

ELMER. I didn't mean—

IRIS. It's not stupid. I think about it all the time, too.

ELMER. I know what would make you feel better, Iris.

HAZEL. Helping us find those spots.

ELMER. Better than that. The order has come and a storm must be assembled. Now, what does this mean to people like you and me?

IRIS. It means that somewhere in this town...right now... just waiting for us...is a big...fresh...wet...batch of...

IRIS, HAZEL, ELMER (a delicious whisper). ...rain. (They sigh with delight.)

HAZEL. I bet the Rain Makers have been working non-stop—

ELMER. And it's just sitting there, and no one's—

HAZEL. Played in it, or—

ELMER. Tasted it, or—

IRIS. Race you there—(As they begin to rush off they are stopped by the MEMORY MENDER, who pushes his cart in their path.)

MEMORY MENDER. Careful, now—or you'll trip and rip your coats. And if you rip your coats I'll have to sew 'em back up for you. And you know why, don't you?

IRIS, ELMER, HAZEL (having heard this a million times). Yes, we know why—

MEMORY MENDER (quickly, quizzing them). Hazel, who are the rulers of Nocturno, our home?

HAZEL. The Great Goods.

MEMORY MENDER. Iris, where do the Great Goods live?

IRIS. Across the water, on Great Island.

MEMORY MENDER. And, Elmer, how deep is the water that surrounds Great Island?

ELMER. Umm—

IRIS. I know!

HAZEL. I know, too!

ELMER (sharp, to the girls). So do I.

MEMORY MENDER. Well?

ELMER. It's—umm—

MEMORY MENDER. You knew it when I asked you last week.

ELMER. It's—oh, I don't know. Why do I always get the hard questions?!

~~MEMORY MENDER. Let me see your coat. (ELMER walks over to the MENDER, who discovers a tiny rip in the sleeve of ELMER's PastCoat. He sews it back up as he speaks.) See there. A little rip in your coat and your memory is harmed. It makes me crazy. You've got to take care of your coat because your coat holds your past. Every stitch, every pocket, every button and sleeve—it's your whole life in there! Think you can just go out and get a past like you can get a glass of milk?!~~ Think again. (He is finished sewing/Elmer's coat). There we are. Now, Elmer, how deep is the water that surrounds Great Island?

~~ELMER (touching the new stitches in his coat). Ninety-nine thousand and twenty-three feet.~~

~~MEMORY MENDER. Exactly. Now, don't trip and get a rip. (To IRIS, referring to her coat.) Iris, have your mom keep an eye on that button. It's getting loose.~~

~~IRIS. I will.~~

~~MEMORY MENDER (taking IRIS aside). And one thing more: The Fog Lifter is retiring today. After all these years, she can still set the fog down in the morning—but she just can't lift it up anymore. She'd like you to take her place, Iris.~~