

By Kirsten Evans

### The Three Hats

Michael flung open the ancient wooden chest. Inside were dozens of vibrant hats. Curiously, he lifted a pirate hat. Wanting to surprise his brother, he put it on, but before he could even leave the room a weird sensation filled his body. Suddenly, he was on an enormous ship amid a vast sea. Michael stared down at hairy hands he didn't recognise as his own, gripping a wooden wheel. He steered through the rough ocean and intimidating waves. A gruff voice issued from his mouth, "Land ahoy!"

Glancing above he saw several men climbing down the rigging of the ship.

Michael made a sharp turn towards a clump of land barely visible through the sprays of foam, but a huge gust of wind blew Michael's hat off. It landed with a small splash in the water...

Suddenly whisked back into the room he sat there bewildered, staring at the hat in his hand. Putting it to the side, he rummaged through the chest, yanking out a sinister-looking, full-face black helmet. Suspicious about where it would take him, he put it on.

Michael peered down from the stage into a packed audience mostly consisting of young kids squealing with excitement.

He was sitting astride a motorbike, revving it. To his left was a gigantic spherical cage.

'Oh no! Am I going to have to zoom around in it... going upside down?' Michael thought.

His heart was beating fast. He had been on rollercoasters before that went upside down, and he hated them. AND he didn't even know how to ride a motorbike!

Or did he? Michael remembered it wasn't his body he was in, it was someone else's.

Before he could consider his options, he was already being urged into the cage by the crowd. He stared down at the controls... and everything came to him. He drove over to the cage and nervously rode in. The director of the circus walked over and bolted the entrance. The crowd went wild.

Michael started to drive up and down slowly, each time gathering more speed, soon he was zipping through the cage, zooming upside down. Wind whistled past his ears. He was having the time of his life.

Then the man came over again and unlocked the cage and Michael reluctantly climbed out and took off the helmet and found himself in front of the chest.

He smiled, put the helmet down, and saw a pair of full-face goggles. He pulled them over his head and was underwater. Surrounding him were tropical fish and beautiful coral. Green sea turtles swam nearby, and dolphins were gliding around him. He dived down to the bottom and saw sea urchins and mossy rocks. The rest of his diving group were swimming above him. They beckoned him. He swam back up to the surface of the water and pulled off his goggles.

Alone, Michael stood back in his room and returned the goggles to the chest. What a surprise he was going to give his brother!