



# Successor of the Great Magician

魔術師的接班人 1

**Author:** Dylan Lee **Illustrator:** Chang Ting-Xuan **Publisher:** Global Kids

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When Beanie, a fourth-grader, ventures into the secretive Magician's Association, he accidentally uncovers forbidden magician secrets, plunging him into inescapable danger.

Can Beanie successfully rescue his uncle, Magic Jack, who is imprisoned by Voodoo Wu? Who are the mysterious Floating Nan and Lightfeet, and will they come to Beanie's aid?

This captivating novel, blending fantasy and adventure, follows Beanie's journey of personal growth as he navigates thrilling challenges and dangers. Through each obstacle, he becomes stronger and more mature. Set against a fantastical backdrop, the story's magical elements captivate young readers, sparking their imagination and offering an enchanting experience.



Author **Dylan Lee**

Originally from Changhua and a graduate of the Chinese Literature Department at National Chengchi University, Dylan Lee grew up with a childhood dream of raising dinosaurs. Over the years, Lee has cared for a variety of pets, including dogs, cats, hamsters, and fighting fish. Now, Dylan focuses on "hatching" more stories.

With a background in publishing numerous fairy tales online, writing scripts and novels, and even performing in children's theater, Lee's creative journey continues to inspire young audiences.



Illustrator **Chang Ting-Xuan**

Originally from Houli, Taichung, and a graduate of the Department of Animation at Taipei National University of the Arts, Chang Ting-Xuan is now a full-time freelancer, embracing the excitement of tackling various creative projects. Known for her cute and humorous style, her works include the *12 Zodiac League* series and several book covers.

Chang's favorite pastime is humorously venting on her page, where she warmly welcomes everyone to stop by and join the fun.

# The Fine Line Between Truth and Fiction

by Zhang Zhi-Zhang

If we delve into the origins of fantasy stories, we can trace them back to the earliest folk tales and their evolution into classical fairy tales. These eventually gave rise to the fantasy genre. The *Successor of the Great Magician* series follows this same trajectory, constantly shifting between the real world and the realm of fantasy. This novel offers a well-structured plot and captivating language. While it introduces fresh ideas in both form and content, it conveys universal themes such as the enduring power of love and life.

A well-crafted novel typically revolves around a central problem. Author Dylan Lee sets this problem deliberately,

carefully planning how to resolve it within the narrative. This approach sparks the reader's curiosity, making it hard to put the book down.

In this story, the central challenge is how the protagonist, Douzi, will rescue his beloved uncle. Lee's talent is evident in the development and resolution of this conflict. One particularly intriguing aspect of the story is the transformation of the word "magic." When the character "鬼" (ghost) is removed from "魔" (magic), it becomes "麻" (hemp), inviting readers to ponder the significance of this change. Does the hypnotism in the story serve as a form of "numbing" or sedation? This clever linguistic shift adds depth and

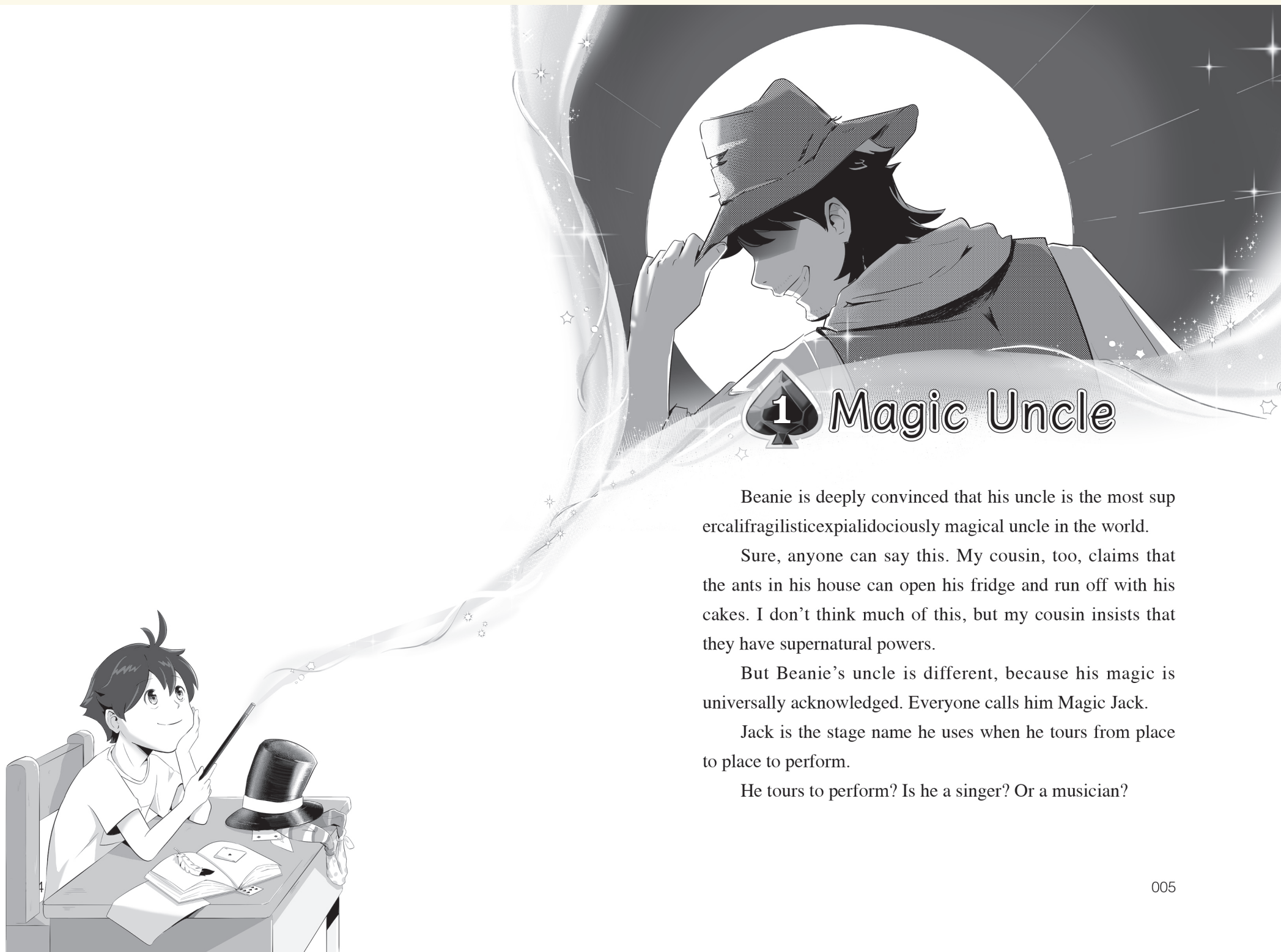
encourages reflection.

At less than one year old, Beanie accompanies his remarkable uncle, a magician of exceptional quality, in a public Las Vegas performance. This marks the beginning of his entry into the world of fantasy. As the story unfolds, Beanie faces numerous dangers that teach him how to survive. Throughout the story, Beanie comes to recognize his uncle's heroism through his repeated sacrifices to protect him. The depiction of "evil" is nuanced, culminating in a clever reversal by the end. Lee expertly employs foreshadowing to build suspense, guiding the plot toward satisfying resolutions for both major and supporting characters.

This work exemplifies the best traits of fantasy. Innovative and daring, Lee pays meticulous attention to detail in developing the characters, settings, and actions. As a result, the plot avoids implausibility and keeps the reader engaged. Grounded in reality and human nature, the story's thoughtful execution is a remarkable achievement.

*This afterword has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.*

*Zhang Zhi-Zhang is an Associate Professor at the Graduate Institute of Children's Literature at National Taitung University.*



Beanie is deeply convinced that his uncle is the most supercalifragilisticexpialidociously magical uncle in the world.

Sure, anyone can say this. My cousin, too, claims that the ants in his house can open his fridge and run off with his cakes. I don't think much of this, but my cousin insists that they have supernatural powers.

But Beanie's uncle is different, because his magic is universally acknowledged. Everyone calls him Magic Jack.

Jack is the stage name he uses when he tours from place to place to perform.

He tours to perform? Is he a singer? Or a musician?



Neither, actually. Beanie's uncle is a magician, a marvelous one. People will laugh out loud and gape in wonder when they watch his magic, and by the time the show ends, they are often so awestruck that they even forget to clap.

"Jack, this is truly magical!" Lost for words, this is all they can manage to exclaim once they finally react.

Eventually, "Magic" and "Jack" become one inseparable item, as if fixed together using gorilla glue.

Having a magician in the family is beyond amazing. To Beanie, Uncle is an idol, someone who outshines any movie star or pop singer.

If you open Beanie's bedroom door, the first thing you'll see is Magic Jack's poster pasted next to the bed. It's an ad for Uncle's Las Vegas show from ten years ago. The poster features Uncle and his assistant: a little baby swimming through the air.

That was a groundbreaking moment in the world of magic. Before Uncle, no magician had ever dared to perform with a child assistant. Even more astonishing, as the poster announced, this baby was about to celebrate his very first





birthday on the day of the show!

Such a little baby would cry and giggle and wee. It couldn't talk, it couldn't walk, so how could it pull magic tricks? That's why some people speculated that the baby was fake, just a puppet operated by Magic Jack.

Ha, ha, ha! Beanie can't help but laugh every time he thinks about this rumor—because that baby was none other than himself.

That show is still the talk of Beanie's family whenever they spend a moment of spare time together.

“Hey, remember that day in Vegas? Jacky built this snowman and ‘whoop’ it turned into Beanie!”

“And what's with that feeding bottle? Jacky just put a teat in Beanie's mouth, and then Beanie tele-drunk all the milk in the bottle!”

“Also, Beanie grabbed that colorful bouquet of balloons from Jacky and got carried up into the air!”

“Oh, and...”

Just like that, as soon as one family member brings up a topic, everyone else starts reminiscing too—whether it's during

a New Year's Eve dinner, a Mid-Autumn barbecue, or even on Tomb Sweeping Day.

Even Uncle himself says that it was the most unforgettable performance in his life.

Beanie feels proud of this, though it's a pity he was too young to remember any of it. Even more unfortunate is the fact that he'll never get to be part of such a show again.

Because Uncle no longer performs magic.