The Magic Moon

by Mike Anderson
Chapter 1
~ Mr. Cog ~

There was a bright, full moon shining onto the backyard as Kevin and Megan slipped into their sleeping bags.

“Let's play Imagine!” Megan said as they gazed at the silvery moon and the stars above them.

“Nah...that's a stupid game,” her older brother replied.

“No it isn't!” Megan said. “I love to imagine! Especially under the stars!”

“Well imagine playing by yourself!” Kevin said.

“But tonight's so perfect, Kevin! The moon is so bright ... if you would just play Imagine with me, I'd wish we could fly behind the moon!”

“There's nothin' on the moon,” Kevin replied. “I'd rather go to Mars!”

Suddenly, they noticed a small beam of silver light shining brightly right next to their apricot tree! The light grew larger and larger, then started twinkling when it touched the grass.

Then, in an instant, a small cat appeared in the midst of all the twinkles! But, this was no ordinary cat. It had the face of a cat, but the body of a dog. Its face was colored with pink and green stripes! The creature stood in front them and started wagging its tail.
“Hello! My name is Mr. Cog,” the creature said suddenly. Megan and Kevin could not believe their eyes. They had never seen a talking cat before!

“I know what you're thinking,” Mr. Cog said. “You think I'm one of those cats you keep around the house. But I'm not a cat - I'm a Cog, part cat and part dog. I've got the sly intelligence of a cat and the strong body of a dog – along, of course, with a dog's lovable personality! I'm simply the best of both worlds! Don't you think?”

Mr. Cog did a quick somersault.

“It's a funny little cat!” said Megan.

“I am not a cat!” Mr. Cog interrupted, “I am a C-O-G, Cog!” The cog arched his back and stretched his muscles, then began digging his claws in and out of the grass, while wagging his tail.

“Well,” Mr. Cog remarked, “you don't seem very happy to see me here!” His voice was small and squeaked slightly.

“Oh, I am!” Megan quickly replied. “I've just never seen a cat, er, dog, er, cog like you before!”

“And you probably never will either!” Mr. Cog said. The cog began sniffing around the yard.

“I want to touch you!” Megan said. “Can I, pleaseaasee?”

Mr. Cog looked at her suspiciously and cocked his head.

“Well, I suppose, but be nice!”
Megan touched the fur on his back and smiled. “He's real!” she said. Megan began petting Mr. Cog's back, then scratched his chin.

“Ahhhh,” the cog purred, “that feels wonderful! I haven't been scratched like that in a long, long time!”

Megan giggled as she watched the funny little cog move his head around as she scratched him.

“See Kevin, I told you tonight was a good night for Imagine. This is the best night ever!” Megan said.

“Shush!” Kevin said. “It's a trick!”

Kevin turned to Mr. Cog and cleared his voice. “Well, why are you here ... what do you want ... and where are you from?”

“You could use an imagination like your sister's, Kevin,” Mr. Cog replied.

“How did you know my name?” Kevin asked.

“Let's just say I know a lot of things,” Mr. Cog said. The cog's pink eyes twinkled. “I know your sister wants to travel behind the moon!”

“But...but...how could you possibly know that? She just wished it a few minutes ago!” Kevin said.

“Because I've been waiting for someone to say that for a very long time!” Mr. Cog's eyebrows began moving rapidly up and down. “You just wouldn't believe how many wishes I've heard! Everyone wishes to go to Hawaii, or Disneyworld or
California but no one, except Megan, has ever wished to go *behind* the moon!”

“But why are you here?” Kevin insisted.

“To make her wish come true!” Mr. Cog said. He sat on his two hind legs and ran his right paw through his whiskers.

“I don't believe you!” Kevin said.

Mr. Cog plucked a tiny wand from the air and swung it four times over his head. All of a sudden a round, silvery white object appeared on the grass next to him. It looked just like a little moon!

“This is a Magic Moon,” he said. “It will make your wish come true.”

Mr. Cog suddenly turned around and looked up at the full moon. He turned to Megan and Kevin. “I must go!” he said.

“But how does the Magic Moon work?”

“Just wish as hard as you can to go behind the moon...and I'll see you there!”

A silver beam of light shined on Mr. Cog and there were bright twinkles in the air all around him. And in a wink, the cog was gone!

“Mr. Cog!” Megan cried as the silver light disappeared. All that remained from his visit was the Magic Moon.

Megan picked it up, and then carefully put it under her pillow. She turned to her brother. “Let's try tonight!” she
whispered.

“C'mon,” Kevin said skeptically. “Someone's tricking us. That stupid cat wasn't real.”

“He was so! And he's not a cat, he's a c-o-g, cog!” Megan replied. “I love Mr. Cog! We're going to visit him!”

“You visit him. I've got better things to do, like sleep!” Kevin said.

Megan tossed and turned for a few minutes, then sat up.

“Look how bright the moon is,” she said in a loud whisper.

“Go to sleep!” Kevin said.

“No! I’m going to the moon!”

Megan grabbed the Magic Moon from under her pillow and jumped out of her sleeping bag.

She looked up at the bright moon glowing in the night sky. As she gazed at it, a face suddenly appeared on the surface.

“Look, Kevin! The moon is smiling!” Megan said. “It's the Man in the Moon!”

“Say hello for me!” Kevin replied in a sleepy voice as he rolled over in his sleeping bag.

“He's smiling because he knows we're going to visit Mr. Cog!” Megan said with glee.

“You visit him. Now let me sleep!” Kevin moaned.

Megan paid no attention to her brother, but grabbed the Magic Moon with both hands and closed her eyes. She thought
hard about traveling behind the moon.

But nothing happened.

Megan opened her eyes and found herself still in her backyard. “We're still here!” she said.

“Yes, and I'm still trying to sleep! Go to bed!” Kevin yelled.

Megan shook her head. She closed her eyes and held the Magic Moon tightly between her little hands. She thought so hard about the moon she almost burst.

“It's not working!” Megan whined.

“I told you so,” Kevin mumbled.

Megan threw the Magic Moon down and started crying. “I want to go to the moon! I want to see Mr. Cog again!” she cried. Tears streamed from her face she was so upset.

Megan walked to the Magic Moon and picked it up again. She held it close to her chest. “This stupid moon won't work!” she cried.

Then a teardrop fell onto the little Moon and it began to glow brightly, just like the moon in the sky. A few moments later, strange things started happening in her backyard!
Chapter 2

~ A Trip to the Moon ~

Everything in the yard began whirling around and around. Kevin jumped out of his sleeping bag! Megan grabbed onto him, then a silver beam of light wrapped around them.

“Everything's twinkling!” Kevin said breathlessly.

“Look! We're twinkling, too!” Megan said.

They felt a big whoosh behind them and suddenly they were whisked out of their yard and were sailing in mid-air on a small, white cloud!

“Look where we are!” said Megan.

“I don't believe it!” Kevin exclaimed.

“Imagine being on a cloud!” Megan yelled.

“Lean over the edge!” Kevin called.

“Look at all the lights! They're so tiny!” Megan shouted.

“This is like an airplane, only more fun!” Kevin said.

On they went, faster and faster and higher and higher, while the moon got bigger and bigger. They turned around and saw the earth behind them.

“The moon is now bigger than the earth!” Kevin shouted.

“And so beautiful...” said a moonstruck Megan.

As they sailed along on the cloud, the heavens came alive.

The Man in the Moon smiled at them, and then suddenly
winked.

As they sailed along on their cloud, they could hear soft music playing all around them. The stars shined brighter as the music became louder and the stars swayed slowly back and forth to the song of the moon.

A falling star streaked by right in front of them! It had a long, red tail that exploded with millions of tiny sparks into the moonlit night. Kevin and Megan giggled with delight at the spectacular show.

“This is such a wonderful place,” Megan said. “We must be close to heaven!”

Just then, the cloud turned sharply.

“Oooh!” Megan cried.

“Hold on!” Kevin shouted.

Megan clutched her brother's arm as the cloud righted itself again.

“Look!” Kevin said. “We're starting to go around the moon! We're going behind the moon!”

But as they passed the round, cratered surface of the moon and journeyed behind it, the bright light on the front of the moon suddenly vanished and it became very dark.

“I'm scared!” Megan cried.

Kevin put his arm around his sister and pulled her next to him. “Don't be afraid! Mr. Cog will protect us!”

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“Where is that darn cat?” Megan demanded.

The starlight from thousands of twinkling stars in the distance provided enough light so they could see each other. But as soon as they were behind the moon, the cloud they were riding on suddenly vanished and they began floating through space!

“Look!” Megan shouted. “We're falling into a crater!”

Down they floated into a cool, dark world until at last Kevin and Megan landed on the soft blue surface behind the moon!

The air seemed to glow as they looked around at their new surroundings. There were pink trees and lavender hills and the ground was a soft blue.

Megan shivered. “Aren't the trees big?” she asked.

“Sh-h-h-h!” Kevin warned.

“What's the matter?” Megan asked.

“I heard voices!”

They listened and sure enough, a low murmur could be heard. The voices seemed to come from no particular place, yet they could hear them all around.

Then suddenly, a small, furry animal scampered up to them.

“Mr. Cog!” Megan shouted.

Mr. Cog leaped into her arms and nestled his head against her chest. “I see you made it ok!” he purred.
“Oh, yes!” Kevin said enthusiastically. “That was the neatest trip I've ever had!”

Other animals appeared from behind the pink trees and lavender bushes. A monkey, with the curly-haired face of a lamb, climbed up on Kevin's shoulder and began licking his ear. He was white with light blue polka-dot spots on his body!

“That's Lamkey,” Mr. Cog told Kevin. “He has the head of a lamb and the body of a monkey. He likes you.”

Mr. Cog turned around to look at his other friends. “As you can see, I'm not alone. All of my friends here represent the best of several worlds. Let me introduce you to some of them. Over there on my right,” Mr. Cog said, pointing with a furry arm, “is Puck, who is part pig and part duck. And next to him is my fine feathered friend Quicken, part quail and part chicken.”

“And meet Canarrot - a canary and parrot! Then there's Zeon, a zebra and lion. Then Elewolf - an elephant and wolf. There's Bearaffe in the distance - a bear and giraffe.”

“Oh! Oink!” Puck shouted to Mr. Cog. “Don't you forget Tow!”

“Oh, yes!” Mr. Cog replied. “The gentleman in the distance is part tiger and part cow.”

Mr. Cog jumped out of Megan's arms and began doing somersaults. “And there are more friends you'll meet later!”

“We've never seen anything like this!” Kevin exclaimed.
“Well, you haven't seen anything yet!” Mr. Cog said as he leaped up on a tree. “But we don't have much time. It will be morning soon.”

“What's wrong with that?” Megan asked.

“Everything!” Mr. Cog snapped. “It's safe now because it's dark, but in the morning, when the sun comes up, the Money People come out from their banks along the rivers.”

“The Money People?” Kevin asked.

“Oh, I guess I didn't tell you about them, did I?” Mr. Cog replied.

“No!” Kevin said. “You didn't even tell Megan how to work the Magic Moon!”

Mr. Cog's eyes lit up. “Did you bring it with you?”

“Yes, of course I did!” Megan said. She reached into her pajama pocket and retrieved the Magic Moon.

“Hold it up so my friends can see!” Mr. Cog said.

As Megan held the Magic Moon above her head, Mr. Cog scampered to a tree branch and began dancing with joy. He cupped his paws together and yelled to his friends “She brought the Magic Moon! She brought the Magic Moon!”

When the other animals heard this, they also began jumping with joy and started dancing together.

Quicken and Canarrot scratched the ground together and moved in a circle, as if they were dancing. Puck and Lamkey
rubbed up next to each other, while Zeon, Tow and Bearaffe galloped back and forth from one end of the small clearing to the other, kicking up light blue dust wherever they ran. Elewolf stooped down on his knees, then got up again, then stooped back down again as if he was bowing to the two children.

This celebration went on for a long time. All Kevin and Megan could do was wonder what all the commotion was about.

Megan looked up at Mr. Cog, who was doing back flips on the tree branch. “I don't understand! What do you want us to do with the Magic Moon?” she asked.

Mr. Cog suddenly stood still and all the other animals stopped celebrating. His big blue eyes opened wide and his back arched, as if he were getting ready for a fight. “We want you to get rid of the Money People!”

Megan looked at Kevin and started shaking her head vigorously. “Who are the Money People?”

“They rule the moon! They make us animals work in the mines to make Moon Money!” Mr. Cog said.

“The Money People make Moon Money?” Kevin asked.

“Yes!” Mr. Cog said. “And now they want to stop the moon from turning so it will be daylight all the time and we'll have to work around the clock! Oh, Moon Money is truly the root of all evil!”

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“But if they stop the moon from turning, there'll never be a full moon again on earth!” Kevin exclaimed.

“I love the full moon!” Megan shouted. “We can't let them do this!”

“You see what I mean,” Mr. Cog said. “We have to get rid of them to protect the moon!”

Suddenly, Elewolf reared up on his hind legs and began shouting. “The Money People are coming! The Money People are coming!”
Chapter 3
~ The Money People ~

Just a twinkle of daylight was now starting to pierce the early morning air. It was just enough to get the Money People out of their banks along the river.

“We must hide you!” Mr. Cog said. “Follow me!”

The animals started running away from the field in all directions. Kevin and Megan ran after Mr. Cog.

“Quick, follow me!” the small, furry Mr. Cog shouted as he leaped back and forth between yellow and blue bushes. Kevin and Megan ran like the wind trying to keep up with the fast moving cog.

They ran as hard as they could for what seemed like half an hour until they came to a canyon. There was a sharp cliff in front of them.

“Down here!” Mr. Cog shouted as he stood on his two hind feet. He led them down a small trail until they came to an opening in the side of a hill. “You'll hide here during the day. This is where Alexander the Dunce lives. He'll keep you company. I have to go before the Money People miss me. I'll be back at dark.”

Before they could say a word, Mr. Cog had vanished into the bushes.
“I'm scared,” Megan cried.
“Don't worry,” Kevin replied. “I'll protect you.”
“That's what scares me!” Megan said.
Then they heard a voice.
“Who's there?” a voice called from within the cave.
“It's Kevin and Megan. Mr. Cog sent us!” Kevin shouted.
There was a moment of silence.
“Mr. Cog? Who's Mr. Cog?” the voice asked.
Megan and Kevin looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders. “Mr. Cog said we could stay here with Alexander the Dunce during the day,” Kevin said.
“Oh, he did, did he? And I suppose he told you I was Alexander the Dunce?”
“Yes,” Megan blurted. “Mr. Cog said we could hide from the Money People here.”
“Why are you hiding?”
“To protect the Magic Moon....”
“Magic Moon? You have the Magic Moon?”
“Yes, sir,” Kevin said.
“Well, why are you standing there? Come in!”
Kevin went first and Megan followed, holding on to her brother's pajama shirrtail. It was dark in the cave and they couldn't see in front of them. They had to feel against the walls and step very carefully. Soon, they saw a dim light in the
distance.

As they walked, they could see lights flickering. When they turned a corner, they were suddenly standing in a large underground cavern complete with a big fireplace. There were candles burning everywhere. In the back of the cavern, they saw a little man with white hair and a long, pink beard sitting at a table.

The children walked slowly into the cavern until they were only a few feet away from the man.

When he saw the two children, he broke into a wide grin. “Please, come to me! Welcome to my home!”

The man was no more than four feet tall! He reached up from his seat and gave each of them a long hug.

“Ah, my...” he said. “Let me look at you two! You are fine children!” he exclaimed.

“Why do they call you Alexander the Dunce?” Megan asked.

The little man broke into a big smile and looked as if he was about to laugh, but the grin vanished as quickly as his mood changed. “They blame me for making the Money People,” he replied.

“Who blames you?” Kevin interrupted.

“The animals. Especially that smart aleck Mr. Cog!”

“Well, did you make them?” Megan asked.
“Yes, I suppose I did...but it was an accident! I didn't mean to! I was just trying to get them to heaven!” he replied.

“Heaven?” Kevin said with big eyes.

“Well, yes. You see, many years ago, a group of us were on our way to heaven, but as we passed the moon, there was an accident and...and we got stuck here!”

“My, goodness!” Megan exclaimed. “You should be up in heaven with your friends!”

“Oh, don't I wish!” Alexander moaned.

“But I don't understand!” Kevin said abruptly. “How did you make the Money People?”

“Well,” Alexander replied, “one day, many years ago, I discovered the Magic Moon on the far side of Moon Mountain, to the east of here. So I thought I could use it to get everyone off the moon and back on their way to heaven. But I made a mistake....”

Alexander sat in silence for a moment, and then continued. “You see, when I made the magic wish, all I could think of was the money I left behind on earth, which made me cry! And because I was thinking of the money, all the people... they... they... turned into the Money People! And...and for some reason, the animals who were with us got all jumbled up into different combinations! That's why they call me the Dunce.”

“But why didn't you turn into a Money Person?” Megan
asked.

The little man got up awkwardly from his chair and grabbed a cane that was leaning against the table. He walked over to Megan very slowly and with a great deal of difficulty. He lifted his pant legs and revealed a wooden leg. “You see, I'm not completely human.”

“You're legs are wooden, Dunce?” Kevin asked.

“Yes. I don't really know why. You see, the Money People have wooden legs and arms. Maybe I'm still mostly human because it was I who made the magic wish. In fact, I'm the only human, besides you two, on the entire moon! And because I’m part Money Person, I can no longer cry! The Magic Moon won’t work for me anymore!”

Alexander let out a long sigh. “And, please, if you wouldn't mind, could you call me Alexander?”

“Oh, sure, Alexander,” Megan said.

Suddenly, there were noises at the front of the cave.

“Oh, no! It's the Money People!” Alexander said.

Kevin and Megan looked at each other with alarm.

“You must escape out the back!” Alexander shouted.

The thunderous sound of wooden feet on cobblestone could be heard as several large Coin Men entered the cave.

“Quick! Out the back! You must protect the Magic Moon!” Alexander shouted. He pointed to a tunnel near the back of the
Kevin and Megan jumped from their seats and began running toward the tunnel.

“We'll be back Alexander!” Kevin shouted.

“Don't worry,” Megan said. She was now in the tunnel and her voice echoed. “We'll take care of those Money People...somehow!”

But just as Megan said that, she felt a large, wooden hand grasp her firmly around the waist.

“Noooooo!” Megan shouted while her legs and arms swirled around in the air. “Let me down! Let me down!”

The Coin Man grabbed Kevin with his other hand.

“Let go of us!” Kevin shouted.

Kevin looked up and could not believe his eyes! There was a large, round, silver coin with wooden hands and legs sticking out from the edges. The Coin Man was bigger than Kevin and had a face in the middle of the coin that did not smile.

The Coin Man holding Kevin and Megan walked awkwardly back into Alexander's room. The clompity-clomp sound of the Coin Man's wooden feet on the stone floor echoed in the cave.

As Kevin and Megan re-entered Alexander's room, they could see four other Coin Men gathered around the table where poor Alexander sat.
“Ah ha!” said a tall, green piece of paper money, as Kevin and Megan were carried into the room. He had wooden legs and arms that stuck out from the edges of the green paper bill. There was a face in the middle of the bill!

“Welcome to Currency Crater!” the big green bill said. “I see you have brought the Magic Moon back to us.”

“It's not your Magic Moon!” Kevin shouted. “It belongs to Alexander!”

“Silence!” yelled the Coin Man who held Kevin.

The tall, green bill in front of Kevin walked a few steps closer to him. “I would like to introduce myself,” he said. My name is Hundred Dollar Bill, but you can call me William - that's long for Bill. I am in charge here because I'm worth more than anyone else on the moon!” He then turned to the other Money People in the room.

“There are two types of Money People here on the moon - bills like me, made out of paper, and Coin Men, made from silver, gold and copper. My other Bills include Fifty Dollar Bills, Twenty Dollar Bills, Ten Dollar Bills, Five Dollar Bills and plain one Dollar Bills. I am the only One Hundred Dollar Bill on the moon and the only one that can be called William!”

Hundred Dollar Bill walked arrogantly back and forth.

“My top Coin Man is Silver Dollarman. The Coin Man holding you is Half Dollarman. To my right is Quarterman. To
my left is Dimeman and behind me is Nickelman. The rest of the Coin Men in my kingdom are all worthless Pennymen!”

Hundred Dollar Bill laughed heartily and Half Dollarman, Quarterman, Dimeman and Nickelman started laughing with him. They all made small clinking sounds when they laughed.

“Together, we are the Money People and our only purpose in life is to make more money! More money than we could ever spend!” Hundred Dollar Bill said. “And now that we have the Magic Moon, we will stop the moon from turning so we can make money around the clock!”

“The Magic Moon won't work for you!” Alexander shouted. “You can't cry!”

Hundred Dollar Bill looked at Alexander with a raised eyebrow. “You're right! But, then, we won't have to do anything will we? This little girl is going to do our work for us, aren't you deary!”

Hundred Dollar Bill leaned down close to Megan with an evil look on his face.

“I'll never make the moon stop turning!” she said stubbornly.

“We'll see about that!” Hundred Dollar Bill said. There was anger in his voice.

Hundred Dollar Bill then turned to his Coin Men. “Take them back to Dollartown!”

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“No! We won't go!” Kevin began yelling, but the grip of Half Dollarman held him tight.

Then Quarterman grabbed Alexander and the group slowly walked out of the cave.
Chapter 4
~ Dollartown ~

As they emerged from the cave, there was a green path in front of them. “Why did the ground turn from blue to green?” Megan asked Alexander.

“Those are a special bunch of One Dollar Bills who lie on their backs to make a path for Hundred Dollar Bill,” Alexander replied. “We call them greenbacks. Hundred Dollar Bill never leaves home without them.”

To the right was a river with yellow water flowing through it. There were stacks of Coin Men lining the banks of the river. Some of them were jumping in the water.

“What are the Money People doing over there? It looks like they’re taking a bath,” Kevin asked Alexander.

“Indeed they are!” Alexander replied. “We call it money laundering.”

As the small group walked through an open field, Kevin saw some of the animals in the distance. “Look! There's Puck!” he shouted.

“And there's Eleewolf!” Megan cried. “They have straps around their necks and ... and the Money People are whipping them while they pull that heavy wagon!”

“Full of silver!” Hundred Dollar Bill said.
“I don't understand why you need more money!” Megan said. “You've got plenty now.”

“Because I like money. It pleases me, deary. The more money I have, the better I feel,” Hundred Dollar Bill replied arrogantly.

“But the more money you make, the more you hurt others, like Eleewolf and Puck and Mr. Cog!” Kevin said.

“Ah! Those are just animals...” Hundred Dollar Bill replied. “Their only purpose in life – is to work for the wealthy!”

Before Kevin could reply, a wagon pulled up in front of them. Half Dollarman lifted Megan and Kevin into the wagon, and then Quarterman shoved Alexander into the wagon.

“Let's get rolling!” Nickelman shouted as the wagon jerked ahead. All the Coin Men turned on their sides and began rolling down the road. Hundred Dollar Bill wrapped himself into a roll and barreled down the road with his Coin Men. He was followed by Half Dollarman, Quarterman, then Dimeman and Nickelman. Hundreds of Pennymen rolled behind them in formation.

“Look!” Kevin shouted.

In the distance, there was a large mountain that was bright purple. White snow covered the tip.


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“Inside?” Megan asked.

“There are miles of tunnels inside the mountain!” Alexander explained. “The Money People first discovered silver there and dug tunnels until they couldn't find any more. Hundred Dollar Bill then decided to turn the center of the mountain into Dollartown. It's where most of the Money People live.”

“Wow!” Kevin exclaimed. “You mean that Moon Mountain is chock full of money?”

“You won't believe your eyes!” Alexander replied. “There are stacks and stacks of gold and silver coins and millions of pennies, dimes, quarters, half dollars and silver dollars!

“Oh, goody!” Megan said. “I can hardly wait to see it all!”

“If only we could spend it!” Alexander moaned.

“I know what I would do if I had all that money!” Kevin shouted. “I'd buy the coolest home and car! I'd have a big swimming pool and a yacht. And I'd have a limousine pick up all my friends and take them to school!”

“I'd buy a big farm!” Megan squeaked. “And I'd have lots of horses on it. With pigs and chickens and geese and squirrels and...and...and I'd have Mr. Cog with me!”

“What would you do with the money, Alexander?” Kevin asked.

“Oh, my!” he exclaimed. “You see, I was once like Hundred
Dollar Bill. I had plenty of money, but I hid it all in banks and worried about it all the time.”

“You didn't have fun with it?” Megan asked.

“I was too busy worrying about it! But I would use it to help people now. Back on earth, I only helped myself ...”

“Look!” Megan cried. She pointed to Moon Mountain, which was now very close. There were tiny train tracks circling the mountain and small wagons hauling stacks of Moon Money all around the mountain.

As the group moved closer to Moon Mountain, Megan could see the animals hauling wagons.

“Oh, no!” she screamed. “We must save them!”

“How 'bout saving our skin first?” Kevin asked.

“Don't worry, Kevin. I've got the Magic Moon!” Megan said happily.

“That's what I'm afraid of!” Kevin replied.

As they finally reached the bottom of Moon Mountain, Hundred Dollar Bill and the long trail of Coin Men slowed down and came to a stop. They turned on their sides, got up on their wooden feet and began walking over to several wagons that had pulled up to greet them. Each of the wagons used silver dollars as its wheels. Two animals pulled each wagon.

Half Dollarman placed Kevin and Megan in one of the new wagons, and then Nickelman put Alexander in with them.
Hundred Dollar Bill walked over to them. “Don’t even think of trying to escape with that Magic Moon,” he threatened.

“Now take them away!”

The sharp crack of a whip pierced the air and the animals pulling the wagon screamed.

“Stop that!” Megan shouted at the driver as the wagon pulled ahead with a strong jerk. The Dimeman paid no attention to her.

Moments later, Megan, Kevin and Alexander entered a tunnel inside Moon Mountain. The top and sides of the tunnel were covered with dimes. There were thousands and thousands of dimes wherever they looked.

“They call this the Roosevelt Dime Tunnel,” Alexander said, “in honor of President Roosevelt whose face is on the dime.”

“Doesn’t it look wonderful, Kevin!” Megan exclaimed.

The two animals strained to pull the wagon up the hill.

“Where are we going, Alexander?” Megan asked.

“They will put us in a money pit,” he said.

“And then what will they do?” Kevin asked.

“They will make you stop the moon from turning.”

“Never!” Megan replied stubbornly.

The three fell into silence as the wagon slowly made its way through the Roosevelt Dime Tunnel. They could see other tunnels leading off in different directions. One looked like it
was made of nickels.

“That must be the George Washington Nickel Tunnel!” Kevin said.

“And look over there!” Megan said pointing to a tunnel made of pennies. “That's the Abraham Lincoln Penny Tunnel!”

The wagon suddenly came to a jolting halt.

“Get out!” Dimeman demanded. “Move into that room!” he said, pointing a wooden finger to an opening in a tall wall of quarters.

Megan and Kevin carried Alexander out of the wagon and walked through a narrow opening. All four walls, as well as the ceiling and the floor, were made of coins.

Then a Fifty Dollarman walked over and stood in front of the entrance, blocking it.

Megan ran to a small window. In the distance, down a long trail inside Moon Mountain, she could see a bright fire!

Alexander slowly walked over and looked through the window.

“What are they doing?” Megan asked.

“They're spending money,” Alexander moaned.

“Why are they doing that?” Kevin asked.

“Oh, goodness! It's a savage, brutal ritual only the wealthy can afford on special occasions,” Alexander replied shaking his head.
Kevin moved to the window to look for himself. He could see hundreds of One Dollarmen that were being forced off a cliff into the fire! Small screams could be heard as each One Dollarman fell into the fire.

There was a steady chanting.

“What are they chanting,” Kevin asked.

“In God we trust,” Alexander replied. “It's written on all Moon Money. Gosh, I hate to see money burned like that!”

“Have you ever burned money, Alexander?” Kevin asked.

“Oh, yes,” Alexander replied quickly. “In my youth...before I knew the true value of money.... Actually, I burned through quite a bit of it. This sacrifice, however, is Hundred Dollar Bill's doing! That's why he has to keep making so much money... so he can burn it with these stupid rituals!”

“But what's the special occasion?” Megan asked.

Alexander turned to Megan with a surprised look. “My dear Megan, you are the special occasion. They're burning money to please you!”

“Do men waste money on girls very often?” Megan asked.

“Every hour of every day!” Alexander sighed.

“I wouldn't waste money on a girl!” Kevin interrupted.

“Well, this does not please me!” Megan said. “And I'll never stop the moon from turning no matter how much money they burn on me! I simply cannot be bought! And besides, what

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would life be like on earth without a full moon?”

Alexander's eyes lit up as he thought of the romantic evenings he had spent with his wife under the silvery light of a brightly shining moon.

Then suddenly, the Fifty Dollarman, who was blocking the entrance, moved away. Megan rushed to the door only to discover three Twenty Dollarmen waiting with a wagon pulled by Bearaffe.

“Where are we going?” Megan asked.

“To the fire,” Alexander replied. “To the fire.”
Chapter 5
~ The Money Pit ~

Kevin, Megan and Alexander slowly climbed into the wagon. Kevin helped Alexander climb over the side railing. Dimeman, who was driving the wagon, cracked a whip sharply. The whip cut into Bearaffe, the combination bear and giraffe. He screamed in pain, and then obediently jerked the wagon forward.

“I said stop that!” Megan yelled, but Dimeman paid no attention to her.

They moved slowly down a twisting trail inside Moon Mountain and passed all kinds of Money People counting stacks of paper and coin money. There were thousands of dimes and quarters and nickels and millions of pennies all around them. The floors and ceilings were also covered with different coins. In the distance, they could see tables and chairs where the Money People were playing games using Moon Money.

But as the three drew closer to the fire, they became less concerned with the spectacular sights around them and more concerned with their own fate.

No amount of money could save them now.

As they came closer, they could see the fire was in a deep
Money Pit. There were stacks and stacks of One Dollarmen and there were Money People everywhere throwing money into the pit. Hundred Dollar Bill was walking around the Money Pit shouting orders and spending money as fast as he could! He made the One Dollar Bills get up from the top of each stack, then pushed them into the pit. There were little screams of “In God We Trust...In God We Trust” as each One Dollarman was pushed into the Money Pit and floated down to the fire.

“This is so brutal!” Alexander said. “It saddens me to watch good money thrown into a pit!”

As the wagon approached, Hundred Dollar Bill saw Megan, Kevin and Alexander. He walked over to them. “Welcome to the Money Pit! Do you like it, Megan?” he said.

“How can you just burn money like that?” Megan screamed at him. The Money People continued to throw Moon Money into the pit and chant “In God We Trust, In God We Trust.”

“But I'm spending it on you, my dear,” Hundred Dollar Bill said raising his eyebrows. “Doesn't it please you that I spend so much money on you?”

“No, it certainly does not please me!” Megan replied. “It pleases me only when money is spent on good things. You're just throwing money into a pit.”

“I work very hard and I'll throw it into any pit I want,” Hundred Dollar Bill said condescendingly.
“But you could do some good with it!” Megan insisted.

“Oh, but I am! It will help you stop the moon from turning so I can make even more money!”

“Well forget it, Mr. Hundred Dollar Bill! I'll never stop the moon!” Megan screamed.

“We'll see about that!” Hundred Dollar Bill said. There was now anger in his voice. “Put her in the cage!” he shouted.

Two Fifty Dollarmen quickly grabbed Megan and put her inside a small cage that was hooked onto a long metal arm.

“No!” Kevin shouted, but as he tried to run after his sister, two Quartermen grabbed him by the arms and held him tight. Alexander sat still in the wagon and felt helpless.

The cage Megan was trapped in slowly rose in the air, and then the long arm swung out until it was directly over the pit. She could feel the heat from the fire below her and watched with horror as One Dollarmen were thrown into the pit, one after another.

“Now use your power – and stop the moon from turning!” Hundred Dollar Bill demanded.

“Never!” Megan said.

Hundred Dollar Bill turned to the Dimeman, who was controlling the cage. “Lower it!” he shouted.

The cage jerked suddenly and it was lowered directly into the pit.
“Noooo!” Megan screamed.

“Stop the moon!” Hundred Dollar Bill shouted above the roar of the fire. There were tiny screams of “In God we trust” as One Dollarmen continued to be thrown into the pit.

“It's getting hotter, Kevin!” Megan shouted to her brother.

Kevin tried to get away from the Quartermen holding him, but the grip the Money People had on him was stronger than he had realized. Alexander sat in the wagon and wished his legs were not made of wood so he could save Megan.

Megan began sweating from the heat of the fire. The bottom of the cage was becoming very hot and she had to move her feet rapidly up and down to keep her shoes from burning. She took the magic stone from her pajama pocket and showed it to Hundred Dollar Bill.

“The Magic Moon!” he shouted with glee. “Now, do your magic and stop the moon so I can make even more money!”

Megan was now jumping up and down rapidly because the bottom of the cage was so hot! “I can't do magic like this!” she cried. “It's too hot!”

“Will you stop the moon?” he asked.

Megan hesitated, but the heat was too great. “Ohhh...yes! Yes! Ok, I'll stop the moon! Just get me out of here!”

Hundred Dollar Bill smiled broadly, then motioned to the Dimeman. The cage jerked and moved 10 feet higher.
And then all of a sudden, Mr. Cog appeared next to the Money Pit!

“Get him!” Hundred Dollar Bill shouted to the Fifty Dollarmen.

But before his men could move, Elewolf came out of nowhere and crushed the Fifty Dollarmen by stepping on them.

Then Bearaffe galloped up beside the pit and angrily began chewing on the Twenty Dollarmen. Then Puck and Quicken and all the other animals suddenly gathered around Mr. Cog to protect him.

“Mr. Cog!” Megan shouted from her cage. “Help me!”

Hundred Dollar Bill did not know what to do. He had never seen the animals act like this before.

“I command you to get back to work!” Hundred Dollar Bill shouted to Mr. Cog.

Mr. Cog sat on his tail and twirled around in a circle defiantly.

“Take him away Quartermen!” Hundred Dollar Bill shouted.

A row of large Quartermen moved toward Mr. Cog, but Elewolf intercepted them. He kicked the first Quarterman with his right foot and caused it to fall backward onto the next Quartermen. Then the entire row of Quartermen fell over on
top of each other. There were loud clinking noises as the coins fell over.

A group of Half Dollarmen moved toward Mr. Cog, but Zeon stepped between them and gave them a kick with his hind legs that sent them sprawling.

Mr. Cog leaped to the cage with Megan and began shouting at the top of his voice. “Rise up and revolt!” he shouted. “You are equal to Hundred Dollar Bill! It takes one hundred One Dollarmen to equal a Hundred Dollar Bill! Show him this is so!”

As Mr. Cog spoke, several groups of Coin Men came rolling from all directions at the animals.

But just as the Coin Men got near, 100 One Dollarmen came running over to the pit, rolled themselves together, then moved toward the Coin Men like a big log. They tripped the Coin Men and they fell down with loud clinking sounds.

Mr. Cog was now doing somersaults. “You see! Now Fifty Dollarmen! It takes just two of you to equal a Hundred Dollar Bill! Rise up and revolt!”

And the Fifty Dollarmen rolled up in pairs to form money logs and they began helping the 100 One Dollarmen against the attacking Coin Men.

“It takes five Twenties to equal a Hundred Dollar Bill, ten Tens and twenty Fives. And you Coin Men!” Mr. Cog continued.
to shout. “It takes one hundred Silver Dollars to equal a Hundred Dollar Bill, two hundred Half Dollars, four hundred Quarters, one thousand Dimes, two thousand Nickels, and ten thousand Pennys!”

Suddenly, all the Money People were motionless. Mr. Cog leaped down from the cage, and then turned to Hundred Dollar Bill. “You've lost control of your money. Ha! We’ve frozen your assets!”

Bearaffe silently walked up behind Hundred Dollar Bill and grabbed him with his teeth. Bearaffe's long neck turned so that Hundred Dollar Bill was now hanging directly over the fire.

“No! Don't drop me!” Hundred Dollar Bill shouted. “I don't want to die! You'll ruin my kingdom!”

“Your kingdom is already ruined!” Mr. Cog said, “You deserve to die because you ruined our animal kingdom!”

Megan, who was still in the cage, could hardly believe what was happening. “I have to do something!” she thought. “I don't want anyone to die! Not even Hundred Dollar Bill! I know! I'll turn the Money People back into real people! Yes, that's what I'll do!” she decided.

Megan held the Magic Moon in front of her and closed her eyes. She thought of the horrible things that could happen if she made a mistake.

“Ouch! I'm being burned!” cried Hundred Dollar Bill.
“Good!” Mr. Cog taunted. “You’ll burn in the Money Pit with the rest of your money!”

All the excitement made it difficult for Megan to concentrate. “Ouch!” she yelled as her knee brushed against a hot metal bar on the cage. “The Magic Moon's not working!” she said.

“Think of when Kitty Kat died, and then make your wish!” Kevin yelled to Megan.

Megan thought of her little cat, who died when a car hit it in the street...and suddenly tears started streaming down her face. “Oh, poor Kitty!” she cried.

Then the Magic Moon glowed very brightly and everything started to change! There was an intense bright light that blinded Megan and she closed her eyes. When she opened them, she could not believe what she saw.

There was no longer a fire in the Money Pit. Instead of Moon Money, there were thousands of small plastic cards in all colors and types. Each had a small magnetic stripe on the back and there were names on each card.

“You turned the Money People into credit cards!” Kevin shouted to Megan.

Hundred Dollar Bill, still being held by Bearaffe, had turned into Master Card. The name Bill Smith appeared on the card.

“Oh, no!” Megan shouted. “I made a mistake!”
“It wouldn't be the first time,” Alexander sighed as he looked at piles of plastic cards all around him.

Credit cards had now replaced money in the Money Pit. Mr. Cog turned to Bearaffe who was holding Master Card over the pit. “Put him down.”

With a swift motion, Bearaffe threw Master Card into the Money Pit, along with thousands of other cards stacked up in a huge pile.

“He exceeded his limit!” Mr. Cog said with a laugh.

Suddenly, the animals began dancing with joy together. “We will no longer be ruled by Money People!” Mr. Cog shouted, as he did a little dance next to the Money Pit.

“But, we can't leave them like this! They're real people!” Megan yelled.

“They weren't real to us!” Mr. Cog replied.

“Well, money changed them! Now shush!” she said and everyone stopped talking. She closed her eyes and concentrated. She began crying and tears suddenly streamed down her face. One tear dropped onto the Magic Moon and it glowed brightly.

Again, there was a bright light so intense everyone had to close their eyes! It lasted for just a few seconds and when Megan opened her eyes, she could not believe what she saw!
All the plastic cards were gone and there were hundreds of ghosts! There were men and woman and little children, all with smiles on their faces. The ghosts were every color you could think of! There were green ghosts and pink ghosts and lavender ghosts and blue ghosts and yellow ghosts everywhere! An entire rainbow of colors.

The animals were suddenly ghosts too and they were back to normal! Instead of a Quicken, there was a quail and chicken ghost. Instead of Canarrot, there was a canary and a parrot ghost. There were elephant ghosts, and lions, pigs and ducks, bears, giraffes, wolves, birds, horses, panthers, camels and virtually the whole animal kingdom was in front of her - and all of them ghosts!

“Wow!” Kevin said. “You can even see through them!”

Megan looked down at the wagon and Alexander stood up. He was a ghost too and his legs were back to normal. He smiled at her because now he knew they could all go on their way to heaven.

“What about me?” Mr. Cog said. “I'm still the same!”

“So am I!” Lamkey said.

Megan looked at them sheepishly. “That's because I want to take you home with me!” she said.

“Back to earth?” Mr. Cog asked with both paws open in front of him.

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“Of course! I want you and Lamkey to live with Kevin and me! That's what I wished!”

A smile crept across Mr. Cog's mouth and he did a quick somersault to show he approved of her decision.

A ghost dressed up in a tuxedo and top hat made his way to the front of the other ghosts and stood by Mr. Cog.

“I have an apology to make to all of you,” he began. “My name is Bill Smith. I was Hundred Dollar Bill – as a Money Person. I...I...didn't mean to do those things to you, but the money got to me! It became my whole life...all I could think about was making more money....”

Mr. Cog looked up at the man and stretched his paw out. The man took it and they shook hand and paw. “That just proves that a fool and his money are soon parted!” Mr. Cog said with a laugh.

“Oh, how right you are ... but I have a surprise for Megan,” Bill Smith said. “All the silver and gold Moon Money we made while we were here – is still here! And since I can't take it with me, I want you to take it with you!”

Megan's eyes grew as wide as silver dollars. “Oh, goody!” she exclaimed.

“But,” the man said with a raised finger, “you must do good things with your money. You must spend it wisely and help people and animals! You must promise to give some of your
money every year to charities that help the less fortunate. I wish I had done that while I was on earth. Maybe this will help make up for it.”

“Oh, I will! I promise you that!” Megan said.

Suddenly, in the background, some of the ghosts began floating away.

“But now we must go,” Mr. Smith said. “It's time we go to heaven.”

Megan looked at Alexander. “Oh, Alexander!” she cried. “I'll miss you!”

She ran over and tried to give him a hug, but her arms went right through him!

He looked at her and smiled. “You are both wonderful children. We will all be looking after you,” he said. Alexander then began happily floating away. “Thank you for all you have done, Megan and Kevin,” he said.

Then everyone, men, women, children and animals began moving away.

“We'll miss you...all of you!” Megan and Kevin shouted.

As the two children watched, the last of the ghosts moved through the cavern ceiling in Moon Mountain. It was a beautiful and happy sight to watch all of the brightly colored ghosts floating up through Moon Mountain and laughing all the way to heaven.
Megan and Kevin put their arms around each other and embraced for a long time. Then Megan started crying.

“No! Not yet!” Kevin yelled as he shook her. “You’ve got to think before you cry. You could make another mistake!”

Megan looked at her brother and smiled, then started giggling. Mr. Cog jumped into her arms and licked her cheek.

Lamkey jumped onto the back of Kevin and hung from his shoulders. Kevin looked up into the tunnels of Moon Mountain above them and saw all the silver and gold coins. “Wow!” he exclaimed. “We can take this home with us!”

“But only if you spend it wisely!” Mr. Cog interjected with his right paw raised in the air.

“O.K, Megan, it's up to you,” Kevin said. “Somehow you've got to make a wish that we return home with the money and the animals.”

“All right,” she replied. “I'll try!”

Mr. Cog jumped down from her arms so Megan could hold the Magic Moon.

“Think of poor, little Kitty again, then think about where we want to go and what we want to take with us,” Kevin suggested.
Megan closed her eyes and quickly burst into tears!
The Money Pit began turning around and around and all the coins started rolling into it! There were loud clinking sounds as thousands and thousands of coins rolled into the pit.

Then Moon Mountain itself began spinning.

“Hold on!” Kevin said as he grabbed Megan. Mr. Cog and Lambkey held on tightly to Kevin.

And in a flash, they were suddenly above the moon and riding on a cloud!

“Wow!” Kevin said as he looked down on the moon. “We're back on the same cloud that took us here! You did good, Megan!”

She smiled at her brother and pulled Mr. Cog close to her. “I love it up here!” she said. “I'll bet it's almost like being in heaven. Don't you think so, Mr. Cog?”

Mr. Cog nodded his furry head rapidly up and down.

The cloud transported the children and their new friends around to the front of the moon and it was still shining brightly. The Man in the Moon winked as they passed in front of him and the stars began singing again. Another meteor shot by in front of the cloud with millions of brightly colored sparks in its tail.

“Look!” Kevin said suddenly, pointing his finger ahead. They could see the Earth below them.
“It's soooo beautiful,” Megan said with a sigh. “I don't ever want the Money People to ruin the earth like they did Moon Mountain!”

“Hey, where is our money, anyway?” Kevin asked. Megan looked at him and shrugged her shoulders. “Didn't you wish that we take it along?” Kevin asked. “Of course I did!” Megan replied. “Well, it's not here!” Kevin said with anger. “Maybe I couldn't do it!” Megan replied. “I can't do everything. At least I got us back home safely - with Mr. Cog and Lambkey! That's all that matters!” Megan's feelings were hurt.

“I'm sorry, sis,” Kevin said finally. “I know it's not important.”

Kevin's face suddenly lit up. “I know what I'm going to do when we get back home!”


“I'm going to tell the astronauts all about Moon Mountain so they can go there!”

“Oh, yes!” Megan said with a smile. We can show them Moon Mountain. I wonder if our space agency has already discovered the Money Pit?” she wondered.

They sat silently and watched the Earth draw closer. Soon they could see tiny lights as they came very close to the earth.
Then the cloud abruptly stopped.

“What's happening?” Kevin asked.

And before anyone could answer, they found themselves in their backyard!

Mr. Cog crawled inside Megan's sleeping bag and Lambkey scampered into Kevin's bag.

“Wow!” Kevin said. “We're back home!”

All of a sudden, a light was turned on in the house. A few minutes later, Megan's mother stepped out into the backyard.

“Are you kids all right?” she asked.

“Hide the Magic Moon!” Kevin told Megan.

“Why?” she asked.

“Because parents don't understand magic!” he said.

Megan quickly put the Moon under her pillow. Kevin then turned to his mother.

“Of course we're all right!” Kevin said, trying to keep Lamkey inside his sleeping bag.

“Well, we heard this big noise in the front yard!” Megan's mother said. “Your father went out to see what's going on. I thought I'd check to see if you were all right.”

Mr. Cog suddenly sprang out of Megan's sleeping bag and leaped into her arms.

“Oh, my goodness!” she said. “Where did you get this cat?”

“It's not a cat!” Megan insisted.

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Her mother looked at Mr. Cog closely and he licked her cheek. “Wha...what is it? It looks...”

“It's a Cog - a combination cat and dog!” Megan squeaked with delight.

“I've never seen anything like this before. Where did you get this...Cog?”

Mr. Cog reached up and licked Megan's mother again. “From behind the moon,” Megan replied. “Behind the moon?” Megan's mother said with a laugh. “What game have you two been playing?”

“Really, mom! We went to Moon Mountain while you and dad were asleep!” Megan said. “Of course you did, dear. Now whose animal is this?”

Suddenly, Megan's father came out of the house and walked over to the tent. “Do you two know anything about this?” he asked.

He held his hand out and there were half a dozen silver coins in it. There were also a few gold coins. The face of the coin had a picture of Moon Mountain stamped on it. The back showed a picture of the earth and the moon. It had the words “In God We Trust” stamped on the back.

“There's a huge bag in the front yard filled with these coins!” Megan's father said.
Kevin and Megan raced through the house and into the front yard. Her parents followed. Megan's mother held Mr. Cog while Lamkey rode on Kevin's shoulders.

When they ran into the front yard, they couldn't believe their eyes. There was a huge sack made of canvas that was tied together with rope at the top. It almost filled the entire front yard!

“IT'S the Moon Money!” Kevin yelled.

“And just what kind of money is that?” Megan's father asked.

“It's Moon Money from Moon Mountain, daddy,” Megan replied.

Megan's father looked at her mother, then he looked closely at Mr. Cog. “That's a strange looking cat!” her father said.

“He's from the moon too,” her mother said sarcastically.

Then Megan's father looked at Lamkey hanging from Kevin's back.

“What's that?” Megan's father asked.

“It's Lamkey!” Kevin said. “He's a monkey with a lamb's face! He's from the moon, too!”

Megan's father and mother looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders.

“Now I want the truth!” Megan's father said firmly. “Where did that money come from?”
Kevin looked at Megan and neither one knew what to say. Then Mr. Cog leaped into Megan's arms and whispered something to her.

Megan turned to her parents.

“The money was given to me and Kevin as a present for being nice to a man, who is now in heaven. It is not stolen. There are no other coins like these on earth and all the coins are made of pure silver and gold. We made a promise that we would spend some of the money in a sensible way that would help people and animals. And every year, some of the money will go to charities to help the less fortunate.”

Megan's father looked at his two children shook his head and let out a deep sigh. “I'll check into this in the morning. Right now, you two get back into your tent and go to sleep.”

“Can Mr. Cog sleep with me, daddy? Please?” Megan asked. Her father looked at Mr. Cog and the cog winked at him. Megan's father shook his head as if he were having a dream. “Oh, all right, I suppose. But he has to sleep outside the tent. That goes for that Lamkey too! Now you too crawl back into your tent and go to sleep. We can all use a good night's sleep after this!”
The next morning, Megan's father called the police. The police officers examined the Moon Money, but they had never seen anything like it. In the meantime, Megan's father hired a dozen trucks to haul the Moon Money to the bank. It filled six vaults at four different banks.

After the newspaper did a story on the Moon Money, word spread quickly that pure silver and gold coins from a place called Moon Mountain were for sale.

Within a year, all the coins were sold to coin collectors and museums, except those Megan and Kevin chose to keep.

Megan and Kevin were suddenly very rich!

They gave half of the money to charities in the name of Moon Mountain and put away the rest of their money for a college education and other things they might need when they got older.

Megan also bought a farm. Her family moved there so she and Kevin could raise Mr. Cog and Lamkey, along with pigs and chickens and geese and cows – and all kinds of other animals.

Then one day, when Megan was in the barn, she heard some strange noises behind the haystack. She walked behind
the pile of hay and much to her surprise, she saw the animal ghosts she had left behind at Moon Mountain!

“What are you doing here?” she asked with joy!

A pig oinked, then moved up to Megan. “We missed you and want to live with you on your farm!” he said.

“Oh, goody!” Megan cried. “Stay right here and don't move!” she said. She then ran back into the house and up to her bedroom. She grabbed the Magic Moon from under her pillow, and then ran back to the barn and behind the haystack. The animal ghosts were still there.

“Now, don't move a muscle!” she said. “I'm going to make a wish!”

Megan clasped the Magic Moon firmly in her hands, and then closed her eyes. She thought about her wish, then about poor little Kitty Kat. Soon, tears were rolling from her cheeks and a tear dropped on the Magic Moon!

All of a sudden, there was a bright flash. Before Megan could open her eyes, she started hearing animal sounds. She opened her eyes and could see all the animals had turned from ghosts into real animals in all the combinations she saw on the moon. There was Quicken and Canarrot and Zeon and Puck and Elewolf and Bearaffe and Tow!

Megan smiled and walked over to them. She put her arms around Puck, who oinked at her, and then all the animals
gathered close to her. They were happy to be with Megan on her farm.

And then out of the corner of her eye, she saw a small, black and white cat. “Kitty Kat!” she screamed with joy. The cat ran over to her and jumped into her arms.

Megan had wished that Kitty Kat would come back from heaven and join her. They nuzzled each other and started purring together.

The animals and Megan had made such a commotion, that soon her brother Kevin, along with Mr. Cog and Lamkey came into the barn. A joyous reunion began with everyone happily crying at the sight of their long, lost friends.

Megan suddenly looked at her brother. “Hey, Kevin! Do you want to play Imagine?” she asked with a wink.

Kevin smiled and sighed deeply as he looked around the barn at all the different animals. “We don't need that game anymore, Megan. I can't imagine being any happier than we are right now.”

“I wish everyone had a Magic Moon so people around the world could be as happy as we are!” Megan said.

As she spoke, Megan began to cry and a tear of happiness dropped on the Magic Moon.

Suddenly, it began to glow brighter than it ever had before...