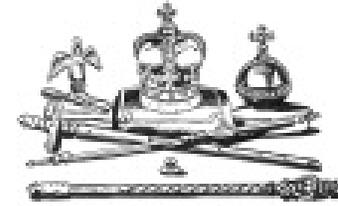




The Caper of the
Crown Jewels:
GREAT BRITAIN



Chapter 1: The Magic Break

It was a rainy day on 9 May and Jack Stalwart was sitting at his desk in his bedroom doing his homework. His Year 5 class was studying the history of the British Empire. In front of him was a long list of British kings and queens who had ruled the country since the time of William the Conqueror. He looked at the list and his eyes glazed over.

‘There’s no way I’m going to memorize these names by tomorrow.’ He sighed.



Kings and Queens of Great Britain (since William the Conqueror)

Normans	Dates
William I (the Conqueror)	1066-1087
William II (Rufus)	1087-1100
Henry I	1100-1135
Stephen	1135-1154
Plantagenets	
Henry II	1154-1189
Richard I (Lionheart)	1189-1199
John (Lackland)	1199-1216
Henry III	1216-1272
Edward I (Longshanks)	1272-1307
Edward II	1307-1327
Edward III	1327-1377
Richard II	1377-1399
Lancaster	
Henry IV	1399-1413
Henry V	1413-1422
Henry VI	1422-1461
York	
Edward IV	1461-1483
Edward V	1483
Richard III	1483-1485
Tudor	
Henry VII	1485-1509
Henry VIII	1509-1547
Edward VI	1547-1553
Mary I	1553-1558
Elizabeth I	1558-1603
Stuart	
James I	1603-1625
Charles I	1625-1649
The Commonwealth	1649-1660
Charles II	1660-1685
James II	1685-1688
William III and Mary II	1689-1702
Anne	1702-1714
Hanover	
George I	1714-1727
George II	1727-1760
George III	1760-1820
George IV	1820-1830
William IV	1830-1837
Victoria	1837-1901
Saxe-Coburg-Gotha	
Edward VII	1901-1910
Windsor	
George V	1910-1936
Edward VIII	1936
George VI	1936-1952
Elizabeth II	1952-

‘There are too many of them.’ Jack closed the book and decided to take a break.

He walked over to his bedside table and opened the top drawer. Inside was one of his favourite books: *Master the Art of Magic*. He pulled it out, sat on his bed and began to read the section called ‘Appearing Coin’ on page thirty-one. Jack smiled to himself. This was much more fun than homework.



Ever since Jack's Uncle Richard had taken him to see the master magician, Ivan the Incredible, in London, he'd been fascinated by the art of illusion. He'd watched as the magician made an enormous elephant disappear right on stage. Towards the end of the show, he'd escaped from a straitjacket while hanging over a fiery pit. 'Incredible' was the right word. Jack had never seen anything like it before.

As soon as he got home that night, Jack had asked his mum for a book on magic. On his birthday, she surprised him with *Master the Art of Magic*. It was the biggest-selling book on magic and, in Jack's opinion, just about the best. Every page was chock-full of exciting tips on how to fool your friends and family with magical tricks. Last night, he had learned how to bend a spoon. Tonight, he was

going to learn how to pull a coin out of thin air.

Jack reached into his top drawer and grabbed some sticky tape. Then he pulled a coin out of his trouser pocket. Cutting off a piece of tape, he stuck the coin onto the back of his first finger. Doing as the book said, he reached behind his ear and then flipped his middle finger forward. The coin magically appeared in the palm of his hand.



‘Fantastic!’ shouted Jack. ‘My friends at school are going to love this one!’ At that, there was a knock on the door.

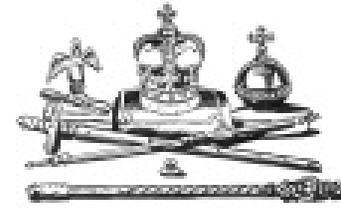
‘How’s the homework going?’ said a familiar voice from the other side. It was Jack’s mum checking up on his progress.

‘Uh, all right, Mum,’ said Jack, putting the coin in his pocket and racing back to his desk.

‘That’s great, honey,’ his mum said through the door. ‘Don’t forget to clean your teeth before you go to bed.’

‘OK, Mum,’ said Jack. He hoped his mum wouldn’t ask to come in.

She didn’t, and when he was sure that she’d made her way back downstairs, Jack pulled the coin out of his trouser pocket. ‘Now,’ he said, ‘let’s practise that trick again.’



Chapter 2: The Land of Kings and Queens

At that moment, Jack’s miniature globe began to spin on top of his bedside table. Hearing this, Jack put his magic book away. There were more important things to concentrate on now. It was 7:30 p.m.

Jack was a Secret Agent for the Global Protection Force. The Global Protection Force, or GPF, was a worldwide group of young secret agents determined to fight crime and protect the world’s most

