



Part Five
The Map

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Also by Robert Black,
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Night of the Frightening Fractions
Night of the Eerie Equations



This book features QR codes that link to audio of the book being narrated so that readers can follow along.

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The Problem

Life was hard enough, but after only a few days of soccer practice, Lennie was already making enemies.

It wasn't her fault. She had simply been trying out to be a defender. Abby Elliot, an eighth grader who wanted to be the team's top scorer, thought she could get the ball past anyone, but she had never seen Lennie's slide tackle before. Lennie's play had gotten everyone's attention, but in Abby's case, that wasn't a good thing.



After practice, Lennie was the talk of the team. One girl followed her out of the locker room and ran up to talk to her. Lennie knew the girl from her English class. Her name was Caroline. She was taller than Lennie, with a round face and long, dark blonde hair.

“That sliding kick was great!” Caroline exclaimed. “Where did you learn it?”

“Back in Philadelphia,” Lennie told her. “I was a ball girl for a college team, and they showed me how.”

“Can you show me?” Caroline asked. “I



could use an extra trick if I'm going to make the team."

"I can, but it's not easy," said Lennie. "You can get hurt if you do it wrong, or you can knock the other person down and get carded." She had learned both of those lessons the hard way.

Just then the locker room door slammed open behind them. Abby Elliot stomped out, a scowl on her face. Lennie couldn't help noticing how much bigger Abby was than the other girls who were trying out.

“Um, I think I’d better get going,” said Caroline. “Don’t want to be late for class!”

Lennie couldn’t blame her for leaving. She followed Caroline, walking as fast as she could away from Abby.

“Miller!”

Lennie sighed. *Might as well get it over with*, she told herself as she stopped and waited for Abby to catch up.

But Abby never reached her. In an instant, the bright sunshine became a dark, gloomy night. Lennie looked around



and saw Abby frozen in mid-stride. And hanging upside down from the doorway to the building was a creature she knew.

“Hello,” smiled the Cheshire Bat. “Did I catch you in the middle of something?”

Lennie didn't know whether to be glad to see him or alarmed. “What do you want?” she asked.

“I told you that your fate is tied to the Mystical Realm,” said the bat. “You're more than just a Pattern Finder, and it's time I told you more about that.”



Challenge Words

NEW WORDS

attention

invisible

bootlegger

listening

columns

negative

creativity

scowl

engineer

smuggle

erased

stomach

formulas

triangles

fulfilling

whistled