Chapter Two

Spat Out

Captain Craggy awoke on the deck of the Mighty Munchkin. He looked around. He was soaking wet. His boat was soaking wet and his crew were soaking wet. Everything was soaking wet.

In the distance he could see a black and yellow lighthouse. That wasn’t right. They had been adrift in the mid-Atlantic for days. There were no lighthouses in the mid-Atlantic. Suddenly, an enormous red bird flew overhead, dragging a cardboard box through the air behind it.

“Where the blazes are we?” the Captain asked Rollapuss, his second in command.

But Rollapuss didn’t answer. He was staring out to sea, mouth hanging open. The Captain turned to see a writhing mass of orange tentacles cutting through the water, heading straight for their ship.

1. Set up scene and wake up the crew.
2. Set up a sea monster.
3. What should the crew do?

“A sea beast!” shouted Captain Craggy. “Briagdier Briggs, man the guns and fire when ready!” But before Brigadier Briggs could reach the nearest gun, he orange monster’s tentacle tips twisted out of the sea and encircled the ship.

“He’s grabbed the foremast and mainmast,” shouted Rollapus.

“and the bowsprit,” shouted Blunder, leaning over the side of the ship.

“He’s going to sink us,” called Brigadier Briggs as the top of the monster’s huge head and two enormous eyes emerged from the sea. Each were larger than the Mighty Munchkin, which could be seen reflecting in them.

“Not likely,” came a booming but friendly voice. “Little trick a kraken taught me. If you are gentle, you can hold onto a ship without breaking anything. Took a few goes to get right though and I have to admit that my first attempt didn’t work out too well for the Kraken’s Kry. But she makes as fine a wreck as she did a ship. And the kraken were so pleased to finally have somewhere to call home.”

The monster stopped talking and its eyes wrinkled into a smile as it looked at each of the pirates, waiting for someone to say something. Noone did. Noone could. They couldn’t think of anything to say. Surprise can do that. And they couldn’t move their mouths. Terror can do that.

“Quiet little things aren’t you!” said the monster, trying again. “What are you?” The monster paused, as if hoping for a reply, tapping its head with a tentacle tip. “Hmmmm… The obvious guess is Sea Monkeys but you aren’t furry and you don’t have a colony of Sea Bees. Let me think. You aren’t Tumble Stars and you aren’t Pumpkin Heads. Too drab for Copies…” the monster touched Rollapus’s cheek with the tip of a tentacle, “…and too warm for Doughees… Ah ha! You must be toys!” the monster said with a beaming smile.

“How dare you?” boomed Captain Craggy, drawing his cutlass. “We are no such thing. I am Sir Crispin Craddock, captain of the Mighty Munchkin and leader of the fiercest pirate crew who ever drew anchor.” Captain Craggy was about to continue when Blunder jumped onto the side of the ship, holding the halyard and puffing out his chest.

“That’s right. Together we sail the seas searching for treasure, pleasure and adventure.” Blunder began to whip his cutlass through the air. “Discharging the deadliest deeds, fighting the fiercest ---”

“Really?” said the monster interrupting and tapping Blunder’s cheek with a tentacle tip. “You really do look a lot like toys.”

“And what, pray tell, are you?” asked Captain Craggy, cheeks flushing.

“I’m Colossus, the giant squid,” said Colossus, grinning. “Very pleased to meet you! Where are you going?”

“We don’t know,” said Rollapus, who was by far the most sensible pirate on board. “We aren’t even sure where we are!”

“You’re on the edge of Primapeligo, home to the Sea Monkeys” said Collosus, pointing with its tentacle to a group of islands in the distance. “Their port town is there, that lighthouse is the Bumble Beem and the Stardom and Toydom are on the mainland over there. Do you have your bearings now?”

Rollapus began to reply “Not---”

But was interrupted by Captain Craggy putting a hand on his shoulder. “Ah yes, now we see. Thank you. We will be on our way then,” said Captain Craggy.

“I could stay and chat if you like,” said Collosus. “It’s been a while since I met new people and sometimes I get very lone---.”

“We really must be going,” said Captain Craggy. “Must reach the port of Prima… ummm… Prima…”

“Peligo?” said Colossus. “Are you sure you know how to get there? It sounds like you don’t know about the Swirly Gig. I’m happy to explain---”

“We know exactly where we are going,” said Captain Craggy turning away. Collosus’ eyes sunk. “Hoist the sails and set a course for Primapeligo please, Rollapus. Time to find out what that there port has to offer. Good day to you, Mr Collosus.”

“Good bye,” said Collosus, watching as the ship sailed away.

1. Design and build Primapeligo ready for the Mighty Munchkin’s arrival.