

Helping you choose books for children



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Opening extract from  
**Artemis Fowl**

Written by  
**Eoin Colfer**

Published by  
**Puffin Books**

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### How does one describe Artemis Fowl?

Various psychiatrists have tried and failed. The main problem is Artemis's own intelligence. He bamboozles every test thrown at him. He has puzzled the greatest medical minds and sent many of them gibbering to their own hospitals.

There is no doubt that Artemis is a child prodigy. But why does someone of such brilliance dedicate himself to criminal activities? This is a question that can be answered by only one person. And he delights in not talking.

Perhaps the best way to create an accurate picture of Artemis is to tell the by now famous account of his first villainous venture. I have put together this report from first-hand interviews with the victims, and as the tale unfolds you will realize that this was not easy.

This story began several years ago at the dawn of the twenty-first century. Artemis Fowl had devised a plan to restore his family's fortune. A plan that could topple civilizations and plunge the planet into a cross-species war.

He was twelve years old at the time . . .



# CHAPTER 1: THE BOOK

At least, any ordinary human...

I HOPE THIS ISN'T ANOTHER WILD-GOOSE CHASE, BUTLER.

ESPECIALLY AFTER OUR LITTLE MISHAP IN CAIRO.

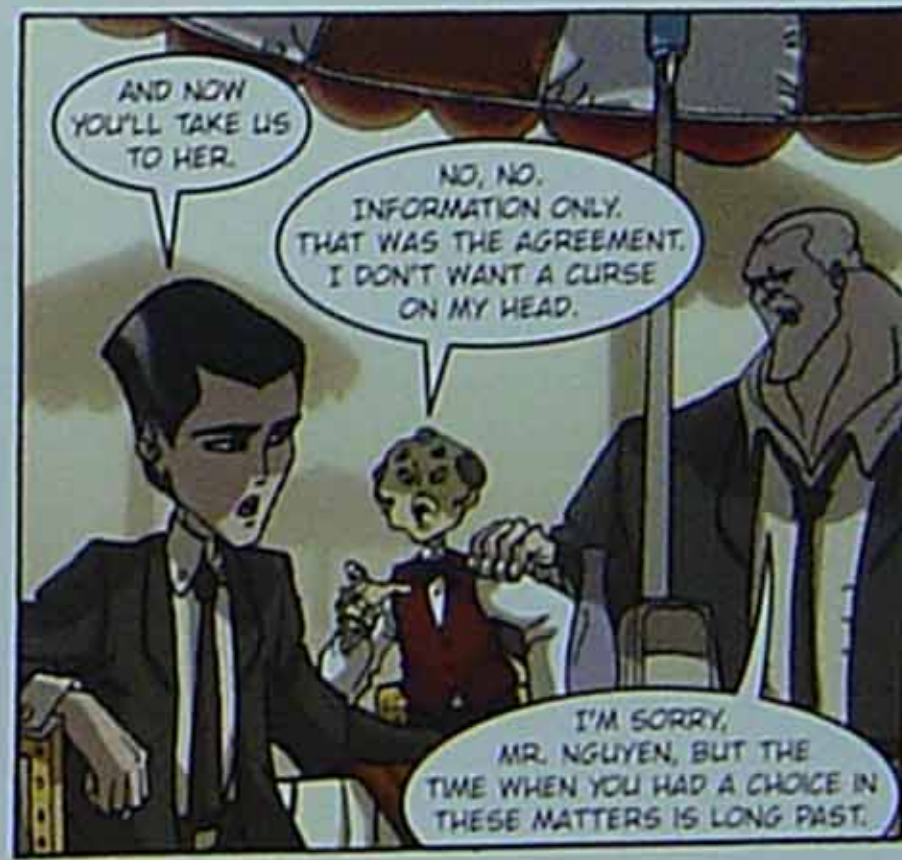
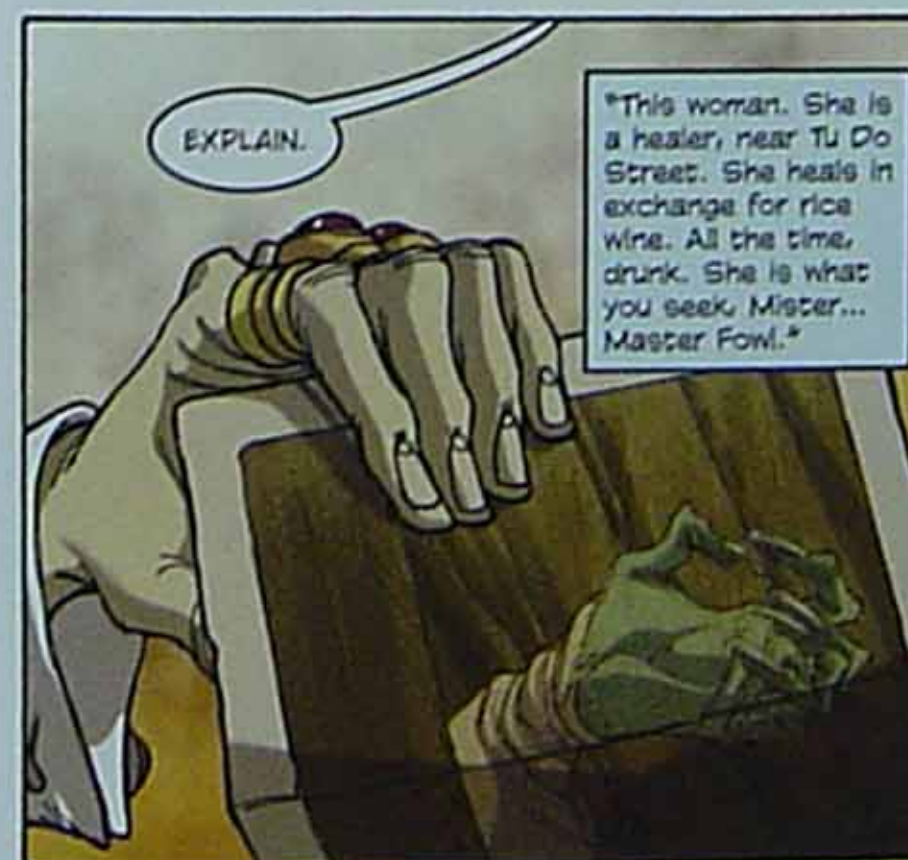
NO, SIR. I'M CERTAIN THIS TIME, NGUYEN IS A GOOD MAN.

Ho Chi Minh City in the summer. Or Saigon, as the locals still called it. Sweltering by anyone's standards.

There seems no end to the crowds. Even the alleyways are full to bursting. Cooks smile and drop fish heads into woks of hissing oil. There's a new smell on every corner.

HMM, AFTER SIX FALSE ALARMS SPREAD OVER THREE CONTINENTS, I HOPE SO.

I BELIEVE THE CAFÉ IS LEFT AT THE NEXT JUNCTION, SIR.

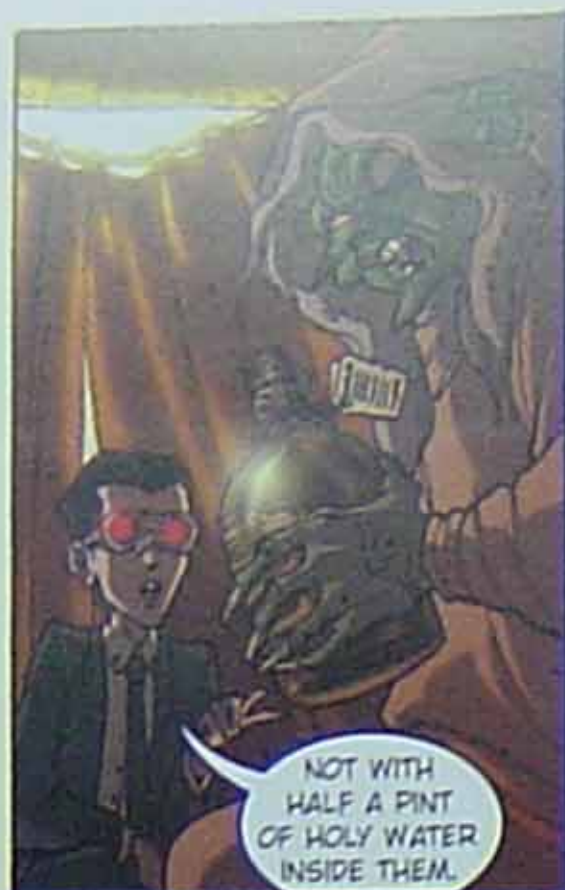




I THINK NOT. LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE NEAR DEAD. DRINK HAS RUINED YOU. I CAN SAVE YOU... IN RETURN FOR THE BOOK.



SAVE ME? EVEN A FAIRY TETHERED TO THE HUMAN REALM WILL OUTLIVE YOU, HUMAN.



NOT WITH HALF A PINT OF HOLY WATER INSIDE THEM.



LISTENING NOW, ARE WE? HERE'S THE DEAL. YOU GIVE ME YOUR PRECIOUS BOOK FOR THIRTY MINUTES, AND I SAVE YOUR LIFE. AND AFTER THAT, AS A BONUS, I'LL RETURN YOUR FAIRY MAGIC.



RETURN MY MAGIC? NOT POSSIBLE.



\*One is spring water from a fairy well. That will counteract the holy water.

\*The other contains a virus that feeds on alcohol. It will flush you clean.\*



WELL? DO WE HAVE A DEAL?

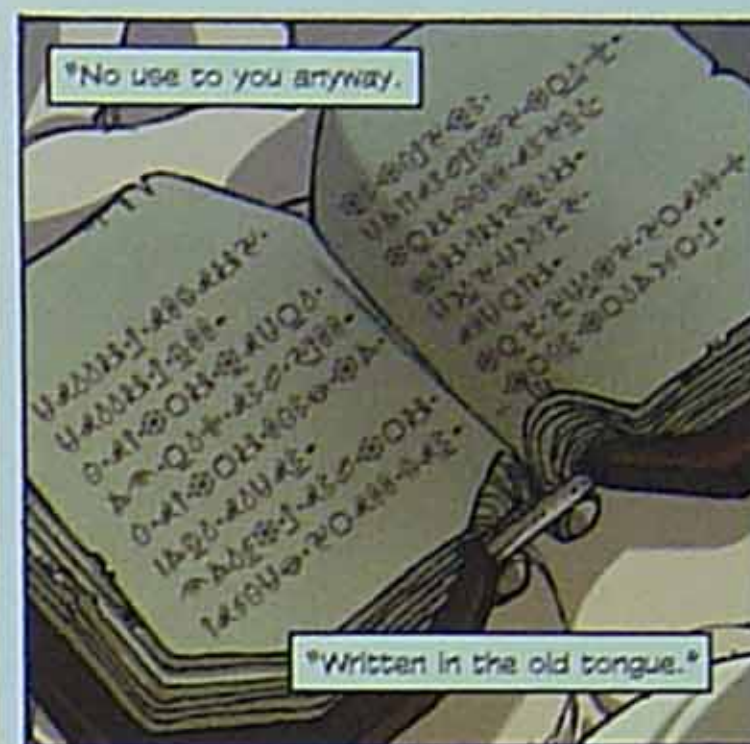


\*Thirty of your minutes, human. No more.\*



MAKE SURE YOU PHOTOGRAPH EVERY PAGE. AND EMAIL THE IMAGES HOME AS SOON AS YOU'RE DONE.

OF COURSE, SIR.



\*No use to you anyway.

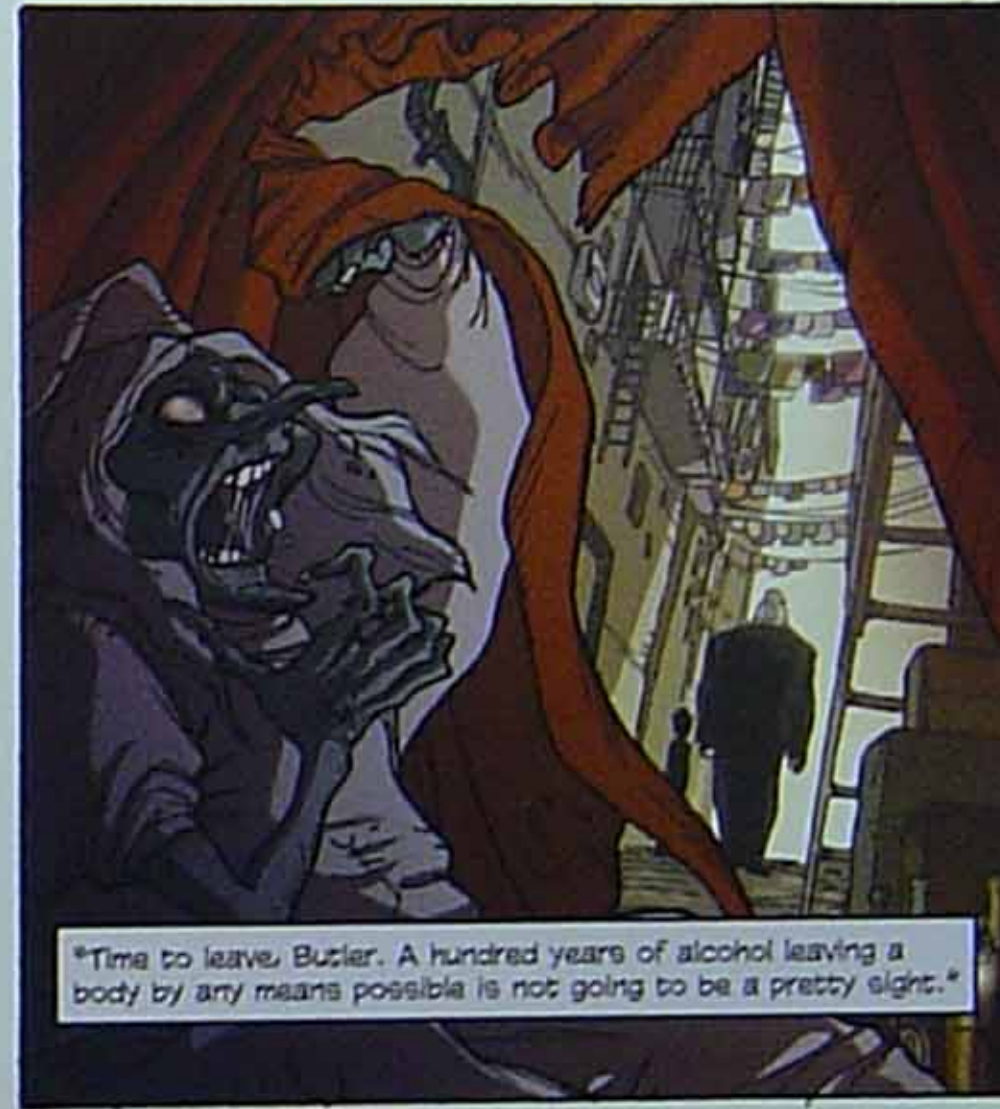
\*Written in the old tongue.\*



YOUR NEEDLES HAVE STRONG MAGIC.

I'M AFRAID THE AMNESIAC MIXED INTO THE SECOND INJECTION MEANS THAT YOU WON'T REMEMBER US.

GOOD.



\*Time to leave, Butler. A hundred years of alcohol leaving a body by any means possible is not going to be a pretty sight.\*



\*Thank you, madam.

\*It's been a pleasure doing business with you.\*

