Molly, Jacob and their friends stood at the gate on the edge of the Nelson’s walkway, waiting for news about the captain. After Jacob had fetched the rowboat to the dock, he had no need to get home to help. Hearing what had happened, Father ran to get the doctor as soon as he took off the children’s clothes and left them playing off after them. Jacob recognized Mr. Thomson in Uncle Aaron’s boat, and right behind them, paddling fiercely, was Mr. Thomson’s brother - the wheelwright - with three other men. Jacob commented to Father that the wheelwright was already making a contribution to the town – and he hadn’t even met all of the people yet! 

Once on the island, the doctor had examined Captain Nelson’s wounds but did not comment on his injuries. They carried the captain to Uncle Aaron’s larger boat and rowed him back to Beaufort, where they took him home to be cleaned up and examined more closely. Molly, Jacob and the other children were divided up and carried back across in the remaining boats. Molly knew they would be in trouble for going to the island without permission. Parenting was her idea, so she suspected she would be punished the most. Father had not said a word to her yet. She suspected he was angry.

Now, everyone gathered at the Nelsons with many of the other townspeople, anxiously waiting for the doctor to report. Molly had no idea what he was going to say. Molly could hear the children closest to her whispering anxiously. “What do you suppose happened?” she heard one neighbor ask another. “I hope he’ll be all right,” said the storekeeper, who had closed his doors to hear the report first.

Mrs. Ramsey, of course, chimed in, “It’s got to be bad news,” she said. “Poor Thad! Whatever will you do without the captain?”

“I’ll see what I can do to help,” he said. “Once you found the Captain, you did your job,” said the doctor, “now it’s time for you to do yours!”

“Could I have heard a pin drop as he walked forward to stop him, but the captain gave her a tremendous hug as he grabbed Jacob and stood beside the doctor, her head held high. "I’ll see what I can do to help," he said. Then he turned and went back inside to check on Captain Nelson.

Next week, chapter eight – “The Pendant is Returned”

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Chapter Seven - “Home Again!”

Molly's "Beaufort Town" by Lynn Allred

A 10-chapter story celebrating Beaufort and colonial history.

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Beaufort’s Historic District

The National Register of Historic Places lists Beaufort’s Historic District. Each of the 100 homes in the district bears a plaque that tells the name of the home and the date it was built. The Beaufort Historic Site is a 24-acre complex that includes two acres and includes homes and buildings dating from 1732 to 1859. All have been restored to show how people lived and worked during colonial times. The historic site includes the courthouse built in 1796, the county jail built in 1829 and the Apothecary Shop during colonial times. The historic site includes the courthouse built in 1796, the county jail built in 1829 and the Apothecary Shop

Use the News:

Prepare your newspaper in Beaufort. Write one or more headlines for a story about Captain Nelson’s rescue. Use facts, quotes, models headlines in print and digital editions of your newspaper. If you were superintendent of the school, you would choose?

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