The Amazing Adventures of

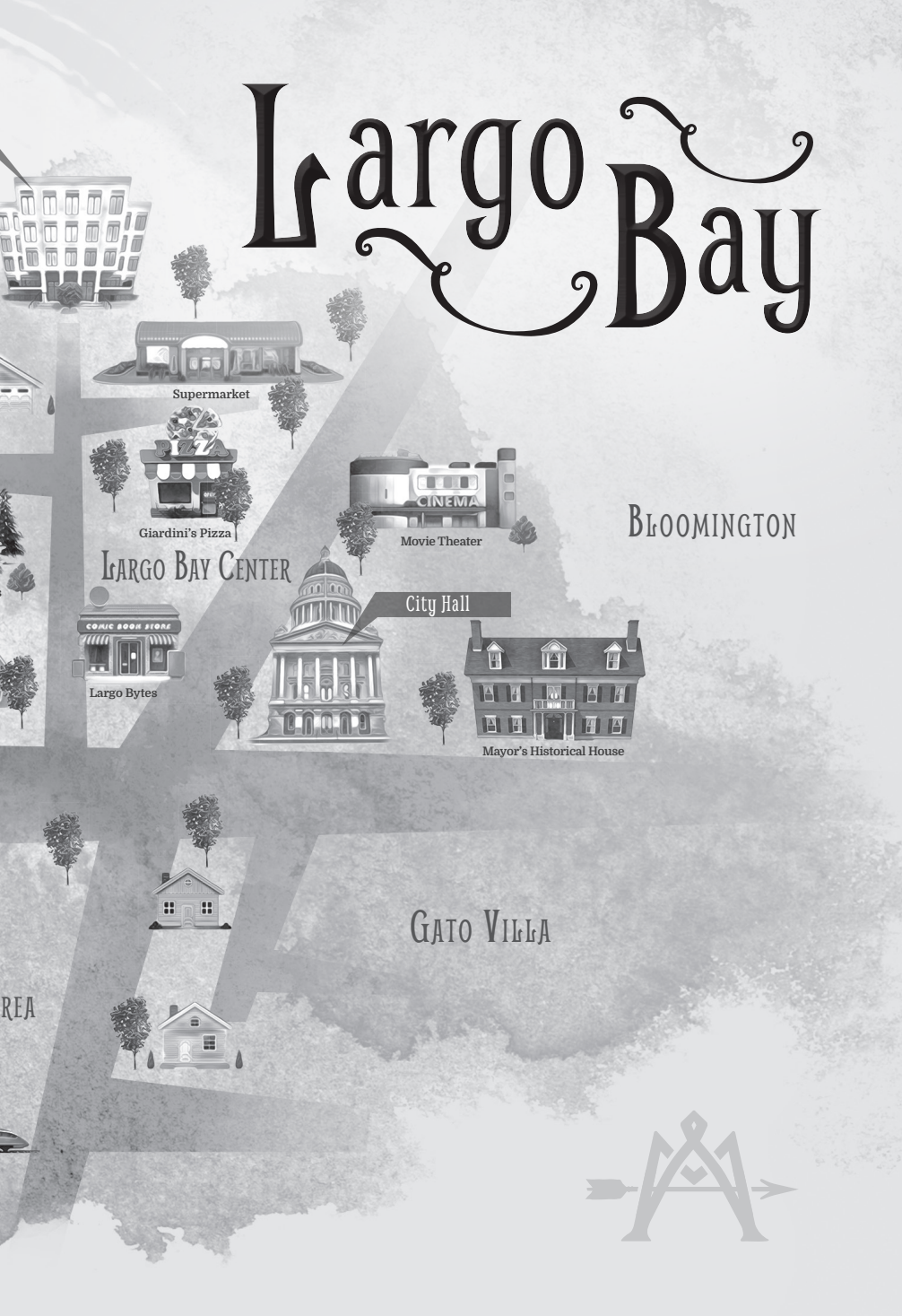
Abby McQuade

THE LADY FROM THE CAVES



Evan Jacobs


Pacific Ocean
High School
Middle School
SCHOOL
Abby's House
Clara's House
Mazey Pines
Auto Shop
Industrial A
SUBURBAN STATION
Train Station


Largo Bay
Supermarket
Giardini's Pizza
CINEMA
Movie Theater
Bloomington
Largo Bay Center
City Hall
COMIC BOOK STORE
Largo Bytes
Mayor's Historical House
Gato Villa
REA

CHAPTER 1

The Game

The water there is amazing, Abby." Clara smiled.

"Oh, really?" Abby asked. "Is lake water different?"

Abby McQuade lay on her bed. She video-chatted with Clara Erickson. Clara was her best friend. They'd been talking for a while. Abby's hand cramped. She adjusted herself and tossed her long red hair.

Clara used her laptop. She'd set it up while unpacking from her trip. The trip had been a retreat with her swim club. The club team was called the Aquatics.

Clara was a great swimmer. She wanted

to compete in the Olympics. Her team was fierce. Many past members were Olympians.

"For real," Clara said. She put some of her clothes away. "The water in this town is gross."

"But you swim in it all the time."

Abby didn't want to laugh. Clara was sensitive. New things were always the best thing ever. But then something else would come along. Then that would be the best.

"The water in Las Cuevas is so clean," Clara said. "I've never seen water like that."

Las Cuevas was a nearby county park. There were caves and lakes. Abby used to hike there with her parents. They hadn't been in a few years. It was a cool place. Had the water been clear? Maybe she'd been too young to notice.

The girls were eighth graders. They went to Largo Bay Middle School.

"We swam in the lakes," Clara said. "There were bonfires. Nobody slept in a tent."

"No tents? Ugh." Abby didn't like to camp. A nice hotel was the way to go.

Abby liked to read. She had many interests. How could she fix a car? What was the best cookie recipe? Archery was her main hobby. However, practicing was a bore.

"Nope. Not one tent," Clara said. "We didn't need them. It was warm. The stars were bright. You could see the Milky Way."

"Epic!" Abby said. "Maybe we should go there together." Camping sounded bad. Astronomy was cool, though.

"We played this game," Clara said. She walked to her laptop and sat down. "Have you heard of this one? It's called the Lady from the Caves."

"The what from where?" Abby snorted.

"The Lady from the Caves," Clara said.

"It's this creepy game. You go to the lake closest to the caves. And you say some lines three times."

"What lines?" Abby asked.

Clara took a deep breath. Then she said, "*I'm not scared. I'm not afraid. I know about the Lady from the Caves.*"

"And then what happens?"

"You say it three times," Clara said. "The Lady from the Caves appears. You'll see her face in the water."

"That sounds rad," Abby said. "Did you see her face?"

"No," Clara sighed. "Nothing happened."

"Oh."

"We did swim in the lake. Something strange happened. When we got out, the water was low. It seemed half as full."

"Clara!" a voice called. "It's time to eat. We want to hear about the retreat."

"Okay," Clara yelled. She looked at Abby. "I'll call you back. It's time for dinner."

"Coolness." Abby made a peace sign. Then she disconnected the chat.

Abby's room was simple. She thought about Clara's story as she looked around. Nothing was out of place. The closet was full of clothes. An archery set rested in the corner. Pictures of her friends were taped on the walls. She also had a TV that streamed shows.

What was it about the game? Abby searched on her phone. There wasn't much information.

The Lady from the Caves game was an urban legend. Abby wanted to know more. Who was the lady? Why was she in the caves?

Nothing came up in search.

YouTube was a different story. There were many videos. None of them were about the

lady. They were testimonials. People talked about playing the game.

The videos were short. Each one said the same thing.

"Warning! Don't play this game."

"This curse is real. The game will haunt you forever."

"Stay away from the game. It's a curse."

The testimonials were serious. People were terrified.

Abby watched 10 stories. Then she stopped.

The internet was full of hoaxes. Abby was smart. People faked things all the time. They tried to make the videos seem real.

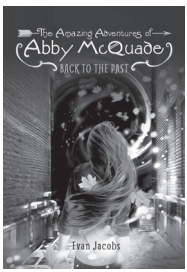
Still, there was something about the game. There was no information about it online. The people in the videos seemed truly scared.

Was the curse for real?

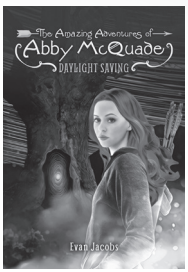
Of course Abby had to know.

The Amazing Adventures of Abby McQuade

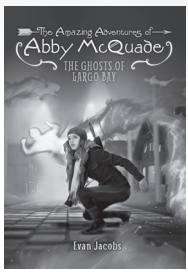
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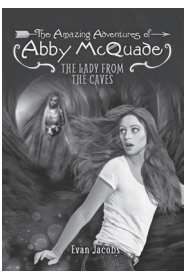
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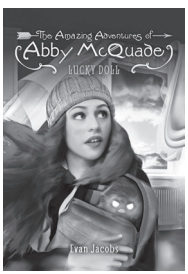
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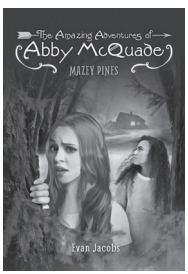
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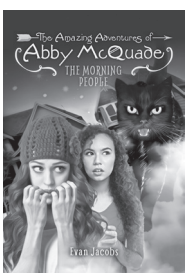
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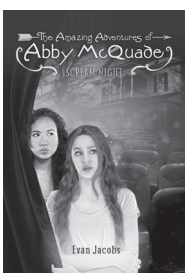
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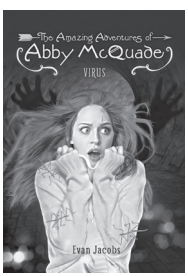
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The Lady from the Caves

Clara plays a spooky game. It should summon a spirit. Nothing happens, though. Then she is hit with a streak of bad luck. Abby thinks her bestie has been cursed.

SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
www.sdlback.com

LEXILE 180L HL

ISBN: 978-1-68021-471-0

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