

SIDE 1

CHARLES WALLACE: Come on. Let's go.

MEG: *(In a mood.)* Go where? I'm hungry.

CHARLES WALLACE: Here's a pickle. We have to go see Mrs. Whatsit.

MEG: Why do we have to go see Mrs. Whatsit?

CHARLES WALLACE: You know why.

MEG: No, I don't!

CHARLES WALLACE: Mother got very upset when Mrs. Whatsit mentioned tesseract.

MEG: She wouldn't even talk about it this morning.

CHARLES WALLACE: Which is why we need to talk to Mrs. Whatsit.

MEG: Fine. But if she chops me up and bakes me into a pie, you're in big trouble.

CHARLES WALLACE: She won't.

(They walk in silence for a while. Then, out of the blue)

CHARLES WALLACE: Two years, three months, eleven days.

MEG: What's that supposed to mean?

CHARLES WALLACE: Last night, when Mother said she loved you, you didn't say "love you back."

MEG: So?

CHARLES WALLACE: So that makes two years, three months and eleven days since the last time you told her you love her. Ever since Father left.

MEG: You are so weird sometimes.

CHARLES WALLACE: As you keep reminding me.

MEG: She knows I—she knows how I—

SIDE 2

CALVIN: Do you know how lucky you are?

MEG: 'Cause I get to take a walk with Calvin O'Keefe?

CALVIN: No, well, yes but I mean like: Your life. Great house, cool kid brother, interesting friends, and you have a mom who's gorgeous, brilliant, and a great cook!

MEG: Well I don't feel lucky.

CALVIN: You should try my life on for size. Don't get me wrong, I love my family, but...

MEG: But what?

CALVIN: They don't get me. Like your brother said, I'm different—really different.

MEG: A sport?

CALVIN: And my family doesn't know how to deal with it, so they pretty much ignore me.

MEG: Sounds lonely.

CALVIN: Cue the sad violins.

MEG: But you're Mr. Popular. Captain of the basketball team.

CALVIN: That's my disguise. To fit in at school. That isn't really me.

(*Beat*) Hey, that picture in the hall, the guy in the lab coat: that's your father?

(*MEG nods.*)

CALVIN: He looks just like Charlie. Only bigger.

MEG: Yep.

CALVIN: So where is he anyway? People say he ran off or something.

MEG: (*Stiffening*) People lie!

CALVIN: Sorry.

MEG: He didn't run off.

SIDE 3

MRS. WHATSIT: The distance between your world and this one is so great that to travel here by even the fastest of spacecraft would take millions of years. So we took a shortcut. A wormhole. Use your skirt to show them. You see, if a small insect wished to travel from this point on my skirt, to this point over here, it would require quite a long walk to go the normal way. But if we wrinkle the fabric— (*She folds the two points together.*) —our little bug reaches his destination in no time. That is how we travel. All of space and time are woven together like this fabric, and we can wrinkle the fabric of spacetime just as I've folded my skirt. So we travel the galaxies in an instant. You see?

SIDE 4

MAN WITH RED EYES: (*In a gentle voice*) I have been waiting for you, dear ones. But how is it that there are three of you?

CHARLES WALLACE: The big guy is Calvin. He came along for the ride.

MEG: Charles Wallace, don't. Remember what Mrs. Whatsit said.

MAN WITH RED EYES: Welcome, Calvin. I hope you have enjoyed the ride thus far.

CALVIN: Okay, why does it feel like that guy's voice is inside my head?

CHARLES WALLACE: Don't look at him, he'll hypnotize you.

MAN WITH RED EYES: Clever boy. But why would you wish to resist someone who only wants to save you pain and trouble? For you and for all the useful people on this planet, I am willing to assume all the burdens of thought and decision.

CHARLES WALLACE: No thanks. We'll make our own decisions.

MAN WITH RED EYES: But my way is so much easier. Let me show you. Let us say the multiplication table together.

CHARLES WALLACE: No!

MAN WITH RED EYES: One times one is one. One times two is two. One times three is three.

MEG: Daddy! Daddy, are you here?!

MAN WITH RED EYES: Interesting.

MEG: Please. We're just here for our father. Give him to us and we'll leave you alone.

MAN WITH RED EYES: Why do you want him?

MEG: Because he's our father!

MAN WITH RED EYES: He is a man who abandoned his family to go on a wild adventure.

MEG: Shut up! Just tell us where he is!

SIDE 5

FATHER: Oh my lord! Meg!

MEG: (*Throwing herself into his arms*) I can't believe we found you!

FATHER: What are you doing here? Where's your mother?

MEG: She isn't here.

FATHER: You mean you're alone?

MEG: No, Charles Wallace is here too, but IT has taken control of him, Daddy, and it's all my fault.

FATHER: What are you talking about, Meg? Where is he? (*Seeing CALVIN*) That can't be Charles.

MEG: No, that's Calvin. He's my friend, or my...

CALVIN: I'm really glad to meet you, sir. Meg has told me all about—

CHARLES WALLACE: Hiya, Pop.

FATHER: Charles? Charles Wallace, is that you?

(*FATHER approaches CHARLES, brings him into a hug. CHARLES is completely unresponsive.*)

CHARLES WALLACE: Stop that. We don't like it.

FATHER: Charles Wallace, do you remember me? I know you were very young when I left but—

CHARLES WALLACE: We must go see IT now. IT is not pleased.

FATHER: Charles Wallace!

MEG: He isn't really Charles right now, Daddy. IT has taken over his mind.

CHARLES WALLACE: Come. IT doesn't like to be kept waiting.

FATHER: No, we can't go to IT. Meg won't be able to handle that.

CHARLES WALLACE: She should have thought of that before she decided to defy IT.

FATHER: Charles, I'm your father, and you're going to have to do as I say.

CHARLES WALLACE: You're just a weak little nothing. I answer to IT now.

