

Early★Reader

The Cursed Necklace

Akil and Neema discover a cursed
necklace under a bush! Can they
return the necklace to its true owner
before things go drastically wrong?

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The Cursed Necklace

Katie Dale

Early★Reader



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By Katie Dale

Illustrated by
Lala Stellune

Maverick

'The Cursed Necklace'

An original concept by Katie Dale

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Chapter 1

Akil and Neema lived in Ancient Egypt. One hot day, they went to fetch water from the River Nile with their dog, Pepi.

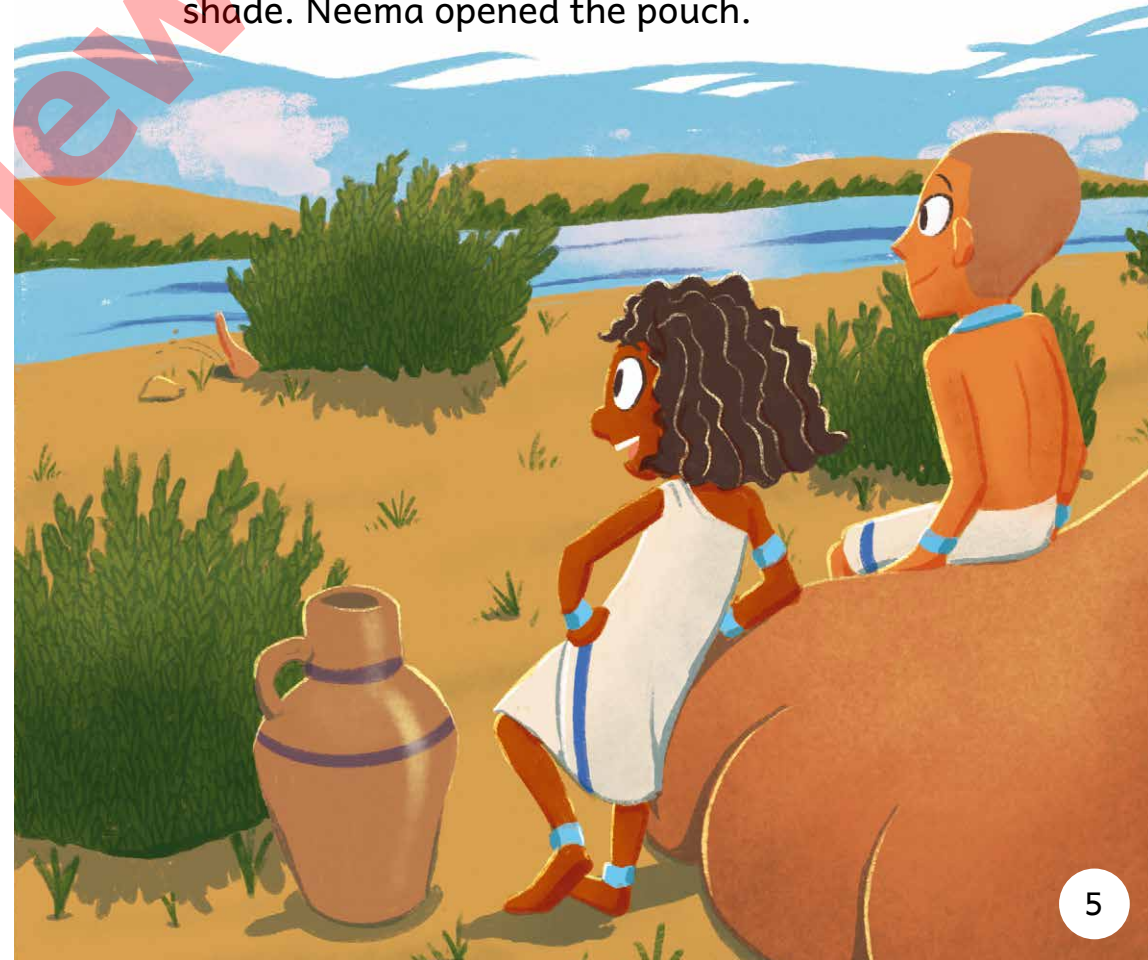
Suddenly, Pepi ran over to a nearby bush and started digging in the sand.

“What can you smell, boy?” Neema asked.

“It’s probably a bone,” Akil said.

“Or a smelly old sandal,” Neema added, wrinkling her nose. But Pepi didn’t dig up a bone or a smelly sandal. He dug up a leather pouch. “What’s that?” Neema frowned.

They walked to the bush and sat down in the shade. Neema opened the pouch.





Inside was an intricate beaded necklace with falcon-shaped clasps. Neema and Akil gasped. They had never seen anything so beautiful!

“It looks very expensive!” Akil frowned. “I wonder why it was buried under a bush?”

“Maybe someone dropped it when they were resting in the shade?” Neema said. “It is very hot today.”

“Probably,” Akil agreed. “We should return it to its owner.”

Neema nodded. “Let’s go to the market and see if anyone is looking for a lost necklace.” She slid the necklace back into its pouch.



Chapter 2

As they walked through the bustling market, Neema's mouth watered. The food smelled amazing.

"How many loaves of bread do you think we could get in exchange for our necklace?"

Neema wondered hungrily.

Akil frowned. "It isn't our necklace to swap," he said.



"Finders keepers," Neema argued, pulling the necklace out of its pouch. "Whoever lost it is clearly rich anyway!"

"No!" Akil said, snatching the necklace. "It's not ours to trade! Besides, I saw it first!"

"No you didn't!" Neema cried, grabbing it.

"Hey!" a man shouted suddenly. "That's my necklace! You found it!"