



# KEEPER OF THE CRYSTALS




Eve and the Mermaid's Tears



JESS BLACK

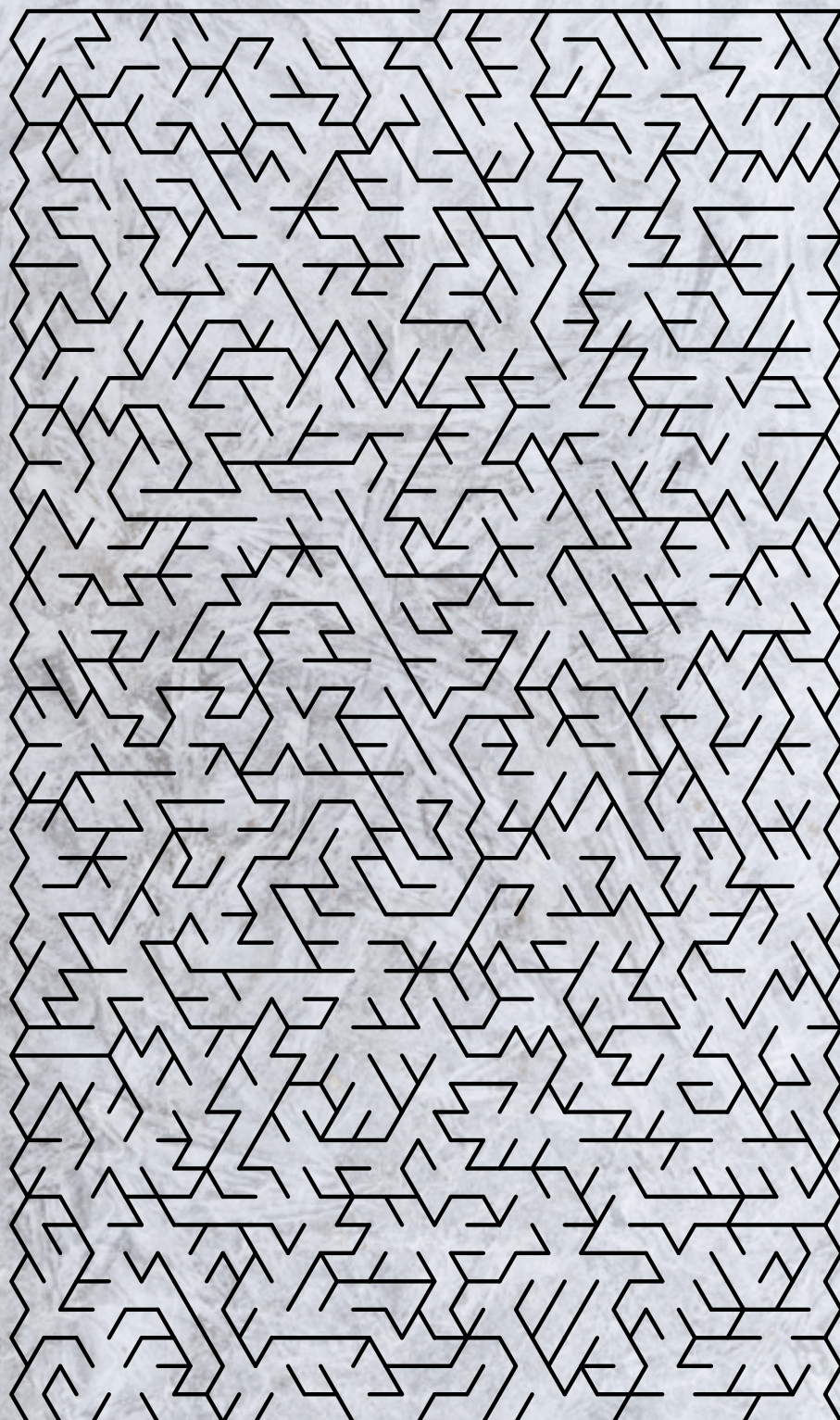
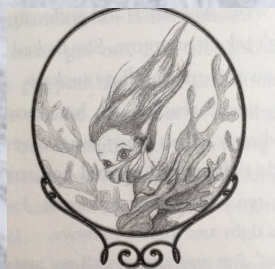


# Discussion Topics

- ◆ What does the book cover suggest the book is going to be like? Who is on the front cover? After finishing the book has your opinion changed?
  - ◆ Eve grows a mermaid tail and the ability to breathe underwater, what magical power would you like the crystals to grant you?
  - ◆ Oscar and Eve start the book play fighting, but when they are separated 'Eve realised how much she relied on Oscar'. What does this tell you about their friendship? How does their relationship change in the story? Are they quite similar or different?
  - ◆ The mermaids' duty is to keep marine life safe from humans, without changing the balance of the natural world, whereas the pirates are intent on upsetting the ocean's ecosystem and making everything benefit them, regardless of other creatures. Why is this a bad thing? Why should we care for the environment and the plants and creatures we live with? What will happen if all the mermaids die?
  - ◆ Eve explains she has hated confined spaces since ever she was locked in cupboard by her cousin as a young child. Eve uses the memory of her mum's smile to relax and manages to get past the dangerous Sarosa Seaweed. Why do you think that memory helped her be brave? Do you have a happy memory that helps you when you are sad or frightened?
  - ◆ 'I'm not afraid of you': there are lots of moments where Eve acts very brave even if she isn't feeling so. Why does she do this, and how does it help?
  - ◆ When Eve cries properly for the first times in years it releases her magic. Is crying a good thing?
  - ◆ Why do you think Roche the pirate helps Eve and Oscar escape? Is this normal behaviour for a pirate from what we've seen of other pirates in the book? What are the differences between mermaids and pirates?
  - ◆ It is suggested that Eve and Oscar will have to tackle dark magic in the next book. Eve's Grandma has harnessed the power of the crystals before. What could possibly be in the box that made Eve's Grandma Sylvie so frightened? What do you think will happen in the next book?
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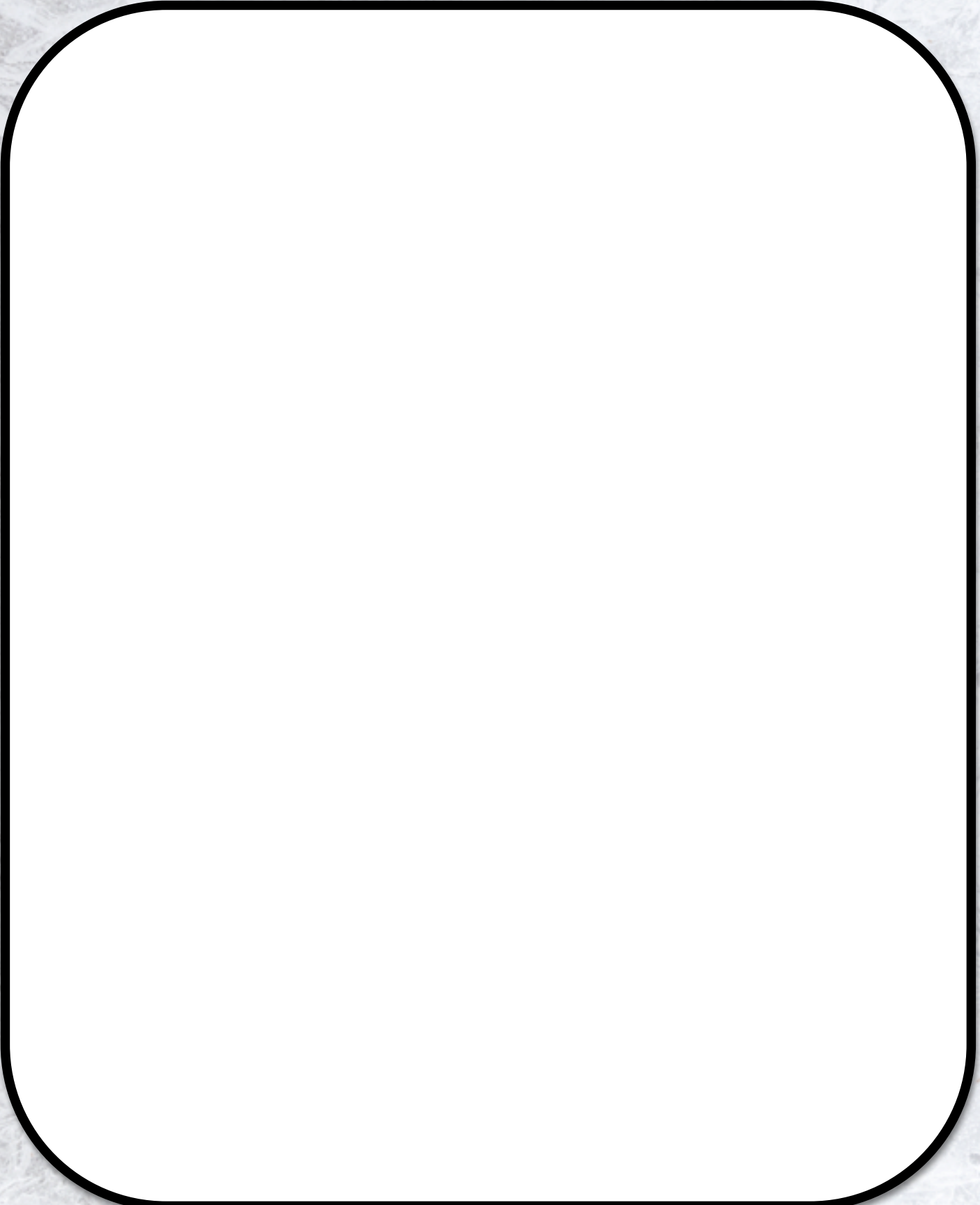


Help Eve swim through the Maze of Sarosa Seaweed to safety





Draw a Mermaid or a Pirate





# Create your Own CRYSTALS

## You will need

- ◆ Borax
- ◆ Boiling Water
- ◆ Heatproof jars
- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Cotton thread
- ◆ Pipe cleaners

## Instructions

- ◆ In a jug dissolve 6 tbsp of Borax in a pint of boiling hot water.
- ◆ Stir your solution until the Borax has completely dissolved and the liquid is clear.
- ◆ Pour your solution into glass jars.
- ◆ Bend pipe cleaner into the shape you want your crystal to be.
- ◆ Attach your pipe cleaner shapes to the middle of a pencil with thread.
- ◆ Balance the pencil on the rim of the jar with the cotton thread and shape dangling into the solution.
- ◆ Set your jar in a safe place where the solution can cool and wait.
- ◆ By the next morning you should see your crystals starting to form.
- ◆ Take out and leave to dry on paper towel.



# Make your own Mermaid Tear Necklace

## You will need:

- ◆ Coloured wool
- ◆ Beads and sequins

## Instructions

- ◆ Tie a knot on one end of the wool.
- ◆ Thread the beads and sequins along the wool.
- ◆ Be sure to think of why you've chosen each colour or shape as each bead represents a magical tear.
- ◆ Tie another knot at the other end of the necklace leaving enough of a gap to be able to tie the two ends together.
- ◆ Why don't you write about the magical powers your necklace contains?

