

Susie sat at her table with all of her favourite dolls and stuffed animals. It was afternoon tea time, and she started serving each of her pretend friends as she did every other day. But today was no ordinary day. As Susie reached the chair where she had sat her favourite stuffed bear, she suddenly had the strange feeling like someone was watching her. She stopped pouring the tea and looked up at Bear, who stared back with his glass eyes and replied, "Well Hello!!"



The young deckhand could see the approaching island, palm trees swaying in the ocean breeze, sandy shores littered with driftwood, tropical birds singing in the hot Caribbean sun—and somewhere, deep in the jungle, buried somewhere, was the treasure he had been reading about since he was a young boy. And now, he was going to part of the team to discover it and take it back home to save his nation's people.



Ronan was beside himself with excitement. He was ten years old and his Grandpa Leon was finally going to take him fishing. Grandpa Leon claimed to be "a fishing expert, practically a professional angler." He told Ronan that he'd caught giant marlin and huge tuna, and that he had many adventurous stories to tell. He promised he'd supply all the fishing gear: rods, reels, hooks, bait, buckets, and plenty of food, too. All Ronan had to do was to be ready promptly at 6 am.

As the young girl opened her window, she could see the moons Europa and Callipso rising in the distance. A comet flashed by, followed by a trail of stardust, illuminating the dark, endless space that surrounded the spacecraft; the only place she had ever known as home. As she gazed at Jupiter, she dreamed of a life where she wasn't stuck orbiting a planet, but living on one. She envisioned stepping onto land, real land, like in the stories of Earth her father had told her about. She tried to imagine the taste of fresh air, the feel of a cool, salty ocean, and the sound of wind rustling through a tree's green leaves. But these were only fantasies, not memories. She had been born on the ship, and if they didn't find a new inhabitable planet soon, she would surely die there too.

In the years before the Civil War, some concerned citizens teamed up to assist runaway slaves in their perilous effort to escape bondage. They formed a network of safe houses along the routes north. Elijah's cabin in Syracuse, New York, was part of this Underground Railroad. One blustery winter night, the family awoke to frantic rapping at the door. Elijah opened it to see Amos, a friend from nearby Manlius, with two runaways—a young woman and a small girl, both looking terrified and both shivering in drenched, tattered clothes.