

The Elixir Of Immortality

Jasper Jet was not an ordinary sixteen year old, but he always gave thought to being one. Jasper had to stay in the shadows wherever he went so that he would not be payed attention to. Jasper Jet was a much different clan of humans: the Cules. The Cules were a clan that could turn invisible at their very want, and also slow down time. He has a trusty friend, Percy, who is always by his side. Percy is also one of the very few Cules in the world. Jasper has a lifelong dream that he will die to get: the legendary elixir of immortality. It is said to be found in the Underland on a distant island, and it will be a black liquid in a tiny vial. But as Jasper has researched, there is only a thousandth of a chance that someone could find this entrance to the Underland, but Jasper is determined to find it...

Jasper woke up with a bead of cold sweat on his forehead. He realized that he was harshly panting, so he tried to calm down. He had dreamed of being shackled to a wall by his evil rival clan member, Artemis. Artemis is a Fronx, which is and evil clan of humans that have extra bones and cells that allow them to fly for a short period of time. Anyways, he struggles against the shackles, which turn out to be no use. Artemis loads his gun, which is pointed at Jasper's head from ten feet away. Artemis shoots the bullet, and Jasper slows down time while the bullet slowly inches toward his head. Right when it is a millimeter away from collision, Jasper wakes up hyperventilating. Jasper let out a deep sigh. He had been through that nightmare

thousands of time, yet he hadn't gotten over it. While he got ready for school, he thought of ways to prevent his terror from the nightmare. The dull thirty minute bus ride seemed like an hour. The only thing that he was particularly not dreading was talking to his friend Percy, who was standing twenty feet away.

"Happy birthday!!!" Percy exclaimed when Jasper was in earshot. "Thanks, Percy." Jasper replied. "What's it like to be sixteen, Jasper?" questioned Percy. "Not much." Jasper eyed Percy suspiciously. "You didn't get me anything, did you?" asked Jasper, alarmed. "No, at least not anything tangible." answered Percy with a crooked smile on his face. Jasper sighed. It was going to be a long day.

Jasper made it through the day avoiding a decent amount of people. Jasper took the bus home, and he was surprised to see good old Percy waiting for him. "Even though I didn't get you an object or anything, I did find you some important information." Percy said, continuing their last conversation. "Uhhhh, OK." replied Jasper in a state of hesitation. Once Percy got to the website he wanted to reveal to Jasper, he let Jasper read it himself. *Scientists have now discovered that there is one new entrance to the Underland that has been revealed by an unknown person, and it has been said to be in Boston, Massachusetts.*

A wave of shock hit Jasper immediately. "I live in Boston, Massachusetts." Jasper worked out slowly. "So that means there is an entrance to the

Underland in my city, where there's a vial of elixir that makes you immortal." said Jasper, wide-eyed. "You are totally awesome!!!" yelled Jasper, giving Percy a monstrously loud high-five. Jasper and Percy stayed together the whole weekend traveling around Boston, looking in every nook and cranny for the secret entrance that had been announced online. Finally, it was eleven-thirty on Sunday night when the boys gave up searching. "I guess we'll just have to look for it some other time.," said Percy, panting from all the adrenaline used in the search. "But finding that portal is my lifelong dream!" whined Jasper. "I'm not going to give up looking. For all we know, the entrance could very well be in my room!" said Jasper, indicating his whole room. "Sure, there's a huge chance of that happening." said Percy sarcastically. Just then, a hole three times the size of a plate appeared in the floor next to Jasper and Percy. It was no sinkhole.

The hole could fit both Jasper and Percy at the same time if they fell. There was glittery black mist steaming out of the hole. For a moment, the boys just stared in shock. "That's what every piece of information on the Underland says the portal looks like!" shouted Jasper. "What a fickle timing." muttered Percy. "Well, do you want to jump?" Jasper asked excitedly. "Well, what are our parents going to think?" Percy said, trying to avoid the portal. "Who cares?!" said Jasper. He took Percy's hand and dived into the portal.

They had a huge free-fall onto the sand of an island. "Whoa!" yelled Percy. Jasper was just laughing along the way. When they got up and

dusted off, they saw someone else on the island. Artemis chuckled softly. "I'm surprised how quick you two got here. It was impressive. Tell me your names or die." Artemis warned calmly, pointing his double guns at Jasper and Percy. "I-I'm Percy, and that's Jasper." said Percy, trembling. Jasper went back to his dream. He was shackled to the wall, and Artemis almost shot him when he woke up. It was terrifying, as Jasper recalled. "Now, I think I will get to the vial first, unless you can beat me. Which you can't. So you might as well stop trying and take the portal back to Boston." said Artemis, making Jasper snap back to reality. "We could beat you easily, Artemis. There's two of us." retorted Jasper. "Hey, I don't want a fight." informed Percy, being cautious. "I'm afraid that we already are going to be fighting." said Artemis with a wide grin.

As Jasper and Percy had noticed, there was a pile of weapons next to them, and Artemis, too. Jasper picked up a bow and arrow in case Artemis started to fly, and Percy picked up a box holding two dozen sheathed daggers. Artemis searched through the pile and picked out a diamond-encrusted sword. Artemis charged while Jasper and Percy stayed at a long distance. Artemis swatted the arrows away, except for one that caught his arm. Percy stayed back to have a hand-to-hand fight if Artemis got that far. Jasper had to back up when Artemis came close, leaving Percy to fight. Percy took two daggers and swung at Artemis. Artemis dodges and impales his sword into Percy's leg. "AHHHHHH!" cries Percy. Artemis goes for a kill when Jasper, who turned invisible, tackles him.

Artemis gets on top and then flies into the air. “I’ll see you two later.” Artemis said with a smug grin. Then he flew away.

“Percy, are you all right?” asked Jasper hurriedly. “I will be if you could cover up the place where he cut me.” suggested Percy. “Sure, sure.” replied Jasper. Jasper found some saw grass that he made into a huge bandage for Percy. “I’ll probably be good in a week or so.” said Percy. “Great.” replied Jasper. “Then we can find the elixir.” continued Jasper. “Together, even if you’re injured, I bet we can beat Artemis. We’ll just have to keep traveling through the islands.” said Jasper. It was a long week. Percy got better quickly, but they had to live there, which was hard. They caught devil fish, slept on sand beds, and had to drink the sea water. They also made a canoe to travel to different islands with. They made their first trip to a swampy island. They checked all the bushes and leaves, but there was no vial. They camped there for the night, and then moved on. Then, they sailed to another island while trying to go back to the original island. There was no sign of immortalizing elixir, but Jasper and Percy discovered Artemis hiding there. “Ah, you boys found me. How’s your leg, Percy?” taunted Artemis, gaining their anger. “It healed.” Percy said with clenched teeth. “And I’m ready to fight.” Percy snapped. “Okay. Jasper, step aside. This is our battle to fight alone.” said Artemis, not looking

at Jasper. “Hmmp.” grunted Jasper, backing off from their fight.

This time, Percy started the battle. He was wielding a broad trident, while Artemis kept his same sword. Artemis swung his sword, which made a zipping sound in the air. He missed, which gave Percy a great chance. Artemis was backing up when he tripped. It was a lucky break for Percy. Percy threw the trident into the air, flying toward Artemis. Artemis’ sword lay beside him. Artemis picks up his sword and flings it toward the moving trident. Artemis does save himself, but the trident was used infinitely more to Percy’s advantage. When the two weapons collide, they go in opposite directions. The trident breaks the sword’s blade off its handle and flies to the right. The sword breaks and the two pieces land on the left. Before Jasper and Percy notice, Artemis is on his feet, and he flies off. “Too bad, so sad.” says Artemis, and then he flies out of sight. “I should have helped him.” Jasper mutters to himself. “We’ll get him next time, I promise.” Jasper tells Percy. “Of course we will.” agreed Percy. “I know we will.”

The next day, Jasper and Percy go searching for the vial again. They end up on a burning island that Percy insisted to go to. “If Artemis finds us here, he’ll have to wait. Fronx get very sick and feverish when they are too close to the sun.” explained Percy. “Wait-I smell someone. Or

maybe it's *something*," Jasper said. Percy sniffed around. "Yeah, me too!" exclaimed Percy. Right then, there was a low-pitched rumbling behind the boys. Jasper and Percy spun around. A beautiful island emerged out of the sea, which was all glistening around the island. Then, the island that Jasper and Percy were on raised fifty-five feet up into the air. "Okay, let's jump from here. There's no other chance of getting that elixir of black liquid on the island," said Jasper. Without letting Percy answer, Jasper jumped, holding Percy.

He clutched his great grandfather's leopard tooth necklace that had been passed down generations to him. By now, the boys had gotten used to falling through great heights, so now they don't scream like girls. Then, at a really bad timing, Artemis swooped in flying toward the sea. It was a hard collision which separated the boys and sent Percy flying toward the sea. Jasper got lucky and caught onto Artemis. Artemis used the 'shake you off' technique and started to swerve around. Jasper then remembered that the main part of the flying cells are in a Fronx's spinal cord. He took his leopard tooth necklace off and stabbed Artemis in the center of his back. Artemis cried out in pain and there was a sudden stop in the controlled flying. It was another free-fall. Jasper and Artemis had a fistfight down until they hit the island. It was a hard crash, and they both lie there, trying to recover.

Percy, who had survived the fall into the ocean, dragged himself onto the island. Artemis had gotten up quicker and started the run to the vial. Percy ran super fast and tackled Artemis, who was helpless. Percy beat him to a pulp.

“Jasper, you have your chance!” yells Percy. There was no time to reply. Jasper made a beeline to the vial. He leaped for it, just in case it disappeared. Percy took out his old dagger and finished off Artemis. He walks over to where Jasper is holding the vial of immortalized elixir. “Well, drink it before something phenomenally crazy happens again!” Percy says.

“No. We both drink half. It’s the only fair way.” insists Jasper. Then, Jasper drinks half. He quickly hands the vial to Percy, who drinks the rest. Ten seconds later, the boys were on the ground. Their throats were burning, their limbs felt like they were cracking, and their faces felt like solid ice. It was the worst sensation anyone could possibly go through and still live. Percy gave up the fight to stay conscious, along with Jasper.

Two days later, Jasper and Percy woke up. “What happened?” croaked Percy.

“Not sure, but I don’t think that was the elixir.” Jasper said painfully.

“All that for nothing.” muttered Percy.

After an hour, they weren’t as sore, and so they got up and started to get their blood circulation

back. Three hours later, the boys were ready to go. They had to make a new canoe, since the last one was destroyed in the battle. They got the normal wood and weapons to construct it. The rest of the day was very glum. By the time the canoe was finished, both Jasper and Percy were too tired to do anything but go to sleep.

The next day, the boys woke up at five-thirty, they wanted to get as much out of the day as possible. They camped on a different island at night, where there was no luck. Suddenly, a bird the size of a boulder swooped into their little alcove. In a matter of seconds, the whole place was torn down by the gigantic beast, and the boys were on their own. Percy grabbed his daggers, and Jasper picked up his usual bow and arrows. They were ready for a fight.

There was no time to waste. Percy went up close while Jasper stayed back to shoot. They had come up with the strategy a while ago. Percy lost track of the beast, it was very quick. The monster/beast scooped up Percy and flung him into a tree. He fell the height, and it didn't look like he was going to get up.

The beast sped to Percy, trying to pierce him to death. But Jasper shot three arrows into the heart, and then one into it's neck. Even though it died, it was a bad timing, because the beast was in

mid-air, and it fell on top of Percy. It was obvious that he was dead.

Jasper dug out the diamond encrusted sword and used it as a prying lever. He finally moved the beast off of Percy.

“Percy, come on! Stay with me!” pleaded Jasper. But there was no hope left.

Jasper couldn't sleep that night. He drowsily rolled around on the sand, not knowing what he would do for the rest of his journey. He had a false person lead him to a false elixir, and now his only friend who was with him just got killed. What a terrible place to be in at this time. Eventually, somewhere around three-thirty a.m., Jasper drifted off to sleep.

The next morning, Jasper was very stiff. Even though it said ten a.m. on his watch, seven hours of sleep was not a lot. He drowsily got up and took a spear. Before the hour was done, he had speared three fish, good for lunch and dinner. Breakfast wasn't a priority anymore. He fixed the canoe to perfection and then couldn't think of what to do. Finally, he decided to pack a couple of weapons and useful items to take for an expedition tomorrow. He would maybe even do two trips if there was time left. Too tired to do anything else for some reason, Jasper ate two fish and drifted off to sleep.

When Jasper woke up, he was ready to go. He triple checked the supplies and knew that he could go. It was four-thirty, and Jasper was ready to find his destiny. After four hours of searching on the first island, there was no hope, but odd enough, Jasper thought someone else might be there. He found a note on one of the rare palm trees. ‘Think Fast!’ it said. “What does that mean?” muttered Jasper. There was the sound of footsteps behind Jasper. Jasper’s eyes widened. “Too late!” whispered the stranger behind him.

Jasper pulled out his new twin Katana swords from his back sheaths. He whipped around and sliced his blades into the three-mile radius in front of him. Nothing was cut, but he did spot the intruder. “Hello there. My name is Artemis. The other person was merely a decent decoy to act as me. I am much more powerful, and now I only have to about your pathetic resistances.” The words stung Jasper. If the other ‘Artemis’ was a decoy, then there was still going to be a villain parson trying to kill him while trying to get the elixir! Jasper started to run.

Artemis whipped out a gun and shot twice. One missed, one hit a tree next to Jasper. Fuming, Artemis sprinted after Jasper. Jasper dashed into the forest, cutting down any trees, branches, leaves, or anything that would slow down the real Artemis. But Artemis was much too smart to fall for that. He

took a side shortcut, leaping off any tree logs on the ground so that he would gain on Jasper. Artemis and Jasper both emerged from the forest, and Artemis leaped in Jasper's way. Jasper was an extreme athletic, and that meant he could out run almost anybody. Jasper acted like he was going to duck, but he actually used that position to do a back-flip. Jasper landed on his feet, and Artemis had skimmed the ground of the island. Jasper took out his Katana blades again. Artemis had a much more enhanced sword than the other Artemis. Both swinging at the same time, they went into a duel.

It was an air-slicing, blade-clashing event. Jasper used both his blades to fight Artemis. He had heard times that offense was the best defense. Jasper would attack with his Katana blades from two different sides, hoping to get Artemis that way. Finally, Artemis double-parried Jasper and jump-kicked him in his stomach. Jasper went flying back and was in pain, but he didn't fall. He powered himself up by shoving the Katana blades into the ground when he hit the ground. Jasper pulled out the blades and leaped for Artemis again.

Just to throw off Jasper, Artemis flung his sword into the air ahead of Jasper. Jasper had no chance except to defend, so that's what he did. Jasper leaped to the side, which would decide his fate. The sword whizzed by Jasper, narrowly missing. Jasper jumped to his feet, running for

Katana blades. But Artemis was standing holding a gun. “Walk away from the swords.” he commanded loudly. Jasper reluctantly put his hands up. Artemis shot the gun.

Jasper fell on the ground, his ears.....ringing? Jasper opened his eyes and looked at his heart, where he felt a bruise. His body just had a bullet shot, and it bounced right off, only giving him a bruise! That was another thing to add to his cool things that he could do. He looked in Artemis’ direction. He was covered in an odd black aura, floating an inch off the ground. The aura was getting brighter and brighter...and then all the chaos in the entire Underland broke out.

There was huge mass of light energy bursting out from Artemis. Luckily, Jasper had took cover behind a tree before the explosion. Light energy can also create heat energy, which was probably why his back was searing in pain from the tree. Jasper couldn’t take it. He leaped out into the open, hoping it would be better. Bad idea. Because there was more than just light coming from the place where Artemis used to be...before he flew away. There was odd matter flying around everywhere in particles, and everything tangible was either breaking, exploding, or even imploding. A huge boulder broke and flung in Jasper’s direction, and he was too slow to dodge.....

Jasper woke up on a new island. Yes, the matter from Artemis was that powerful. Jasper knew what had happened, so he wasn't shocked like anyone else would have been. Jasper got his things back in place, build a sand bed for the night, and then used Percy's old trident to spear fish. He still had plenty of hours in handy, so he explored the island. He searched for an hour or so until he unexpectedly found a hut. He walked inside, his Katana blades at ready. There was two rooms, and nobody in the first. As he entered the second room, Jasper froze as a family of five stood in front of him, armed.

Jasper immediately threw his hands up in the air. "I come in peace, don't kill me!" cried Jasper. The father of the three teen-aged kids and the husband of the woman's wife stepped in front of them all. "Who may you be, and why are you here?" asked the man in a light Australian accent. "An explosion blew me from one island all the way to here. Long story." explained Jasper. "And why have you came here?" boomed the man. "I-I was just exploring the island and I came across this hut. I was curious to see what was inside." stammered Jasper. "So you do not wish to harm us in any way?" the man asked curiously. "No, of course not." concluded Jasper. "Then we are friends. We will be loyal to each other. Agreed?" said the man. Jasper exhaled in thankfulness. "Agreed!"

exclaimed Jasper, grinning. Jasper was glad not to be killed by the family. “I have to leave now, I am very tired.” said Jasper. “Sure, sure. Get some rest. We will meet again tomorrow.” said the man, letting Jasper go. Jasper smiled, and then walked out of the hut.

Jasper followed his own path back to his shelter. He made a fire from some logs, and cooked a fish, sticking it on a thin tree branch. He savored the fish, not wanting to go to sleep. Finally, he finished his dinner and lay down on his sand bed. It feels so much better without Artemis here, Jasper thought. But Jasper’s underestimation of Artemis would soon turn out to be something he couldn’t take back.

Jasper woke up in a drowsy mood. This was normal, since he stayed up late each night. He ate a fish and drank a cup of sea water. That was obviously the only water in stock, if you think about it. Jasper walked to his friends’ hut. Jasper took a careful step in. “Hello?” said Jasper, wondering if anyone was home. “Yes, come in!” said the lady, peering out from the second room. Jasper walked into the second room. The whole family was sitting on a bench, playing some games with sticks. They all welcomed Jasper warmly, which made him feel good. They exchanged their ways of falling into the Underland and getting to this point. The whole process took two hours and thirty minutes. Jasper

joined in on their stick games, which actually turned out to be very time-consuming. Jasper raced around and played with the three teenagers. Jasper accepted the invitation to eat lunch there, since they had, like, ten fish(plus many more for storage). It was a hearty lunch, and everyone was laughing and smiling and it was a while by the time lunch was over. Jasper said he should go, and everyone agreed that they have things to do, so Jasper left. As he walked out the door, everything behind him blew up.

Jasper went flying into a tree, but he stayed conscious. He obviously broke his nose, but Jasper's first instinct was to save his friends. He dashed into the still standing part of the hut, and went directly into the second room. The husband and wife were on fire, and they were smashed into a wall, already dead. It was a sorry scene, but there really wasn't any way to save them. That was the ugly truth. Two of the teens weren't even there, probably blown out of the house from the power of the bomb, but there was one teen left, and he had a gash on his forehead. By the looks of it, he also had many, many bruises. Not wasting time, Jasper scooped him on onto his back and escaped the burning hut with his injured friend on his back.

Jasper didn't have time to explain or say anything, and the boy obviously didn't, either. The flames were catching onto objects really quick, so

Jasper tried to keep running at a steady pace. After ten minutes of a steady jog, Jasper finally got to his shelter. He laid the boy down on the sand bed and fell down himself, panting from the effort and the exhilaration. Jasper got some saw-grass, slitted it, and used the soft part to make a cloth-like band-aid for the boy. Jasper was tired. He set a cup of water by the boy, a good yard away from his body, and left to waste his time doing something random. Jasper gathered a pile of rocks and began to start making them skip across the sea. He did this for thirty minutes, and his high score was sixteen skips until it sank. Tired, Jasper moved a couple of yards away from the sea and drifted off to sleep on the sand.

The next morning, Jasper woke up strong and not drowsy. Jasper went to spear some fish, but his trident was gone. "Where could it have gone?" Jasper muttered to himself. Jasper went to his normal fishing spot, only to find the boy. He had a pile of fish beside him, and he had just speared another. He turned around and smiled when he saw Jasper. "I am getting some meals for later on, so we won't have to fish again." explained the boy with another smile. "Wait-you're all right?" Jasper asked in disbelief. "Yes, there's just a cut on my forehead which you have taken care of." assured the boy. "Well then, out of curiosity....what's your name?" Jasper asked sheepishly. The boy grinned.

“James. And you?” asked James. “I’m Jasper Jet.” said Jasper. “That is a really cool name!” said James, out of genuine kindness. “Thanks, you too.” said Jasper, returning a smile. “Now let’s eat breakfast.”

Jasper and James cooked the fish, which were delicious. Each of them got two fish for breakfast, which was nice. James told Jasper about some of his weapons that he used to have, and Jasper showed James some of his own. James loved the diamond-encrusted sword that the old Artemis used to wield. Jasper’s favorite was still the twin Katana blades. Over the day, Jasper and James played games, and skipped stones over the sea, having a good time. Jasper told James the plan for tomorrow, which was to wake up early and eat breakfast, and then leave in the canoe to sail for an island, searching for the elixir. James agreed, and got a head start for his packing. Jasper stayed back and made a second sand bed. Now they could both sleep on beds, and James had even packed a little bit of his stuff. Once they were done, Jasper thought ‘nice kid’ and Jasper and James went to sleep.

In the morning, Jasper woke up stiffly. He *had* been using his bag of supplies as a pillow, but now his head was on the sand. He looked around a whole three yard radius, but his bag wasn’t in sight. He walked over to where James was sleeping.

Jasper woke him up in a subtle kind of way. “Have you seen my bag? Or even yours?” asked Jasper. James took a couple of seconds to look around in confusion. “I was sleeping on *my* bag, but I don’t know where it is now!” exclaimed James. “That same exact thing happened to me!” Jasper said in disbelief. “And I think I know what happened.” Jasper said mysteriously.

Jasper stormed into James’ partly destroyed hut. James followed behind, wielding the diamond-encrusted sword that Jasper gave him. “We should both charge into that room in five seconds and take cover, okay?” Jasper asked in a hushed whisper. “Sure.” replied James. “1, 2, 3, 4...” said Jasper, counting down. “5!” exclaimed both of the boys. They dashed around the corner and leaped in the same direction. Both of the boys hit something as hard as a brick wall, and they tumbled to the ground. James held in a loud groan. “That’s Artemis.” Jasper moaned weakly.

James felt a throbbing pain in his nose, but he knew it could be worse. Jasper was already on his feet, and fighting Artemis with his Katana blades. James knew he could do better, so he jumped to his feet. He took out his diamond-encrusted sword and ran to the battle between Jasper and Artemis. It was a bad timing, because Artemis had just gotten on the other side of Jasper, so it was now just James and Artemis. James was

actually faster than Artemis, who was much more skilled. James held off Artemis for a while, until Artemis disabled him, even fighting both of the boys. Then he turned back to Jasper, who hoped James would retrieve his sword and help. Jasper got totally parried, and then Artemis grabbed Jasper by the collar and shoved him through the wall. Artemis walked out himself, going for the final strike. James was running out the door behind the other to catch up, and didn't give up even though Artemis was a yard away from Jasper. James leaped for Artemis a little too loudly and then Artemis turned to him and swung his flat side of the sword(luckily) which banged James in the head. James fell to the ground, his head searing in pain. He dropped his diamond-encrusted sword and grabbed his head. It was that painful. "You are a great nuisance to me." Artemis said coldly, making a looming shadow above James. Artemis raised his sword all the way up in the air.....

"NO!" shouted Jasper. He leaped into Artemis, knocking him over. He then dragged Artemis by the feet, and with James helping, they both heaved Artemis far out into the ocean. Artemis went underwater, and after that, neither Jasper nor James saw Artemis again. "Nice work, James. That was your first battle with a monster." Jasper said, impressed. "Thanks. He really is strong." said James. "Yeah, he is. Almost as much

as us two put together.” Jasper said with a grin. “Yeah. You know, you have a big cut on your leg.” pointed out James. “It’s okay.” said Jasper. “It’ll only hurt for a week or so.”

The next day was a normal, boring old day. So Jasper and James decided to sail for the elixir. They already had their bags, which Artemis hid in the destroyed huts, and their bags were already packed from two nights ago. They were ready. Jasper and James both got one paddle and they started to sail to another distant island.

Along the way, the canoe didn’t break or anything, so it was a fairly short hour. Once they found an island, they would change directions to go there, and when they got there, they would get unpacked. After everything was unpacked and ready, Jasper and James went to look for the elixir. Jasper went right, and James went left. Splitting up was the fastest way to search at this point, so that’s what they did. “We’ll meet back at the shelter in two hours, okay?” said Jasper. “Sure.” confirmed James.

Jasper’s Route: Jasper walked through the muddy forest, everything in sight being processed in his mind. He didn’t find anything for a while, until twenty minutes into the search. He found a trail of large footsteps, which was very odd. Curious, Jasper followed the trail, which was very long. It lead into a huge open space. When he looked up,

Artemis was a good two yards away. Before a single nerve in Jasper's body re-acted, there was one tranquilizer dart in each of Jasper's shoulders. The last thing he saw was a dirty smile on Artemis' face.

James' Route: James was thankful, because he had the dry land to search for the elixir. James just could not stand anything wet on any part of him. He would feel all gross and then he would have to dry off. James had a great eye, so he would be good at this. In odd sand parts of the ground, James would dig up some sand to see if he found anything. Even if the elixir was sandy, he wouldn't really care. It wouldn't affect much. After an hour and a half, he was done with his side, so James started to search the end of Jasper's route. He found nothing for fifteen minutes, and then ran back to the shelter, to see if Jasper found anything. He looked inside the shelter, where they would meet. Jasper wasn't there. "Jasper?" James called out. James looked around for ten minutes, but he couldn't find Jasper in any way. All he could hear was the wind blowing softly in his direction. James concluded that something unknowable had happened to Jasper. He went into Jasper's route and immediately saw smoke coming from somewhere. He sliced through the bushes, went around the last corner and...he was already falling.

Jasper regained consciousness three hours later. He was shackled to a wall, like in his dream a few... months ago. Then he realized the truth. He had been held captive who knows where by Artemis! “Where am I!” demanded Jasper. Artemis walked into the room. “Oh, you woke up. Finally.” Artemis taunted. “You’ll find out soon enough where exactly you are. But here’s a hint: you’re a couple tens of miles away from your lucky little friend.” Artemis said, getting into Jasper’s brain. Jasper was actually on the same island where he was when he got captured, which meant he was on the same island as James. “No! Did you get him, too?” asked Jasper. Artemis chortled. “No, I just left him to fend for himself without any of *this* stuff.” Artemis said, holding up both Jasper and James’ supplies. Jasper stared in horror. “I’ll kill you!” bellowed Jasper. Artemis had a sly smile on his face. “Not before I kill you.”

“You won’t get away with it! James could kill you!” exclaimed Jasper. “I really doubt that, he didn’t seem like a good fighter.” replied Artemis. “And anyways,” Artemis added, “I wouldn’t blatantly kill you quickly. A nice, slow death would be much more painful. Like tying you to a tree and then burning you.” continued Artemis. Jasper eyes twitched involuntarily. What a sick kid, thought Jasper. “Now, now. Go back to sleep.”

cooed Artemis, plunging a syringe into Jasper's arm.

James woke up groggily, as he was in a bad mood. He didn't want to eat breakfast. And he didn't have any either, because all of the supplies that was there had mysteriously disappeared like Jasper. He started searching Jasper's forbidden side of the forest, not caring if he got captured or not. He just took a good look at most of the stuff, not being fully efficient. An hour later, he was tired of searching, so he went back to the shelter. James knew that it was going to be a bad day. So he went back to his sand bed and went to sleep again.

James woke up at two, and was feeling active for some reason. James walked out of the shelter to see the island yet again. James was walking past Jasper's route when he noticed a very important detail. There seemed to be a secret passage way to a different part of the forest through a lot of bushes, which James had just noticed. James, not having anything to lose, walked through the passageway. It was a big risk.

James took careful steps, trying not to make much sound in case there was some beast there. He had his sword, anyways. But a couple yards into the passage, James realized it was a maze. There was always a left with a right or an up with a down. Then something weird happened. James smelled smoke, a strong, hazardous smoke. James saw the

slightest glint of light, and then he started running. Just around the last corner... and James fell into nothingness.

Jasper hated Artemis with all his heart. Artemis chained Jasper to the wall, duct-taped his mouth, and went out to start a fire on false trail for James to lead. The other part of his plan was to put the fire far around the corner, and dig a huge ditch for James to run into while looking for the fire. This kid was crazy, but he was smart, no doubt. Artemis came back ten minutes later. "How did you dig a hole that fast?" exclaimed Jasper. "My aura pretty much did everything. It made a great fire, and the hole was a bit bigger than I expected...but that's good for me." Artemis replied happily. Jasper didn't even say anything this time. There was complete silence for a while, which Artemis broke. "Anyways, time for a little dart practice!" said Artemis, picking up one dart from his bag of darts. Jasper inhaled sharply. "Where the heck does he get this stuff?" Jasper muttered to himself. Soon enough, he braced himself for pain.

Finally, Jasper thought. Artemis' 'dart time' was over. Thankfully, Artemis wasn't the greatest shot in the world, though he had a steady hand. And when he did strike, it *hurt*. Having many bruises on his body, Jasper was now getting impatient, hoping that James would have found the secret path already. But James was a person that he

fully trusted, and he knew James wouldn't let him down. Feeling a little bit better, Jasper started to sleep. Just to let you know, Jasper didn't get anything to eat on a daily basis. Just two or three cups of water.

Great. James was stuck in a eight foot hole, and his only chances of getting back up was impaling the sword into the ground and doing a near impossible pull-up. And even then, he would have to leap upward onto the surface.....so the point was, it was going to be pretty hard to get out of the crater. Then, an idea popped into James' befuddled mind. Energy was the most tactical way to get out of here. James would run a little up one side, gravity would take him down and he would run at the same time, James would get much farther up the second side, and hopefully, when he jumped, the force would be enough to get him on the surface. Smiling, James took a couple deep breaths. Then, he started the procedure. He ran three feet up the first side, turned around, and started going down fast. He was running hard, and he got five feet up the second side. Finally, James jumped as high as he could. Success was only seconds away...but James had forgotten one principle in the procedure. When he was going up, and getting more force to go up, he had forgotten to go to the side. James was now literally sideways in the air, and realizing his mistake. James reached out to the side, but it was

too late. He was rolling himself into a dirt-ball down the slope.

Jasper woke up in the middle of the night. Not surprised, he tried to make himself drowsy; being chained to wall doesn't leave you many options. Failing to sleep, Jasper started to think a bit. In a few days, if James didn't save him, Artemis would kill him. Bad. Next: James comes to the rescue, frees him, and they get away from Artemis. Good. And there was always a miscellaneous category...which would probably lead to some one's death. And unless that was Artemis, that wouldn't be good...so Jasper hoped that James would come rescue him, and soon. Drowsiness surrounding Jasper's mind, Jasper fell asleep again.

James was lying on his back in pain, too lazy and bruised to get up. The fire had went out already, and the hole was the same. Any way of getting out required something phenomenal happening. And by the means of the situation, that wasn't going to happen any time soon. Then something struck James' mind yet again. Something easy, simple.....and it would work, that was for sure. Swords can be very useful at time. First, James cut two simple slits, to fit his feet in. Then, he put his feet in. Then he cut two more simple slits a little higher above, and place his feet in there. The process repeated on and on...after about fifteen times, James was at the top. "Yes!!!"

yelled James. James just proved himself as a first-class escaped artist.

Jasper had just noticed something so very odd. After all these harsh weeks of battle and travel, he still had his watch! Now that was something you would not expect, no doubt. Trying to regain focus, Jasper awkwardly leaned his head down to his chained hand so that he could rub his eyes. Jasper realized something. He wasn't in the same room, and looking more closely, he was outside! Artemis must have carelessly thrown him out of the house for more space or something! Jasper was furious. "Artemis!!!" yelled Jasper. A couple feet away in the house, Artemis woke up and walked outside. "Good morning." Artemis said blankly. "Why the heck did you throw me out here?" demanded Jasper. Artemis yawned. "Your presence annoyed me, so I placed it somewhere else. You're very fate is with me, and I pull the strings behind it all." Artemis explained. Jasper glared at Artemis. "I will kill you if I have to." warned Jasper. "Try!" Artemis shot back with the same intensity. Jasper inhaled, and then gave up the argument. "Fine. Just go away." Jasper muttered loud enough for Artemis to hear. Artemis did a show-off smile. "Whatever you say. But remember. I pull the strings behind everything that happens to you." Artemis reminded mysteriously.

Jasper returned a look of confusion, but quick enough, Jasper suddenly went unconscious.

James repeated the hole procedure again, except with his sword in his hand. Once he was above the hole and sideways, once he fell, he stabbed the sword into the ground and pulled himself up. Finally, James was sitting down, gulping down breaths of fresh air, whereas the hole didn't. After a minute of air, he got used to the climate on ground level compared to the eight-foot hole. Then he turned back on his route. Now what was he supposed to do? Having only one thing to do, James tried to find his way back to the normal route.

Jasper woke up in the late afternoon, around nine-thirty. "Gosh, that dream seemed almost-" then Jasper realized. "Real." Jasper whispered. Jasper looked around. He was still outside, and now it was nightfall. *Where does Artemis get all of this stuff?* Jasper thought. Next to him was a glass of water. Then, looking closer, it wasn't next to him. It was three feet away. Not caring, Jasper tried to reach it. On his first try, Jasper's fingers were approximately half an inch away. Jasper's eye twitched. His mouth was just getting more and more dry. He pulled his hand back, shook it off, and tried again. His hand was still only half an inch away. Jasper was furious. He struggled against the

shackles, which was no use. Finally, Jasper gave up. Life was not easy for him!

James was still walking through the maze. It had been half an hour now, and he still hadn't found the bush. James took another break after forty-five minutes of searching. He was starting to think that he would never get back to the shelter. But then he thought of something. The sword had been very helpful today. Why not use it again? James sat down and thought. He remembered almost exactly the ways he had ran to get to the hole. Using that, he could estimate where he came from. In ten minutes, James figured out where he had come from. And making it easier, James just cut through anything in his way to get there, so he wouldn't have to do the sides and go somewhere wrong. After twenty minutes of cutting through and using his trajectory, James finally arrived at the secret bush. James started to go back to the shelter.

Artemis slapped Jasper awake. "Huh?" Jasper said, rubbing his eyes. His face fell. "Oh." Jasper said. "You've slept enough. Get up and walk around inside. The second you run, I kill you." Artemis said, being very straightforward. Artemis unchained Jasper, and kept a taser at ready. Jasper got up, and fell right back down. His legs were dead. But he still walked, and he cracked his back loudly. He walked around for another minute. Then Artemis tased him, and Jasper collapsed onto

the floor. Jasper moaned. “Why did you do that?” Jasper said angrily. Artemis sighed. “I got bored of holding the taser, so I used it. It’s quite useless, unless you want to slow someone down. Which I don’t do.” Artemis explained. “Anyways, back to the chains.” A minute later, Jasper was back in his same spot outside, chained again. Jasper sighed. Back to square one.

When James went back to the shelter, he expected it to be wrecked or blown up. But amazingly, it had stayed intact. So James took his remaining fishing spear and started to catch fish. After a good meal, James made another sand bed, just to use up his time. Finally, James didn’t have anything to do, so he went to sleep. There was a big day ahead.

Jasper was still awake at eleven o’clock. He wasn’t tired, and he was still really thirsty. So he reached for the cup again. Nope. It was just too far away. But his thirst fueled him. He reached his farthest, strained his arm, and the chains were actually struggling to keep him back. After a while, the chains on the inside of the house were ripped out. He took the cup, drained it, and then slipped out of the chains. He didn’t have much time until Artemis found him. Jasper quietly slipped into the house and looked for his Katana blades. The supply bags were also a priority, so he would take any one. His Katana blades were lying right behind the two

supply bags, which were neatly stacked on the floor. Without even considering a trap, Jasper picked up the bags. Nothing happened. But when he picked up the Katana blades, a compartment opened up in the wall in front of him. Suddenly, it started shooting out flaming arrows. Jasper put his arms in the backpacks, and held the Katana blades for protection in front of him. Then Jasper tripped and fell down. He crawled around the corner, where Artemis was warily looking around. Jasper didn't dare breathe.

James was tossing and turning in the night. When he went to get water, he heard something. There was a smoky smell, and he heard clanging blades. James took a quick sip, picked up his sword, and started to go off to the path. He leaped over the secret bush like a hurdle, and he cut his way through the bushes. That was the easiest way for him. His legs burned, since they were non-moving a minute ago. But determination fueled him. Then, when he was running close to the battle, something was not sturdy under his feet. James jumped on the ground there, and it collapsed. Then there was a five foot tunnel, which curved up to more land. James pulled himself out of the tunnel and saw a hut, where Jasper must have been held. Two seconds later, Jasper and Artemis busted out of the side wall, blades still clanging. James dashed over to Jasper. "You all right?" James shouted.

“Yeah. C’mon, quick!” Jasper yelled back. James unsheathed his blade and swung at Artemis. It was a loud combination, with three blades fighting.

Jasper was sweating from the driving force that Artemis had. “I’m going to go invisible, okay?” Jasper shouted to James. “You’re a Cule too?” James said in bewilderment. “Yeah.” Then Jasper went invisible. But his sword stayed visible. Then Artemis acted. Artemis did a roundhouse kick, then he charged his aura. Jasper and James both got up and tried to distract Artemis, but it was too late. Artemis had blew. But luckily, Jasper had grabbed his collar, and James had randomly impaled his sword into the ground and held on for dear life. Jasper wasn’t in a good position, because his face was burning up. When the pain came to too much, Jasper let go. He went flying back, at least ten yards until he hit the ground. His invisibility capacity instantly broke and he became visible. He scraped his Katana blades against the ground, and he eventually stopped on the ground. Feeling his face, which was sunburned, he suddenly got up. James was trying to get his sword out of the ground. Artemis was walking over to him. Jasper got as close as he can, and then chucked his swords at Artemis, who was caught off guard. Artemis dived to the right, just as the swords sailed by. Jasper turned visible again, and helped James tug the

sword out of the ground. James held off Artemis for a minute while Jasper retrieved his blades.

Artemis jump-kicked James, and James went flying back. It had happened before, so James was used to it. James jumped right back up on his feet and ran over to Artemis. Jasper was now battling Artemis. Jasper was getting tired. They had been battling Artemis for ten minutes. Jasper's reflexes were getting slower and slower...until they stopped. Jasper couldn't even swing the blades, so he dropped them. So Artemis had his chance for a kill. Artemis picked up Jasper by the collar, dragged the chains with his feet, and went all the way over to a tree. It had been a minute until Jasper was tied to the tree. And right about when he was going to light him on fire...James appeared right in front of Artemis and sliced his spinal cord in half. Artemis didn't yell or scream. The only thing that happened was that he fell, dead, with a look of confusion on his face, in a pool of blood and bone marrow.

Jasper and James were panting hard. They were both on the ground, laying on their backs, trying to catch their breath. After a minute, they were normal again. "Nice one, James. Thanks for coming, also. It's really late now." Jasper said. James shrugged. "No problem. Ever since I got out of that trap hole, I've been trying to find you." James replied. "Well, we better go. We need to

catch up on sleep, because we are traveling tomorrow afternoon.” said Jasper, retrieving his Katana blades. Jasper and James found the secret five-foot tunnel, used it, and found their way back to the secret bush by using James’ already sliced paths. Finally, they got to the shelter, and without caring where, they just fell.

The next morning, Jasper and James both woke up around ten-thirty. It was an endless sleep that night, but they *had* to get up and get ready. As Jasper didn’t realize, but the supply bags were on his shoulders the whole time during the battle. Swords, check. Supply bags, check. Water+Food, check. Jasper and James ate a late breakfast, and then they were ready to go. There were many islands nearby this one, so Jasper and James randomly chose one. In fact, there was so many that James dropped off Jasper on one island with all his stuff and then James took the canoe to a different island. It was an efficient way to search, especially when you had an advantage like two people to search with.

Jasper’s Island: Jasper got a nice, sandy island this time. No swamps, no Artemis, no nothing. So Jasper just walked around, staying cool, and strode across the island. It was nice and warm on the island, too. Feeling happy after all the confinement, Jasper went for another look around the island, now trying to find the vial under some

layers of sand. After half an hour, there was no sign of the elixir on the island. *I guess there really is nothing on the island!* Jasper thought. Waiting for James to yell when he was done, Jasper made a simple sand bed and rested in peace.

James' Island: James took one of the bigger, swampier islands, which are sure to hold more stuff than tiny little sand islands like Jasper's. James had a plan. First round, overall looks. Second round, beneath and over objects. Maybe even a third round, for deep digging or high climbing. With his plan ready, James started to pace the island, looking for the vial. As James learned on his first round, it didn't look like there was anything interesting on the normal ground of the island. But there were lots of leaves and branches, so he was excited for the second round. On the second round, all James found were a couple rocks and the ground beneath the leaves and branches. James lightly shook the tree for anything interesting, but nothing fell except for a leaf or two. On the third round (the longest) James pretty much walked around the island skinning two inches of the ground while he walked. He even did it again, to make it four inches in total, but nothing seemed to stand out on the island. He checked all the trees except the last one. He took a quick look at the last tree, and a glint caught his eye. James moved in different angles, but he couldn't see more

than a glint. James used his amazing climbing skills to weave up the tree, and finally he got the branch near the glint. On the branch, there was a very glossy, shiny, precious mineral. Actually, it was a rock. It looked like alabaster, one of James' favorite rocks. It was in a perfect circle and it was as smooth as baby powder. James slipped it into his pocket, and imagined it as a good luck rock.

“Jasper, I'm done!” James yelled. At the island Jasper was on, Jasper got up. “I didn't find anything, James. did You?” Jasper said. “No, there was nothing here.” James replied. “ughhh.” Jasper said. “Well, let's canoe back to the last island, I don't want to make another shelter.” Jasper disappointingly. “Good idea.” James replied. So Jasper and James sailed back to the original island, ate some fish, and went to sleep early.

Janus checked his tracker. *NO!* Janus thought. His latest assassin had just been killed. There weren't many to take his place, because that Artemis was quite exceptional. He was going to have to find and hire more people...who looked that good enough be at Artemis' level. Janus exhaled. He ran his hands through his light brown hair. Janus hit the intercom button on the control panel. All the assassin's in the secret lair were immediately informed of the intercom. They all reported to the conference room. It was a testing day. “I will need to recruit a new assassin.” Janus

said gravely. A gasp went up in the crowd of assassins. “Artemis, our latest assassin, has been killed.” Janus said quietly. “There will be testing in the arena today. The most trusting and skilled assassin will be sent to the Underland to stop a pair of boys trying to get the elixir. Report to the arena in two hours. You are all dismissed.” Janus announced. Even though there was going to be a testing, Janus had a good idea of who would be the most skilled...the boy named Charlie Ace.

Charlie Ace was walking back to his room. His hands were shoved in his jacket pockets, and he had his hood on. He didn't want any ‘attention’ on the way. He made the last turn into the hallway with his room...and his face fell. The idiotic but quite strong bully of the group was in there with his gang mates. Charlie quickly walked to his room, but the bully, Parker, stopped him. “Where are you going?, pipsqueak?” Parker taunted. “Shut up.” Charlie whispered. “And move. Now.” Charlie ordered. Parker laughed. “What ‘cha gonna do, baby boy?” Parker said. He and his gang mates all laughed. Then Charlie acted. Charlie punched Parker in the face, making him fall over, ducked in order to avoid the gang mates, and swooped under the gang mates, causing them to collapse. Charlie kicked open his door, slammed it, and locked it. Then he put three chairs next to each other and pushed them against the door. Charlie exhaled in

relief, somehow not panting or sweating. Now Charlie was safe.

Charlie Ace was pretty much your average kid. He was sixteen, a boy with dark chestnut-brown hair, wearing jeans and a t-shirt. The only thing that was odd about Charlie Ace was that from the moment he was born, his eyes would switch color on a minute basis between coal black, liquid turquoise, and solid gold. So Charlie Ace would always be confusing to describe, when you think about it. Charlie was slumped on the sofa, watching the Discovery Channel. After a while, he got bored of the Discovery Channel and turned his t.v. on a different input to play on the Wii. Charlie wasn't particularly excited about the testing, but he knew that he would get the highest score. Some dimwits were trying to get the elixir (and if he was sent, which he probably would be, he would then get it.). Charlie doubted they would find it, the secret group of assassins, who's acronym for this group of assassins was AAA (known as triple A) which stood for Active Assassin Agency, hid it very well. The Triple A had spent fifty-seven years creating the elixir undercover, apart from the rest of the world. The thing is, the people who made and hid the elixir were the first of Triple A. The elixir was hid fifty-seven years ago, and the only source knowing where it was was a hidden document in the H.Q.

that nobody ever found. They had then guarded it deeply in the Underland, hacked into the government's information, and placed it there, saying it was from "Anonymous." That information was destroyed. They had created a couple entrances to the Underland secretly, and then they left the world off to what they do. But then they had tracked this boy who had recently been coming very close to the elixir, along with two other separate kids, one who have died a while ago. But leading them to a false trail didn't stop them at all. The boy and his partner kept miraculously surviving and pushing on. But what the boys didn't know was that the Underland was partly artificial. If you look at a real map of it(which is highly confidential) you will see that the Underland was made as a pentagram(a five-point star). and in the direct middle of that is an island with a gleaming vial of elixir right there(the thing about this is that Charlie Ace found that map.). Nobody knew where that elixir was except for Charlie. Charlie snapped back to reality, finished his game, and left his room to go practice the testing in the testing room.

Once Charlie arrived at the testing room, he knew it was going to be fairly easy. It was a simple course, and the only hard parts were the bow and arrow dodging and the camouflaging. Otherwise, Charlie was going to ace the test-that's what he was named to do. Thirty minutes later, all assassins

were called to the test room. There were only about thirty, and they were all fairly fast(except Parker) so this process would be pretty quick. Your physical test was based on a scale of one to ten. An average for most of the assassins was six or seven, the good ones got eight mostly, the really strong ones(just a few) got nine, and Charlie...well, he got a ten, but he deserved somewhere around a forty-eight for *his* performance. Janus walked in front of the assassins and finally announced the winner. "Our most skilled assassin that *will* go into the Underland to stop this lucky boy is...Mr. Ace." Janus announced. A big hoot of cheers and applause went up for Charlie. "And Charlie, you will be taking a bag of needed supplies to end the boy's mission. Weapons, food, water, traps, ropes, etc. Whatever you will need." Janus added. "Thank you, Janus." Charlie said, smiling. "You are very welcome. Charlie, you will eat dinner in thirty minutes, you will get ready for thirty minutes, and then you will be released into the Underland to finish off the boy." Janus said, ending the discussion. "Okay. You are all dismissed." Janus told the assassins. Charlie made a beeline for his room, as he didn't want another encounter with Parker. Thankfully, Parker wasn't at Charlie's room, so Charlie walked inside his room and lay on the couch. He wanted to kill the boy so much. And it wasn't going to be pretty. And one more thing about Charlie Ace:

Charlie could control anything tangible by thinking about something happening to it, saying it, or: Charlie always used his hands to make it look like he used the Force. Telepathy was Charlie's secret weapon.

Jasper and James both woke up late, and decided to go check out some other islands in the afternoon. James kept his alabaster in his pocket and felt it a lot, running his fingers along its smooth oily surface. Suddenly there was a rustling in the sky. Odd. And then there was a bird dropping from the sky, and it looked like it hit a tree, but it didn't make any sound at all. Maybe it was doing a free-fall. *Who cares, then...* James thought. But it was a much bigger difference than it seemed.

Charlie landed lightly in the tree, trying not to make any sound. It looked successful, because the boy didn't have a look of suspicion on his face. Charlie pulled out his plasma gun and took a good amount of time to aim. Then another boy came into site, just at the wrong time. He was staring directly at Charlie. Charlie's eyes widened, and his finger tightened on the trigger.

"James, GET DOWN!!!!!!" Jasper hollered. "GET DOWN!!!!!!" Jasper screamed again. James turned around with a look of doubt on his face. "Huh? Wh-" James died on the spot. A blue-hot plasma beam had just shot through his heart,

leaving him seared and lifeless on the ground. There was such an innocent look on his face that Jasper felt guilty for bringing him into this. But his instincts washed over at that minute. He might get shot, too! Jasper turned invisible, and then moved slowly into the shelter. He turned visible, and sat on the ground. He was panting from the sheer terror that came from that boy. And that boy's eyes, whoa. They were totally awesome, it *was* weird that Jasper liked his eyes, but they were just mesmerizing. After a while, Jasper didn't even want to think about it. Jasper was tired, so he closed the shelter and went to sleep on the ground.

Charlie was proud of himself. First minute, one down. And that other weird kid went totally invisible, so Charlie didn't want to waste plasma beams trying to shoot him. Charlie had a feeling that the invisible escaping kid was the main one. And then he thought of something brilliant. Apologize about the killing, earn the trust, "find" the elixir, kill him in betrayal, and take the elixir for himself. He already had a nuclear bomb implanted inside the Triple A headquarters, since Janus trusted him with it. If there was ever any leaked information or break-ins, every assassin in the Triple A headquarters vowed to die in the self-destruction. The remote was in his pack of supplies, so Charlie could ignite the bomb at any time. But Charlie wanted to save the fun for later.

Anyways, Charlie camouflaged himself, used his bag as a pillow, and rested for a while.

Jasper awoke in the morning, apparently, and barely remembered what happened last night. Then it all came back to him. That eye color changing boy had killed James, and Jasper had barely escaped. The boy's tree could be seen from the hut if you peek your head out in the opposite direction, which Jasper did. At first, he didn't see the boy in the tree...it was vague. But ten minutes later, when Jasper was still intrigued, he noticed it. The boy had camouflaged himself to blend into the tree. Very smart, because it *did* take Jasper a long time to realize. Smiling, Jasper checked his Katana blades, turned invisible, and slowly traveled over to the tree. And then, uncalled for, a classic trap came up. Jasper's left leg caught on a rope and he was hung upside down. And at the perfect timing...his Katana blades slipped right out of the sheaths and clattered onto the ground. Jasper sighed. "Why me?" Jasper muttered.

Charlie woke up with a snap. Charlie checked his bag, his camouflage, and finally his trap. That's where he found the boy. "Oh, hi!" Charlie said warmly. "Sorry about the trap. It was for James, the other dude who I killed. We were enemies for years." Charlie convinced. "Really? And why should I believe you?" Jasper retorted. "Well..." Charlie started. "I *did* know his name and

admit I killed him in cold blood. I actually don't want to hurt you. I thought about it a lot, and I thought maybe I could help you find the elixir." Charlie suggested, his plan going great. Jasper looked at him suspiciously. "How did you know I was trying to find the elixir?" Jasper asked slowly. Charlie laughed. "Well, what else would you be doing in the Underland? Trying to find the gift shop?" Charlie reasoned, smiling as he did. "Good point..." Jasper said understandingly. "So you'll let me down from the trap?" Jasper asked hopefully. "Of course! And we'll work together to get the elixir. Deal?" Charlie asked. Jasper grinned. "Deal." And so it was settled.

Charlie jumped down from the tree, set his bag down, and sliced the rope. Charlie kinda slowed Jasper's fall. "Thanks. What's your name?" Jasper asked curiously, dusting off. "Charlie Ace. And you?" Charlie replied. "Jasper Jet. Pleased to meet you." Jasper said. "Same here." Charlie said. "One sec, Jasper. I have to do something." Charlie said. "Sure, Charlie." Jasper said nicely. Charlie walked to the other side of the tree, where Jasper wouldn't see him. He quietly took out the self-destruct device and squeezed the button down. It flashed green. Charlie smiled. And indirectly, the start of a lost empire had just begun.

Charlie threw the device into the sea, closed his bag, and walked back to Jasper. “What was that about?” Jasper questioned. Charlie sighed. “Forget it.” he finally told Jasper. “So, do you have a place where you hang out, Jasper?” Charlie asked, changing the subject. “Actually, yeah. I have a little shelter, and there are some sand beds near it.” Jasper told Charlie. “Want some breakfast?” Jasper asked. “Nah, I’m okay.” Charlie replied. “Okay. But if you want anything, just ask me.” Jasper assured. “Thanks a lot.” Charlie told Jasper. “No problem at all.” Jasper replied. As Jasper went off to eat breakfast, Charlie started to plan how to trick him. Maybe Charlie could have a fake vision.....that leads to the elixir. Or a thought had popped into his mind somehow. Something like that could be a good lead to the elixir. Charlie was kinda excited about it, so he decided to do it on the spot. “Owwww!” Charlie moaned. Jasper came over. “What happened?” Jasper blurted out. “S-sometimes I have t-these visions, and they leave me in pain.” Charlie explained with clenched teeth. After a while, Charlie sat up, pretending that the vision was done. “What did you see in the vision?” Jasper asked curiously. Panting, Charlie said: “It was about the elixir. I saw an island with a vial gleaming right on there, and the elixir was black. And then the vision changed into this weird map.....the island with the elixir of immortality was

marked red, and the island we were on was marked blue. I know where the island is.” Charlie gasped. “Really?” Jasper said, his excitement growing. “Yeah. Really.” Charlie concluded. “Once we sail directly north...I saw that there would be six islands, and the sixth one is the island with the elixir.” Charlie explained. “Okay. Tomorrow, we will start our journey to the island with the elixir!” Jasper exclaimed proudly. “Yes.” Charlie agreed. “We will.”

By the time the boys were done resting and eating, it was four p.m.. Charlie and Jasper decided to pack their bags for tomorrow, and the following days. Charlie got all the weapons and materials, Jasper got all the food and water contained and put into the bag. Without even knowing it, the time was eight ‘o clock. Charlie took some fish and split it for him and Jasper. The plan was going better than he could have asked for. He ate his ration of the fish, made his own sand bed, and drifted off to sleep.

Charlie woke up Jasper at five-thirty. It wasn’t too early, and the sun was shining bright. “I don’t really want breakfast.” Jasper admitted. “Yeah, me neither. I guess we’re just not in the mood.” Charlie replied. “Canoe?” “Check.” “Supply bags?” “Check.” “Primary weapons in hand?” Jasper smiled. “Check.” Jasper said back. “Well then, we are ready to go!” Charlie exclaimed.

Charlie and Jasper first loaded the supply bags into the canoe. Then they carefully stepped in and grabbed the paddling sticks. Then, they took off paddling, and with both the boy's muscle, the canoe was actually moving at a decently fast speed.

Three hard-worked hours later, Charlie and Jasper had paddled all the way to the first island(the first point of the pentagram). Charlie unpacked, while Jasper made sure that the canoe stayed on shore. Charlie was halfway done with Jasper's bag when Jasper came over. "It's okay, I'll do it." Jasper offered. "Okay, whatever you want." Charlie said back. Charlie made another great sand bed, which he purposely took a very long time to do. It was ten a.m. when the boys were completely settled in to the island. Charlie and Jasper had already ate, so they decided to conserve the precious food. Jasper was about to go explore the island when Charlie stopped him. "Hey, can I do it? Check the island for anything interesting? I want to see what kind of stuff would be on this island." Charlie said sheepishly. "Oh, sure. I can wait and do something, or rest." Jasper said, walking back to his bed. So Charlie started his path across the island. Just to find something *interesting*.

Charlie loved to explore. He was always good at noticing things. When he was four, he would average to finish five whole I Spy books a week, which would be all he would do in advanced

care. His other hobbies included cryptography, puzzles, brain teasers, and especially math. When he was in seventh grade, Charlie had to take very complicated A.P. courses on calculus, trigonometry, and science. Charlie was always a star student in grades and G.P.A was above average. He was always the smartest one in the class, in almost any class you placed him in. Slowly drifting back to reality, Charlie had stopped right in front of a tree thinking about all this. Shaking his head, Charlie kept walking very slowly, processing all the tiny details on the island. His brain was like a high-tech computer. It analyzes, processes, it's super smart, and it works at a nice speed, too. Ironically, Charlie found pretty much nothing interesting on the deserted island. Sighing, Charlie started to walk back to the shelter place. He was getting tired, so then Charlie ran the way back to the shelter.

"Nothing new." Charlie announced. "Okay." Jasper yawned, just waking up. "I'm tired. I'm going to take a rest, okay?" Charlie informed. "Sure. I'll keep watch." Jasper replied. Without further ado, Charlie collapsed onto his sand bed, and didn't get up.

In the Triple A headquarters, the building had already burned down. Now deeply regretting the deserted desert that it was located on for secrecy, Janus was sure he was going to die sooner or later. His left arm and right leg had been blown

off in the explosion. Charlie must have accidentally pressed the button...or maybe on purpose. Janus was lucky he wasn't on fire like some of the assassins, but he was pretty burnt. Janus just lay there on the ground, he had just woken from a seven-hour coma. Janus was in lethal pain, and his chances of heat stroke were just getting higher and higher. Finally, when the pain became too much and the thirst could not be resisted, about at the same time, the pain and heat stroke killed him. It was unbearable, and it kept going on and on.....but then there was peace. Janus' life flashed in front of him like a fast-forwarding movie, and then everything went black. The boss of the most dangerous child in the universe had just been killed.

Charlie woke up at five p.m.. Jasper was sitting down, watching the blazing sunset. "Hey, I woke up." Charlie announced. "Hi." Jasper replied. "Let's eat dinner, okay?" Charlie offered. Jasper got up and stretched. "Sure. Whatever." Jasper said tiredly. Charlie and Jasper both took one fish. Charlie got some logs and made a fire. Charlie and Jasper roasted their fish over the small but useful fire. Tasting decent enough, Charlie and Jasper quickly ate their dinner. Jasper went to sleep right away, but Charlie wasn't tired. Charlie stayed up until eleven 'o clock. He was just walking around the shelter for a long time. Finally, Charlie went to sleep, too drowsy too stay awake for more time.

Charlie and Jasper both woke up late, affecting their travel time. They both ate a larger breakfast, considering. At one p.m., Charlie and Jasper skipped lunch entirely and sailed off to the next island. This trip took four hours, as Charlie and Jasper weren't as energetic. This was a favorite island for Jasper, it was pretty much a sand dune arisen from the sea. After two hours of careful unpacking, shelter & bed making, and getting comfortable, Jasper took the job of searching. Charlie just made some improvements to the shelter, making it sturdier and more compact. Charlie wanted to test out his telepathy, so he found a great, deserted range of many objects. First, he flung the rock at the tree. It was weak on purpose, so nothing happened to the tree. This time Charlie took another rock, and imagined it making a hole through the tree trunk with additional force, too. In a matter of two seconds, the rock had made a nice, clean hole in the tree, which became a little more unstable. Then, the rock still went so far that it skipped on the sea water sixteen times. Charlie's eye widened at the power that he could inflict. Smiling, Charlie thought about the tree being flung eighty feet in the air. Sure enough, the tree went soaring upward. Then it struck Charlie. Without thinking about anything else, Charlie imagined the tree to be a feather. The tree disappeared, and a turquoise colored feather appeared instead of it.

Wiping sweat off his forehead, Charlie walked back to the shelter, not wanting to try anything else destructive. An hour later, Jasper came back with nothing great. “Clear.” Jasper told Charlie tiredly. “Let’s eat and sleep early so we can travel faster tomorrow. Okay?” Jasper offered. “Yeah, I guess.” Charlie replied. Charlie and Jasper ate their normal roasted fish, and slept at six ‘o clock.

The next morning, Charlie and Jasper both woke up with bright eyes. Charlie had planned ahead and packed that night, so Charlie double checked his supplies, food & water, and weapons. He was ready to go. While waiting for Jasper to finish, Charlie tried out his telepathy again. This time, he used water. Charlie got the water into all kinds of different shapes, and bended them in an attacking way. It was pretty powerful. For the finale, Charlie got the largest mass of water he could get to go as high as he could possibly power.....and made a enormous tsunami going the opposite direction of them. The shock wave of the water clanging into other water was ear-shattering. Jasper fell over inside the shelter. “What was *that*?” Jasper yelled. “Sorry, I was using my telepathy on the water to make a tsunami. Won’t happen again.” Charlie replied, laughing. “Well, we have to go. Maybe you can use your telepathy to make the water current speedy.” Jasper joked. Charlie looked up in amazement. “That’s it! I could do anything I

possibly want with the water to make us get there a *lot* quicker!” Charlie exclaimed. “Oh, cool! I was just kidding when I said that...” Jasper admitted. “Well, let’s go!” Charlie said excitedly. Charlie and Jasper loaded their things, paddled a good distance into the water, and then Charlie did his thing.

Right when Charlie was about to act, he pretended that he had a vision. He slumped in his place and groaned. In a minute, he was back up. “Hey Jasper! We don’t *have* to search every island! My vision indicated that we just need to leave a DNA trail behind on all islands! If I power this thing really well, I could get to an island, rub my hands in the sand for a minute, and then repeat the process! The vision showed me that after you DNA smeared the last island, a great big island would pop out and there would be all kinds of things going on. If you we get past, the elixir is ours!” Charlie lengthily explained. “Well that is *awesome!*” Jasper exclaimed. “I’ll control the water, speeding the canoe. Then you can DNA the island!” Charlie worked out. “Sounds like a great plan. Let’s get to it!” Jasper exclaimed.

Charlie and Jasper were standing up in the first ten seconds. It was like surfing, except with telepathy powering you. In fifteen minutes, Jasper smeared DNA on the third island. Yes, the current that Charlie provided was *that* fast. Jasper hopped on again, and Charlie started the current. Twenty

minutes later, Charlie and Jasper took a break at the fourth island, the telepathy took quite some energy. Charlie and Jasper both ate two fish, rested for an hour, and started again. It only took ten minutes to get to the fifth island. Charlie and Jasper *both* rubbed DNA on this island. It was the last island in the pentagram, and it gave access to the island of elixir. Nothing happened for a while. Then, suddenly, an island ten times as large as any other normal one appeared in the middle of nowhere. It wasn't there, and then it was. And a second later, a tsunami, a hurricane, and a highly powered force field all appeared to be taking action on the island. "Uh oh." Jasper said, and gulped.

"Step aside, Jasper. I'm going to be performing some far-inflicting telepathy." Charlie said, stepping forward. Every second that went by let the tsunami get closer. Charlie concentrated for twenty seconds. The tsunami was only yards away...and then Charlie let it out. A tsunami half the size attacked it, seventy different types and shapes of water was bended at it, and finally the tsunami was gone and cancelled out. "Now for the hurricane." Charlie announced. Charlie already had his idea in mind. Charlie had to tune out the rest of the world and concentrate for ninety seconds this time. Finally, Charlie was ready. Charlie imagined it happening. Soon enough, all the air inside the force field imploded, leaving no signs of gushing,

destructive wind behind. “Whew. At least that worked. Charlie shot the force field with his plasma gun. Not a spot was left on it. Then Charlie got a great idea. “Jasper, come over here. I need your help.” Charlie called out. Jasper jogged over to Charlie. “I am going to fling you at that force field. You will have a nice, strong sword with you. You will stab the force field, keep the sword in there, and try hard to drag the sword down to the bottom, ripping most of the force field. Would that be okay?” Charlie asked, explaining his slightly far-fetched plan. Jasper scratched his head, thinking about it. “Yeah, I guess. As long as you don’t let me fall into the water at the bottom.” Jasper said, agreeing. “Great. You got your sword?” “Check.” “Well then, I will fling you in five, four, three two, one,…” Charlie counted. “Zero.” Charlie finished. Charlie threw Jasper at the bright force field with great telepathy. Jasper did better than Charlie would've asked for. He stabbed the force field cleanly, and sliced it down the whole way. Charlie used telepathy to bring Jasper back to the island. He was panting. “That was...exhilarating, especially the speed flying.” Jasper said, with wide eyes. A few seconds later, there was a burst of light as the force field gave way. It died away slowly, disappearing after a minute. Charlie and Jasper looked at each other.

“I’ll telepathy jump over there, okay? I’ll get you over when I land.” Charlie said, not wasting any precious time. The elixir was gleaming black in its minuscule vial on the island, as Charlie noticed when he landed. Charlie lightly jumped Jasper onto the island. “Wow...I’ve been waiting for this moment *so long!*” Jasper said dreamily. “Well, too bad.” Charlie said darkly. He used his telepathy to raise Jasper in the air. Then, he choked Jasper to death. Yes, right there in the air. Jasper tried to gasp and get some air, but it was useless. He was set up all along by this traitor. Now he would take the elixir for himself. The last thought Jasper Jet had was ‘i always to myself i would die trying.’. Then Jasper Jet died of asphyxiation. Charlie stopped his telepathy. Jasper Jet plummeted five feet onto the island, and his corpse landed on the ground, unmoving, lifeless dead. Charlie didn’t smile. It was a cruel death, but it was going to happen sooner or later. Now for the big finale. Charlie spun on his heels and started to walk over to the vial.

It was a historical, glorious moment for Charlie Ace. It was all in slow motion, with the perfect steps leading to the vial only feet away, which felt like miles. Finally, at the turn of his climax, he reached the legendary elixir of immortality. Charlie just stared at it in wonder for at least a minute, trying register his position as

reality in his mind. Charlie Ace bent down. His fingers gently curled around the ice cold vial of elixir. Charlie didn't have to take the cap off. It was standing directly upward in the sand. Refusing to wait any long, Charlie held the vial of immortalizing elixir pressing his lips the smooth surface of the glass. He felt a sudden adrenaline in his body, burning his blood. Charlie Ace tipped the elixir of immortality. The soothing black, ice-cold liquid trickled down his tongue and mouth like a perfect little stream.

Charlie Ace swallowed The Elixir Of Immortality.