

Message in a Bottle!



"Message in a Bottle"

A Short Story by sb

Frank was a little boy of eleven. He liked working on the computer but he didn't have a lot of friends.

One day Frank was playing with his dog, Toby, at the beach. He was throwing the frisbee and the dog had to catch it. At some point Frank threw the frisbee and the dog brought him a bottle. Frank opened the bottle and he noticed a message inside. He tried to read it but the letters were too dim. He decided to go to an internet café to see if he could do something and read the message.



First Frank went back home with Toby. He asked his parents to go to the internet café and a few minutes later he left the house. Outside the café he met his only friend, Peter. He told him the story with the message in the bottle. Peter had some good ideas how to start searching.

First they created a blog with their names and all the events about the message and the bottle; such as the type of paper, the ink and the bottle itself. Then they started searching some information on the internet about a scientist who read old papers using special laser scanners. Two hours later they found Dr. Langas, a University professor. The professor sent them a message to meet him the next afternoon at Frank's house so that they could show him the message.

Frank and Peter were very excited. Their plan was going well. They went back home to tell the story to their parents. When Frank went to sleep he had a good idea. He decided to go to the beach next morning with Peter and Toby in order to look for more clues. When they arrived at the beach Toby started digging a hole. Inside that hole they found a second bottle with a map inside. At six o'clock in the afternoon they met Dr. Langas to tell him what the message was all about. But before that they showed him the map. Then Dr. Langas asked them, "Where and how did you find that map?"

"We went to the beach in the morning," the boys answered, "and Toby smelled something and he started digging a hole. Inside that hole we found the map."

"Then I will come back tomorrow," Dr. Langas said, "to talk to you about the map and the message."

When the professor left, the two boys were very nervous. Then Peter left too but he said he would come back soon. He just had to go home and tell his parents that he would sleep at Frank's house.



It was a cold night at Frank's home. Peter had some spooky dreams. He dreamt about the message and the bottle and in his dreams he was thinking about what it could be. First he thought that it was a joke, but then he had afterthoughts. Still, he couldn't find a solution. All these thoughts stopped when Frank woke him up and started

shouting at him. "Peter! Peter! Dr. Langas has called. He said we have to meet him at the Park in twenty minutes. It is important; it is about the message."

Frank and Peter ran to the Park and there they found the professor. He looked very upset. He told the children about the message. He said it was a prophecy which said that if two children found the message, one secret gate would open and these children would have to pass six difficult tests. Every time they won a test they would take one secret key, which would lead them to the Outworld. If they took all six keys, then they would have to find a secret tool and with this they would go back to the real world. They they would have to find a secret code and the secret map would change and show them the mystic hideout of a mythical treasure. If they succeeded they would take the treasure and the potion of immortality to give to all humans.

"This is the first clue I give to you," said Dr. Langas. "You have to go to the island beyond the beach you found the message. There you are going to find the first test."

Frank and Peter were shocked and afraid. They felt as if a thunder had hit them. They went to Frank's house and they started thinking. They couldn't stop talking about it.

Two days later Frank and Peter decided to go to Dr. Langas and tell him that they would go to the island for the first test. They also asked if he could go with them. Dr. Langas agreed but he said that they would have to wait for a while. At the same time he called someone and rent a boat as well as diving gear for the three of them. He

said they needed the gear because they might have to go underwater in order to pass their first test. Two days later Dr. Langas and the two boys left for the island.



The sea was very calm while Frank, Peter, Dr. Langas and Toby were going to the island 'Astrakhan'. Dr. Langas told them that it was called like that because Russian people had first discovered it. Suddenly the boat started sinking. Peter and Frank screamed and called for help and with all this noise Dr. Langas woke up.

"What's the matter?" he asked.

"We're sinking, Dr. Langas!" shouted the two children. They were all calling for help, until the sea swallowed them. They fainted because they couldn't breathe. But then, miraculously, they started breathing again in the sea! Dr. Langas was calmer than the boys. Frank looked around. Toby had disappeared. When he turned around again he saw Dr. Langas talking with a creature that looked like a mermaid. He couldn't believe his eyes. As he heard from their conversation the creature's name was Sama. Sama had a long tail instead of legs, which had light blue and green colour. He was wearing a golden crown on his head. He had elf ears: they were long and pointy. He was holding a big silver spear.

Dr. Langas told the boys: "Sama doesn't let us go into that cave." Frank thought that this was the first test.

Peter read his friend's mind: "I don't think this is the test," He said. "It's too easy to pass him. Look!"

He went near Sama and took his spear. Then he stabbed Sama with it. Sama fell dead on the bottom of the sea and exploded with a big 'bang'.

"Let's take the spear to be on the safe side," Frank said and took the spear.

Then he put his hand into his pocket. At last, the letters of the message appeared. It wrote:

In the deep water you must search

with the spear in front of you.

You must find the sword

and the catapult too

if you want to take your dog back

and the Waterkey.

Try on the cave and on the big kcor

I promise you will find what you're looking for.

If you do well, you'll survive,

but if you fail you shall die.

Frank read the letter again and again, but he couldn't understand anything. Dr. Langas said: "I think the word 'kcor' is spelled backwards. I think it means 'rock'." The boys and the professor started searching right away. They went to the bottom of the sea and searched for a big rock and a cave. Finally, they discovered a place called 'Waterkey'. When they went in, a big white shadow went upon them, but when it saw the spear it exploded just like Sama!

The children were terrified. After an hour's walk they found a very tall room. When they looked up they saw a flying rock. "How can we get up there?" asked Frank. "By swimming!" answered Dr. Langas. He was right. They could swim up there. When they reached the rock, they saw a big sword and a catapult ready to shoot. When Frank touched the catapult, it became smaller and Frank could close it in his hand. The same happened when Peter touched the sword. Then a part of the rock opened and a key flew in Frank's hand. A lock appeared and Frank put the key inside. The lock disappeared as quickly as it had appeared. Another rock came up, but this time Toby and a second key was on it. The riddle in Frank's mind was solved. When everything had finished, they all felt very excited that they had their first key. "What an exciting adventure," said Dr. Langas and everybody burst out laughing.

Suddenly, there was a strange blue light and a thumping noise which came from the catapult. They all turned and looked. The catapult was back into its proper size.

"Oh!" Peter said, "Look at the catapult! What's going on?"

"I don't know," Frank replied, "let's go check."

The professor, the boys and Toby went closer to the catapult. Toby jumped in. "What's Toby doing?" they all wondered and followed the dog into the catapult. The blue light of the catapult became brighter and with a big thundering noise, it shot them into the air. There was a blinding white light and the friends found themselves in Monte Carlo.



"Where are we?" asked Frank.

"Let's ask someone," replied Peter.

"Children! Lock!" said the professor. "Here is a sign that says: 'Formula 1, Monte Carlo racing'."

"So what must we do now?" Frank wondered.

Peter brought out the message. There was new writing on it which said:

If you want to find the second key

you must go to the cemetery

and find the grave with the skull.

The message continues there...

"Oh, no! Not a cemetery!" the boys cried.

"Quick, children! We mustn't waste any time," said Dr. Langas. They found a taxi and in the next half hour they had reached the cemetery.



It was dark outside and bats were hanging on the trees. Suddenly they saw the grave they were looking for. On it was a small hole. Dr. Langas put his hand inside and pulled out a piece of paper. The message said:

For the key of this mystery

you must find a golden Ferrari.

Drive it to the palace

and find the statue of the sleeping prince

and there the key lies.

"Golden Ferrari? Sleeping prince?" they all wondered. All of the sudden Toby began to bark and he ran down the road. They all followed him and couldn't believe what Toby had found. A Ferrari shop! And in the window a golden Ferrari with a plate 'Key 2'.

"What a clever dog!" laughed the professor.

"Well done, Toby!" Frank said.

"Hmm, I think we have to steal it," said Peter. "We don't have 1 million Euros!"

The friends broke the window of the shop with a stone. They went inside and took the Ferrari! Now the police were trying to catch them. In five minutes they were at the gate of the palace. They broke in and went in the Royal Gardens.

"There it is!" said Peter, and they all saw the statue of the sleeping prince. Peter got out of the car and found the key under the statue.

They rushed off with the police right behind them.

"Quick! Let's find a place to hide!" said Dr. Langas. They drove like crazy! They drove so fast that the police car couldn't reach them. They stopped at the cemetery. They opened the Ferrari's trunk and saw a golden box. Peter put the key in the keyhole. The box opened and revealed another key. A bright light came out. When they woke up they were again in the professor's lab.



The next morning Dr. Langas called the boys in his lab.

"What's wrong, Dr. Langas?" Frank asked.

"While I was walking down the beach I saw an island shining in the distance.

Afterwards, I saw a letter at my feet which said:

If you want to find the next key

you must have a jet-ski race

with two skeletons

and only if you win them

you are going to the top of the island

with a motor bike and take the key.

You are going to come back

in the same way.

You have two days!

The boys and the professor went out to the shops and found a jet-ski. They had to find a fast one in order to beat the skeletons. After an hour they found a jet-ski that went 250 km per hour. They returned quickly to the lab and took some money. When they bought it they ran to the sea. They only had two hours left. When the two hours passed they saw two skeletons on a jet-ski, coming towards them. The race started but the skeletons were too fast. Frank went faster and faster but he couldn't catch up with them. At last, Frank, Peter and Dr. Langas were going with 250 km per hour! And finally they managed to get ahead. After that they went to the island and found two

motorbikes on the beach. They turned on the engines and started going to the top of the island.

Half an hour later they were at the top. Frank suddenly saw the key shining on a rock. When they took the key, a music box appeared. Frank unlocked the music box and they all heard a strange music. In a flash, the ground disappeared and Dr. Langas and the boys were back in the lab. One more test was successful!



The next day Peter and Frank were walking on the beach, when Toby brought them a letter that said:

*You have to enter a freaky room
full of tarantulas
and you have to read
on the back of the tarantulas
some words that will form a sentence.
This will open a door
and there you will find the fourth key.*

This test was very difficult. Dr. Langas was afraid. According to the message, in order to get the keys they had to catch the spiders and find the magic words. The friends quickly ran to the island. A skeleton monster guided them to the room. Dr. Langas went first. Peter went second and Frank was the last one to enter the room. The door closed behind them.

Dr. Langas saw four spiders. Frank said that he couldn't touch the spider, but then he saw Peter doing it and that gave him courage. Dr. Langas took the first spider in his hand and he read the word 'you'. Frank took the second spider, although he was afraid. He turned the spider upside down and he read the word 'now'. Afterwards it was Peter's turn. He took a very big tarantula and he read the word 'open' on its back.

"And the last one? Who will take the last one?" said Frank.

"Me!" said Dr. Langas. "This one is very dangerous. I'll take it."

Dr. Langas knew how to catch the poisonous spiders, so he took it. The spider was moving its legs. Dr. Langas read the word 'will'.

"It makes sense," he said. "Remember the words! You, now, open and will - You will open now," he said and an enormous door opened. Frank saw the key on the rock. They ran quickly towards it. Next to the key there was also a lock. Dr. Langas touched it and then he disappeared. Frank and Peter did the same. They were all back to the lab.



The following day Frank, Peter and Toby went back to the beach to find some more clues, when suddenly Toby smelled something. They dug in the sand and they found another bottle. They went quickly back to the lab. They read the message to Dr. Langas. The message said:

*You have to go to the island
and say the word 'Pirate'.*

*Then a door will open and
you will find yourselves
on a Caribbean island.*

*You have to succeed in this mission
or all the keys you have collected will disappear.*

After half an hour the boys and Dr. Langas went back to the island and said the magic word.

"Pirate!" they shouted all together. Miraculously, they found themselves on a Caribbean island. While they were walking, a man in black clothes and black sunglasses stopped them and asked:

"Are you here for the mission?"

"Yes, we are," said Dr. Langas.

"Then follow me."

The man guided them to a haunted ship and whispered:

"This sheep has three mystery rooms. Good luck!"

The friends were afraid, but they went into the first room. The first room had snakes. They passed the snakes. The second room had poisonous bees. They all wore uniforms but Peter's uniform had a hole, so a bee stung him. They passed the bees as well. They opened the third room and they took the key from inside. They went back to the lab, but Peter was still in pain... but at least they had the key!



Dr. Langas gave Peter antidote to save him. Their sixth mission was to go around the world by ship in forty days. If they failed they wouldn't be able to go to Outworld and that meant that they wouldn't solve the mystery. They had planned to set sail the following day. That night, the children and Dr. Langas slept very early, because the next day would be very difficult. Everyone was nervous about their mission. The next morning Peter, Frank, Toby and Dr. Langas started their mission by ship. The ship wasn't fast at all, so they had to buy another one. They stopped at North America to buy a new and faster one. But in order to do so, they had to find some money. They sold the old one and they rented a fast ship.

They fought with sharks and evil sea creatures. They thought that they wouldn't make it because they had already reached the 21st day. Their fuel had finished and they had to go to a port and fill up the ship. The days passed. One night Toby suddenly fell into the sea and Dr. Langas stopped the ship to catch him. First, Frank dove in to save him and later Peter fell in the water because his friend needed help. Suddenly, a sea creature dragged Frank to the bottom of the sea in his effort to catch Toby. Peter was worried about Frank and he wore his diving suite and took a shotgun to help him. He was very happy when he managed to save his friend. Toby swam to the ship and Dr. Langas who was in the ship helped him to get on it. The two boys also climbed on the ship and the friends continued their mission.

Unfortunately, they had lost valuable time so now they had to go as fast as possible. They passed Australia on the 26th day. After one day of rest and getting

food and fuel, they passed huge waves and stormy weather. They successfully completed their mission in 36 days. Now, they had the sixth and final key.



When they took the last key, they noticed that a little piece of paper was on it. They opened the paper and they saw that it was a map. The map told them where they could find the secret lock. It also said that they had to go to Africa, in the desert. The next day, they flew to Africa. When they arrived there, they read the map and followed it. They rented three camels and went to Sahara desert. The map said that they had to walk for three hundred kilometers, until they saw a pyramid. Opposite the pyramid was a hill. Next to the hill, under the sand they found a wooden box.

When they opened the box, they saw a staircase. They went down twenty steps and there they found a door. They opened it and suddenly they were in a big room with a door. The door was big with a padlock on it. Next to the door, there was a little key. They unlocked this door too, and they saw six smaller locks. When they unlocked all of them with their six keys, they found a big gate. It was their way to the Outworld.

When they arrived to the Outworld, they were all very scared! Frank and Peter wanted this adventure to finish, so they hurried up and tried to find the final gate. They had an old door in mind. Frank took a better look of the place. It looked a lot like earth. He knew every single thing there. Suddenly, Toby discovered something. It was a note which said:

Congratulations!

We are glad you made it.

Now you have to find a secret gate.

*The only thing we can tell you
is that the gate is in Frank's home...*

Good luck!!!

They were all really excited because now they knew what to do next! Without wasting any time they found a flight back home. At the airport they took a taxi and quickly went to Frank's house. They were nervous, but they didn't know that a surprise was waiting for them...

When they arrived at Frank's house they opened the door and realized that burglars had broken into his house, but they hadn't taken anything. That meant that they were searching for something, but they couldn't find it. Frank remembered that there was a secret shelf in his dad's office. He ran there to find it. Under the office there was a secret shelf and inside there were only three books. Peter, who understood what was happening, pushed the first book and a gate opened! Nevertheless, Frank was worried.

"Who tried to find the secret gate before us?"

Nobody knew what to answer but Peter said: "All I know is that they didn't find it."

The friends went through the secret gate and started their new mission.



Once the gate closed, they realized that their new mission had begun. A town made of pure gold was now in front of their eyes. Dazzled by the luxury and hypnotized from the exotic beauty of the women around them, the boys and Dr. Langas weren't aware of the danger they were in. Everything was an illusion. The golden town was nothing else but ruins and the beautiful women were dead and thirsty for blood. Soon, they met the king of these creatures.

"Welcome to our world, strangers. I'll give you the chance to return to yours only if you cure me of the insomnia that I suffer from, by telling me a fairy tale that I don't know!"

"If you don't succeed you'll become one of us. If you succeed I'll give you what you're looking for."

"How do you know what we want?" asked Dr. Langas.

"I know everything about you. I know that you want the potion of immortality," and he pointed to a little bottle. "So do what you have to do. You have ten minutes to prepare yourselves."

Now they knew the difficult position they were in.

"Nothing is impossible!" thought Peter. "The story of the Red Riding Hood!" he said. He took the risk and started telling the story.

"Once upon a time there was a little girl..." It was a simple sentence which immediately made the king fall asleep. It was unbelievable. The most common fairy tale in the world and he did not know it.

Very quickly he fell asleep. The friends couldn't believe their eyes. Dr. Langas grabbed the bottle and told the boys to run. But the king's servants didn't want to let them go. The chase had begun. The boys couldn't find the gate. They felt scared, but Dr. Langas knew. He pointed them the door and in no time they were in Frank's home again. The potion of immortality was now in their hands. But there was something else too. The bottle was wrapped inside a piece of paper. What could be written on it?



The paper wrote where the mythical treasure was. It seemed like it was buried in that same beach where they had first found the first bottle. Dr. Langas, Frank, Peter and Toby continued their journey to find the treasure.

However, the paper was very old and some parts were missing. One of those was the exact spot of the treasure. They followed the map until its end. Then they took the direction they thought was right.

While Toby was trying to dig a hole in the sand, something hard stopped him from going deeper. Then he put all his strength to see what it was. Toby realized that there was something hidden in there. He started barking and his friends rushed towards him. After an hour they found the treasure in the sand.



Peter, Frank and the professor decided to keep the treasure but they thought it was best to hide it somewhere safe, so that nobody could find it.

But first they opened the chest: inside it there were thousands of jewels: shiny diamonds and red rubies. After a while they went to Frank's house and hid the treasure under the bed.

The next day, Peter, Frank and Dr. Langas decided to drink the potion of immortality. They didn't want to share it with other people, because if other people were immortal too, then maybe one day they might find their treasure.

So they drank the potion and they all waited for something extraordinary to happen. And they waited... and waited... When suddenly Frank heard his mum calling him.

"Frank! Frank! Can you hear me? Wake up, son! Wake up!"

Frank opened his eyes. Peter and Dr. Langas had gone. There was no potion of immortality! Could this be true? Was it all a dream? He was very disappointed. He got out of the bed feeling very sad, when suddenly he hit something with his foot. He looked under the bed. And there he saw a big, golden chest!

The End