**Excerpt #6**

**The Sewers underneath Baron’s castle.**

Characters: Toymaker, Stephen, Children, Greta, Susan, Toby, Marta, Jeremy and Jemima

Context: Potts is wanting to save his children, Jeremy and Jemima, from the Child Catcher.

**TOYMAKER** Two hundred feet above us through that solid rock is the castle of Baron Bomburst. And here, down below we have…these are our children.

*As our eyes become accustomed to the gloom, we see CHILDREN in rags, a handful or so.*

The ones we have been able to hide. The survivors. Look at them. They don’t know what a tree looks like, or what it’s like to run in the sunshine.

**STEPHEN** Food!Have you got any food?

**CHILDREN** Food! Food! Food!

**TOYMAKER** They run up the drains and steal what food they can from the kitchens.

*Girl arrives with the remains of a banquet.*

**GROUP KIDS** Look!

**GRETA** Food! Look!

*She shares it with others, the stronger among them. Not all CHILDREN are fed.*

**TOYMAKER** Stop it, share it out like I told you. Give some to Toby. He’s not as quick as you are.

**SUSAN** We don’t like Toby

*Toby is a weak looking child who sits on his own. PETER pushes TOBY out of the group.*

**TOYMAKER** Don’t let me have to steal from you. Here you are.

**TOBY** Have you got any toys?

**TOYMAKER** No toys this time. I’ve been too busy. It’s his birthday.

*The children scream in spontaneous anger, making rude gestures upwards.*

But listen, that means there will be lots of leftovers.

**GRETA** Look out. Look out.

**MARTA** Someone’s coming.

*Everyone scatters and scuttles away. And up through a trap comes TRULY.*

**POTTS**  *Rushing to her*

Truly! What happened? Where are the children..?

**TRULY** *Barely able to get her words out.*

…They’ve been taken.

**POTTS** What?!

**TRULY** That horrible creature. He tricked them. I am so sorry.

**POTTS** Where are they now?

**TRULY** He caught them. He put them in a cage on a cart.

**TOYMAKER** They’ll be in his castle by now.

**TRULY** What are we going to do?

*POTTS hears the children sing. He paces past the group of CHILDREN as he thinks, and then it hits him.*

**JEREMY AND JEMIMA** IT ISN’T FAR TO HUSHABYE MOUNTAIN

SAIL FAR AWAY FROM LULLABY BAY

**POTTS** I’ve got it!

**TRULY** He’s got it.

**POTTS** Look, we’re all in the same boat, here.

Right?

**CHILDREN, TRULY, and** Right!

**TOYMAKER**

**POTTS** So we’re all going to break into the castle!

Right?

*No response… they’re stunned.*