

# ***IN THE FOREST***



***ACCOMPANYING  
ILLUSTRATIONS***



***WRITTEN BY ART COLLINS  
ILLUSTRATED BY KC COLLINS***

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For more information on The Adventures of Archibald & Jockabeb series, visit our website at [www.TheAJAdventures.com](http://www.TheAJAdventures.com)

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Design and Production: Collin Collins

Publication and Distribution: A&J Publishing, LLC

## ***SPOILER NOTE***

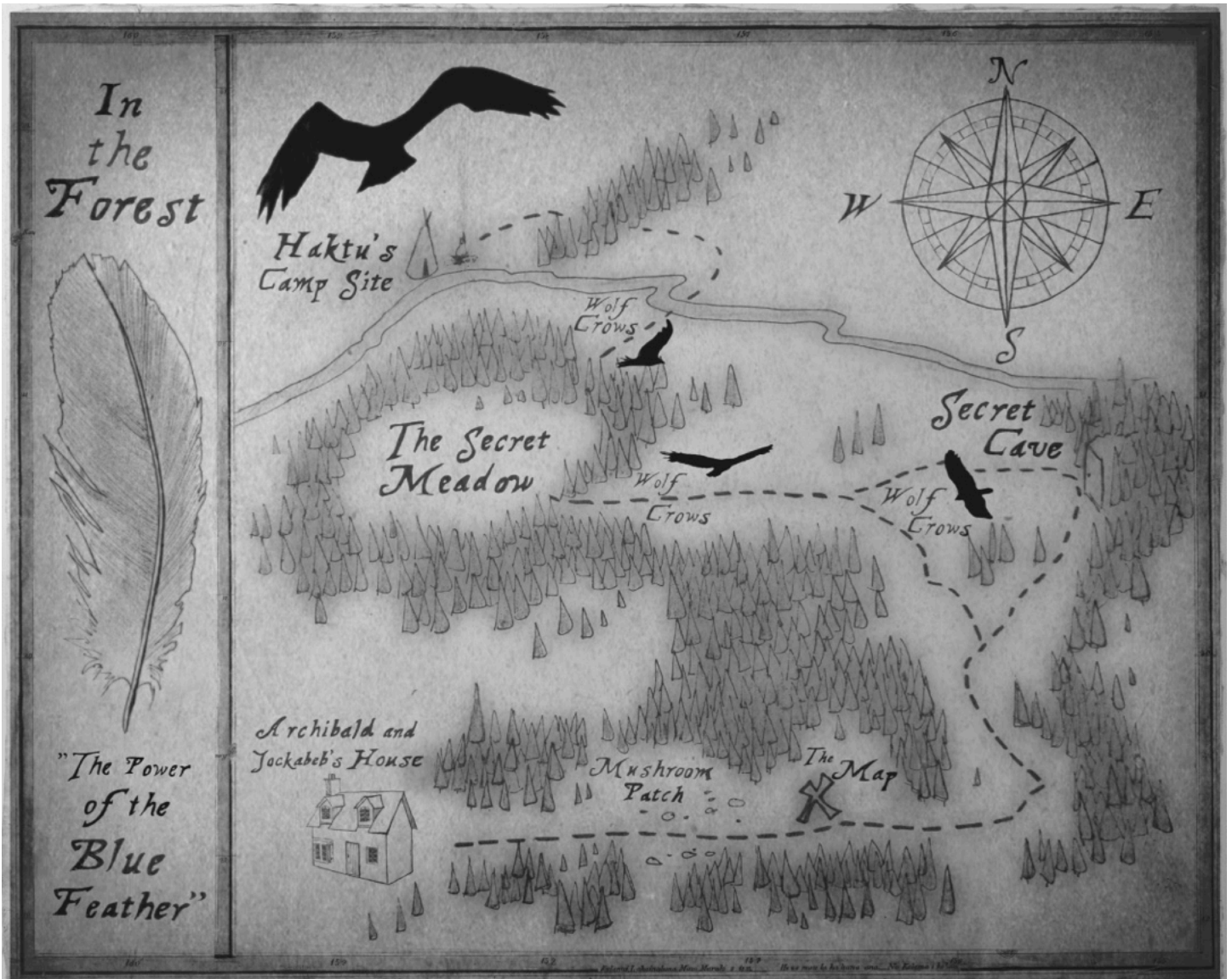
***THESE PICTURES SHOW SCENES FROM IN THE FOREST—SO DON'T  
PEEK AHEAD!***

***FOLLOW ALONG WITH EACH ILLUSTRATION AS YOU GET TO THAT PART  
OF THE STORY.***

# CHAPTER 1

## THE SECRET CAVE

"AS HE UNTIED THE TWINE AND GENTLY SPREAD THE LEATHER SCROLL OUT ON HIS LAP, JOCKABEB YELLED EXCITEDLY, 'LOOK, ARCHIBALD—IT'S A MAP!' SURE ENOUGH IT WAS, AND A VERY ANCIENT ONE AT THAT."



# CHAPTER 1

## FINDING THE CAVE

*"JOCKABEB WAS LEFT STUNNED, SPEECHLESS, AND UNABLE TO MOVE AS HE WATCHED HIS BROTHER DISAPPEAR BETWEEN THE BOULDER AND THE CLIFF. MOMENTS LATER, HE HEARD A MUFFLED VOICE ECHO BELOW.*

*'JOCKABEB, COME HERE. I'VE FOUND A DOOR, BUT IT'S STUCK AND I NEED YOUR HELP TO OPEN IT.'*

*ALTHOUGH JOCKABEB HAD NO DESIRE TO ENTER THE DARK CREVICE, HE WAS EVEN MORE FRIGHTENED TO STAY OUTSIDE ALONE.*

*SO DRAWING IN A DEEP BREATH, HE OVERCAME HIS PARALYSIS AND SLOWLY WIGGLED THROUGH THE NARROW OPENING TOWARD YET ANOTHER PLACE HE WAS CERTAIN HE DID NOT WANT TO BE."*



The Secret Cave

# CHAPTER 1

## FACING THE UNKNOWN

*THE INSTANT A HUGE, GREEN SCALE-COVERED HEAD ROSE OUT OF THE WATER, THE BOYS GASPED AND CLUNG TO EACH OTHER IN FEAR,*

*STARING INTO A PAIR OF SLANTED YELLOW EYES THAT WERE NOW JUST FEET AWAY,*

*JOCKABEB DREW BACK AND SCREAMED, 'NO!'*

*WHEN STEAM BURST FROM THE PULSATING NOSTRILS OF THE DRAGON'S LONG SNOUT, HE SCREAMED AGAIN,*

*'WE'RE DEAD!'"*



Haktu as a Dragon

# CHAPTER 1

## HOW HAKTU BECAME A DRAGON

*"AT THE WATER'S EDGE, THE FIERCEST-LOOKING WARRIOR SPAT ON THE SAND AND SNARLED WORDS HAKTU WOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER.*

*'WE ARE FOUR OF THE LAST SEVEN WARRIORS OF THE BLACK RAVEN TRIBE—TWO HAVE ALREADY GONE SOUTH AND ONE HAS GONE EAST TO DISCOVER NEW LANDS.*

*YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT YOUR FATHER, LATOMA, HAS BEEN OUR ENEMY FOR MANY YEARS. IT'S TRUE HE POSSESSES STRONG, MYSTICAL POWERS—BUT WE'LL MAKE SURE HE NEVER FINDS YOU AGAIN.*

*NO, YOUNG BRAVE—THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR YOU NOW!"*



The Black Raven Warriors

# CHAPTER 1

## A DESPERATE ESCAPE

*"ARCHIBALD SHOUTED, 'NITO, VITO, SAMU!'"*



A young Haktu

*WITH A LOUD POP AND A PUFF OF SMOKE, THE DRAGON MIRACULOUSLY DISAPPEARED, LEAVING A YOUNG INDIAN BRAVE STANDING IN ITS PLACE.*

*REACHING UP WITH HIS TREMBLING HANDS, HAKTU FELT—FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS—THE HUMAN FEATURES OF HIS TENDER, SMILING FACE.*

*AS HE TOUCHED THE TWO BRILLIANT BLUE FEATHERS AT THE BACK OF HIS HEADBAND, HIS SMILE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED, AND HE SCREAMED,*

*"WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"*

## CHAPTER 2

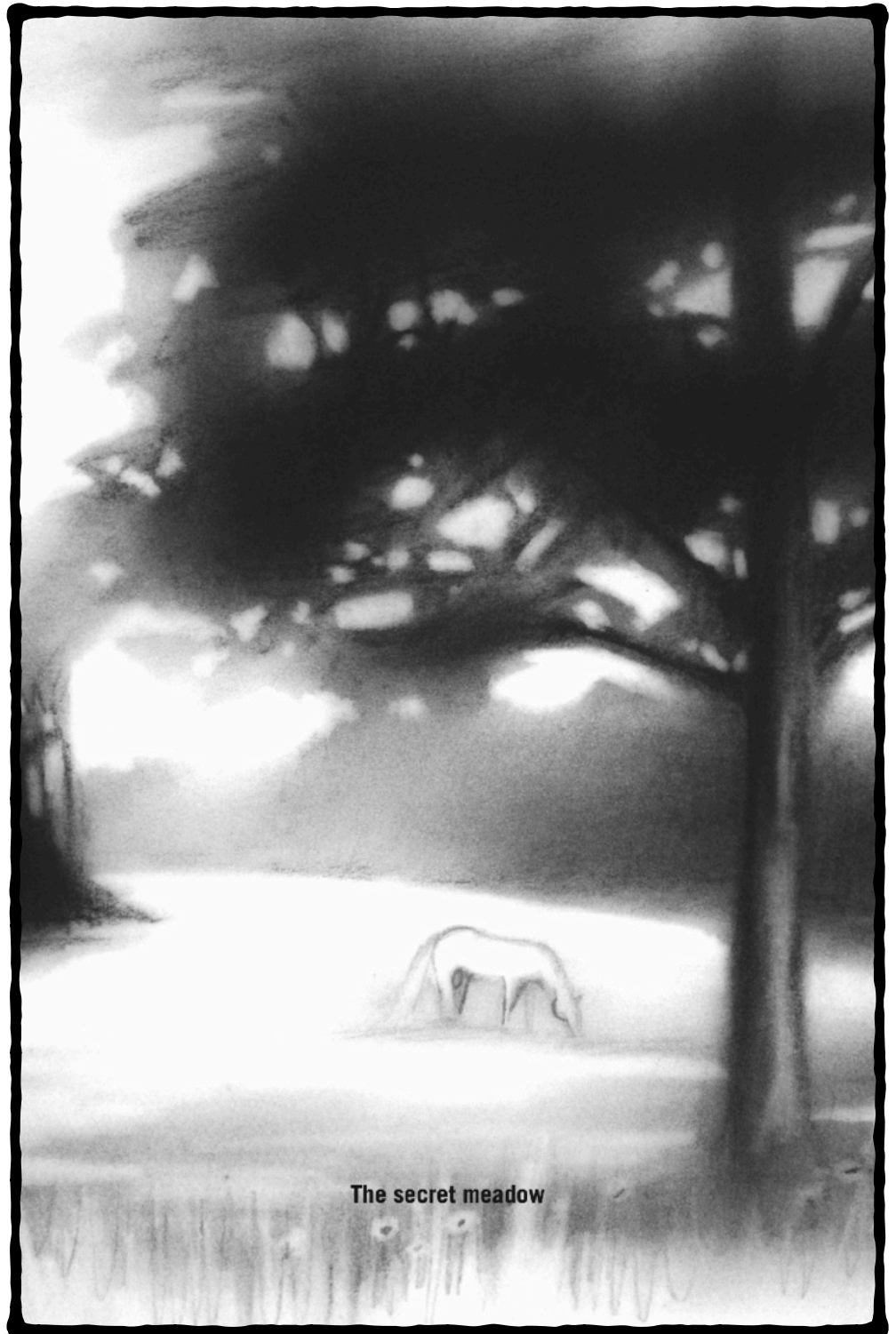
# A SURPRISE IN THE MEADOW

"FILLED WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF EXCITEMENT, THE BOYS REJOICED IN THEIR GOOD LUCK AS THEY JUMPED UP AND DOWN.

GLEEFULLY YELLING AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS, 'IT'S A MEADOW—A SECRET MEADOW,' JOCKABEB STOPPED SHORT WHEN HE SAW AN EVEN BIGGER SURPRISE THAN THE MEADOW.

THE TWO BROTHERS STOOD AND STARED AT THE FAR END OF THE MEADOW WHERE A SMALL PONY RAISED ITS HEAD.

TUCKED BACK IN THE TREES, THE PONY STOOD QUIETLY MUNCHING THE TALL GRASS AS IT GAZED BACK IN THE BOYS' DIRECTION—APPEARING CALM, BUT CLEARLY CONTEMPLATING WHAT TO DO NEXT."



The secret meadow

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **BEDDING DOWN UNO**

**"STROKING THE PONY'S SOFT MANE AS HE SET DOWN THE BUCKET, HE THEN FED HIS FRIEND ONE CARROT AFTER ANOTHER UNTIL THE BAG WAS EMPTY.**



**UNO TOOK A DRINK OF THE WATER, AND THEN LOOKED UP AT JOCKABEB, AS IF TO ASK WHAT WAS NEXT.**

**EVEN THOUGH HE WANTED TO STAY OUT ALL NIGHT WITH THE LITTLE PONY, WHO SEEMED TO BE WIDE AWAKE, JOCKABEB KNEW HE NEEDED SOME REST SO HE'D BE READY FOR THE EXCITING DAY THAT LAY AHEAD.**

**SO AFTER HUGGING UNO ONE LAST TIME, HE WHISPERED,**

**'SLEEP WELL, UNO. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.'**"

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **MISSING!**

*'THE BOYS LIVED WITH THEIR PARENTS AND YOUNGER SISTER, TESS, IN A SINGLE-STORY HOUSE AT THE END OF A QUIET, TREE-LINED STREET IN A SMALL MIDWESTERN CITY.*

*WITH CURLY BLOND HAIR AND AN IMPISH GRIN, HER PARENTS' FRIENDS OFTEN DESCRIBED TESS AS A SHIRLEY TEMPLE LOOK-ALIKE.*

*JUST AS JOCKABEB WAS BECOMING MORE TIMID, HIS NINE-YEAR-OLD SISTER BEGAN MOVING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION DISPLAYING SIGNS OF THE ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT THAT WAS THE HALLMARK OF HER OLDEST BROTHER."*



Tess

## CHAPTER 2

# OUT OF THE DARKNESS

"GLANCING UPWARD, ARCHIBALD SAW THE THREE CROWS WERE NOW RAPIDLY DIVING TOWARD THE BOAT, GROWING LARGER AND MORE DIABOLICAL THE CLOSER THEY CAME.



ALTHOUGH IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE, A LONG BLACK TAIL WAS EMERGING FROM BEHIND EACH BIRD'S TAIL FEATHERS.

THE WINGED MONSTERS WERE DEFINITELY CHANGING INTO INDESCRIBABLY HIDEOUS SHAPES—HALF GIANT CROWS AND HALF WILD WOLVES!

THE TWO TERRIFIED BOYS CRINGED AS THE WOLF-CROWS' SNAPPING JAWS AND SHARP CLAWS CAME INTO CLEARER VIEW."

## CHAPTER 3 OUT OF THE BLUE

*'THE TWO BOYS TURNED AND WERE GREETED BY A SIGHT THEY'D NEVER FORGET— THERE, SITTING UPRIGHT ON UNO'S BACK, WAS HAKTU!*

*A BROAD SMILE  
BEAMED FROM HIS  
FAMILIAR BUT MUCH  
OLDER LOOKING FACE.*

*IN FACT, WHEN  
ARCHIBALD AND  
JOCKABEB LOOKED  
MORE CLOSELY, THEY  
CLEARLY SAW THAT  
BOTH HAKTU AND UNO  
HAD DEFINITELY AGED.*

*ALTHOUGH HAKTU NO  
LONGER HAD HIS  
HEADBAND, HE STILL  
PROUDLY WORE HIS  
BLUE FEATHERS.  
HAKTU'S VOICE WAS  
SURPRISINGLY DEEP  
WHEN HE SPOKE.*

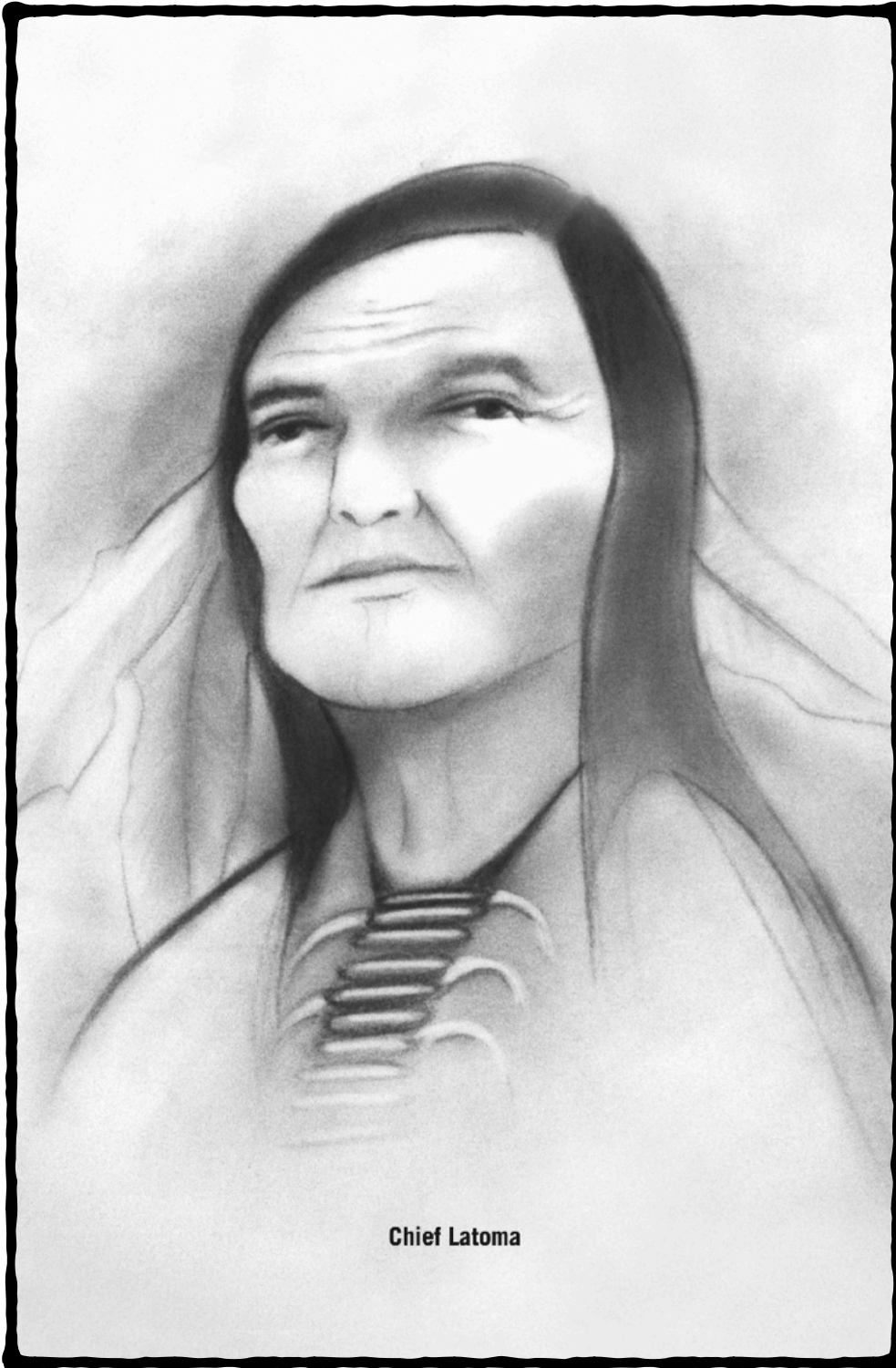
*'MY FRIENDS, THOSE  
WOLF-CROWS WON'T  
EVER BOTHER YOU  
AGAIN, THAT I CAN  
PROMISE.'*



An older Haktu and Uno

## CHAPTER 3 AFTER HAKTU'S CAPTURE

"LATOMA ANNOUNCED TO THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE WANDERING DEER TRIBE THAT IT WAS TIME TO MOVE DEEPER INTO THE FOREST.



Chief Latoma

HE REPORTED THAT HIS SCOUTS HAD SEEN STRANGERS MOVING CLOSER TO THE CAMPSITE, AND SOON IT WOULD NOT BE SAFE.

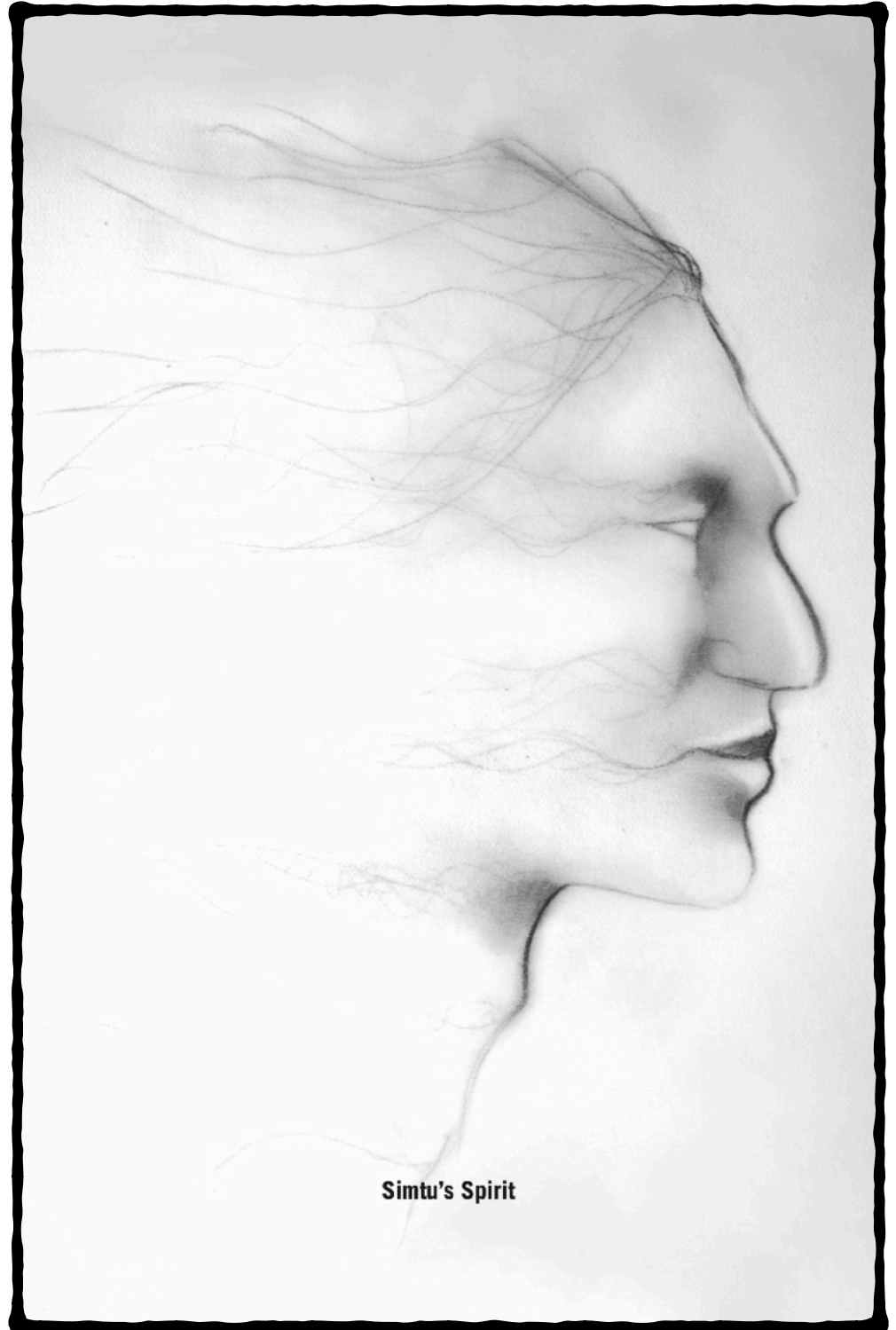
LATER THAT DAY, LATOMA TOOK SIMTU ASIDE AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD A PLAN TO HELP HAKTU IF HE EVER RETURNED HOME."

## CHAPTER 3 A SPIRIT VISITS

"SUDDENLY HAKTU WAS FACE TO FACE WITH A TRANSLUCENT IMAGE OF A MUCH OLDER SIMTU.

PUTTING A FINGER UP TO ITS LIPS, THE GHOSTLY VISITOR HAD WHISPERED WORDS HAKTU WOULD NEVER FORGET.

'SHUSH, DON'T SAY A WORD. I HAVE ONLY A LITTLE TIME BEFORE I MUST RETURN TO THE WORLD BEYOND, AND I NEED TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED AFTER I LEFT YOU IN THAT CAVE MANY YEARS AGO. LISTEN CAREFULLY, MY BROTHER, BECAUSE THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU'LL SEE ME HERE ON EARTH.'



Simtu's Spirit

## CHAPTER 3 HAKTU'S CAMPSITE

*"THE SUN WAS BEGINNING TO SET WHEN THE CAMPSITE CAME INTO VIEW.*



Haktu's campsite

*THE TWO BOYS FELT AS THOUGH THEY WERE STEPPING BACK IN TIME AS THEY WALKED THROUGH THE MISTY WALL. WHEN THEY CAME OUT THE OTHER SIDE AND SAW THE STREAM AND THE LONE TEEPEE, IT WAS JUST AS HAKTU HAD DESCRIBED.*

*WITH UNO AT HIS SIDE, HAKTU SHOWED HIS VISITORS AROUND THE CAMPSITE HE CALLED HOME. WHEN THE TOUR WAS OVER, HE RETURNED TO HIS TEEPEE, GRABBED HIS FISHING NET, AND HEADED DOWN TO THE STREAM TO CATCH SOME FISH FOR DINNER."*

## CHAPTER 3 THE LAST CHAPTER

*"WHEN I AWOKE THE NEXT MORNING COVERED IN SWEAT, THE DREAM WAS STILL FRESH IN MY MIND.*

*SINCE I KNEW SOMETHING WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN—AND THAT IT PROBABLY WASN'T GOOD—I DECIDED TO STAY CLOSE TO THE CAMPSITE FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. AND THAT BRINGS ME TO TODAY.*

*AFTER I FINISHED MY BREAKFAST THIS MORNING, I HEADED DOWN TO THE STREAM. I'D BEEN FISHING A FEW HOURS WHEN I LOOKED UP TO SEE WHITETAIL RACING TOWARD ME. FOR YOU, JOCKABEB, I'LL NOW START CALLING HIM UNO RATHER THAN WHITETAIL."*



An aging Uno

## CHAPTER 3

# UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

"HAKTU HUGGED EACH BROTHER FOR THE LAST TIME AND THEN TURNED TO ARCHIBALD. SLIPPING ONE OF THE FADED BLUE FEATHERS OUT OF HIS HEADBAND, HE SPOKE THE LAST WORDS THAT THE BOYS WOULD EVER HEAR FROM HIM.

TAKE THIS AS A GOOD-  
LUCK TOKEN. IT IS ONE  
OF TWO SACRED  
FEATHERS MY FATHER  
GAVE ME LONG AGO.  
EVEN THOUGH THIS  
FEATHER WILL  
DETERIORATE OVER TIME  
OUTSIDE THE PROTECTIVE  
MIST OF MY CAMPSITE,  
ITS MAGIC WILL HELP  
PROTECT YOU AS LONG  
AS ANY OF IT REMAINS.'

SMILING, HE ADDED, 'I  
ALSO HAVE A FEELING  
THAT THIS MAY NOT BE  
THE LAST BLUE FEATHER  
THAT WILL HAVE SOME  
SPECIAL MEANING FOR  
YOU IN THE YEARS  
AHEAD.'"



The blue feather

**THE ADVENTURES OF ARCHIBALD AND JOCKABEE  
CONTINUE WITH BOOK 2:**

**IN THE MOUNTAINS**

