

## THE CURSE OF THE GARGOYLES

Gilly and Jack flew down the street, past the lineup of idling cars and their zombie like inhabitants at the Tim Hortons drive thru, to find the Gatekeeper. Near the town's single pad (soon to be a double double) they found a small hut marked "Maintenance". They peeked inside the dusty window and saw a wrinkly man in overalls pouring some Timmies into a mug. He turned and locked eyes with them and then slammed the blinds closed.

"Suspicious," Jack said.

Gilly ran over and knocked on the door but no one answered. She squeezed the handle and pushed a little. "ERREEEEK," said the door rather eerily.

"Ok that's just weird. I don't know if we should go in there," Jack said sounding scared. Gilly, being the brave one, just walked right in. Curiosity grabbed Jack and he walked in too. The man that they had seen was gone, and the "stuff" in the mug was spilled on the floor, and the shards of the broken mug lay in it. As Gilly took another step into the room the floorboards creaked and then suddenly gave way. She fell into a dark hole and grabbed the edge at the last possible second. Jack ran in and helped pull her from the hole. "That was a close call," Jack said, exasperated.

"Tell me about it," Gilly gasped.

Gilly pulled out her iPhone XSRSMTXV Plus, switched on the flashlight and peered down into the hole. They saw steps going to a tunnel.

"Is it some kind of secret bunker?" Jack wondered.

"I'm going down, you stay up here and be on guard".

"But...." Jack started to say but then decided against it. Gilly was the kind of person who couldn't lose arguments.

Gilly gingerly started down the stairs, careful not to slip as they were slick with what smelled like cat pee. She found herself in a tunnel and could not see much except for dirt walls and a stone floor. She saw a light in the distance and it got brighter as she walked on. She felt like she should have made it to the light already. Then she saw a strange mark on the ground. She bent down to inspect it and then felt someone or something touch her back. She screamed!

Jack was getting a bit bored while flossing wildly in the hut, and was considering getting an iced cap from Timmies when he heard the scream. It echoed through the tunnel and he raced into the tunnel and towards the light. As he drew closer he saw the outlines of two people. A larger figure was holding the other captive!

As soon as Gilly felt the hand on her back she sprang up and turned around. It was the wrinkly man that they had seen earlier and he held an old bald cat. She opened her mouth to say something but nothing came out. The man took the opportunity to grab her wrist and twist her arm, and the pain was excruciating.

"What are you doing down here?" the man demanded.

"Th...the Gargoyles" she stammered, while eyeing up the ugliest cat she had ever seen.

"LET HER GO!" Jack yelled in his ear. The startled man released Gilly and the bald beast and Jack pinned him against the wall.

Gilly dusted herself off and whispered, "Who are you?"

"I'm the keeper of the East gate. My name is Henry Cepan," he responded defiantly. Jack warily let him go.

"Why are those Gargoyles on the gate?" Gilly asked.

"Yes, I was wondering that too," said Henry. "I found an old book in this tunnel under the rink in that chest over there some years ago. It said that some crazy person called Sandor Ago cast a curse on Gan and Lansdowne long ago after the Brockville Horseheads lost to the Lansdowne Sheepherders in Gan long ago on October 17, 1918. The book said that 100 years from the time the curse was placed that Gargoyles would appear at the gates and cause mayhem between the two towns!" he stated slowly.

"Whaaat? Is there anyway to stop it?" asked Jack.

"Well the book said that if two close friends from both Gan and Lansdowne were to feed the Gargoyles some doughnuts just before midnight on October 17<sup>th</sup> that would break the spell," Henry said. "You may be the special ones!" Henry commented.

So near midnight the three snuck away from their homes and met at the East Gate motel. Henry had ladders and Gilly had stopped at Timmies. At the gate they placed their ladders and climbed the arch, neither fearing the great height of the monument. Moments before midnight Gilly and Jack fed the Gargoyles the Timmie treats and channeled their love and passion for their two towns into the delectable doughnuts. The Gargoyles began to shake. Pillars of light shot from their red beady eyes and then they crumbled to dust. Gilly and Jack had saved the day!

After recovering and wandering upstreet the next day they decided to head to Gilly's house. They were passing the grave yard when something caught Gilly's eye... One of the old grave stones had Sandor Ago carved into it.

"Wow, that dude was nuts," said Jack, not impressed. Suddenly the grave stone started to shake and smoke rolled up. OMG, breaking the curse of the Gargoyles has caused him to awaken!...

Ava Chubb

Age 11

Grade 6

Linklater Institute of Higher Learning