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## REACH FOR THE MOON

### Chapter 1

September 1926

“I wonder how it stays up there.”

“What?”

“The moon. How does it manage to stay up there?”

Bryony regarded the large harvest moon, shimmering in the early September night sky. Should she give her young friend a science lesson or have some fun?

“Willpower, guts Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) and sheer determination, which is exactly what you should be working on right now, Liss Montrose. Aim high and don't let your problems get in the way. Reach for the moon.”

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It was past midnight and Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) they were sitting on a stile on the edge of a small wood. It was a favourite place and whenever Liss was visiting her uncle they would frequently sneak out of the Hall, Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) cross Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) the garden, run through the wood and sit just here. On a Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) night like this they could see for miles, watching the moonlight play on the lake below, catching glimpses of foxes and badgers, listening Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) to owls and chatting as only friends can. Tonight was a special night that neither of them wanted to end. They could both feel things were changing. Bryony had already left Westworth to join the police force and although Liss was only twelve she would always look back to this moment as the moment she chose to grow up and take responsibility for her life.

“It is so hard sometimes, Bryony. I’m not stupid, you know.”

“Of course I know. Who says you are stupid?”

“The other children at school. They laugh at me. It hurts.”

“I’m sure it does but when you go back to Scotland it will be to a new school. The students there all have problems. You won’t be alone. If Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) anyone does dare to laugh at you tell them your best friend works for the police and she’ll be up there to arrest them.”

Liss managed a laugh. “Aunt Alice has been so good to pay for the school.”

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“She sympathises. Let’s face it her English doesn’t improve.”

Liss laughed again. Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) “Spanish will always be her first language. English spelling is beyond her.”

“But she copes. Learn from her. She’s found a way around the problem.”

“By employing a secretary to do it for her!”

“It works. You’ll find your own ways.”

Liss wasn’t too sure. “I often think this problem of mine will be the death of me.”

“Don’t talk nonsense. Give it time. Do what you are told Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) to do and if all else fails get a secretary.”

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“You could be my secretary. I know you’ve made Miss Dobson teach you shorthand and typing.” Liss paused for a moment as a thought struck her. “I won’t be able to write to you.”

“Just send me some of your wonderful pictures. You could make them into a story for me.”

“I’ll do that and if there’s something I need to tell you I can get mum to write it for me.”

“Try, though, when you’ve had some lessons. I don’t mind if it’s hard to read.”

“Aren’t we getting serious?”

“Too serious. Let’s attack that bag of goodies you stole from the kitchen.”

They ate their midnight feast in silence. Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) A fox and her cubs strolled leisurely across the fields and the two friends watched until they melted into the undergrowth at the far end of the field. It was getting cold and clouds were beginning to shroud the moon. Reluctantly they made their way back home – Liss to Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) Ludborough Hall and Bryony to the Lodge.

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The last thing Bryony said to Liss was, "Remember, Liss, if you don't reach the moon, there's always the stars!"

## Chapter 2

Monday 14th June 1937

The day started dark and overcast despite being almost midsummer. The air was oppressive and a deep foreboding seemed to be hanging over Scotland Yard. Inspector Matthews shook herself as if to cast off such nonsense and walked into her office. It was 7.30am. Her office

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should have been unoccupied but as she slipped through her door a man Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) rose from behind her desk. She knew who it was. There was only one person who would have the audacity to enter her office uninvited. There was only one person who would have arrived at work before her. Her heart sank. It could only mean a job for the Special Force because the man standing before her was Sir Arthur Jackson. The last thing she wanted at the moment Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) was to be tied up in lies, spies and intrigue but given the times she supposed it was inevitable.

“Good morning, Sir Arthur, what can I do for you?”

Sir Arthur came straight to the point.

“Operation Earthworm is the codename we have given to tracking down and finding a spy who is causing us some trouble at the moment. We know they are of German extraction but probably they have lived in England all or most of their life. They would therefore pass easily as British. Intelligence suggests this person is trying to infiltrate Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) the higher Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) echelons of society in order to gain information and manipulate situations. We don't know if they have succeeded. Several forged passports and other official documents have been recovered after raids on spies that have become known to us. The quality of these counterfeits is excellent. So far we have established they are being made by a person in England. They were delivered to the spies by post and none of them say they know the person. We have reason to believe the agent we are seeking is the forger.”

“Male or female?”

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“Not Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) known.”

“Age?”

“Not known but given the level of activity I would Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) suggest between twenty and forty.”

“And what would you like me to do?”

“Nothing specific. We know you have connections. With your ability to ‘blend in’ you may overhear something, notice something or see something. Anything that might help us build up a picture of this person. Come up with a few possibilities. We can take it from there. You know how to contact me.” In his usual manner he left without saying goodbye. The Inspector crossed her office to the window. From there she had a complete view of the surroundings and she was trying to see how Sir Arthur left. There was no sign of him and after ten minutes she gave up. “I wouldn’t put it past him to have his own private underground road from here to his office. It’s the only explanation. He pops up here unseen by anyone else and then he disappears without a trace,” she thought as she sat down at her desk. Jones knocked and entered with tea.

“Get your tea Jones and come Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) back in. I need to talk to you. I’ve had a visit from Sir Arthur.”

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“Oh dear. Best make Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) it a strong cup then.”

He was back in seconds. The door to the office was firmly closed and the Inspector and Jones spoke in hushed tones. The Inspector felt able to talk to Jones since he had recently signed the Official Secrets Act on a previous case. She had every confidence she could trust him. Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2)

“So let me get this straight,” Jones said after the Inspector had finished speaking, “there is a spy somewhere in the country, probably the London area because that’s where most of the nobility, the rich and famous live. They may be male or female or an elephant for all we know. They are good Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) at forging so will probably be artistic and presumably have access to the necessary materials. They Reach for the Moon (Thin Spectre Mysteries Book 2) display no physical characteristics to show they are foreign. They probably have changed their name and are using false documents. And we are supposed to find them?”

“Well come up with some possibilities.”

“He might as well ask for the moon, Sir Arthur.”

“Sorry Jones?”



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“One of my mother’s sayings. If she thought I was getting above myself or attempting the impossible she would say ‘look you, boy, don’t go asking for the moon. Concentrate on what you know and make a good job of it. Know your limitations.’”

“Perhaps we could arrange for your mother to meet Sir Arthur.”

Jones laughed. “My mother likes good manners. She would seriously disapprove of anyone who didn’t say hello and goodbye. She would more than likely hit him round the head with her walking stick.”

“Give me her address at once, Jones.”

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