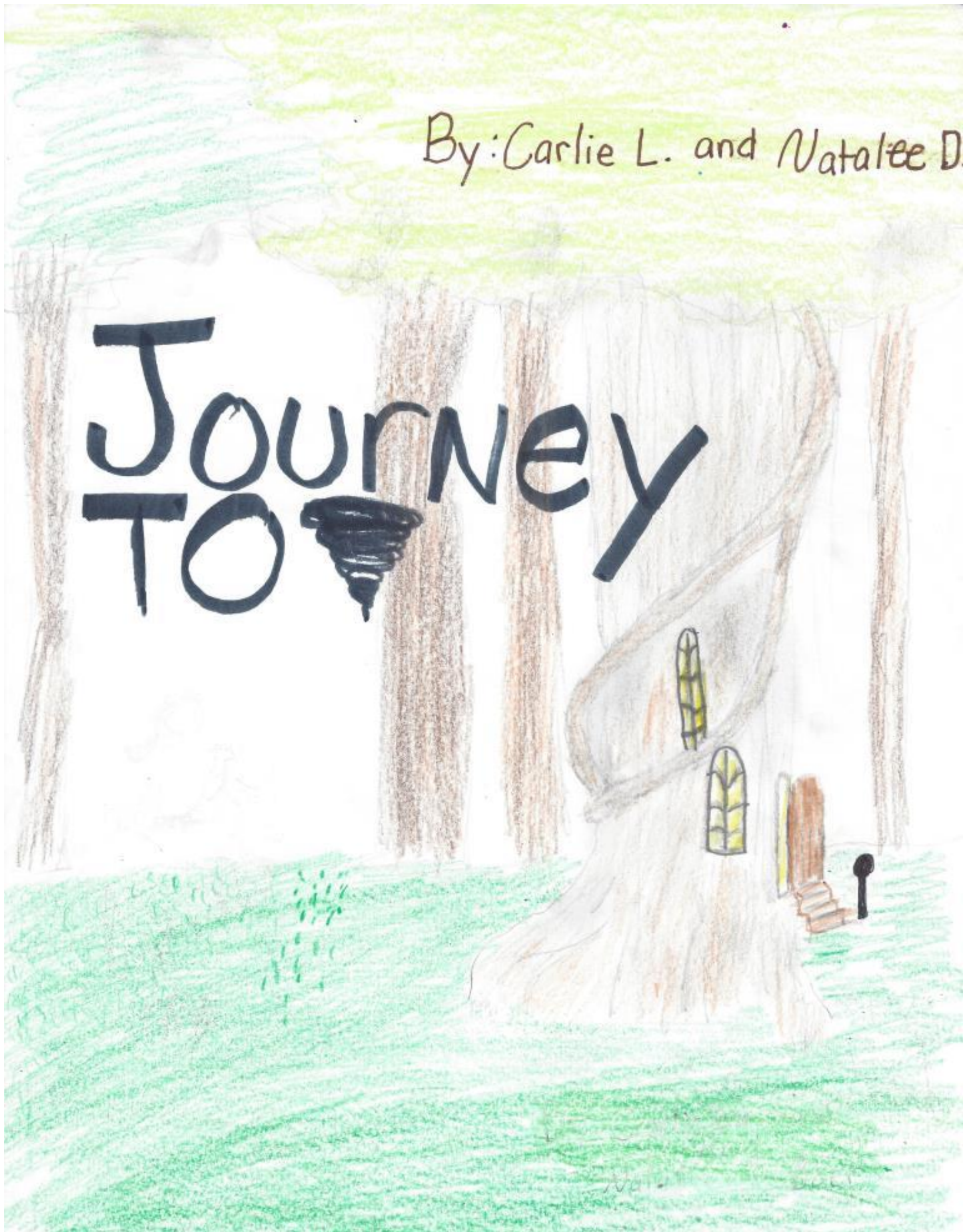


By: Carlie L. and Natalie D.

# Journey TO



# Journey To

By Natalee and Carlie

## Chapter 1:

It was a warm afternoon and Maliah, her boyfriend Jionni, and her tiger Alex were on a stroll in the park. When suddenly they saw a deathening sight. A vicious tornado was headed in their direction. They panicked and started running home. Maliah looked back and the last thing she remembered was a tornado right behind them. When she woke up and looked around, she saw Jionni laying there horribly wounded. But she wasn't wounded too badly. She tried to wrap his wounds. She didn't make it in time and he was dead. Maliah still devastated began balling and buried her face in Alex's fur.

Once she was over the initial shock, she sniffled and said, "Come on Alex let's go home."

She also realized she was in a magical yet mysterious forest. She felt like she was in a daze. The forest had a light drifting fog with very tall trees casting great shadows. Maliah walked until sunset. Then she noticed she had gone in the wrong direction.

She looked for a place to lay down and saw a strange carving in a tree. She walked toward what she saw, and it was a door in the tree. She opened the door and found a winding staircase. She walked up the spiral staircase to find a small room. She found a bed across the room with a cozy fire place beside it. She lay down and thought about Jionni and how scared her parents must be. Her legs hung off the end of the bed. While she was thinking, she slowly dozed off.

When she woke up, she walked around and discovered a back door out of the tree, only to find a waterfall fifty feet away. Then she decided to take a shower under the waterfall and cleaned her wound. Maliah walked around the tree. The fog grew thicker. She smelt the distinct scent of eggs and fresh bacon. She followed the smell and found a small figure cooking a meal. When she arrived at the cooking

place, she saw a gnome with a big red hat and a bell. He was only about two feet tall

"Why hello there little guy. Who are you?" She asked confused to see such a small person.

The surprised gnome ran away and hid behind another tree.

"No wait I need help!" she yelled as she walked toward the tree. When she got to the tree, the gnome was gone. "Will you please help me get home? Can't you help a lost little girl? My name is Maliah and I need help getting home. Please will you help me get home?"

"Wait did you say girl, as in human girl?"

"Yes," Maliah answered confused.

He peeked from behind the tree. "Why yes I can. Oh and my name is Dave," the gnome said excitedly. "Just follow me!" He ushered them forward with a wave of his hands.

She got on her tiger and Dave lead them through the forest. When they stopped, she was practically asleep. She felt as if she had been riding Alex for a thousand miles, but it was really only eight. The sun was setting and they needed a place to sleep for the night.

## Chapter 2:

They had just gotten out of the forest when the gnome said, "Okay here we are. I've never shown anyone this and you can't either. But this is the gnomes' village, Follow me, I have a place for you to stay."

They passed by what appeared to be enormous doll houses. Little eyes peeked through windows.

One of the gnomes came outside and yelled "Dave is back!"

Then, all the gnomes ran outside and chanted "Dave is back! Dave is back!"

One of the houses was much larger than the others. It appeared as a regular sized house to Maliah.

Dave said, "This is our grand palace." He opened the door, and they went through a long windy hallway into a room. The gnome said sheepishly, "There is a bathroom, a bed, and a dresser make yourself at home."

Somehow everything was built to human size like they were expecting her. She took a shower and went to sleep.

While she was sleeping, Dave gathered the rest of the gnomes. After he told them all about Maliah he said, "Okay here's the plan. We are going to make Maliah a gift since she is the chosen one. We aren't just going to make any gift, we are going to make her clothes."

The women gnomes got out their sewing supplies. They had the most beautiful fabric. It was a rich teal color and added a fuchsia belt to it. When the dress was finished, it looked beautiful. The gnomes prepared breakfast. When Maliah awakened, she saw the beautiful dress laying along her dresser. She was astonished and confused. She quickly changed and she looked great. She headed downstairs and went into the kitchen.

One gnome said, "You looked amazing."

She asked them, "Did you guys have anything to do with this?"

The gnomes all nodded yes at the same time

"You guys made it for me didn't you?" she asked hopefully.

The gnomes all nodded again.

Then Dave spoke up, "We wanted to make it for you as a gift."

Maliah answered thankfully "Thank you so much I love it! Well shall we be on our journey?"

The gnomes' jaws dropped open in shock. One gnome whimpered, "I thought you have come to free us?"

"I appreciate what you did for me. But I really have to get home to my parents. They must be worried sick."

She wasn't hungry, she was ready to go home. She was very homesick, she walked out the door and Dave followed along with her tiger.

She asked Dave, "Which way do we go?"

Dave answered quickly, "Please help us. You are making a mistake."

She ignored Dave and kept walking. Several minutes later she was walking along a path and stepped in some sand. Her feet sunk two feet down, then three. She was up to her waist deep in quicksand. Her tiger stuck one paw in the sand and stepped back. He made a small growl in frustration, unable to help Maliah.

"I can do this I don't need Dave's help," she said to herself.

Then, she sank all the way up to her neck in quick sand and screamed in complete fright, "Please help me!"

Dave came running down the path and pulled a rope out of a small pack. He tied one end around a tree and handed the other to Maliah. She pulled herself out and thanked Dave.

"What were you thinking?" Dave asked.

Maliah answered sheepishly, "Well I figured I could find my way home by myself and then I ran into this quick sand. I thought I could get home on my own, and I realized you guys have done so much for me and I need to help you guys in any way I can. There's just one thing that I can't do."

"And that is?" Dave asked.

Maliah replied, "I can't take you guys home."

"That's okay," Dave replied. "We need you to do something else. We need you to defeat the evil alligator so we can jump between worlds. By helping us you will also be able to get home."

"Ok," Maliah said nervously.

"Yay let's go!" Dave shouted excitedly. "Follow me it's just this way"

They headed westward.

### Chapter 3:

On the journey back home, she saw many beautiful flowers and colorful and gorgeous singing birds. The sound of the birds was like music to her ears.

She asked Dave, "Are we there yet?"

"No we have a long way to go," He said as he opened the door to another tree.

This time the tree had a slide going down and down and farther down.

The gnome said anxiously, "Ok sit down and sit side by side with your tiger. Then go ahead and slide down. If you are a first timer on this its going to be kinda scary. I will follow after you."

Then Maliah said, "Nah I don't think anything is scary, except Spiders. Those are gross."

Maliah and Alex sat down side by side. As they were going down the slide it became pitch black. They couldn't see anything. It seemed like they were on the slide forever. Then finally, there was a faint light.

## Chapter 4:

“Woohoo this is so much fun!!!” Maliah said screaming at the top of her lungs.

When she got to the bottom, she saw an image of home floating in the distance. She started sprinting, Alex right by her side. She ran for a while and the image of home vanished as she approached it. She noticed two eyes staring at her from the swamp, Maliah and Alex couldn't help but to stare. The eyes were dark and mysterious.

Right as Dave was getting off the slide, Maliah and Alex (both hypnotized) were on the Evil Alligator's back half way across the swamp. Dave jumped onto little vines and swung towards Maliah. But right as he was about to grab Maliah's hand, he was slapped away by a giant tail. He lay unconscious on the shore. When he woke up, Maliah was in a giant spider web. Dave once again jumped on the vines and jumped towards Maliah. Unfortunately, he landed in the spider web stuck alongside Maliah. The impact woke Maliah and Alex up from their trance.

Dave said, “Well at least I'm with you.”

“Ya I don't know why I didn't listen to you,” Maliah said guiltily.

Dave answered quickly, “It's okay. I forgive you. But we are still stuck and the alligator is coming for us.”

“You are not going anywhere until I eat you,” said the alligator as he laughed evilly.

A teenage boy was silently hiding behind a nearby tree. “Oh no you don't,” he whispered under his breath.

As soon as the alligator left the web, Jeffery started to look for things close in reach to cut the strong and sticky web. All Jeffery could find was human skulls and bones. He decided to try though, so he grabbed the closest bone that he could. He hit it against the ground, broke it in half, and created a sharp edge.

Maliah asked, "Who are you?"

Jeffery replied, "Jeffery. But I have no time to explain."

He started to cut the web. It was working.

Jeffery's heart was beating fast as he cut the last of the webs. But it was too late. The alligator launched himself onto the shore to eat them. Maliah kicked him in the face and ran away, Dave and Alex at her heels.

In the meantime, the alligator and Jeffery were fighting. Jeffery picked up a fallen tree branch and wacked him. The alligator turned around and wacked with his tail and knocked him over. Alex ran in and leaped onto the alligator.

"Oooooowww," the alligator screeched as Alex's claws dug into his back.

The alligator scrambled back into the water and swam away quickly hoping to knock the tiger off. Already they were a good distance away from Maliah. Alex hung on with his claws. Then, the alligator rolled over and the tiger fell into the swamp. The evil alligator disappeared into the swamp along with Alex. Maliah stared in shock, was Alex dead too?

...To be continued...