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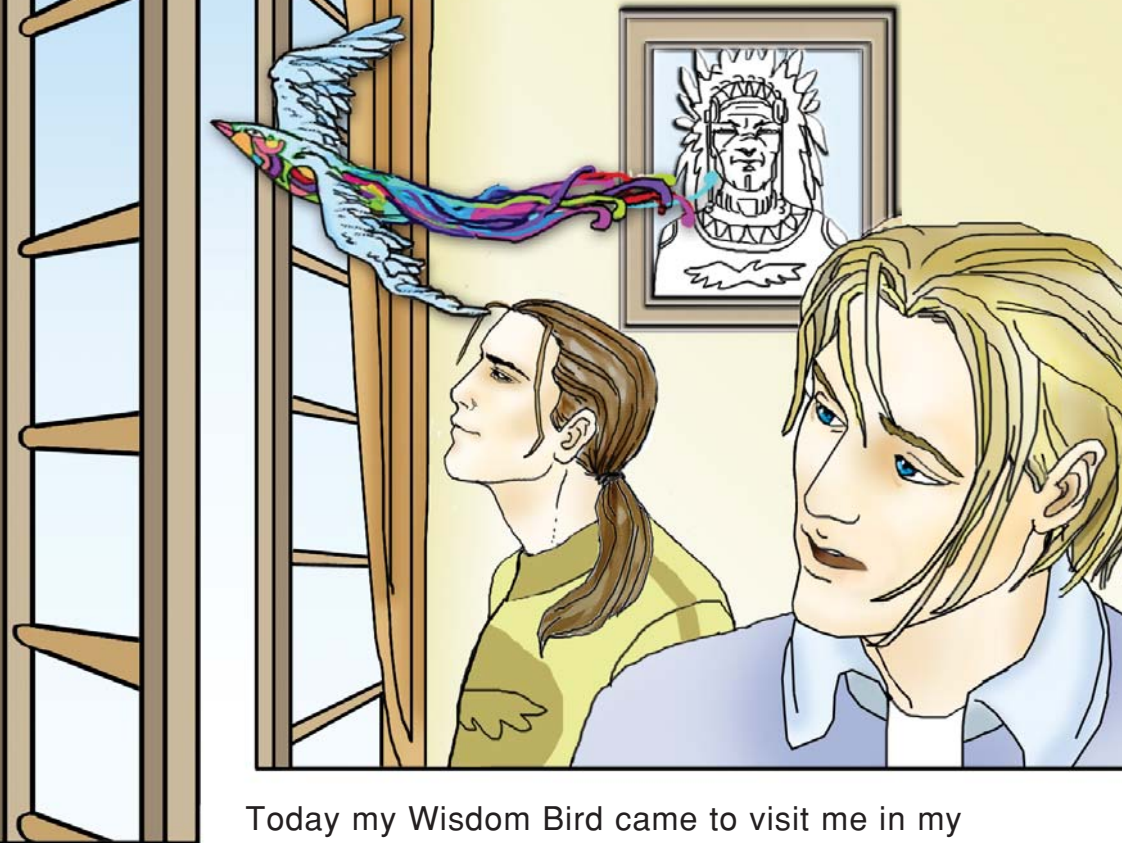
Acknowledgement

This story is based on an original idea by Mahir Küfteoğlu ('Blue Bird').



It's two days now since Lord Max came to live in our apartment. Yesterday I rang Mary and explained the situation to her. She's come to live with us to help us with Lord Max. As for Brad and Jim – well, they still can't believe that all this is really happening. I don't have any trouble with it, however: I believe in ghosts, spirits and the afterlife anyway.

For me, the only problem is how to bring our own 'ghost' – Lord Max – some peace of mind. In order to do this, we have to find some way of getting him back into the picture. He isn't happy here because he hates everything about the modern world. And he can't understand why we don't have a servant. He thinks we must be very poor because we don't have one.



Today my Wisdom Bird came to visit me in my room. For the first time in ages, it actually spoke to me. "Don't be in such a hurry," it said. "All your questions will be answered in time." Then, without another word, it flew towards my window as if it was going to leave.

Just at that moment, Brad came into the room. But when he saw the bird, he ran out again. Then, after a few moments, he came back, obviously very frightened.

"Don't be scared, Brad," I said.

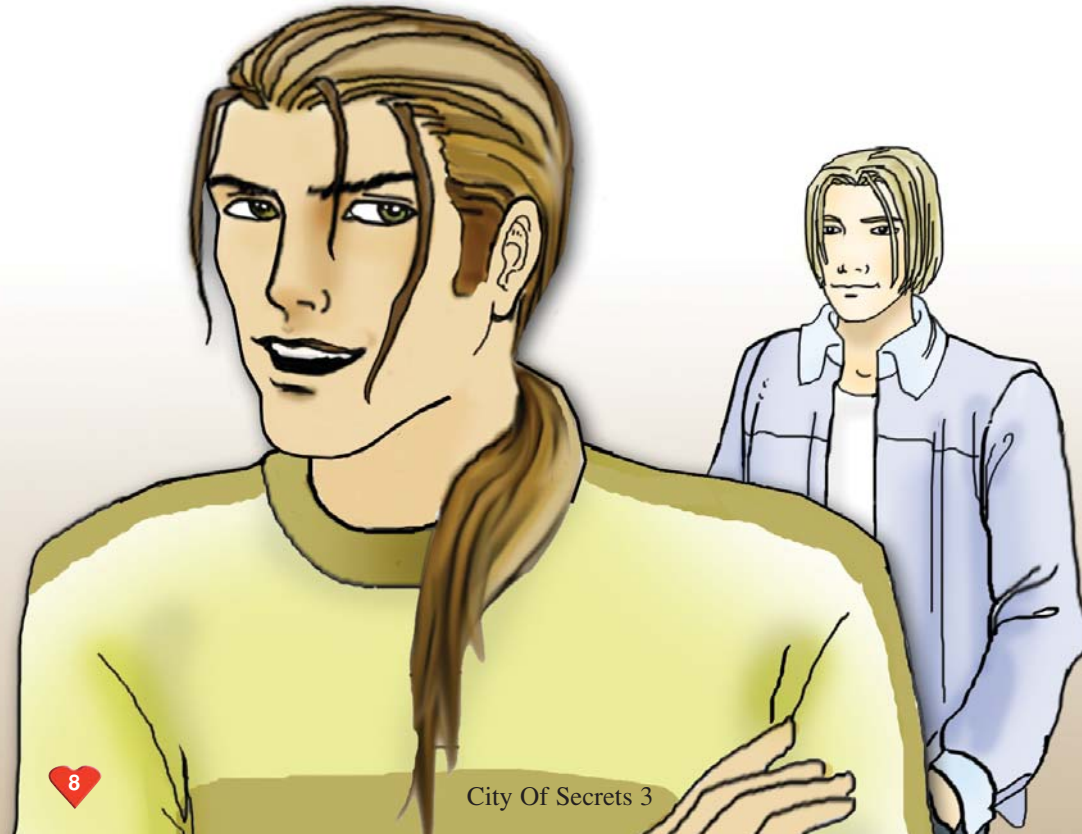
Then the bird spoke to him in its soft, melodious voice.

"Brad, this is not the first time we have met, so why are you so afraid?" it asked.

Brad just stood there, too scared to move. The bird flew slowly round and round above his head several times. Then it flew out of the window. Brad stood there for a long time without moving. I noticed that his face had gone very pale.

“Brad! What’s the matter? There’s really nothing to be afraid of,” I said.
“It’s OK. I’m all right ... well, I think I am, anyway,” he replied.
“It seems you’ve seen my Wisdom Bird before,” I said.
“Yes, once – in that old house.”
“So you believe in it now, do you?” I asked.
“Yes, I do.”
“That’s good. Now, what can I do for you?”
Brad still looked very pale.
“I ... I wanted to ask you about the, er, the ... ,” he stammered.
“Hey, Brad, calm down. Tell me about it when you’re ready.”
“OK.”
“Here, have a drink of water. Better? OK, now tell me.”
“I just came to find out what you’re doing.”
“That doesn’t sound very convincing.”
“What do you mean by that? Do you think I’m lying?”

“No, not lying,” I answered, “just not telling the whole truth. Do you really think I haven’t noticed the change in you over the last two days?”
“What change? What are you talking about?”
“I mean the change that’s happened since Mary came to live with us,” I continued.
“Can it, Skyhawk! What’s changed since Mary came?”
Brad’s voice was getting louder and louder.
“Hey, hey! Calm down! No need to get mad at me.”
“Me? I’m not mad.”
“Yes, you are.”
“No, I’m not,” insisted Brad.
“OK, then. Have it your way. But anyone can see there’s been a big change in your behaviour recently. Especially when Mary’s in the room.”
“Yeah, so what?”





“So there’s no need to hide the fact that you like her. You’re crazy about her, aren’t you?” I said. “Why don’t you admit it?” “Yeah, I like her,” replied Brad, “but ... I’m certainly not in love with her.” “Yes, you are,” I said, smiling. Brad sighed deeply and put his hands over his face. “The trouble is,” he said quietly, “when I see her I just don’t know what to do.” “You mean like yesterday, when you put salt in her tea instead of sugar?” “OK, OK, don’t remind me.” “Why be embarrassed? What’s wrong with being in love? It’s a great feeling. I think you should tell Mary about it.”



“Tell Mary? No way! And don’t you say anything to her, either, Skyhawk. Believe me, I’ll kill you if you do.” “Brad, it should be you who tells her, not me. Although, of course, she doesn’t really need telling ...” “What? Skyhawk! Don’t tell me you told her!” “I didn’t need to. Anyone can see you’re crazy about her. It’s obvious.” “What’s obvious?” said Mary, coming into the room. “Er, we ... we were just talking about Lord Max,” Brad said. “I was just asking Brad if he thinks Lord Max realizes how difficult it’s going to be to get back into that picture,” I said. “I don’t know about that, but if he doesn’t get back into it soon, it sure is going to be difficult for us,” said Mary. “Oh, dear! What’s he done this time?” “He just told me he wants to go out for a walk.” “So what’s wrong with that?” asked Brad.

VOCABULARY

- 5** *spirits*: the *souls* (see page 23) of dead people
the afterlife: life after death
peace of mind: a feeling of calmness and having no worries
servant: sb you pay to live and work in your house
- 7** *in ages*: for a very long time
Don't be in such a hurry.: Don't rush.
melodious: beautiful because it sounds very nice, like music
pale: (describing sb's face) white; not healthy
- 8** *stammered*: said in a way that showed he was nervous (because he repeated the sounds at the beginnings of the words)
calm down: relax
convincing: easy to believe
- 9** *Can it!*: (Am E slang) Be quiet!
get mad at me: (Am E) get angry with me
insisted: said in a way that showed he still thought he was right, even though other people disagreed with him
Have it your way.: Think what you want.
so what?: so why is this so important?
- 10** *sighed*: breathed out slowly making a long, soft sound, because he was tired
- 11** *it sure is*: (Am E) it's certainly
- 12** *stare at*: look at in a fixed way and for a long time
he's changed his mind: he's decided to do sthg different
be prejudiced: have fixed ideas that you will not change
- 13** *refuses to change*: says he will not change (although other people want him to)
get on my nerves: annoy me; upset me
got you involved in all this: made you a part of this situation
are supposed to: should
that stuff: those things he says
sacred: very special for religious reasons
nuts: crazy; mad
acts a little strange: behaves in a rather strange way
- 14** *managed to*: were able to
admit: say that sthg is true, although you are sorry about it
It is of no importance.: It does not matter.
ignoring: pretending not to hear
interruption: sthg that sb says when sb else is trying to speak

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Pages 5-13

Before reading

- 1 How much do you remember about the story of *City of Secrets* Books 1 and 2? Who or what in the story ...
... has a Wisdom Bird to give him advice? ... is Turkish?
... is studying Anatolian civilizations? ... likes Mary a lot?
... is scared of the Wisdom Bird? ... has been empty for years?
... sat in front of a painting for many days?
... is living with Skyhawk (at the end of Book 2)?
Use the summaries on pages 2 and 3 if you need help.

After reading

- 1 Why isn't Lord Max happy?
- 2 Why did Brad run out of Skyhawk's room?
- 3 In the first part of Brad's conversation with Skyhawk (on page 9), Brad's voice got louder and louder. Why?
- 4 Why can't Skyhawk and his friends let Lord Max go outside?
- 5 Mark these statements true (T) or false (F).
 - a Brad still likes Mary a lot. _____
 - b Skyhawk has told Mary that Brad likes her. _____
 - c Lord Max doesn't want to see the world outside. _____
 - d Mary is angry with Skyhawk. _____
- 6 Brad's friend Steve lives in the United States. Imagine you are Brad. Write a letter to Steve telling him how you are feeling. Start like this: 'Dear Steve, I hope you are well. I'm enjoying life in Istanbul, but I'm also having a few problems! For example, I feel ... about this because Also, That makes me feel ... because' (*etc.*)

Pages 14-18

Before reading

- 1 Lord Max lived in Istanbul two hundred years ago. What do you know about life in Lord Max's time? In particular, how did people travel? What did they wear?
- 2 Look at the picture on page 18. What has happened to Lord Max? How do you think it happened?

After reading

- 1 Skyhawk said that if Lord Max went outside, everyone would stare at him. Then Lord Max suggested a solution. What was it?