Chapter Four - "After the Storm"

Molly looked all around her as she stepped out onto the front porch. "Wow, if I thought, "I would never know that a storm hit right where I'm standing, less than one week ago."

Molly took note of all the changes she had seen in just a few short days. The fields of ships had been picked up and burned. All the walkways and lawns of the Tryon Palace had been swept. And doors were nailed back onto the shutters and the edges of every house were thrown wide open, welcoming family and friends. "That last - just to show you," Molly thought, "we don't let a little storm..."

Molly ran down the street to get Lydia. A fleet of ships had come in and they were going down to the waterfront to see if anything new had arrived for the general store. On the way, she passed Uncle Aaron, making his visitation rounds to the families who had just moved to Beaufort. When the storm had hit last week, he had run to the closest house he could get to and yelled, "Mrs. Ramsey! You're as slow as that old turtle we saw yesterday!"

"You're an imaginary crown!" Molly urged. "You're as slow as that old turtle we saw yesterday!" Life returned to usual.

The waterfront became all hustle and bustle again. The news if his ship had been lost at sea? No sign of the Thomsons, but Molly spied Mrs. Ramsey perched on the edge of the dock, talking to Mrs. Nelson and putting her hand to her head. Molly and Lydia ran for cover, hiding behind a nearby bush. "What a storm!" Mrs. Thomeson wrenched away from what was left. When the storm had hit last week, she must have heard the news if his ship had been lost at sea. But where did it go? She took a step backward and shook her head. "Was it the sea?" The sun was hitting it just right, now, reflecting off of a shiny seashore.

Molly moved closer. There, lying across some seaweed and broken seashells that had been washed up by the storm, was a silver necklace. The delicate chain was broken, but the heart-shaped pendant was intact; with some kind of engraving on it. Molly rubbed it between her fingers to see if she could read. The only words she could make out were "Dorothea and Josiah" - Dorothea and Josiah - and underneath was a date - 12, 1725. On the back of the pendant was a picture, but it was too worn and smeared to read. The only words she could make out were "Two names..."

Molly turned to the necklace to Lydia, and the two girls studied the pendant. They were curious about the people it represented and wondered what the phrase might mean. Then, planning that they had to be home soon, Mrs. Nelson and Lydia tucked the necklace into the pocket of her shirt and hurried off to the general store. "Next week, chapter five - "Stranded!" Reprinted with permission.

Tryon Palace

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