

# The Power In The Stone



*Written and illustrated by  
The Creative Clique.*





**Kilbreda College**  
**The Creative Clique**

**Parameters**

**Characters**

Council Worker  
Computer Hacker  
Echidna

**Setting**

Sydney Harbour Bridge

**Issue**

Fishing

**Random Words**

Whistle  
Light  
Gold  
Hungry  
Bubbly

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Published by The Creative Clique, Kilbreda College, 118 Mentone  
Parade, Mentone

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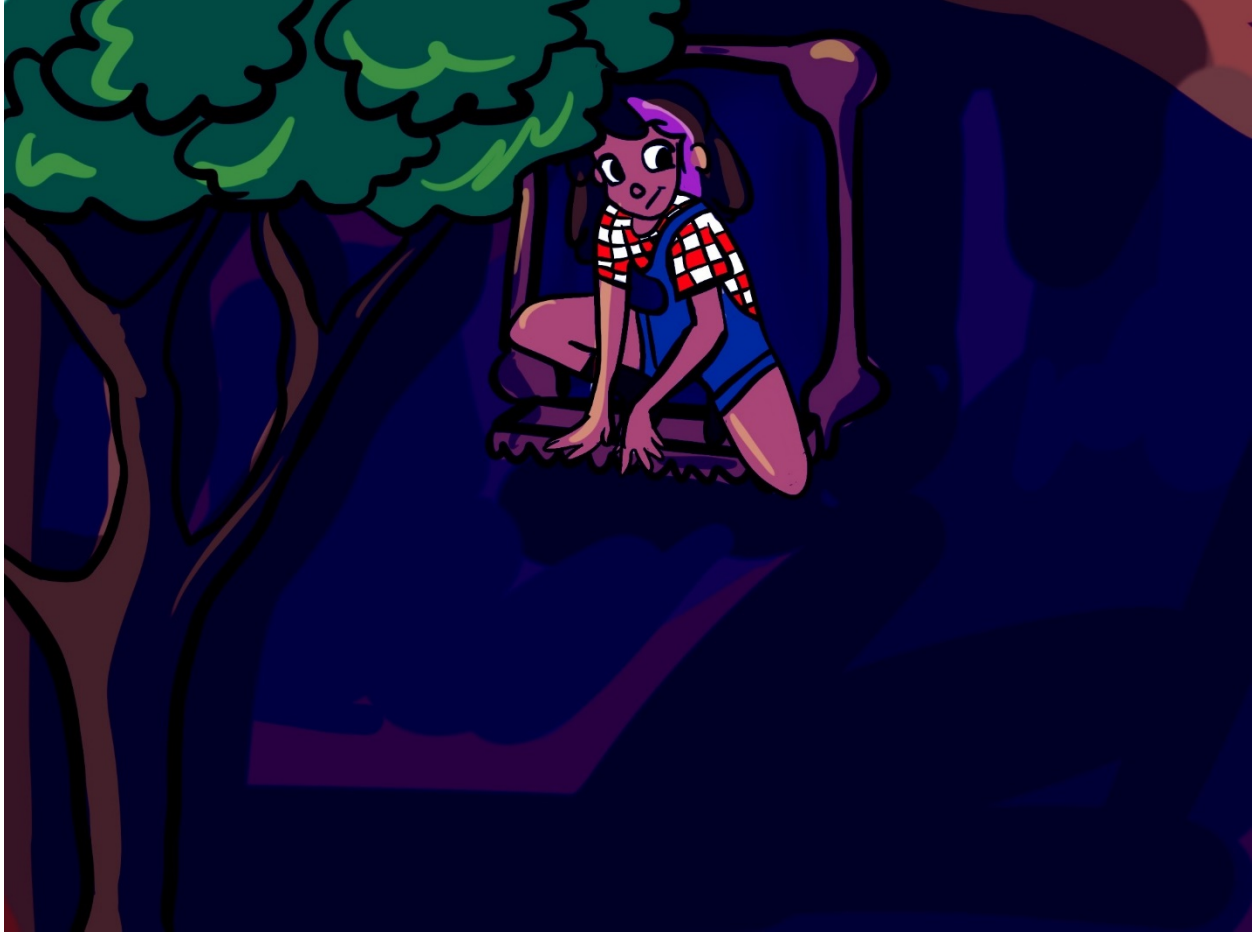
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to the publisher.

This book is dedicated to all the children that are sick, and in hospital,  
we wish you all a speedy recovery, and all the best for the years to come.

# Chapter 1

## Attempting an Escape

Riley lay in bed, wide awake. Her feet brushed against the old bag she'd stuffed with all her belongings. She'd hidden it under the thin blanket at the end of the bed in the hope that no one would find it. Riley raised her head to look at the clock, it was one-minute past midnight, time to make her move. She scooped up her bag, and ducked under the bed, appearing a moment later with an echidna. "Come on George." she said, "Tonight's the night, I can feel it, we're going to get out of this awful orphanage." She tiptoed across the room to the window. It creaked as she lifted the



sash. Riley had to be out of Sydney by the time it got **light**.

There was an old gum tree on the other side of the window, if she jumped to it, she would be out of the orphanage building, that left the fence to tackle. Riley shifted her bag, so it sat more comfortably on her back, the little computer she'd been building for George sure was heavy. "Come on Riley you can do it." she muttered under her breath. She climbed onto the ledge of the window, taking a deep breath, she steadied herself, and jumped. Her hands reached for the branch, gripping it she found her balance. She slid off the branch and onto the ground, it was only about a meter and a half drop.

She landed on her feet. Groaning under her breath, she muttered “Remind me to not wear my boots when jumping from heights.” The soles of her feet really hurt now.

“Riley, what on earth do you think you’re doing?”

“Uhh.” She would know that voice anywhere. “Laura, I was taking a late-night stroll, I mean early morning stroll.”

“You can’t just keep trying to run away from the orphanage.” Laura said with her hands on her hips. Her blonde hair was immaculately swept back into a low bun, despite the breeze. She was still wearing her gray office blazer, with a white collared shirt, and pants made from the same material.

Riley figured there was no point arguing, “I just don’t want to be stuck here, or have to go live with some foster family. I just want to be out and free, doing what I want.”

“Well, that’s not the way it is Riley, you have to deal with the orphanage until you’re old enough to leave it. Now I’m taking you straight back to Miss Brown.”

“Please don’t tell her that I tried to escape, I’ll just go back up the tree and through the window. Really, it’s fine I don’t want to go back to Miss Brown. Please Laura, aren’t you meant to help me, not get me in trouble. You’re my child services council case agent.” Riley begged.



“I have to report anything that I see you doing that you shouldn’t be doing. You know that.” explained Laura.

Laura took Riley’s hand and walked her up to the doorstep of the orphanage. Laura reached in front of Riley to ring the bell to the orphanage.

“Who is it at this hour?” demanded Miss Brown as she yanked the door open. “Ohh, Laura, what a pleasant surprise.” Miss Brown’s frown immediately melted into a smile. Miss Brown seemed to have just noticed Riley standing there. “And what is Riley doing out at this time of night, I don’t remember allowing her to go out with you.”

“No, you didn’t allow her to go out. She was climbing out of the orphanage window. I expect she was just hoping for a little adventure, I’ve heard that the view from the Sydney Harbour Bridge is beautiful at night.” said Laura.

Riley snuck a glance at Laura, she was smiling. So, Laura wasn’t going to tell Miss Brown what she was really doing. She reminded herself to thank her later.

“Of course, a little adventure is always a temptation for the adventurous at heart.” Miss Brown looked down at Riley, still smiling.

Riley felt like she was going to be sick. The act Miss Brown was putting on was disgusting. She didn’t act like this around all the orphans, only the adults.

“Well it should be Riley’s bedtime, so I’ll leave her to you. Goodbye Miss Brown.” smiled Laura, as she gave a small wave and walked off.

The minute Laura had walked out of the gate, Miss Brown yanked Riley inside. “What do you think you’re doing out at this time of night? I could get in a lot of trouble for this, you know.” snarled Miss Brown. “Well you’re going straight to bed.” With that Miss Brown yanked Riley by her collar up the stairs. “Go straight to bed.” Miss Brown pretty much threw Riley into her room.

Riley quickly took off her overalls, and checkered shirt, before throwing on her pyjamas and climbing into bed. Although she was now fourteen, she was still wearing the same clothes she wore when she was eleven. Her grumbling stomach reminded her how **hungry** she was, she had to wait till morning now.

Riley scuffed her boots against the concrete, as she walked through the school gates. She always felt a little left out at school. Everyone else wore different clothes every day, but hers were always just the same. A checkered shirt, and overalls. She could hear laughter coming in from all directions, it was like a group of kookaburras ganging up on her. Riley hugged her books to her chest and broke into a quicker walk across the basketball court.

By the time she reached her locker, she was red in the face. She felt like the school clown. It was like she had a bright red nose, and oversized

shoes. She roughly shoved her backpack into her locker, and a small squeak like, squeal noise erupted from it. Riley winced “Sorry George I forgot you were in there.” she apologized. She slid open the zip, to check on him. He seemed alright. She grabbed her science books, laptop, and pencil case, before opening the little air vent on the locker, and locking it.

It was only a short walk to the science room, and it was still fifteen minutes until school started. But Riley didn’t care about getting there before the classroom was open. She took a deep breath, and walked around the corner of the building, into the Year 9 area. There were numerous classrooms, and an outdoor area, and indoor study area. She was now in view of all the year 9s waiting around. She speed walked across the outdoor area and into the classroom.

Sighing, she took a seat at an empty desk. Numerous students had already dropped their books off in the classroom. A few minutes later the classroom was full, and the teacher directed everyone into pairs. She grumbled as she walked over to the desk she was at. Oh no, she was working with Jordan. Her crush, seriously. Riley’s stomach went all **bubbly**. She had liked Jordan for a while now, but she didn’t want to work with him.

By the time they had finished the science experiment, Riley couldn’t wait to get outside in the fresh air.

# Chapter 2

## The Plan

After her long day at school, Riley decided that she should probably go to the library so she could start researching for the big science project she has to do together with Jordan. As soon as she got there, she noticed Jordan sitting at a couch near a small table with a stack of books covering the view of him. She was quite curious of what he was doing because she could hear him talking to someone yet there was no one else in sight. She knew it wasn't good to spy on people, but the curiosity got the best of her. She slowly crept up to the bookshelf that was next to where Jordan was seated so that she could see what was happening. As she carefully moved some of the books out of the way so that she could peer through, she was quite surprised to discover that he was talking to what appeared to be a turtle. She knew that having an echidna was a little bit strange but talking to a turtle in the middle of a library was very suspicious and weird.

Riley just had to know more about what was going on and tried listening to what Jordan was saying to this turtle.



“Ok Flash, next Friday, we need to keep fishing until we find the right fish that holds the stone so I can-”

Suddenly she heard one of the librarians coming to the isle she was in. In a panic she had to put the books back from the floor into their place. The librarian stopped for a moment and gave her a confused look as to why she was so flustered, then continued onto the next isle. As soon as the librarian left her sight she went straight back to listening to the conversation between Jordan and his turtle.

“Yeah, I know it would kill all the nature around us and put everything into darkness and misery, but I need more magic, what I have isn’t enough for me. I want to be immortal and the most powerful person in the world!”

Her eyes widened as she slowly tried to process all the information. Was her crush not who she thought he was, would he really put the world in danger for power? And, more importantly, was magic real? Was Jordan magic? All her life, Riley had thought that this was a boring world with nothing special about it. But was there really magic all around her?

That night Riley was still thinking about what had happened at the library with Jordan. The more she thought about it, the more she realised how bad and serious this was. Jordan had said that it would destroy all nature and put everything into darkness and misery. Although Riley’s life wasn’t good, she couldn’t bear the thought of letting him ruin everyone else’s. But what exactly did Jordan want? What was it that was going to give him all the power he was talking about? She knew she had to do something about it, she knew she had to stop his evil plan.

The next day after school, she rushed over to see Laura at the council building so she could tell her about what happened. Whilst she was walking to see Laura, Riley stopped in her tracks as she had a brilliant idea. She, Riley Sarah Davidson, was a genius computer and technology hacker. Maybe she could use her skills to her advantage to stop Jordan.

Although Jordan's smiling face made her feel all warm and happy inside, she knew that this would be the right thing to do.

When she told Laura about everything that had happened and her plan, Laura didn't agree at all with Riley fighting Jordan and potentially risking her life for something that might not have even been real. She suggested that Riley just left it alone and let someone else deal with it. But Riley kept telling her how important it was that she do this for everyone's sake even if she was feeling a little bit uneasy about the danger of what could be ahead. She still didn't give up and had to persuade Laura that she needed to do this. Soon Laura gave up and believed her and Riley was full of adrenaline for the upcoming journey. She went to work straight away and tried out all different tricks and tools that might help her for the day that she must try and stop Jordan. She started by attempting to make a device for George that would allow Riley to hack into wherever George goes as well as being able to listen and see what is going on around where he is.

## Chapter 3

# The Battle

Riley's eyes fluttered, and she woke with a start on Friday morning.

This was the day. The day she had been waiting for, practicing for. If she didn't stop Jordan, it was all over. Life would be destroyed. The whole world would be destroyed.

It was all up to her, George and Laura.

She put on her stockings and shorts along with her long sleeve top underneath her baggy t-shirt; she put her shirt on backwards three times before she even realized what she was doing. She tied her bushy hair back with a blue ribbon and chucked her brown boots on before grabbing George and chucking all her hacking gear into her dirty brown backpack. She checked her watch, it read 6:42 am. *Ms. Brown should still be asleep...* she thought to herself. She took off her shoes when she reached the stairs, careful not to make any noise whatsoever.

Riley thought about what would happen if she got caught, she shuddered, she couldn't bear the thought of Miss Brown waking up the whole house with her voice as loud as a lion's roar.

She crept down the stairs as quiet as possible, only stopping whenever she heard a creak. She reached the end of the stairs and opened the door so slowly that it took two minutes just for her to get out of the door. She



glanced back at the orphanage as she walked across the frosty grass on the lawn. *I did it...* She thought ... *I finally got out.*

After twenty minutes of walking in the dark on this crisp Autumn's morning, the council building finally came into sight. Riley pulled out the scrunched-up note that Laura had given her the previous day. 'Open this,' she had said, 'when you arrive at the council building, and don't let anyone see you.' She opened it with her cold numb hands, glancing behind her body every so often to make sure she wasn't being watched.

It read, in Laura's messy handwriting:

*At precisely 7:10 am, climb over the fence and find the keys hidden in the watering can around the back.*

*Hack into the council buildings CCTV cameras and turn them all off using the code 763 459.*

*Unlock the back door and walk straight along the corridor and take the first right.*

*You will find me in the 3<sup>rd</sup> room from the right.*

*See you then :)*

After reading the note twice, she tied the top end of a rope she found next to her into a loop and swung it over the fence, catching the pole on the other side like a lasso. She tugged it tight and used this to pull herself

up and over the fence. She tipped the watering can upside down; the keys fell out and she gripped them tight in her hand. Sweating from the nerves of being caught, she clumsily got out the laptop and got to work. Ten minutes later, she pressed the *enter* key and a small *beep* came from the CCTV cameras. She smiled and gave herself a pat on the back. She did it! She had turned off all the cameras!

She unlocked the door, opened it, and walked through. She screwed up her nose at the smell inside, it smelled like old ladies, hand sanitizer and dust. She read the note again and made her way to the room. She opened the door and came face to face with Laura. Smiling, she hugged Riley. “You made it! You’re so clever!” Laura exclaimed.

“Yep, I did! Let’s get going.” Said Riley, taking Laura’s hand and leading her out of the building. They climbed into Laura’s car and set off for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Twenty minutes later, they arrived and parked the car in an alleyway. They hid in front of some large bins on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, so that they weren’t visible to any cars travelling on the bridge, but they had a clear view of the Harbour below them. Ten minutes they sat there for; Riley got prepared and set out her hacking gear whilst Laura loaded her golden, shining gun with poisonous darts, ready for Jordan.

Finally, they saw Jordan’s shape-shifting vehicle (which, now, was a boat) appear underneath the bridge. They saw Jordan appear at the nose

of the boat, holding what looked like a fishing rod. Riley thought he looked very handsome with his black coat on with his messy brown hair. Although she knew that he was anything but handsome on the inside, rather an evil person with no heart.

Down on the boat, Jordan cast his big fishing rod out to sea. Riley screwed up her face in confusion, why was he doing that? She decided to keep watching to get a clearer explanation.

For 15 minutes straight, Jordan just kept catching fish after fish. Every time he caught one, he looked at it, and immediately threw it in a large bucket behind him. After a few more fish, Jordan caught a fish that, to Riley and Laura's surprise, was glowing a greeny-goldish colour. He threw his arms in the air with triumph. He then stuck his hands down the fish's throat and Riley shuddered with disgust. He slowly

pulled something out of the fish's mouth. From where Laura and Riley were, it looked like a large greenish-goldish **whistle**. He let out an ear-piercing evil yell of happiness and triumph, and Laura and Riley shared nervous glances. Riley finally understood: There was a magical and



powerful stone hidden in one of the fishes in the harbour and Jordan now had it. Maybe it gave him powers? Maybe it made him immortal? Maybe it caused destruction? Maybe it did all of those things?

Suddenly, a large scraping noise filled the harbour. Looking down, they saw that Jordan's boat was turning into another shape. It turned into something that Riley and Laura had never seen before, a hover car. The hover car lifted off the water and flew up over their heads, landing on a soft patch of grass next to them.

Laura suddenly gripped Riley by the shoulder and said in a trembling voice, "Riley, look." She pointed in the opposite direction to where the hover car was. Riley turned her head and her heart almost stopped. Everything was grey. The whole other end of the city was grey. It looked like a virus, spreading and causing everything it touched to decay and die. The grey decaying thing was moving closer, disintegrating every single bit of nature it touched. Riley was horrified, *this must be what the stone does... she thought ... it must kill and bring darkness to everything that is near it.*

Riley turned her head towards the hover car to check what Jordan was doing. His car was still there, he must be thinking over his plan.

*Maybe... Riley thought ... I could put a mini computer onto George and put him on Jordan's car. Then George could crawl in the car and I can hear and see what Jordan is doing from my computer. Also! I could put*

*a hard drive onto George and then he can plug the hard drive into the car. Then I will be able to control Jordan's steering wheel and I can drive him to the Sydney Harbour Bridge so we can shoot him with the poisonous dart and get the stone. Perfect!* After attaching a mini computer and hard drive to George, she decided to add a device she had invented that enables George to speak in English and understand English (she calls it 'The Voice Converter 3000'). Then she snuck up to Jordan's car and placed George next to an open window, which he then climbed through. *Bingo!* Thought Riley.

Riley now had Jordan right where she wanted him, now all she had to do was use her hacking skills and stop him.

## Chapter 4

# The Golden Gun

George was in the car hiding under the car seat. He crawled up to the radio and plugged the hard drive into the USB hole. George, Laura and Riley now had control!

“Way to go George!” says Riley over the Voice Converter 3000 “you're the smartest little echidna I know! Maybe because you're the only little echidna I know.”

George tells Riley, “We need to get the car to the Sydney Harbour Bridge safely, so we don't break the stone.”

Riley says to George, “I'm now accessing the Google maps program in the car. OK! Done!” says Riley, “we're all ready to go!”

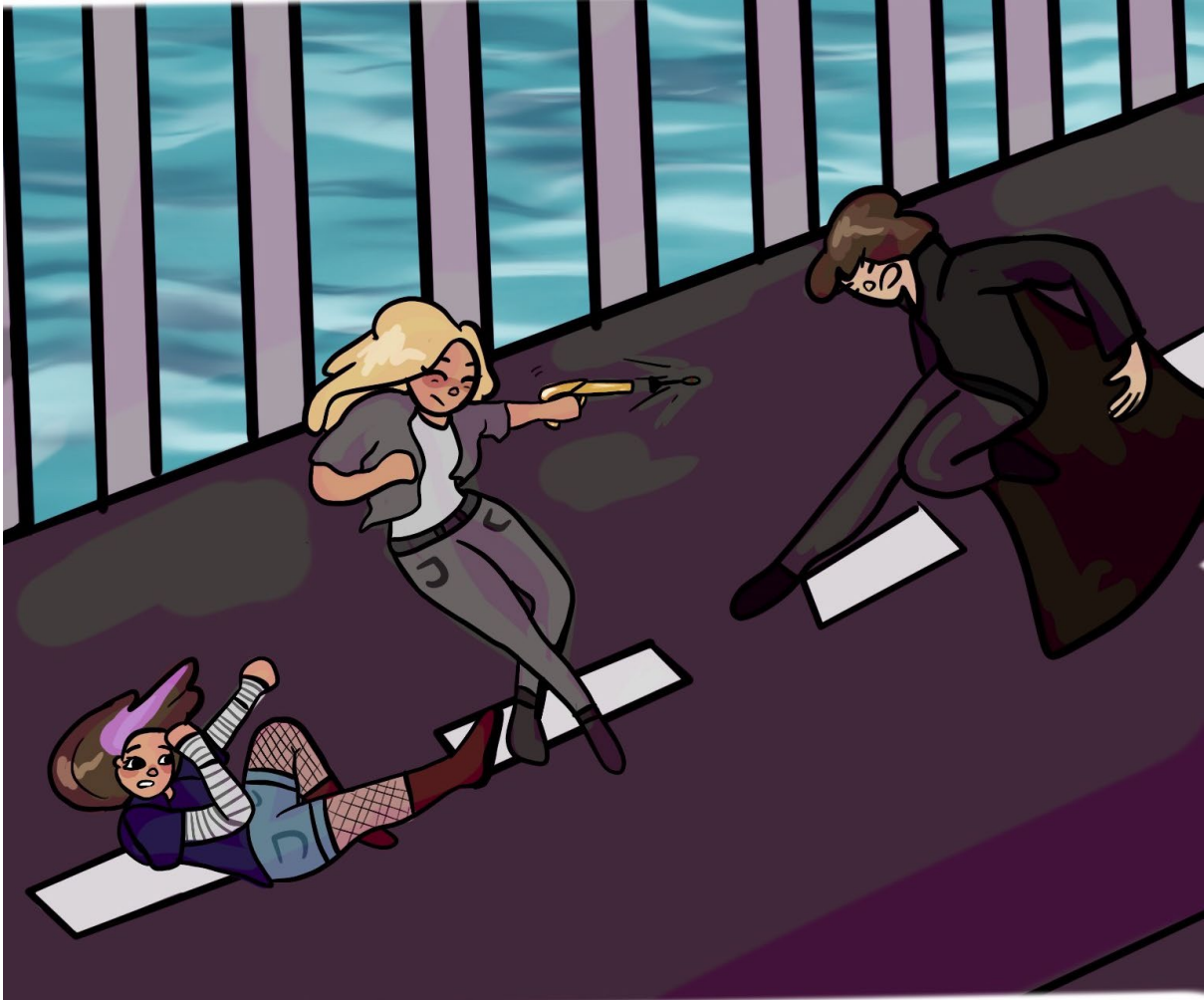
Using her hacking skills, Riley took control of the steering wheel.

Riley started to steer the car towards the Harbour, The doors instantly locked. Jordan looked around in shock, yelling as he anxiously pressed buttons on the dashboard to try and stop the car from moving.

Laura and Riley can see his car coming towards them. They wait anxiously behind the bins.

As the car comes to a stop at its destination, he gets out of the car and starts yelling “Who did this? Whoever did this to me will pay! I am now the most powerful person in the world!”

Jordan turns in the opposite direction from where Laura and Riley are hiding. They take advantage of this situation and jump out from behind the bins.



“We did this to you!” Laura says, pointing her shining **gold** dart gun at him.

Before Jordan could turn around, Laura aimed and fired right at his backside.

Her aim is right on target and Jordan falls to the road and is soon out cold.

As a big blue light shines through his body, all the magic is sucked out of him.

Laura runs to the car and grabs the stone. She starts to head off until Riley comes up to her and says, “Can I please have the stone so I can throw it over the bridge and restore everything to its normal state?”

But Laura says “No.”

“Why not?”

“Because its mine” says Laura in a voice that suddenly sounds evil.

“What are you talking about?” says Riley, confused.

“Put your hands up” yells Laura, pointing the gun at Riley's head.

There was only one word that came into Riley's head, ‘RUN’.





# A girl, a Stone of Power, and an echidna sidekick called George.

This story is the fantasy, and adventure  
readers have been waiting for.

Riley is an orphan, she has no friends,  
apart from an echidna. The one person she  
trusted has betrayed her. A stone full of  
power is tearing her life apart. Riley  
doesn't know what to do, or does she.

This story is jam packed with adventure,  
and magic. A must have for all adventurous  
readers.

