

DARK MAN

THE DARK RIVER

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 **SADDLEBACK**
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Chapter One: Something Beneath the Waters

In the bad part of the city, in a crumbling room,
a girl lies on a bed.

It is night, and the girl is sleeping.

The girl is Josie, and she can never smile.

But she can dream.



As Josie sleeps, the Dark Man stands at the edge of the river.

It is dark, and the rain is lashing down.

On the far side, the nice part of the city is brightly lit.

The Dark Man looks down and sees the rain splashing hard on the water.

The Dark Man has been to this place before.

Last time, Josie was with him.

Back then, she showed him where to find the Dark Bridge.

A breeze blows across the water.

For a moment, the Dark Man seems to see
Josie's face reflected on the surface.



The Dark Bridge is gone, but the river can still do harm.

There is something beneath the waters of the river that he must find.

Seven gold coins, made from the same piece of gold as the magical Golden Cup.

This gold is special.

Pieces of it will always try to come together,
to make one solid ingot again.

The Old Man said that the coins can help
them find the Golden Cup.



The Dark Man takes a silver star and chain
from his pocket.

He puts it around his neck.

The Old Man said that the silver star will give
him power to see in the dark.

It will be pitch black beneath the water.