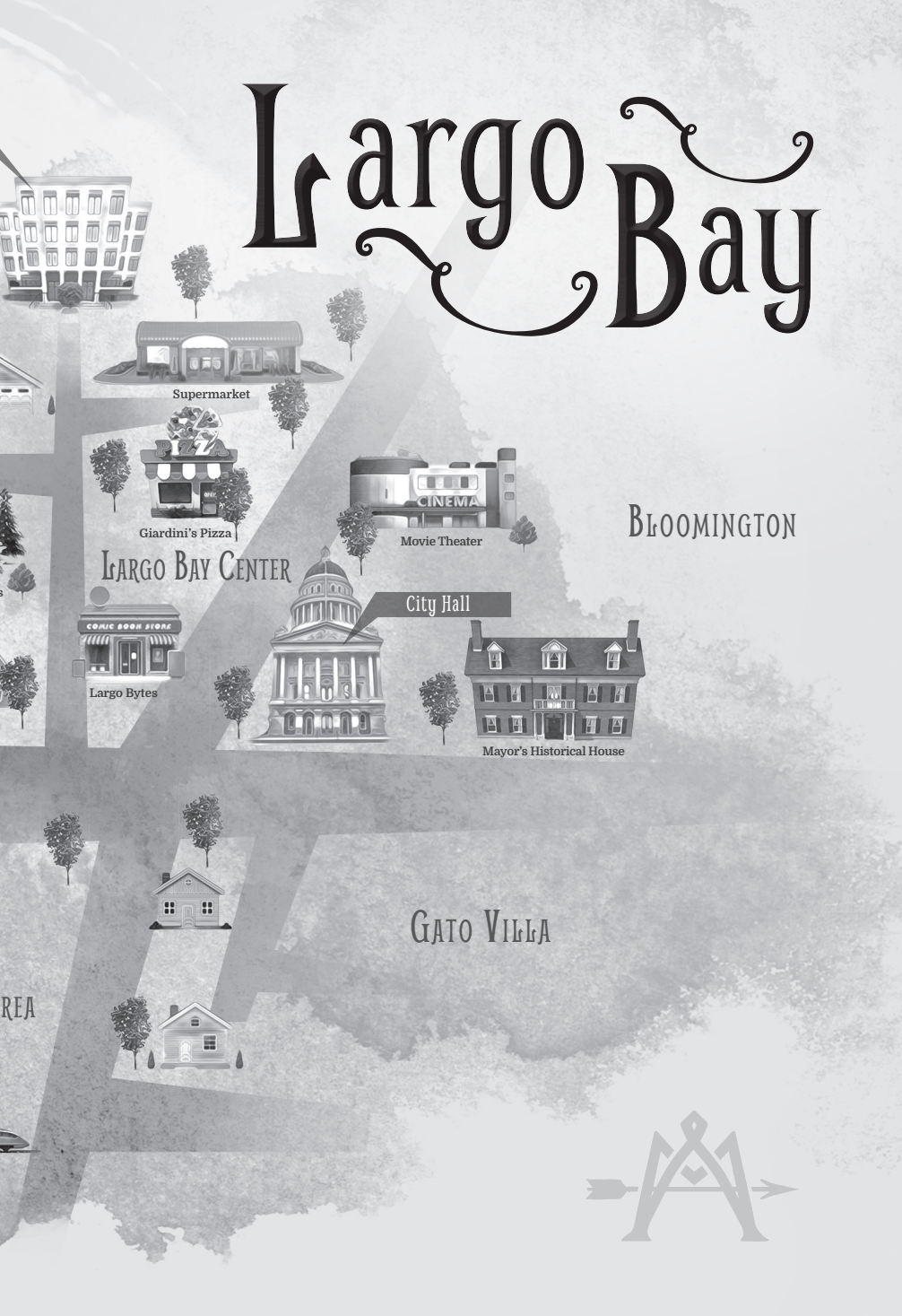

The Amazing Adventures of
Abby McQuade
THE MORNING PEOPLE
Evan Jacobs


Pacific Ocean
High School
Middle School
SCHOOL
Abby's House
Mazey Pines
Clara's House
Auto Shop
Industiral 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 Sleepover

Abby was in Clara's bedroom. She was sleeping over. Sleepovers were a regular thing. Sometimes the girls would sleep in the living room. There were no rules. Usually they would watch movies till dawn. Eating junk food was a must.

They had just finished watching a movie. *The Dancing Corpse* was a horror flick. It was about a dead woman. The woman had entered a break-dancing contest. Unfortunately she died before the competition. Then she'd risen from the dead. The undead woman danced and won!

"That was so funny!" Abby laughed.

"Totally," Clara said. "Such cool break dancing."

Clara tried to do an arm wave. Abby tried popping and locking. They swung their arms wildly. The two giggled.

"That guy's head fell off," Clara said.

Abby ran her hands through her red hair. "Yeah," she said. "His head went like this." She pushed her head back with her hands. Then she fell backward with a cackle.

"Shhh!" Clara said. She muffled her giggles. "My parents are sleeping."

Abby loved movies and books. Her dad enjoyed films too. He liked ones from the 1930s and 1940s. That was why Abby had seen so many of them.

Abby's mom was a math wiz. What was cool about that? Abby didn't understand it. She was close to her folks, though. Adults were nerds sometimes.

"What should we watch next?" Abby asked.

She got up and looked through some DVDs. "What haven't we seen a million times?"

"It's almost two in the morning."

"I'm not tired." Abby turned to her friend. "Looks like you're buying doughnuts tomorrow. Again."

The girls had a game. The first person to fall asleep lost. That person had to buy doughnuts the next day.

Abby had never had to buy them.

"I'm not tired either," Clara said. She stood up. Then she jogged in place. "Look at me! I can go all night."

Abby laughed. She sorted through the movies. An idea came to her. "You want to go out?" she asked. "Let's see what the nightlife is like."

The girls lived in Largo Bay. It was an old beach town. There were homes right on the beach. Behind those were schools and more houses. Largo Bay Center was the main

shopping center. There were smaller strip malls too.

Abby and Clara went to the middle school. They were eighth graders. Clara was a star swimmer. She belonged to a private swim club. Her life was very scheduled. Abby was not athletic. But she loved adventures. Weird things always seemed to happen around her.

Next to Largo Bay were two cities. One was Gato Villa. The other was Bloomington. Those places were strange. The girls thought the people there were odd. They didn't go there.

"Nightlife? Are you for real?" Clara asked, laughing. Their hometown was not a happening place. "It's late, Abby."

"So?" Abby said, smiling. "We've been out late before."



Clara smacked her forehead. *Here we go again*, her face said. The girls moved slowly

down the hall. The TV was on in Clara's parents' bedroom. Her dad snored loudly.

Abby started to giggle. "He sounds like a wood chipper," she whispered.

Clara whipped around. "Shhh!"

They tiptoed down the stairs. At each step they stopped. Nobody woke up.

Thankfully some lights were on. It was easy to find their way.

"The front door, right?" Abby asked.

Clara nodded. "Yeah. It's easier. The garage is a hot mess." She reached the last step and kept moving. "Yikes!" she gasped.

Abby held her breath. Clara had stepped on a Roomba. It was a robot vacuum. At night it cleaned the floors.

She hadn't been ready for the robot. It had spun her around. Clara lost her balance. For sure her parents would wake up. Abby lunged. She grabbed her friend's arm.

The girls made eye contact.

Slowly Abby pulled her friend back to the last step. The pair tried not to giggle. They took deep breaths.

The Roomba moved into the living room. The girls crept into the front hall. Clara gently turned the deadbolt. She started to pull open the door.

Thump-thump! Thump-thump! Thump-thump!

What was that? It was Otis! He was the family's brown Labrador. The dog licked Abby's arm with his slobbery tongue. Then he nuzzled Clara.

"We can't go," Clara said. She tried to move the big dog. "He's going to bark. Open doors freak him out. If he thinks we're leaving, he will woof!"

Abby reached into the pocket of her hoodie. Inside was some popcorn. She gave a handful to Otis. He started to eat. She put more on

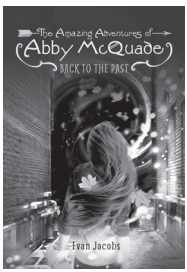
the floor. “Okay,” she whispered. “That should keep him busy.”

Clara kept her eye on the dog. Then she slowly opened the door. Both girls quickly slipped outside. Otis kept eating happily.

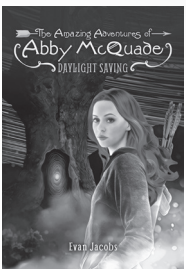
Freedom! They had made it.

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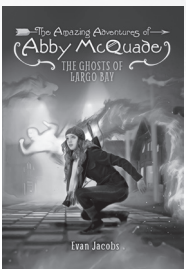
More Amazing Adventures with Abby



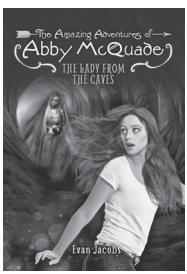
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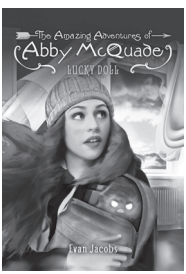
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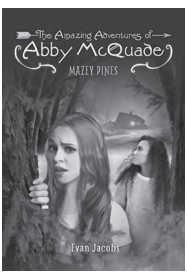
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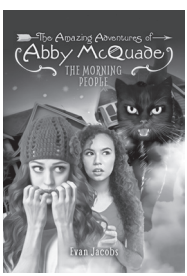
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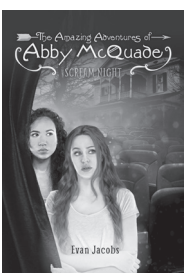
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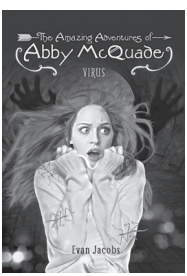
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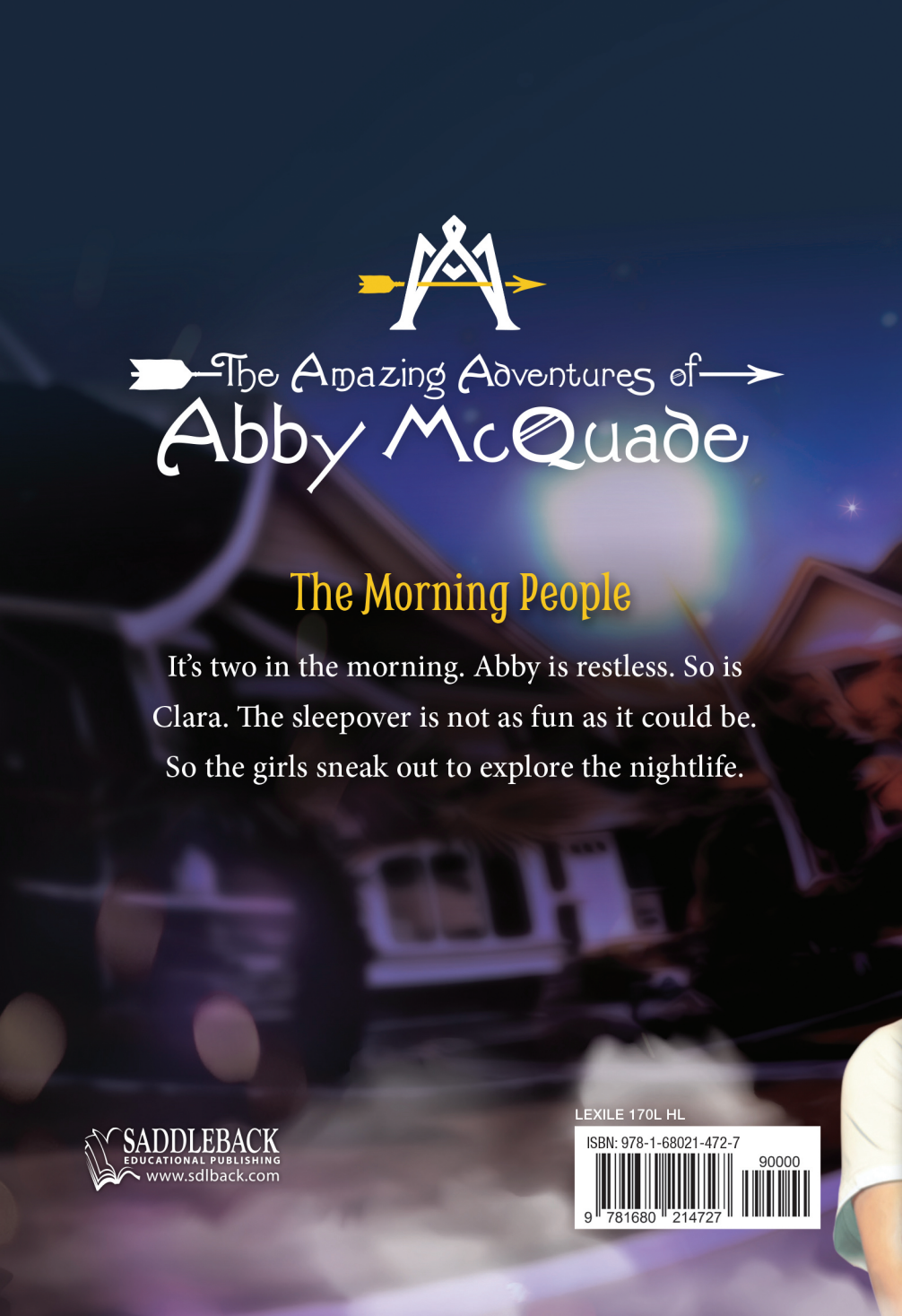
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The Morning People

It's two in the morning. Abby is restless. So is Clara. The sleepover is not as fun as it could be. So the girls sneak out to explore the nightlife.

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