

## The Cube

"It Happened around here", my Grandpa would say, "Your mighty Great grandpa explored around here with the legendary explorer Zebulon Pike, Being the first explorers around here!" My grandpa would always tell me this story when I was little. His dad was on the same expedition exploring the newly acquired land. From his stories, He loved adventure and action. I love exploring and discovering new things. I guess it runs in the family. After he got sick, he rarely moved, only staying on his bed and babbling to himself. He always said the same thing over and over again, "He Wasn't meant to know." No one knew what he was saying. People said he has just lost his mind but I believed him for whatever he was talking about.

After he passed away shortly after my 16th birthday, he had kept a vow to give his oldest (and only) grandson something that no one else could see. Whatever it was, it had to be better than a janky used first car. When I got to school I was super excited because I was going to get it 1 month after he died and that marked tonight. I had to tell all of my friends about it. I liked all of this much attention. My parents never really give me any. I was named after my grandpa's dad, Bryce Fleming, the one that explored Zebulon Pike. "Happy Birthday, Bryce!" Everyone said. School is almost always boring with the small classes that we have. "This was a good week" I thought to myself, but boy was I wrong. That night my family and I all gathered around the table to see what was waiting for me. My great aunt nikki brought it to me as if it was a ticking time bomb, cautiously setting it down. The room dropped dead silent as I took a hold of the Small old worn down leather chest. I opened it

slowly, taking my time. I was puzzled, thinking this is really my present. It was a stone cube with carving and a beautiful green gem inside, dazzling like a diamond.

Underneath was an old, withering paper. I put on my best fake smile, hiding the paper. I didn't know what it was but I knew I should keep it a secret. Later that night I sat in bed, puzzled by what it was. "Is it a puzzle?" I wondered out loud. Puzzled, I tried to twist it. It wouldn't budge much but it twisted a little. "I knew it!" I yelled in astonishment. I kept twisting until I heard a click. The top and bottom separated revealing the gem. Then I noticed the moonlight shining on the gem creating a vibrant color on the wall, revealing the time I accidentally broke a glow stick and I didn't tell my mom. I found the note and opened it. Nothing. There was nothing on it. My instinct told me to put the gemlight onto the note. "D" it revealed, "Dear whomever is reading this, I have made an astonishing discovery. When I was searching the great vast mountains of the chalk cliffs, I fell through a hole. Mr. Pike wanted to explore the river, I was stuck. I will never forget what I say. Whoever is reading this, never say the chant of the Under One! *Qui heac legit, ad Orcum descendet obviamque Sub uno.*" "Wow, creepy" I thought, "Grandpa probably wrote that when he went bonkers." I thought why not say it, it's just folklore like bloody mary. "*Qui heac legit, ad Orcum descendet obviamque Sub uno*" I mimicked hoping for something to happen. Nothing happened, just what I thought. That night I went to bed and I was fast asleep. I was having a wonderful dream when I woke up in a rush. There was static as loud as a bomb going through my brain. I didn't know what was happening. I was shaking now as I didn't know what was happening. I realized all of the stuff in my room was floating and shaking like a glitch in the universe. My entire

room was coated in a blood red color. I could feel my heart beating but it was masked by the sound of static then the world went blank. Just a black void of nothing. Then the rush hit me. I was back in my room like nothing had happened at all. I couldn't sleep that night. I still was a little shaky that morning. I went downstairs to get breakfast and as usual, mon didn't notice. But when I looked at mom, she had no soul in her eyes, just a void. I didn't know what was happening but I didn't say anything. I went to school paranoid. Everyone kept their head down from me, not letting me see their eyes. When I got to school, everyone either had sunglasses or kept their head down. When I got home after school I went straight to my room and went back over the note and recited the chant, "*Qui heac legit, ad Orcum descendet obviamque Sub uno.*" Nothing happened. I went to bed that night doing my homework and a red flashing light came creeping in from outside. Then the world went blank for what felt like eternity. I suddenly woke up in the hospital, with tubes all up in my arms, sucking the life out of me. "You got knocked out after falling off your bed, Honey." my mom assured me. I laughed in my head. That was years and years ago my grandchildren, remember that there is more to life than what meets the eye so live it to its fullest. I never did and I have a deep regret about that." "Can we hear another story, papa?"