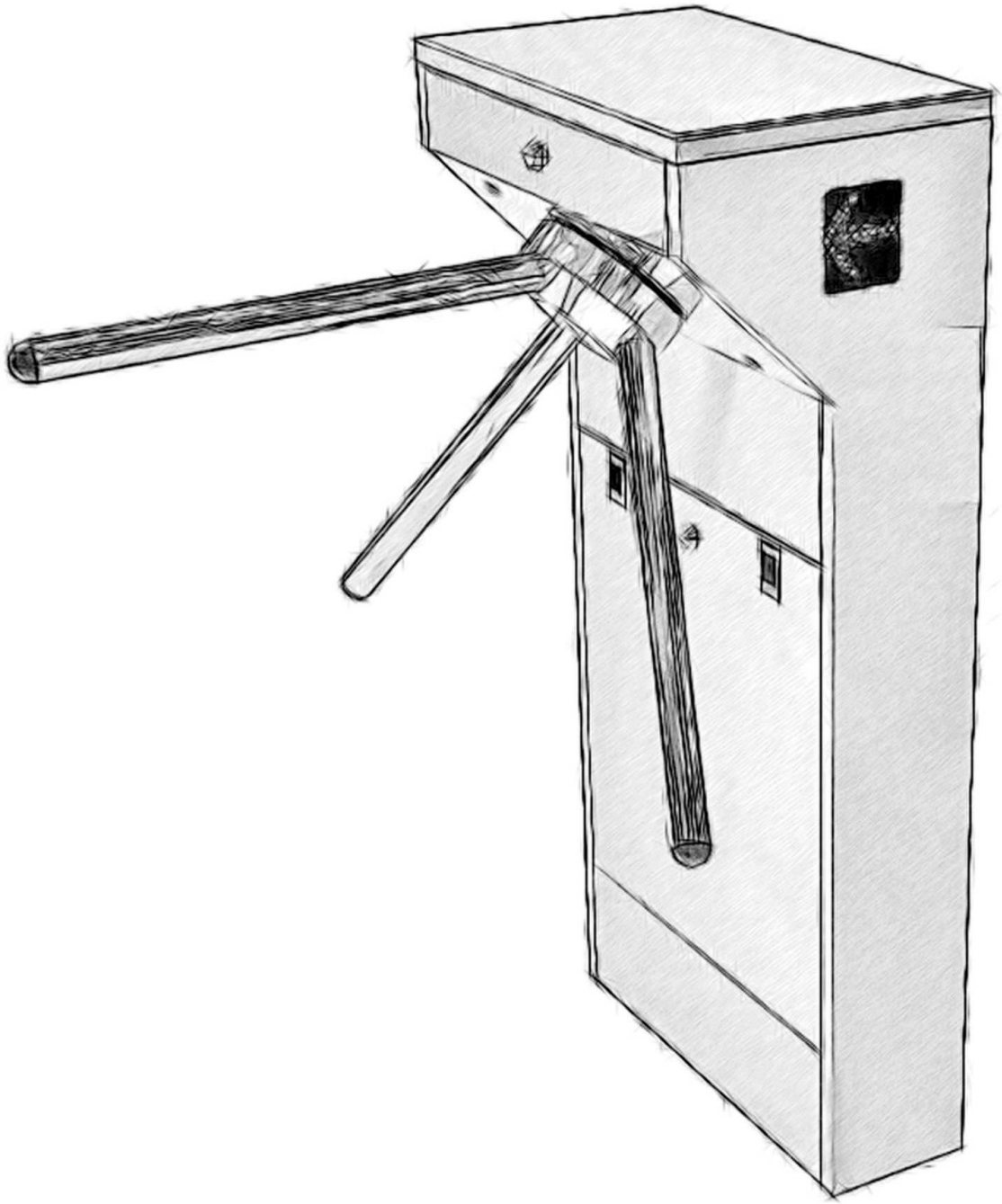


Chapter 11. 34ZX2 or 34ZX3?

Jed and Maggie and Annali and Eriselle went back to Nana and Papa's suite. They huddled together: how could they get Parry and Ginger off the boat tomorrow? Yes, they would be invisible, but still, when they went through the turnstile that everyone had to go through to get off the ship, there was a device that counted people. Would the counter be fooled by Ginger and Parry being invisible? And they were sure the two men would be waiting and watching, at the turnstile. There were two different sets of turnstiles, and they were sure one of the men would be at one and one at the other.

They phoned Herr Lumderrood. He was panting when he answered—said he was in the middle of his 50 pushups he did every day. Maggie asked him if the automatic device would detect Parry and Ginger, even though they were invisible. Herr Lumderrood did not talk for 30 seconds, then said, “It depends if the automatic device has 34ZX2 software or 34ZX3 software. 34ZX2 is older and would not detect Parry and Ginger, 34ZX3 software will. I would think this ship has the newer software, so I would not count on Parry and Ginger going through undetected.

34ZX2 or 34ZX3?e



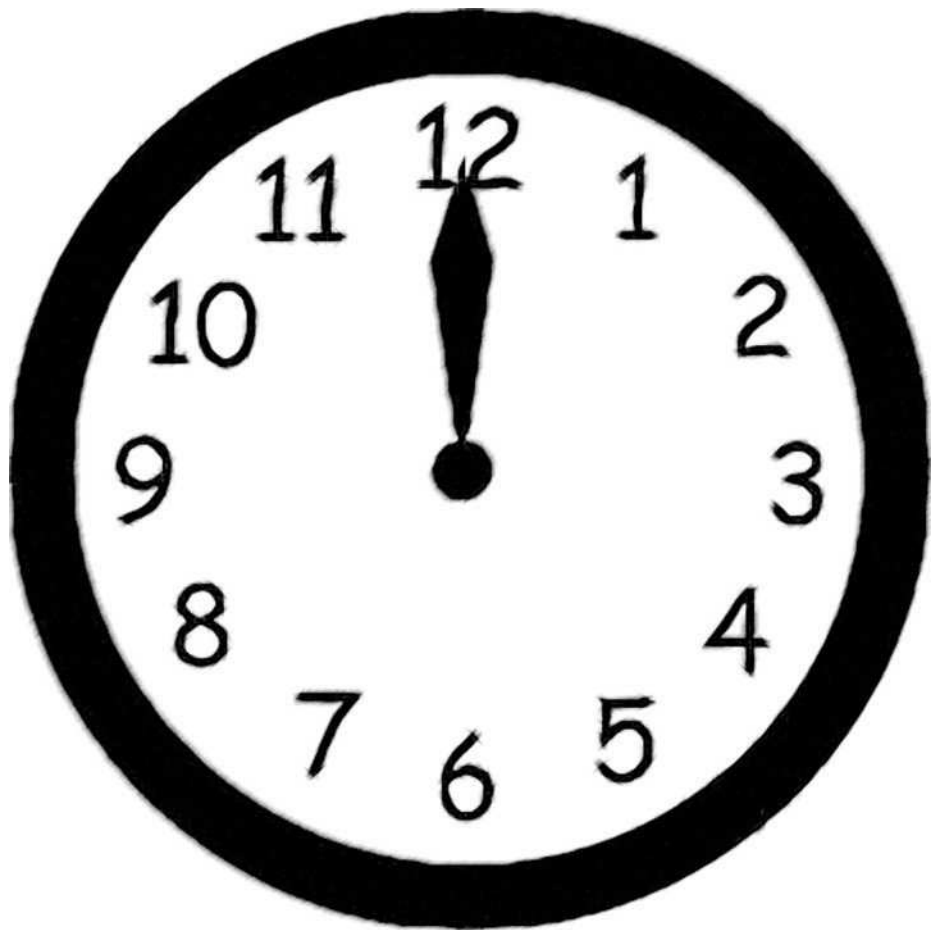
Chapter 12. Annali's Idea

The children groaned. What could they do? Then Annali had an idea. She said, "I think I know how we can get the men away from the turnstile area. Tomorrow morning we will take Ginger outside their door, dressed in her invisible cloak. We will have to be very very sure it is pinned on very securely. She will start barking and the men will come out of the door. She will run away, barking every so often. They will follow the sounds. She will run up the steps to the top of the ship, just a little ahead of them. They are not in very good shape, so she can easily outrun them. Jed, Maggie and Eriselle high-fived Annali. Parry frowned and said, "But what about Ginger? I am afraid the men might catch her. And then what?" But Ginger said (she was in a calm mood and so she didn't bark at all), "I will be fine. I have seen those men huffing and puffing even walking around inside the room. I will be fine. This will be fun!"

But...that did not solve the problem of getting Parry and Ginger off the ship. By now it was 8 o'clock in the evening, and within 12 hours they would have to disembark. What to do? Jed came up one idea, and Maggie another, and Annali another and Eriselle yet another. With each idea, they all first got excited



and then in three minutes they all got sad, because they realized it would not work. They called their mothers and fathers and told them how serious the situation was, and even though it was soon midnight, the parents agreed that this was indeed a matter of extreme urgency and allowed the children to stay in Nana and Papa's suite.



Chapter 13. Another Call from Herr Lumderrood

Suddenly the telephone in the room rang. Who could be calling? Maggie answered, and listened for 30 seconds, and then said, “Wait, let me tell the others!” She put her hand over the speaker part of the phone and said, “It’s Herr Lumderrood! He said he’s been thinking and thinking and has come up with a spell that can be cast so that Ginger and Parry can get out undetected. He wants to talk to Parry.”

Parry picked up the receiver and nodded and listened and nodded and listened for two minutes. He grabbed a tablet and pen and wrote some words on the paper. He was about to hang up when Eriselle said, “Just a minute, let me talk to Herr Lumderrood.” Parry handed her the phone and Eriselle told Herr Lumderrood all about the plan for Ginger to divert the men. She listened to Herr Lumderrood and then smiled, and said, “Thank you. I didn’t realize it was so important to tell you.”

She hung up the phone. They all wondered why Herr Lumderrood had called on the phone in the suite (how did he even know the number?). Then they looked at their iPhones and discovered that calls had been coming through from him,



but they were so engrossed in the wracking of their brains that they had not heard their phones ring! (Nana and Papa had their CPAP running and were sound asleep).

The four children gathered around Parry and looked at what he had written on the piece of paper. They could not read the writing, but Parry could. It was only because he had taken some correspondence lessons in spell casting from Herr Lumderrood that he could read what he had written (and understand, in the first place, what Herr Lumderrood had told him on the phone.) Parry said, "It's alright, it will work out. I must memorize this and then throw away the paper after shredding it up and chewing on it and making it into a spit ball and throwing it down the toilet."

By now it was 2 a.m. The children decided to stay the night, on the floor and on the sofa, in Nana and Papa's room. Ginger slept by the door, being the good guard dog that she was.



Chapter 14. Disembarkment Day, 7 a.m.

By 7 a.m. the children were all up. Nana pulled the cloaks out of the bureau drawer and carefully pinned the cloak on Ginger. Parry was able to put his own cloak on. He turned around three times and had the children look to be sure that no part of his clothing showed. He even raised his arms above his head and jumped. He was completely invisible.

Disembarkment Day, 7 a.m.



Chapter 15. The Chase to Deck 14

At 7:45, Annali took Ginger up to room 1273. He stood at the door until she had walked all the way to the end of the hall and turned around the corner. She had a little mirror with her and stuck it out so she could see what was happening, but not be seen herself. Ginger started to bark. In 10 seconds the door opened and out rushed the two men. They rubbed their eyes because they could see no dog. By this time, Ginger had run down the hall and then she barked again (she scared the hebejeebies out of a man and a woman walking toward the exit area). The men ran after the sound. But by the time they got to where Ginger had been barking, she had moved ahead, up a flight of stairs. She barked again. And that was the way things happened for the next 5 minutes—a barking, two out of shape men panting and gasping and running, barking, two out of shape men panting and gasping and running, and so on and on.

It ended on the 14th floor. The men roared up steps and skidded out on the deck. And mysteriously, just as they stepped on the deck, a sheet of ice formed magically on the floor and the men skidded. They lost their balance, fell to the floor, tried to leap up, and found themselves sliding---towards the edge of



the ship. They screamed but while they were still screaming, mysteriously, again, the guard rail disappeared and...they both slid off the ship, down down towards the water. But instead of landing in the water...



Chapter 16. The Fall from Deck 14

...they belly flopped, kersplat, kersplat, onto a huge whale that had mysteriously appeared right beside the ship! As soon as the men landed kersplat on the whale, the whale swam away from the Celebrity Solstice, with the two men still lying flat on their tummies, stunned, but alive and unhurt, after their fall from the 14th floor of the ship. And the fluke of the whale now had a smiley face on it!

Everyone on the ship was intent on disembarking, so no one was looking out except for the children. The horn was not sounded as it was usually sounded when a whale was sighted. It was Jed who happened to see the whale. At first he couldn't figure out what was on top of the whale, so he grabbed the binoculars (Nana and Papa had given each of the children a set for the trip) and adjusted them and...he saw the two men on the top of the whale! He yelled at Maggie and Annali and Eriselle (and Parry) and they all looked and gasped! And then they saw the smiley face on the fluke and they all laughed!

The Fall from Deck 14

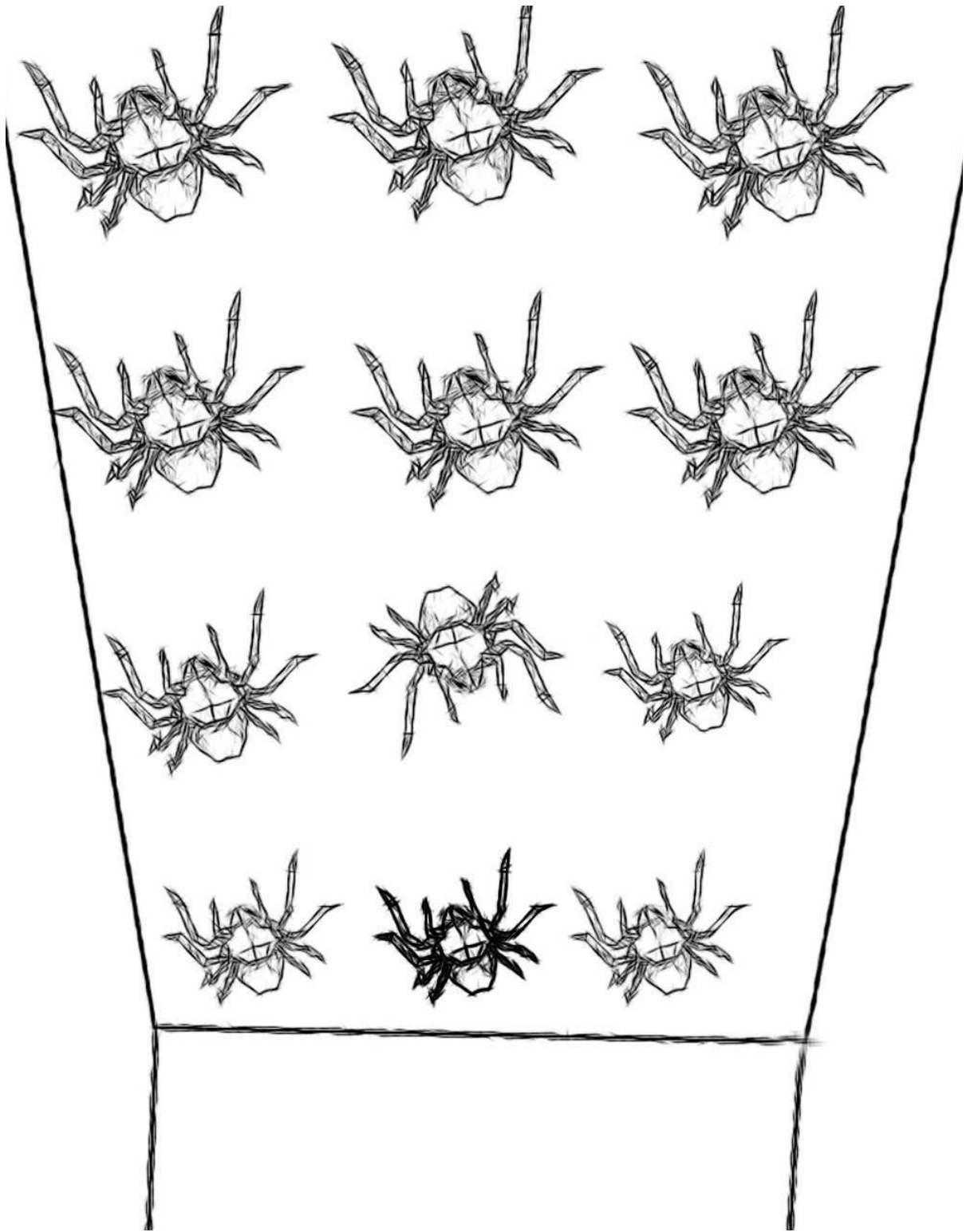


Chapter 17. Tarantulas at Disembarkement

They immediately headed for the disembarkment area. By now Ginger was back—she woofed ever so softly, otherwise they would not have known she was there. When they got to the turnstiles, Parry went first (it was hard to know where he was, but he whispered softly as he passed by each of the children). He was in front of Eriselle, and he was holding on to Ginger by her collar. Suddenly, out of the clear blue (no one could see him) he said, “Look at the ceiling. I see tarantulas. Oh my!” He said it in such a startled tone that everyone stopped what they were doing and looked up at the ceiling—and indeed there were tarantulas there! Everyone started to shout and scream, so loudly that when the turnstile counter started to beep as Ginger and Parry went through, no one heard it. And then suddenly, the tarantulas were gone. And the magic of it was that as soon as the tarantulas were gone, everyone forgot what they had seen and life went on, with a 5 second blank in it that no one ever remembered. No one realized that Parry had said a 18 word spell very softly just before he said, “Look at the ceiling!”

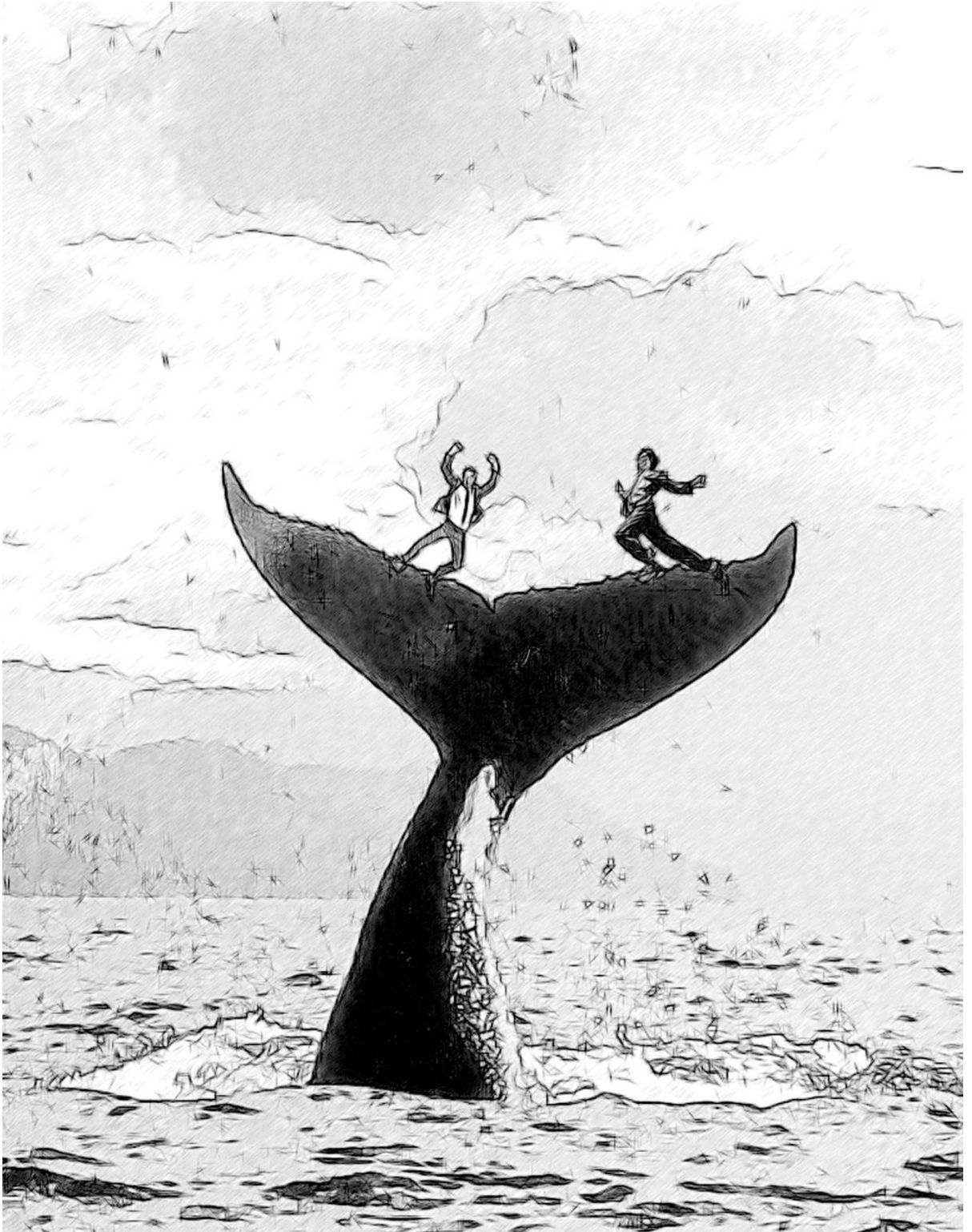
And so, they were all on the other side of the turnstile! The children high-fived each other and walked off the ship. They

Tarantulas at Disembarkement



looked out in the water, and there was the whale! The two men were now standing up and frantically waving. They kept falling down on the slippery surface of the whale. As the children watched, the whale got smaller and smaller, and finally disappeared into the distance, heading back up to Alaska

Tarantulas at Disembarkement



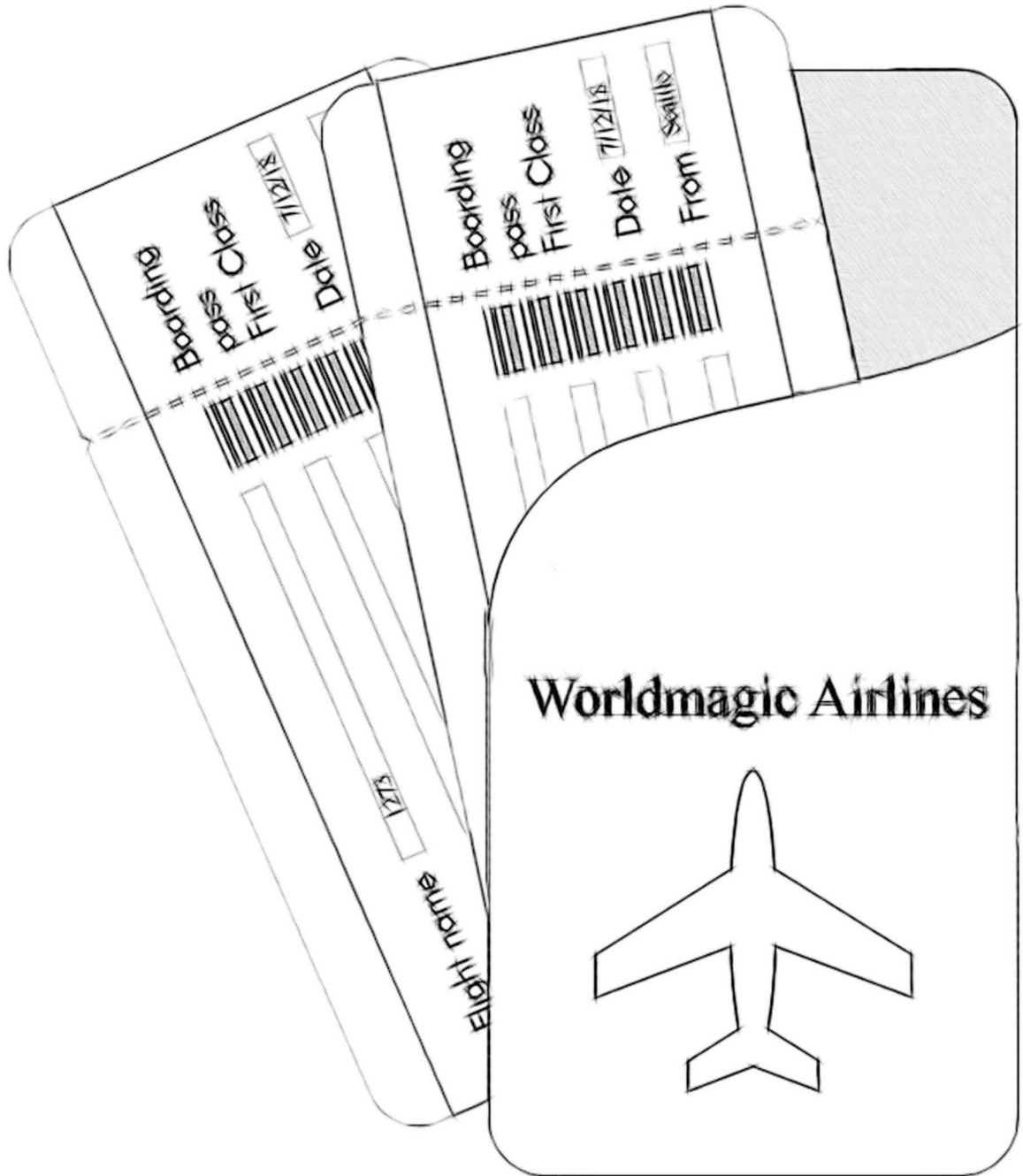
Chapter 18.

And... Another Call from Herr Lumderrood

All of the iPhones started to ring. It was Herr Lumderrood, wondering about what was going on. He told the children that it was so very good that Eriselle had told him about Ginger's diversion plan. He had contacted the whale with his special ultrasonic device, and he had arranged for the sheet of ice to appear, and he had arranged for the guard rail to mysteriously disappear as well. He said the men would be safe; he would arrange for one of them to be heaved on shore in Ketchikan and one in Juneau.

And he told Parry that a message would be coming from Worldmagic Airlines, with two tickets for Ginger and Parry, to fly them back home.

And... Another Call from Herr Lumderrood



Chapter 19. Gate 9 ³/₄

The ten of them, plus Ginger and Parry, took a big van to the airport. When they got there, Papa and Nana went to Gate 12, Jed and Maggie and their parents to Gate 19, Annali and Eriselle and their parents to Gate 34—and Ginger and Parry to Gate 9 ³/₄.

****The End****





I couldn't believe it--Parry was really me!

- Harry Potter

Yet another in the series, surely to reach #1 as have all the previous books.
What a story!

- Times of New York

The saga continues! What next? South America, Hawaii? I eagerly await
another in this wonderful series.

- Chicago Tribunal

As usual, compassion for the villain. What the world needs to hear.

- Wall Avenue Journal

