

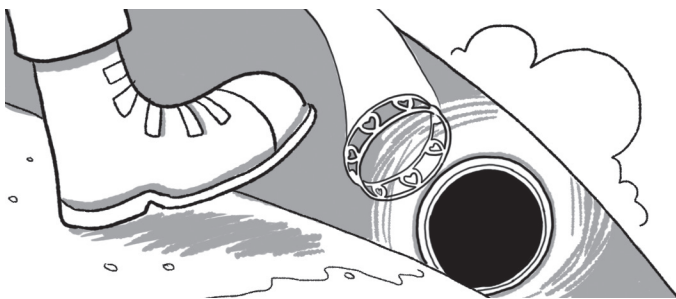
## Chapter 1

# The Lost Ring

Classes were out. Cam, B'Shara, Tad, and Rita were walking to the library. It was on Third Street. Rita was playing with her ring.

*Clink!* The silver ring dropped to the ground. "My ring!" Rita said.

The ring rolled down the street. It fell into a round hole in the street.



"We'll find your ring, Rita," Cam said.

“We saw where it went. It went down that hole.”

“That’s not just a hole. It’s the opening for a pipe,” B’Shara said. “The pipe goes under the street.”

“There are pipes under the whole city,” Tad explained. “When rain comes down on the streets, it flows down the pipes.”

“Have you been in those pipes?” Cam asked Tad. “As a frog?”

“Just once,” Tad said. “It was really dirty in there. I didn’t feel clean for a week after that!”

Tad looked inside the opening. “This one is big and not too dirty. I could change

into a frog. Then I could fit inside it. I could look for Rita's ring."

"Thanks, Tad," Rita said. She looked to see if there were any people around. "There's no one here. Could you do it now?"

"Yes, here I go. Transform!" Tad said. He changed into a frog. Then he jumped down into the hole.

B'Shara, Rita, and Cam waited. "Tad, what do you see?" Cam called.

"I see water," Tad answered. "I don't see a ring."

"Do you see anything shining?" B'Shara asked. "The ring is silver. It would shine bright in the water."

Tad swam deeper into the pipe. There was not much light. He came up for air. "I see two bright things!" he called.

"Is one of them my ring?" Rita asked. "Can you reach it?"

There was a moment of silence. Then Tad yelled, "I'm getting out of here . . . It's a SNAKE! And snakes eat frogs!"

A huge snake swam fast through the water. It was red, yellow, and black. Its skin was smooth and shining. It saw Tad.

Tad swam away fast. He jumped up to the opening. He tried to jump out. He got his front legs on the street.

The snake circled tightly around Tad's

back leg. "Help!" Tad shouted. "It's got my leg!"



"Transform!" B'Shara, Cam, and Rita yelled. They changed into animals. They rushed to help Tad.

B'Shara the bee flew at the snake's face. Rita the cheetah tried to bite its head off. Cam

the chameleon hit the snake with his tail.

The snake was very surprised. It let go of Tad's leg.

Tad jumped out of the pipe. He landed on the street. He was safe!

The snake stared at the four superheroes. It hissed loudly. Then it fell back into the dark pipe.

