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Opening extract from

Magic Tree House Moon Mission!

Written by and illustrated by

Mary Pope Osborne and Philippe Masson

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Prologue

One summer day in Frog Valley a mysterious tree house appeared in the woods.

Eight-year-old Jack and his seven-year-old sister, Annie, climbed into the tree house.

The tree house was filled with books and it was *magic*. It could go any place that was in a book. All Jack and Annie had to do was point to a picture and wish to go there.

They visited dinosaurs, knights, an

Egyptian queen, pirates, ninjas and the Amazon rainforest.

Along the way, they discovered that the tree house belonged to Morgan le Fay. Morgan was a magical librarian from the time of King Arthur. She travelled through time and space, gathering books for her library.

One day, Jack and Annie found a note that said Morgan was under a spell. They set out in the magic tree house to find four special things that would free her.

With the help of a mouse named Peanut, Jack and Annie found the first thing in ancient Japan, the second in the Amazon rainforest and the third in the Ice Age.

Now Jack, Annie and Peanut are ready to find the last thing . . . in *Moon Mission!*



1

By Moonlight

"Jack!" whispered a voice.

Jack opened his eyes. He saw a figure in the moonlight.

"Wake up. Get dressed." It was his sister, Annie.

Jack turned on his light. He rubbed his eyes.

Annie was standing beside his bed. She wore jeans and a sweatshirt.

"Let's go to the tree house," she said.

"What time is it?" asked Jack. He put on his glasses.

"Don't look at your clock," said Annie.

Jack looked at his clock. "Oh, no," he said. "It's midnight. It's too dark."

"No, it isn't. The moon makes it bright enough to see," said Annie.



"Wait till the morning," said Jack.

"No. Now," said Annie. "We have to find the fourth M thing. I have a feeling that the full moon might help us."

"That's crazy," said Jack. "I want to sleep."

"You can sleep when we come back home," said Annie. "No time will have passed."

Jack sighed.

But he got out of bed.

"Yes!" whispered Annie. "Meet you at the back door." She tiptoed out of Jack's room.

Jack yawned. He pulled on his jeans and trainers and a sweatshirt. He put his notebook and pencil into his rucksack. Then he crept down the stairs.

Annie opened the back door. Quietly, they stepped outside.

"Wait," said Jack. "We need a torch."

"No, we don't. I told you – the moon will light our way," said Annie. And she set off.

Jack sighed, then followed her.

Annie was right, thought Jack. The moon was so bright that he could see his shadow. Everything seemed washed with silver.

Soon they left their street. Annie led the way into the Frog Valley woods. It was much darker under the shadows of the trees.

Jack looked up, searching for the tree house.

"There!" said Annie.

The magic tree house was shining in the moonlight.

Annie grabbed the rope ladder and started climbing up.

"Careful – go slowly," said Jack.

He followed her up the ladder and into the tree house.

Moonlight streamed through the window.

It shone on the letter M that shimmered on the wooden floor.

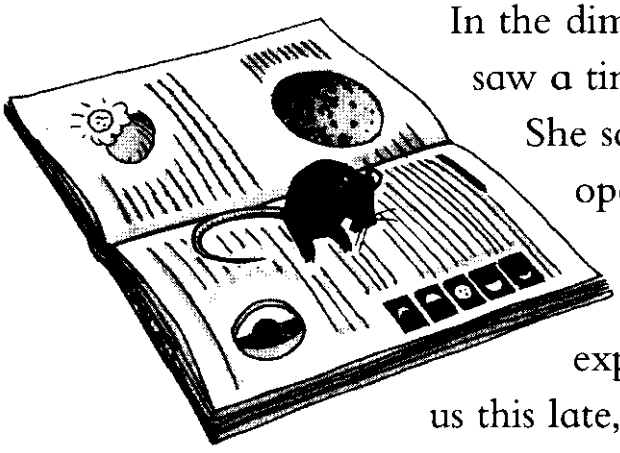
It shone on the three M things that rested on the M: a *moonstone* from the

time of the ninjas, a *mango* from the Amazon rainforest and a *mammoth bone* from the Ice Age.

"We need just one more M thing," said Annie, "to free Morgan from her spell."

Squeak.

"Peanut!" said Annie.



In the dim light, Jack saw a tiny mouse. She sat on an open book. "You didn't expect to see us this late, did you?" said Annie.

She picked up Peanut. And Jack picked up the open book.

"So where are we going this time?" Annie asked him.

Jack held the book up to the moonlight.

"Uh-oh," he said. "I knew we should have brought a torch. I can't read a thing."

He could make out diagrams and shadowy pictures. But he couldn't read a word.

"Look at the cover," said Annie.

The letters were bigger on the cover. Jack squinted at them.

"It's called *Hello, Moon*," he said.

Annie gasped. "We're going to the moon?"

"Of course not," said Jack. "It's impossible to go to the moon without lots of equipment."

"Why?"

"There's no air. We couldn't breathe. Not only that, we'd boil to death if it

was day and freeze to death if it was night."

"Wow," said Annie. "So where do you think we are going?"

"Maybe a place where people train to be astronauts," said Jack.

"That sounds great," said Annie.

"Yes," said Jack. He'd always wanted to meet astronauts and space scientists.

"So say the wish," said Annie.

Jack opened the book again. He pointed to a picture of a dome-shaped structure.

"I wish we could go there," he said.

The wind started to blow.

The tree house started to spin.

It spun faster and faster and faster.

Then everything was silent.

Absolutely silent. As quiet and still as silence could be.