

Adventures in
ODYSSEY

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY PRESENTS

3

THE IMAGINATION STATION



Peril in the
Palace

MARIANNE HERING • PAUL McCUSKER



Peril *in the* ***Palace***

BOOK 3

MARIANNE HERING • PAUL McCUSKER
ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID HOHN



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY • ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY
TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC. • CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS

Thanks for the encouragement:

Bob Dubberley, Brock Eastman, Clark Miller, Larry Weeden,
and Glenn Williams

Peril in the Palace

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A Focus on the Family book published by
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

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Cover design by Michael Heath, Magnus Creative

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Hering, Marianne.

Peril in the palace / by Marianne Hering and Paul McCusker ; illustrated by David Hohn. -- 1st ed.

p. cm. -- (Imagination Station ; bk. #3)

"Focus on the Family."

Summary: Cousins Patrick and Beth travel in Mr. Whittaker's invention, the Imagination Station, to thirteenth-century China, where they meet Marco Polo and Kublai Khan and are mistaken for Christian shamans.

ISBN 978-1-58997-629-0 (alk. paper)

[1. Space and time--Fiction. 2. Mongols--Fiction. 3. Polo, Marco, 1254-1323?--Fiction. 4. Kublai Khan, 1216-1294--Fiction. 5. Cousins--Fiction. 6. Christian life--Fiction. 7. China--History--Y?an dynasty, 1260-1368--Fiction.] I. McCusker, Paul, 1958- II. Hohn, David, 1974- ill. III. Title.

Printed in the United States of America

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9/16 15 14 13 12 11

For manufacturing information regarding this product, please call 1-800-323-9400.



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Prologue



There is an old house in the town of Odyssey. It's called Whit's End. Kids love it. It has an ice-cream shop. It also has a lot of rooms with games and displays.

There are exciting things to do at Whit's End. Kids have fun and learn there.

Mr. Whittaker owns Whit's End. He is a kind yet mysterious inventor. One of his inventions is the Imagination Station.

The Imagination Station lets kids see history

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in person. It's a lot like a time machine.

One day the Imagination Station broke. Mr. Whittaker didn't know why. He tried to fix the machine in his workshop.

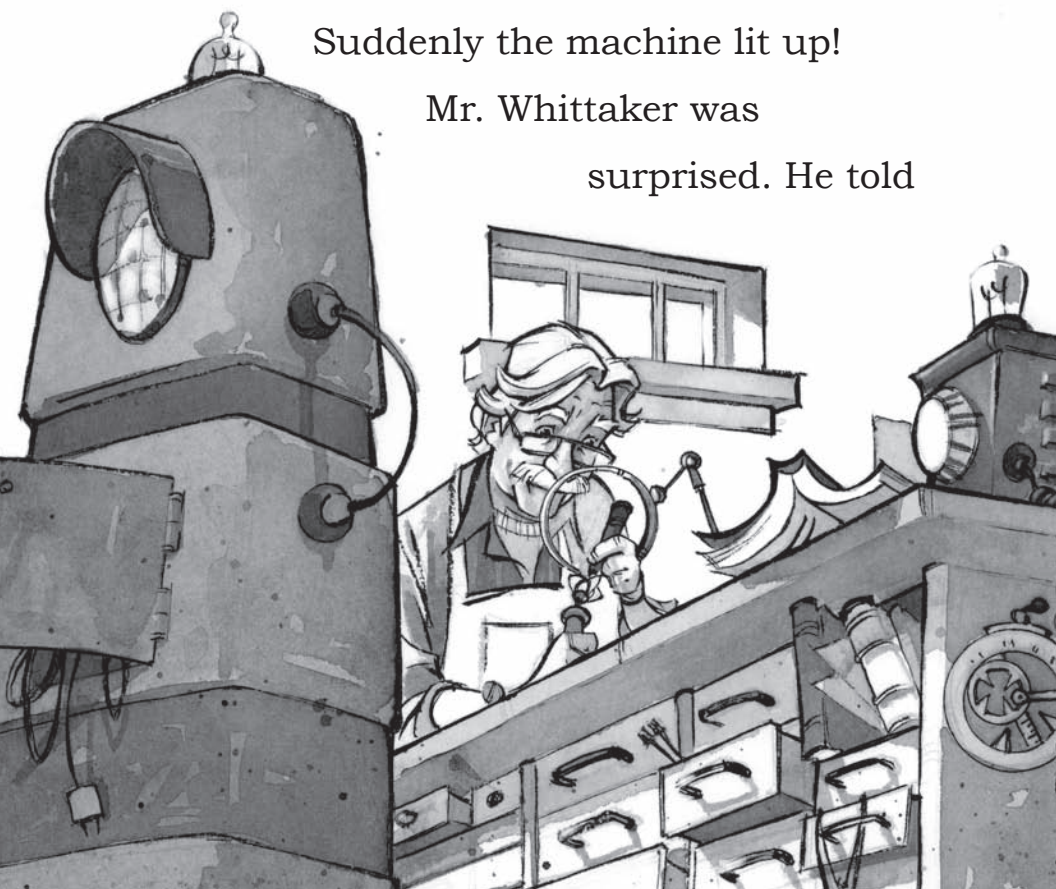
Two cousins, Patrick and Beth, came to visit him. Patrick and Beth are eight years old.

Patrick touched the Imagination Station.

Suddenly the machine lit up!

Mr. Whittaker was

surprised. He told



Prologue

the cousins about a mystery.

The other day he took a trip
in the Imagination Station.

He visited a relative in long ago
England named Albert.

Albert gave Mr. Whittaker a fancy
ring. It had a rose on it.

Mr. Whittaker came home. The
next morning he found a note in
the Imagination Station. The note
was written on old paper. It said:



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To save Albert, I need a Viking Sunstone before the new moon. Or Lord Darkthorn will lock him inside the tower.

Mr. Whittaker wanted to help Albert. But he couldn't. The Imagination Station didn't work for him. But now it worked for Patrick and Beth.

The cousins also wanted to help Albert. So they traveled to Greenland. They found a Viking Sunstone.

The next day another note came. It said this:



More trouble for Albert. Lord Darkthorn is angry. The Roman monk's silver cup is missing. We need it before the new moon. May God be with you.

Again Patrick and Beth asked to help.

Prologue

They visited ancient Rome. They were chased by a tiger. And the cousins found the silver cup.

A strange thing happened in Rome. An English knight arrived in the Imagination Station. The cousins were amazed. How could a knight use the Imagination Station?

The knight gave them a message:

“You must tell Mr. Whittaker to search for the golden tablet of Kublai Khan.”



Now Beth and Patrick are off on another adventure. They need to meet Kublai Khan and find his golden tablet.

They also want answers to some puzzling questions:

Who is writing the notes?

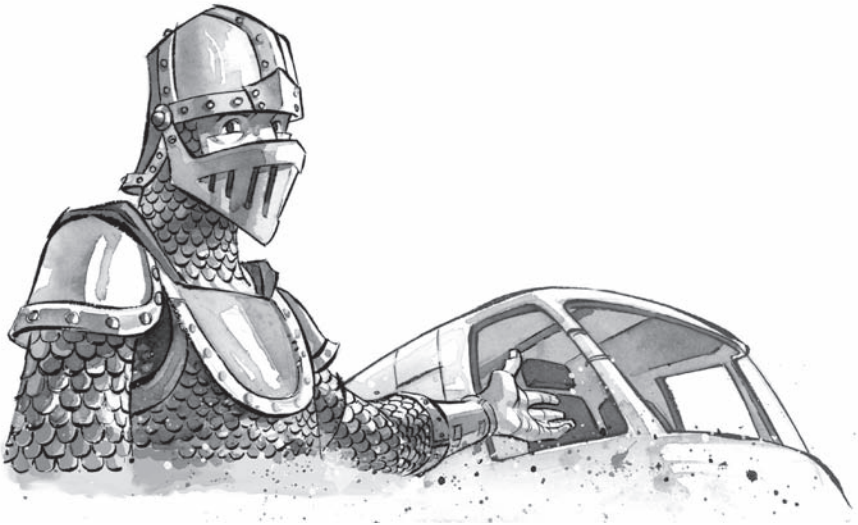


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What is a golden tablet?

Who is Kublai Khan?

They are about to find out.





The Mongols



On Wednesday, Patrick and Beth were ready to go to China. They were all set to find the golden tablet.

Patrick had on a bright blue tunic with an orange border. The toes of his shoes curled up at the ends.

Beth wore an orange dress. It was made of fine silk. Her shoes were just like Patrick's.

“Those costumes are great,” Mr. Whittaker said. “You look just like Mongol children.”

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“Did you say *mongrel*?” Beth asked.

“That’s what my dog is.”

Mr. Whittaker smiled. His kind eyes twinkled behind his round glasses.

“No, Beth,” Mr. Whittaker said. “I said *Mon-gol*. The Mongols ruled all of China in the thirteenth century. Today their country is called *Mongolia*.”

“I’ve heard that word,” said Patrick.

“There’s a Mongolian barbecue on Main Street. That restaurant cooks the best meat in town.”

“Well,” Mr. Whittaker said, “in Kublai Khan’s time, Mongols were the best *fighters* in town.”

“Uh-oh,” said Beth.

“Don’t be afraid,” Patrick said. “I’ll protect you.”

The Mongols

Beth frowned.

“How can you protect me?” she asked.

“You don’t know anything about Kublai Khan. What if he’s nasty and mean?”

Patrick looked at Mr. Whittaker. “Is he?” Patrick asked.

“Well, *khan* means emperor,” Mr. Whittaker said. “So he was one of the most powerful—and richest—men in the world at the time.”

“Emperors can be nasty and mean,” Beth said.

“They can be,” Mr. Whittaker said. “But Kublai was also known for his love of art, astronomy, and knowledge. That will work in your favor.”

“How?” Beth asked.

Mr. Whittaker said, “I prepared some

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things for you to take with you.”

He walked over to a large closet and rummaged around inside. He came back with three things: a colorful wool bag, a box of very long nails, and a hammer.

“Nails?” Beth said. “Why?”

Mr. Whittaker held up a nail. “Kublai Khan likes new things. He’s never seen one of these.”

“He hasn’t seen a nail?” Beth asked.

Mr. Whittaker put the nail in Beth’s hand.

“No,” Mr. Whittaker said. “So this should please him.”

“If you say so,” she said. Beth frowned and then studied the nail. It had a square head and a long shaft. It was almost a spike.

She touched the tip of the nail. “It’s

The Mongols

sharp,” she said.

“Keep the nails in the wool bag until you need them,” Mr. Whittaker said. He put the hammer in the bag too, and he handed it to Patrick.

“Whoa!” Patrick said. “This is really heavy.” He looked at Mr. Whittaker. “What else is in here?”

“You’ll see,” Mr. Whittaker said. “There are several gifts inside. Each one is wrapped separately. And each one has a tag on it. Read the tags to figure out when to use them. Give away the first gift when you meet someone with a famous name.”

“We’re going to meet someone famous?” Beth asked.

“He wasn’t famous then,” Mr. Whittaker said. “But you’ll recognize his name when

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you hear it.”

Beth and Patrick looked at each other. Their eyes lit up with curiosity.

“Shall we start the adventure?” Mr. Whittaker asked. He waved a hand toward the Imagination Station.

