

The Hypnotists
By Sarah Lam

“LOOK!” Kevin shouted excitedly to his sisters’ Claire and Kate. Claire ran over to where Kevin was standing with toddler Kate in her arms. When Claire saw what Kevin was pointing at her jaw dropped. On the floor was a shining gold ring with a giant circular opal on the front. Kevin hurried to pick it up. As soon as his dirt covered fingertip touched the ring, the opal opened like a miniature locket. Claire reached in and pulled out a tiny piece of paper. “This very ring you now hold will tell you the sentence that means nothing if you are not bold: this ring is your life.” Claire finished reading. The siblings looked at one another in silence.

“We can’t take this to the orphanage,” Kevin finally said “they’ll take it”. As Kevin whispered the word orphanage the children felt lumps in their throats. That single, awful, despicable word continued to remind them of the tragic car accident that cost their parents’ life.

“We can leave,” Claire whispered “ we can leave the orphanage, we can leave the city, we can leave our entire past behind”. “No more orphanage!” Kate squealed. “That’s a wonderful idea,” Kevin smiled. The Parker children had been hoping for an opportunity like this for ages and decided that this would be their one and only chance.

“Well, let’s go now. We can take a boat or sneak onto a plane,” Claire said. Completely forgetting about the ring that was still on Kevin’s finger, the Parker children ran into night without the knowledge that a very strange group of people were watching them. These people were called The Hypnotists.

As the Parker orphans scampered out of sight, a certain hypnotist named Vladimir Verenich was paying close attention to the ring plastered on Kevin’s finger. “That filthy brat doesn’t deserve to wear that ring. He doesn’t know anything about its powers,” Vladimir hissed. “We will be sure to take it from him,” a hypnotist named Eileen Ivanov purred, digging her powder blue fingernails into Vladimir’s shoulders. Her powder blue lipstick glowed beside her blue hair and her color changing eyes were now powder blue. “Well let’s go now, if we want to beat them to the dock,” Eileen hissed murderously...

As the sun rose the next morning Claire, Kevin, and Kate decided to board a ship called HYPNOTIC IV. They weren’t sure about the strange name or that the Captain (a tall man

with a pointed nose called Captain Vladimir) said that they were sailing to New Mexico, when Claire was pretty sure that you couldn't get to New Mexico from Boston by boat. Otherwise the boat looked okay and they were kind of desperate. But Kevin was curious. "Excuse me," he said to a lady with blue hair and long blue nails who looked like she worked on the boat, "the Captain said that we were going to New Mexico." "DID HE?" she cut him off and gave Captain Vladimir an angry glare. "Yes," Kevin said impatiently, "but it's impossible to sail to New Mexico from Boston". "Well , aren't you a book addict, I mean, smart boy? We will be going to New York," the blue haired lady said with another glare at the embarrassed Captain.

As Kevin sat down on the edge of the boat he remembered he was wearing the strange ring that he had found the day before. He turned it over in his fingers and tried to figure out what the words inside the ring meant. Then suddenly it hit him, the sentence: "This ring is your life" had meant that the ring would keep the wearer alive. Kevin wasn't sure how it would help keep him alive, but he intended to find out, right after he told Claire.

As Kevin walked across the boat he kept his head down and his eyes on his ring. He was not watching as Captain Vladimir stuck his leg out in front of him. With his head still pointed to the ground he tripped over Captain Vladimir's long, gangly leg and was sent flying to the edge of the boat and landed on his face with a nasty cut under his cheek. "Kevin!" Claire exclaimed worriedly. "Oh he'll be fine." the blue haired woman purred, "I'll take him to the hull of the boat and we can get him all fixed up.". Something about the woman made Claire not want to trust her but she nodded as Kevin walked down the stairs to the lower level of the boat. "Will Kevin be okay?" Kate asked. "I hope so," said Claire as she stroked Kate's hair and worriedly watched her beloved brother walk down the stairs to the hull of the boat. On the boat deck, something shiny caught her eye. It was the ring that Kevin had dropped.

Kevin sat in a very strange room filled with marble furniture and strange metal devices. Other than Captain Vladimir and the blue haired lady, there was a teenage girl with flowing golden hair and glowing golden eyes who the blue haired lady had called Anastasiya and a girl with dark scarlet hair and warm brown eyes named Scarlet, who looked like the blue haired woman's daughter. The blue haired woman (who Captain Vladimir called Eileen) sat down beside Kevin. "Look at me darling," she purred as she stroked his chin. Kevin looked at her for a second and immediately felt very dizzy.

Eileen's eyes began to change color and images formed in her pupils. Kevin looked into them and saw two cars crashing into each other, a younger more scared version of Claire screaming and cars going up in flames. Then he saw himself running from the streets with Claire and Kate.

The images swung rhythmically in Eileen's glowing eyes. Kevin felt lost. Then his mind went blank. Only one word existed in his mind: Hypnotist.

“Kevin!” Kate squealed as Kevin walked up the stairs. “Hello,” Kevin replied shallowly. “Are you okay?” Claire asked but Kevin just stared at her blankly. “Kevin something has happened to your eyes. They’re all blank and dull-it makes you look like a Hypnotist.” Suddenly Kevin’s pupils darkened “Yes sir,” he said and saluted Claire. “I am NOT sir, I am your sister!” Claire shouted in an angry voice. “Who is sir?” Kate asked confused. “Nobody,” Claire answered. “Maybe we should get some sleep and in the morning we’ll be in New York and Kevin’s eyes will be normal again,” Claire said as she sat down on the deck of the boat. So the Parker children looked at the sky and told themselves that New York would make their lives better. Sadly they were wrong...

As the night came the group of Hypnotists gathered in their room in the hull of the boat and began to think of a strategy. Eileen was extremely frustrated that they were just passing Connecticut and they still hadn’t gotten the ring from the Parker siblings. “Tonight at midnight on the dot we will blast them off this ship and steal the ring. We are going to eliminate them entirely. Any objections?” Eileen glared at everyone in the room and no one dared object. “Good!” Eileen hissed “Scarlet get me more wine NOW!” Eileen snapped. “Yes mother,” Scarlet replied fearfully.

Sitting on the deck Claire and Kate Parker were wide awake. “Tell me a story.” Kate begged. “Which one?” Claire asked. “The one our parents used to tell us,” Kate whispered sadly. Claire slowly turned her head and saw that color had returned to Kevin’s shallow eyes. “Kevin!” Claire exclaimed. “You’re awake and your eyes are normal again.” “What? Did something happen to me?” Kevin asked all confused. “Yup!” Kate squealed, “Your eyes were all blank and you were talking about someone named sir.” “Nothing happened,” Claire reassured Kevin. For some reason she didn’t feel like talking about Kevin’s strange behavior.

“Well anyway, has anyone figured out what the strange message in the ring means?” Claire asked trying to change the topic. “Yes,” Kevin said and began to tell his sisters about his discovery. He was almost through his theory when a girl burst through the door and ran straight to the Parkers.

The girl sprinted across the deck and slid down next to Kevin. “I have to tell you guys something,” she said, out of breath. “The ring...” . “We know,” Kate told her. “Oh!” the girl looked relieved “I’m Scarlet by the way,” she said, flustered. “And I’m here to warn you that my mother, the awful woman named Eileen Ivanov who Hypnotised Kevin is coming for you at

midnight.” “I was Hypnotised?” Kevin asked. “It’s a long story,” Scarlet told him, “but I’ll help you escape.” “Why are you doing this?” Claire asked. Scarlet didn’t answer, she didn’t even know what the answer was. “Come on I know where we can hide”.

Suddenly Eileen burst through the door just as Scarlet had done a few minutes before, only her face was purple with rage and she carried a gun. “HAND OVER THE RING!” she screamed. Claire started to say something but Scarlet stepped in front of her. “No,” she said calmly glaring at her mother. “I will **not** do your dirty work for you anymore,” Scarlet stated. “Well then you are a TRAITOR!” Eileen screamed. “Just because you are my mother, it doesn't mean what you do is right,” Scarlet said just as calmly as before. This seemed to push Eileen completely over the edge. She hesitated before she ruthlessly pulled the trigger on her gun...

Just as the bullet soared toward Scarlet’s chest, Claire threw something toward her. Scarlet caught it and smiled. Instead of hearing the sound of Scarlet screaming, everyone heard the sound of an explosion. The sky was filled with golden light and the sea churned. Vladimir turned to look at Eileen but all he saw was her corpse. Suddenly it dawned on everyone: Scarlet had been wearing the ring which saved her and killed Eileen instead! The two remaining Hypnotists scowled. “WE MUST GET THEM!” they screamed.

The fire that the ring’s explosion had caused was spreading and the boat started to sink. The children jumped off and swam to shore quickly. “Where are we going to go?” Kevin asked. “Well, there just might be somewhere we can stay,” Scarlet said with a smile.

Two months later

The Parker siblings had been living with Scarlet and her kindly father, who had been living by himself in North Connecticut for three years and was nothing at all like Scarlet’s mother. As for the ring, the Parker siblings kept it close and wore it for different reasons. Claire wore it to remind her to care for her siblings, Kevin wore it to remind himself to always be bold. And Kate wore it to remind herself about her love for her family. And that was the best reason of all.