

The Book of Carousel 2

In this chapter of *The Book of Carousel 2*, the story picks up after a magical encounter in Mo's attic, with Carousel and Daniel riding back down from the Cliffs in Mr. Anabin's car. Susannah has retreated to her dark realm, leaving Carousel and Daniel to navigate the aftermath of recent events. Their journey includes a stop at the Cliff Hangar, where Daniel is called upon to help a man named Billy, who runs the attraction "What Hast Thou Ground?" and is under a magical affliction caused by Malo Mogge. This task emphasizes Daniel's growing role in wielding magic responsibly and its connection to Susannah's own powers.

Carousel's perspective provides insight into her complex feelings about the carousel attraction, which she sees as both a rival and a source of magic. Observing the unfolding events, she reflects on her own limitations, especially regarding her inability to visit Susannah's realm despite holding most of the key. Meanwhile, other characters like Laura and Bogomil are engaged in their own struggles, with Laura actively dismantling Malo Mogge's temple. The presence of a mysterious boy adds to the intrigue, and Mo's absence highlights the need for rest after intense experiences.

The dynamic between the characters deepens during the car ride home. Carousel bonds with her new guitar, discovering it has a voice and desires transformation, mirroring her own uncertainties about identity and purpose. Daniel contemplates his future, considering state schools and seeking a recommendation from Mr. Anabin, showing his tentative steps toward embracing his magical responsibilities. Carousel admires Daniel's efforts to help others shed their metaphorical statues, recognizing the courage it takes to explore new abilities.

As the night turns to early morning, the narrative closes with a quiet, magical moment at home. Lissy and Dakota prepare a spell to extend the snowfall, and Daniel supports them with warmth and care. Carousel, holding a mysterious pearl gifted by a statue

lady, chooses not to reveal it, instead contemplating her own relationship with magic and her guitar. The chapter ends on a hopeful note, with Carousel tentatively invoking the snow, hinting at her growing acceptance of her magical potential and the challenges ahead.

