



BY LINCOLN REIGN

Story and characters property of Nintendo™
Novelized by Lincoln Reign
August 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROLOGUE: MISCARRIAGE

******* 1**

CHAPTER 1: WELCOME TO YOSHI'S ISLAND

******* 5**

CHAPTER 2: TO THE RESCUE

******* 11**

CHAPTER 3: HIT AND MISS

******* 17**

CHAPTER 4: OUT OF REACH

******* 20**

CHAPTER 5: JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE ISLAND

******* 26**

CHAPTER 6: THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT

******* 34**

CHAPTER 7: WELCOME BACK

******* 40**

CHAPTER 8: FRIEND OR FOE?

******* 47**

EPILOGUE: FAREWELL

******* 53**



MISCARRIAGE

PROLOGUE

A stork hurries across the dusky, pre-dawn sky, the clouds are low, the stars are bright, and the people of the world below sleep soundly.

In his bill, he supports a pair of twins, each tucked safely inside a cloth bag. They were being delivered to their parents, and on a calm night like tonight, it was a fairly simple task.

But just the stork thought to himself how easy the job was, a shadow appears in the gap between the clouds and races towards the stork with blinding speed.

"SCREEEECH!!!" the stork cried, wheeling backwards.

"The babies are mine!" the creature shouted, zipping by. Snatching only one baby, the creature vanishes into the darkness from whence it came.

The second baby falls undetected towards the open sea as the stork dizzily tried to steady itself.

There is an island in the Celtic sea that sits yet untouched by the outside world. It is home to many ancient creatures, specifically a race of prehistoric dinosaurs. The T. Yoshisaur Munchakoopas, or often just the Yoshi, are docile reptiles the size of velociraptors.

Keeping to themselves and living amongst the thick

forests of their island has allowed them to remain undiscovered, but their peaceful little island was in for a rude awakening.

Dawn broke over the horizon, light spilling over the water and breaking through the trees. It wasn't the day that woke this particular Yoshi however, but the sounds of a child crying.

Yoshi looked up to see a baby dangling from a tree branch, tangled in shredded cloth. He gave the baby a quizzical look before the cloth snapped.

Suddenly, the baby dropped in onto his back.

Fortunately the baby seemed to be fine, but Yoshi had never seen a creature like this before. It did however have an odd defining trait; a red hat that it held tight to.

Before Yoshi could figure out what to do with the thing, something else fell out of the sky, hitting him in the head before falling to the ground.

It looked like a map, but Yoshi had no idea what it meant or where exactly it lead.

Unable to figure it out, he tucked it into his shell and patted the baby's head. Then he headed into the trees looking to find the other Yoshies. Maybe they could help.

"AAAAAAAAAAKK!!!"

Kamek, the evil Magikoopa, and kidnapper of the baby, stopped his feet in anger, discovering that he missed the other baby!

Quickly, he sent out his troops to locate the missing child, staring at the squirming sack in front of him.

Yoshi heads leisurely back to the other Yoshies, unaware of the danger at hand.

Kamek's forces are actively searching the island.
Will these two ever reach their parents safely?

Prologue: Miscarriage



WELCOME TO YOSHI'S ISLAND

CHAPTER I

The Yoshies gathered around the small child in a clearing near the edge of their forest home, studying the odd map.

They had both fallen out of the sky, so it made sense that if they take the baby to the highest place they can reach, they'd find *some* clue as to where it came from. This of course meant walking the path to the mountains near the center of the island, however, it had been a long time since any Yoshi traveled that far.

Though the island was calm, there were plenty of dangers present. From carnivorous snapping turtles the Yoshi's called Koopas, to the venomous plants they called the Piranha Plants. And though the island was small, there was still plenty of ground they'd have to cover on foot, through land they rarely visited. As for the map, they'd have to deal with that when the time came, if it mattered at all.

So they decided a few of them would take the child. Some would scout ahead to check for dangers, one would carry the child, and the rest would stay behind to make sure no more sudden visitors dropped in unexpectedly.

Settling the young baby on the back of the green Yoshi's shell, they began their journey.

With the last of his troops scattered, Kamek rested for a moment. He was old, wrinkled, tired, and already done waiting for this setback to be dealt with.

It was fine, if only one got away, it was fine. One of the twins was currently being held captive, and the other was somewhere on the island. It was only a matter of time before the child was found, dead or alive.

There was no way the child could survive on its own, especially after a fall like that, but the peaceful creatures of the island were an unknown. If the baby *had* survived, there was a good chance those pesky Yoshies were taking care of it.

But it was no matter for Kamek; with his troops searching everywhere for them, they wouldn't stand a chance. And even if they somehow evaded his forces...

He always had his magic to fall back on.

The orb on the end of his staff shone dimly, casting an evil glow through the dark castle chamber.

The young baby snored softly as Yoshi walked the dirt path through the forest. It had already been cleared of most danger, but what was left was nearly harmless; just a few Piranha Plants and Lullaby Lilies that were too far off the road to matter.

It was noon now, the sun shining down on them as they exited the forest. From here there were mostly low cliffs and rolling hills, tall grass and choppy terrain.

Colorful scenery aside, that's not what Yoshi's attention was focused on.

Hiding under one of the low cliffs were a line of fellow Yoshies, each barely peeking over the tall grass

above their heads. The Yoshi currently carrying the baby looked up at the sky, then quickly ducked beneath the grass as well.

There were strange creatures hovering above the fields; tiny beings cloaked in green with their faces covered with white masks. The Yoshies had never seen anything like them before either, but there was a dark presence about them that made it clear the Yoshi's should stay away.

Instinct dictated dumping the baby there and going home; taking care of a child that wasn't theirs not being worth it. However, in it's sleep the baby gripped the Yoshi's shell, possibly sensing the dark energy the strange creatures emanated.

Ignoring his instincts and accepting his role as the child's guardian, Yoshi began to walk slowly along the underside of the cliff.

One of the other Yoshies stopped him however, grabbing his arm while his eyes remained fixed on the creatures above them. He was probably telling him not to risk it, but the green Yoshi wouldn't listen. He made his way under the cliffs, keeping to the walls and shadows. The creatures in masks watched the ground, scanning the area for the child, but Yoshi wasn't going to just hand the baby over.

The plains weren't far from here, so so long as he made it passed the cliffs it would be simple walking through the fields of tall grass, remaining hidden.

Before he made it very far however, once again the Yoshi from earlier stopped him, a red Yoshi. It motioned for the green Yoshi to stay where he was, then looked at the sky one last time before hurrying forward.

Green Yoshi understood. Red Yoshi wasn't telling him to give up, but to hold still while they went through with the original plan; he was scouting ahead to clear the path of danger.

A few other Yoshies followed the red one, each staying just within sight of the one before it, making a line for the green Yoshi to follow. And now that they were working together, each more determined to protect the child, within the hour green Yoshi had made it to edge of the cliffs and had reached the plains.

He stepped out of the cliffs and was immediately faced with a line of Koopas.

Expecting the path to have been cleared, green Yoshi was stunned, tripping and nearly dropping the baby. Luckily, red Yoshi, with the help of yellow Yoshi, were able to get between green Yoshi and the Koopas.

Not waiting to stick around for the fight, white Yoshi pulled green Yoshi away while red and yellow fought off the Koopas. White and green Yoshi began running into the tall grassy plains, but the baby had been startled awake.

Before they knew it, more Koopas and cloaked goons were on their tails and gaining. Red and yellow Yoshi had left their fight and were hurrying to catch up to the others, the rest of the Yoshies all jumping out of hiding to attack the enemies.

In total there were about twenty Yoshies running through the plains. They'd made a plan, followed through with it, and in an instant it completely fell apart. The child's cries alerted nearly every creature around them.

The great forest was right there in front of them, just at the base of the mountain. There were caves there the Yoshies could use as cover, but there was just too much space between them and those trees.

Not that it mattered; even as the Koopas and Masks caught them, more villainous troops crept out of the forest. The Yoshies were surrounded completely.

Grouped together, trying their best to keep the child safely between them, the enemies closed in. Within seconds

the Yoshies had been captured, each struggling in the grips of the Koopa troops. The baby had been stuffed once more into a sack, kicking and crying, trying desperately not to be kidnapped a second time.

But the Yoshies were never ones to give up easily.

As peaceful as they were, they had very strange abilities. Take for instant, being able to swallow their enemies whole.

Red Yoshi was the first to strike, eating a Koopa. Thanks to a dual digestive system however, they could weaponize their prey, encasing them in a rubbery film and popping them back out like eggs. He threw the egged enemy, and the rest of the Yoshies followed suit.

Surprised by the sudden counterattack, the Koopas and Masks were momentarily stunned. The Yoshies, of course, used this to their advantage, eating and throwing enemies as fast as they could. They fought their way through the horde, trying to follow the Mask that held the child.

Missed egg after missed egg, green Yoshi finally got in a lucky shot, knocking the baby out of the enemy's grasp. It fell, and Yoshi leapt for it... but just out of reach, a Koopa had grabbed him from behind.

Red Yoshi caught the child, and froze for a moment. Looking back, green Yoshi had been swallowed by the mass of Koopas tearing at his friends. Only a handful made it out, and they were all being chased in a single direction.

Soon, red was running with them, holding onto the child as they made their way across the plains. The forest was blocked to them, their way to the mountain closed, but if they could just keep running...

And yet, it was useless.

No, *worse* than useless. Useless is neither good nor bad... this was a trap.

They made their way around the forest's edge, the Koopas once more gaining on them, and the Masks right behind them. There, at the base of the mountain, stood a tall dark tower.

They had never seen it before, and had no idea how long it had been there, but as they stood there, staring up in horrified wonder, they were once again surrounded. Only this time, there was no way out.

Tired, and divided, the Yoshies were easily overwhelmed once more. The child was taken away, and they were all drug towards the tower.

Having barely made it out their front door, the Yoshies had been defeated.

Chapter 1: Welcome to Yoshi's Island



TO THE RESCUE

CHAPTER 2

The Yoshies were escorted through the fields of their own island, Koopa troops walking guard alongside them. The baby had already been carried off by one of the masked creatures, but-- though separated-- the Yoshies knew they couldn't give up.

It would be hard, and they'd be deep in unknown enemy territory, but so long as a single Yoshi lived, they would fight. Peaceful they may be, docile yes, but *loyal* above all.

They would find an opportunity, and they would take it.

They stared up at the dark tower the enemy lead them towards, each fearing the worst as the large gates opened. Shadows seemed to seep from every cracked brick, as if it devoured all light. It was in perfect contrast to the paradise that was the rest of the island; a dark core to an otherwise bright world. It was no place for a lost baby, or anyone for that matter.

And yet, before they knew it, they had been locked inside, the door slammed behind them.

Most of the Koopas stayed outside, for what they didn't know, but they planned to use their absence to their advantage. That is, if a worse enemy hadn't appeared.

The MagiKoopas, Koopas that knew the art of spellcraft, stood before them. At the head, was Kamek.

Kamek looked at the Yoshies, disappointed that his

lackies had had such trouble with them. It should've been a simple task to eliminate them, yet still they stood. He scoffed, shaking his head as he turned away.

To the dungeons it was.

Deeper and deeper into the castle they went, the halls growing darker and the floors growing colder. Red Yoshi continued trying to find a way out, but the longer he thought, the worse the situation became.

Doors kept locking behind them, and it felt like there was an infinite number of Koopa troops lining the walls. Yet still he refused to give up hope. Even if he couldn't rescue the odd child, he needed to rescue his own kind while they still stood beside him.

He remembered how his brothers fought in the previous battle. They lost their lives protecting each other, and that child. And here he was, letting those who remained get taken away...

No!

Red Yoshi suddenly lurched to the side, crashing into the nearest Koopa. It fell over, toppling several other Koopas as well.

The other Yoshies got the hint, and picked up the fight immediately. The Koopas that lined the halls charged towards them, but it seemed they were unprepared for the Yoshi's ability to swallow enemies whole.

Koopas began running the other direction, scared, and apparently untrained. These troops had been armed, but were never taught to use the tools given to them. The Yoshies used this to their FULL advantage.

They stormed the halls, throwing the egged opponents back into the battle! They forced their way back up the tower, knocking down every enemy along the way!

But they couldn't make it passed the tower's entrance before they were stopped once more.

Kamek blocked their way, magic wand glowing with power. He'd hand enough of the Yoshies futile attempts at stopping him. There was work to be done, and they were now more trouble than they were worth.

He struck one with a bolt of lightning.

The yellow scaled Yoshi fell to the ground, lost and trampled beneath the fleeing Koopas. Kamek's own troops began running from him, cowering away from the Yoshies combined might and their own master's magical power.

But yet another death of one of their friends only reinforced their strength. They pressed back harder, using the Koopas as shields as they pushed passed Kamek as he blasted apart staircases and walls alike.

Running as fast as they could away from Kamek's wizardry, they made their way up the long spiraling stairs of the tower. Floor after floor they ran from Kamek, but they didn't last without sacrifice. As they fled they lost several good Yoshies, and now only a few remained, three in all; Red, Purple, and White Yoshies were all that were left.

And as they finally reached the large chamber that was the entire top floor, they stopped and stood together.

Before them, sitting on a throne of wrapped gifts, was a squat little Koopa. It looked different than the ones they had fought. Spiked shell, a single tuft of red hair, and green scales. What's more, this Koopa appeared to be only a child himself.

Kamek zoomed passed the Yoshies to stand between the Yoshies and the little Koopaling.

Before Kamek could strike the finishing blow however, the Koopaling began to cry.

Kamek looked over his shoulder, taking a moment to rest. He leaned on his staff. "Oh, dear..." he sighed.

"What to do... Young master Bowser wakes..." *These pesky Yoshies are getting in the way... but I have an idea.* He smiled, just slightly, and lifted a hand. "Young master, let me help you... here."

Kamek turned his wand to the Koopaling, hitting him with a wave of magic.

Bowser cried loudly, squirming on top of the boxes as his body began to grow. The Yoshies could do nothing but watch as the creature cracked the stone floor under its weight. The building shook, and Bowser's head crashed through the ceiling, causing rubble to fall all around the Yoshies.

Bowser roared, a monster with the mind of a child, and leapt from what remained of the tower. Only a moment later however, he stood beside it at equal height. He swatted at what was left of the tower, crushing it like cardboard.

The Yoshies were completely exposed, and were powerless to stop a demon such as this. But their mission wasn't over yet.

Amidst the crumbling building and Bowser's raging screams, they heard another sound; a child's crying.

There, in the chamber they were trapped in, were the babies tied in sacks, and the stork that once carried them. Kamek was still in their way, but there were three of them left, and that was enough.

White Yoshi sped off, screeching at Bowser to get his attention. Purple Yoshi grabbed at Kamek's robes, biting at the magic wand. While they distracted the enemy, Red hurried to the Stork's aid, untying it from the binds that kept it from flying away.

But even as the ropes snapped, red Yoshi was out of time. White had been crushed all too easily, and red lay incapacitated on the cracked floor.

Kamek blew the Stork away, but it fought against

the winds. Red Yoshi charged at Kamek, trying desperately to hold him at bay. Kamek's wand had been broken, and as such the spell he'd put on Bowser had already begun to fade. All Kamek had left were the simple magics he himself possessed.

If red Yoshi could just keep Kamek occupied...!

Suddenly Yoshi was flung backwards, landing with the two children. Kamek pointed at him, charging a powerful strike meant to finish them all off at once.

He remembered his green friend as he was drowned out by the enemy Koopas.

Red Yoshi knew he was done for, but it wouldn't be in vain.

He grabbed the children, and threw them to the Stork that circled above him, unable to dive closer due to the strong winds keeping him away. But those winds carried the children right to him.

Red Yoshi was struck down by Kamek's last desperate attempt to stop this.

Kamek could do nothing more but watch as the young children were flown off once more. *I mustn't allow them to reach their parents.* "Someday... We'll be back... You'll see!"



Thus, due to the marvelous team work of the Yoshi clan, the twins are reunited.

The captured Stork, freed by Yoshi, sets about his duty and finally makes the long awaited delivery.

Thank you Yoshi, the Stork thought as he flew away from the island. *The twins will meet the parents soon!*

At last he arrived at where the parents lived; a small humble home the Italian city of Verona. Lights flickered off across the town as the citizens went to sleep for the

night, but the Stork found his way.

He sat the children on the doorstep and rang the bell.

Chapter 2: To the Rescue



HIT AND MISS

CHAPTER 3

The light behind the door clicked on, and the Stork took a step back to fly away, his job finally done. However, before he could leave, the door had already opened.

A man and woman stood side by side, staring down at the children before them.

"Excuse me, but... who are these babies?" the woman asked. "We're not expecting any babies!"

The couple was surprised and confused by the unexpected delivery. It seems the Stork has delivered the babies to the wrong house!

"Hey wait I recognize that hat," the man said, kneeling down beside the children. "You're looking for a man named Mario, yeah? Well you came to the right place, just a little late. He moved to Paris not too long ago. My name's Luca. Mario left his house to us when he left."

Right place, the Stork thought. Wrong time...

"Do you need help finding him?" Luca asked. "I'll find you a map."

Luca went back inside the house and rifled through some kitchen drawers. He found a map of Italy, but nothing that would show where Mario was. He settled for grabbing a pen and paper and drawing a map himself. It was crude but it would have to do.

He returned to the Stork and handed him the map. A note at the bottom included the actual address. "Hopefully this'll help," Luca said. "Good luck."

The Stork picked the children back up, and kicked off, hoping to finally deliver these children to the *right* parents.

"Storks don't actually deliver children," the woman said. "Right?"

"Nope," Luca nodded, watching the Stork fly off to deliver children. "But I was in a circus with a talking Gorilla, and a ringleader who fought a corrupt bank man. *Everything* makes sense after that."

He shut the door.

The Stork flew the night sky once again, rushing in search of the true home of the twins.

But then... The Stork heard shouting behind him. He risked looking back, and saw Kamek flying towards him, four flying Koopatroops beside him. Kamek was back to steal the babies once and for all.

They crashed into the Stork, swiftly nabbing the brothers from the frantic Stork.

However, as luck would have it, same as before Mario had fallen from Kamek's grasp, tumbling down towards the big blue sea a second time.

But of course, he never made it that far.

Hidden in the clouds below them, was an island. Egg island, to be precise. This floating paradise was once a peaceful second home to the Yoshi clan. But in the Koopa's ongoing attempts to capture the infant Mario Brothers, they had captured the floating island a long time ago. They hid in secret, but their presence was strong. The Yoshi's couldn't find the Koopa's secret hideaway, and now they live there in fear of the evil power terrorizing their once peaceful home.

Baby Mario, young as he was, had learned a little from his previous adventure. He used the sack he'd been held in as a parachute, and floated safely down to the island below.

The Yoshi clan there saw them, and investigated the tiny creature as he landed safely in their forest. Unharmred, Baby Mario looked up at the Yoshies as they surrounded him. Confused, the Yoshies could smell their own kind on him, and having already been rescued by Yoshies before, Baby Mario was unafraid of the colorful dinosaurs.

So without skipping a beat, Baby Mario began crawling with determination. Perhaps being around magical creatures had rubbed off on him, because for some inexplicable reason he felt he could sense where he lost brother had been taken.

Before he could get far, the Yoshies agreed the island was currently too dangerous for him, stopping Baby Mario. They decided they would have to go with him, to return him to wherever he came from.

This clan of Yoshies had grown to be more cautious than the first, so they set out quietly.

And thus began the second of Baby Mario's adventure through the Yoshi's Island.

Chapter 3: Hit and Miss



OUT OF REACH

CHAPTER 4

The heavy mist kept the Yoshies hidden as they walked through the cloudy plains of their sky island. As the island floated among the clouds, the clouds themselves were usually low to the ground, but they were thickest near the beaches, where the Yoshies traveled now.

Baby Mario pointed them in the direction he thought his brother had gone, leading them towards the top of the island. It was cold this far up, yes, but the child didn't seem to care, and the Yoshies had long since grown used to their hidden climate.

The Koopas however, have only recently taken up residence on the island. So while the Yoshies easily traversed their native terrain, the Koopas stumbled their way through the misty forests of the north. They searched as well as they could, only being able to see a few feet in front of them at any time, but there was no sign of the fallen child.

Not that they could give up though, Kamek would have their hides if they failed again. He'd skin them, and boil them in their shells, and eat them as turtle soup.

All the while, Kamek himself sat up in his tower, guarding the future King.

He was relentless, refusing to leave King Bowser's side for fear that the young Koopaling could be hurt, or worse. So he had his men searching for the lost Mario brother, the younger of the twins safely tied up and locked

away at the bottom of the tower.

Regardless of what the Yoshies did this time, they couldn't possibly know to both find the twin in the dungeons, *and* defeat him and Bowser at the the top of the tower.

And yet, they had done all that last time...

Kamek watched out the window of the tower, nearly cracking his staff in his grip in anger. Those pesky Yoshies... those worthless Mario brothers... He didn't know how they bested him last time, but these Yoshies lacked the knowledge of the Yoshies from before. There was no way they would best him now, not now that Kamek was prepared for such defiance.

His troops would find those Yoshies, and wipe them out.

And then the last of the brothers would be brought to him.



The plains flattened out as the Yoshies made their way north. They had left the beaches a while ago, and could see the low mountains in the distance now. The forests to the west and east were close though, and despite the young Mario's protests, the Yoshies began moving closer to the trees. The mist kept them hidden, but as the hills were behind them there was nothing to keep them protected.

But of course, they should have listened to baby Mario.

As soon as they got close enough for the mist to be thin enough to see through, they came face to face with a Koopa platoon. For a moment, the Koopa and Yoshi at the front of their respective packs, stopped dead.

The Koopa charged first, only because he was a

little more prepared than the Yoshi had been. As far as the Yoshies knew, there was evil present on their island, and the baby was leading them towards something. But the Koopas knew what they were there for; the Yoshies, and the child.

Caught off guard only for a moment, didn't do much to lessen the Koopas strike.

Hammers, boomerangs, and fireballs were suddenly flying through the air. The Koopas sounded the horn to give away the Yoshies position, and the Yoshies tried desperately to run away.

Some of them fought-- those closest to the attackers-- eating them whole and throwing them back as eggs as Yoshies often did to dangerous creatures, but there were just too many Koopas to deal with.

And then suddenly there weren't.

The Yoshies skid to a stop, hearing the sudden cracking sound behind them. Looking to see where the Koopas had gone, there was no sign of them, just the forest behind the low hills. The mist still too thick to see properly, but it was clear the Koopas had gone.

Crack!!

The Yoshies all jumped back, sheltering the baby and watching as the hill opened up, sharp teeth along either side of the ridge.

It wasn't just a hill, but the Piranha Plants indigenous to most of the Yoshies secret islands. This Piranha Plant however was far bigger than any the Yoshies had seen before, and it was what had caused the Koopas to disappear. It had eaten them, the whole platoon.

The Yoshies ran for their lives. A small army was one thing, but they couldn't fight something able to *eat* an army!

Yet even as they ran the Piranha Plant climbed out of the ground, beginning to follow. The Yoshies followed

the baby Mario's pointing, still heading north, but they were slower than the giant carnivorous flower, and before they knew it they were encased in darkness. The loud snapping echoed in their ears.

...

But it hadn't eaten them.

They had simply fallen in a hole, dropping below ground and out of the Piranha's reach! The creature's snapping jaws echoed off the cave walls, but it couldn't get to them. For the time being, they were safe.

After a while the Piranha Plant gave up, sitting down beside the cliff and watching them. The cave wasn't too dark to see through-- there were glowing mushrooms that partially lit the way-- and they knew they couldn't stay in one spot for too long, so they started moving through the caves.

A quick head count told them all the Yoshies so far had survived the Piranha Plant, but each of them were now more cautious than ever about what might be lurking just out of sight. They moved slowly through the caves, pausing at every sound. Their eyes were sharper than most creatures, having long since evolved and adjusted to the poor foggy air of their island's surface, so they could see well enough in the caves as well.

However, the other creatures that inhabited the caves have evolved to hide, regardless of how well you could see.

Things slithered under foot, fluttered over head, and seemingly walked beside them always just out of sight. Occasionally they would think they saw a pair of eyes watching them in the distance, only for it to be a tiny set of mushrooms. Other times they would feel something brush passed them, only for it to be their fellow Yoshies, all shrinking away from something they weren't sure was even there.

But they pressed on, following baby Mario as he led them down tunnel after tunnel, working their way forward underground. And finally, after walking for such a long time, they had reached the end. A single point of light hung above them; the exit.

Only, a moment later, their exit had a face, and it was falling towards them.

The Yoshies ducked out of the way, shielding Mario as the large glowing slug fell from the cave ceiling. It landed flat on the ground, its eyes popping out the top of it. It sloshed forward, the Yoshies jumping back.

The slug didn't seem particularly dangerous, but it didn't look nice either. Especially not after it opened its mouth, showing several rows of sharp teeth.

It wasn't a giant glowing slug, it was a giant glowing leach.

Wanting nothing more than to be back safe and sound in their forest, and wondering why everything else on their island was so destructive, the Yoshies began running back the way they came. The leach blocked the way forward, and it moved quickly, but they remembered the paths they'd taken to get this far.

The Yoshies took a sharp turn, running down another tunnel heading off in a different direction. The leach kept barreling forward, and the Yoshies were able to keep going down the path forward. But the leach wasn't done yet, and continued chasing after them.

Running away yet again, the Yoshies reach the end of the path with the exit high above them. It was too far to reach, and the leach was getting closer, but one of them had an idea.

He jumped into the air, hovering for just a moment before landing again. The others took the hint, and prepared for the leach to ram into them. It got closer and closer, and right before it was on top of them, they all jumped at once.

The leach ran head first into the cave wall, and the Yoshies landed hard on top of it. The leach's rubbery body bounced them upwards, just high enough to grab onto the edge of the hole at the top. Those who couldn't reach were grabbed by the Yoshies that could.

And finally they were out of the caves, each of them yet unharmed, and baby Mario still determined to find his brother.

But they weren't out of trouble yet, and the journey was far from over, for they had finally reached the destination Mario had been leading them to; the large black castle that was constructed at the northernmost point of the island.

At it's peak, was Kamek, and the Koopaling Bowser.

Somewhere in the castle, was Mario's younger twin.

And unbeknownst to them, there was a lone figure watching over them from afar.

Chapter 4: Out of Reach



JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE ISLAND

CHAPTER 5

Kamek stared down at the Yoshies who stood in front of his castle doors. He couldn't believe they'd lasted this long yet again! Even after he'd used his magic on the creatures of this island, they'd still managed to both survive, *and* evade capture! His minions have been scouring the island, and yet the Yoshies have walked *right to his doorstep!!!*

Kamek shut his eyes tight, forcing himself to remain calm. Last time he let himself get angry like this he destroyed his own castle.

It's fine, he decided. They would just come right to him, and then...

No, he had a better idea.

He looked back at the young King Bowser who rested in his tiny throne. He picked up the child and began making his way down the tower.

Let them come, he thought. They won't stand a chance. Not this time.

Mario knelt at the edge of a cliff, overlooking the castle. It looked to still be partially under construction, so it was probably only half as tall as it would end up being. At

the door of the castle however, a herd of Yoshies began moving in. With them was the child, safe for now.

Getting up, Mario started down the cliffs, keeping out of sight. By the time he made it down, the Yoshies had already entered the castle.

Mario followed after them, sneaking in as the door slammed shut.



The Yoshies started for the stairs leading up, but baby Mario stopped them. He pointed another direction, leading them into a low ceilinged chamber with several doors lining the walls. They all looked exactly the same; wooden doors with rusted copper pipes framing them, winding up to the ceiling and down through the floor. In the center of the room was a pit, but it was too dark to see just how far it went.

It was clearly a maintenance room of some kind, with each door leading to the inner-workings of some important part of another room somewhere else in the tower. But baby Mario didn't lead them to any of the doors, and instead pointed at the pit before them.

The Yoshies froze, not knowing whether or not they should jump, or try to find another way.



Mario ducked into the maintenance room, hiding behind the pipes as the Yoshies stepped closer to the pit. He looked around, wondering what he could do to help. The child obviously knew to go down, but that was too far to fall.

He worked his way around the room, staying hidden in the shadows. He made it to the small access panel,

looking over the switches. He found one labeled "**Stairs**," but before he could flip it, the Yoshi holding the child had already begun his descent.

I guess I'm not needed yet.

The green scaled Yoshi held tight to the child as he fluttered his way down the pit.

Torches lit the path at the bottom, but the carved stone tunnel quickly crumbled away into the rocky caverns that were all over the underground of the floating island. At least the glowing mushrooms were indigenous to the underground so they could still see, but as they crept deeper into the caverns, moving deeper and deeper into the island, the rock walls grew hotter.

Soon, molten lava was leaking through.

As they forced themselves onward, they reached a large open cavern, lava flowing right alongside the thin path they walked. But the baby Mario was determined to continue, despite Yoshi wanting to turn and walk the other way.

Yet, when they reached the end of the burning chamber deep in the island's core, they came to a door. Steel, towering doors stood before them at the end of the path. They opened on their own, as if knowing Yoshi and the child had approached them.

And they didn't even know it was trap until those doors shut behind them.

Kamek stood in front of the Koopaling Bowser who sat on an old golden throne. "Welcome!!" Kamek cackled, grinning as he leaned on his wand. "Now Yoshi, if you would please... *hand over the baby!*" His smile dropped and he took a threatening step forward.

But Yoshi didn't budge, and Mario sat firm on

Yoshi's back. He sensed his brother was near, but Kamek had to have hidden him. This was as far as his bond would take him.

"Fine, my magic will protect us," Kamek decided. "But you won't escape from here."

Before Yoshi could strike, Kamek had turned and pointed his wand at Bowser. Using his power, he once more made the Koopaling grow into a giant. Kamek laughed as he swerved out of the way of Bowser's rage.

Bowser roared, soon ducking as he became too tall for the cavern. The cavern cracked, large boulders falling from above. Yoshi dodged the rocks as best he could, but at this rate the whole cave would fall apart around them.

But suddenly the great steel doors opened, and the rest of the Yoshies came pouring in. They grabbed the biggest rocks they could hold and began fighting back against the giant Bowser.

"What!?" Kamek scoffed. "No!" He blasted magic at the ceiling, breaking it even more. Lava began spilling down on top of them, but still they fought. Somehow, these Yoshies were the most resilient creatures he'd ever met.

Maybe I should have trained them instead of those worthless Koopas, Kamek sighed.

He watched, more annoyed than angered at this point, at how easily the Yoshies could dodge his and Bowser's attacks, as well as the rocks and lava. This was beginning to feel pointless. He just needed to capture that child! It should be simple!

He screamed, throwing spell after spell at the Yoshies. But before he could squash them all, Bowser had fallen. He crumbled to his knees, defeated, and tired. Big as he was, he was still a simple child. He was done throwing his tantrum, and his size was beginning to return to normal.

Refusing to admit defeat however, Kamek pointed his wand at the Yoshies. He wanted to give one last blast

like before, but he felt his power draining. In his anger, he hadn't realized he was running low on power.

It should be so easy to use one last spell and crush the Yoshies, yet he knew, somehow, they would *still* survive! It seemed impossible to--!

There was a loud *POP*, and then everything was quiet.

A tear had formed in the air at the top of the room. A long, clawed hand reached out from it, yellow scales reflecting the heat of the lava. Then another reached out, and together they ripped the tear open.

Suddenly... warping through space and time... King Bowser had appeared!

"This isn't over yet!!" he bellowed. "BWAHAHAHA!"

He charged forward, ramming into the steel doors.

"Yes!" Kamek laughed. He had no idea how this had happened, but if this Bowser had the power to come from the future, then surely he could win this! They had a chance!

Yoshi rolled out of the way, but only barely. Baby Mario on the other hand, had fallen away. Kamek smiled and Bowser smashed his foot down on the child.

But as Bowser took his foot away, he and Kamek stared wide eyed at the bubble that had formed around the child. It protected him, and confirmed Kamek's recent suspicion.

I don't know how, Kamek growled. *But this boy possesses true magic*. He looked at his wand, feeling the little power he had left.

"Take that!"

Kamek looked up, and his jaw dropped. Bowser was staggering, and on his head, stood a man in blue overalls, and a red cap. "*NO!*" Kamek screamed.

Mario continued his attack, beating Bowser's head.

The Koopa King roared in anger, trying to swat him away, but this... anomaly, wouldn't go away. The future Mario clung to Bowser, grabbing his horns and directing him into the walls of the cavern.

Kamek growled, pointing his wand at Bowser. "This is the last of my power!" he shouted. "But I can't let you win!"

Using his magic, Bowser began to grow. He was already a monster, but with this spell the entire cavern started falling apart. Mario grabbed the Yoshi and his child self and helped them stay above the lava that began filling up the chamber, but Kamek survived as well, flying on his broom.

King Bowser however, was already knee deep in the molten rock, and his shoulders were crashing through the ceiling. He swatted at the rocks above him, breaking them apart so he could see.

But the tear that Bowser had come through was opening wider. It began sucking up the rocks and lava that fell around it. It rose into the air, darkness swarming around it as it shredded the cavern. Soon, they could see the night sky, even though they were still so deep underground. The tear grew, but Yoshi clung to the ground and held tight to the child, trying to keep him safe.

Mario got Yoshi and the child to safety, then began jumping from cliff to cliff, making his way higher. Rivers of lava would've blocked his way, but with the pull of the portal, the lava flowed upwards.

And Kamek wasn't giving up. He flew around Mario, trying to knock him down.

"Don't make this too easy!" Mario grinned, jumping and kicking Kamek off the magic broom. As Kamek fell Mario grabbed the broom and charged straight for Bowser's head. *Just hold still*, he growled. *And fall down!*

Mario launched off the broom, grabbing a hammer

from his pocket. Supercharged, he had one good hit, and he slammed it right into Bowser's skull. There was a ringing as the magic in the hammer forced Bowser to his knees, but it shattered in his hand.

As Bowser hit the ground, Mario pulled another item out of his pocket. He landed on top of Bowser, the item glowing in his hand. "You're going right back where you belong!"

He slammed the item into Bowser's chest, and the Koopa King's body began glowing as bright as the item. Then he was gone, an echoing roar fading in the broken cave as a twinkling light made it's way up to the tear.

As it passed through, the tear closed, and Mario fell to his knees.

The battle was finally over. Now he had to find his own way home... but first.

Yoshi woke to find himself sitting just outside the dark tower, baby Mario beside him. The man from before was gone, and Kamek was no where to be found.

The baby however, was tugging at Yoshi to wake up. He still needed to find his brother, and return home.

Yoshi got up, put the baby on his back, and started up the castle. The door had been destroyed, and there was a deep crater beside the tower, but the tower itself seemed to have been far enough away that it was still standing.

Luckily, there wasn't anything left to stop them, and they arrived at the tower's peak easily enough. And there, sitting in a sack beside the tied up Stork, was Mario's twin, safe and sound.

The Stork flew away from the floating island, the cold night air rustling his feathers. Yoshi had returned home, and now it was the twins' turn. He felt sorry that yet another Yoshi clan's way of life had been so horribly disturbed by his own folly, but this time he knew where he had to go! This time, he would return the twins to their rightful parents!

At long last, he arrived in the place where the parents truly lived; Paris. He flew through the streets, now more determined than ever before. Numbers and faces raced by him, but he didn't stop or even slow until he saw exactly the right house.

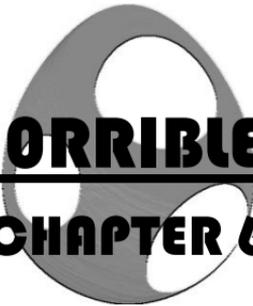
This time, he sat the twins in front of the door, rang the bell, then picked them back up again and held them in his beak. If he got the wrong address a second time, he wasn't wasting time.

There was talking from behind the door, then a shuffling sound as whoever was inside came closer. The Stork, for a moment, worried that he had once again picked the wrong house, but his worries left him as soon as the door opened.

Light spilled out into the street, and there in the doorway stood a man and a woman. They were both surprised to see the white Stork, with a bag in it's beak. From out of the bag popped out two little heads, two baby boys, one wearing a red hat, and the other wearing a green one.

"Well I'll be," Mario mumbled.

Chapter 5: Journey to the Center of the Island



THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT

CHAPTER 6

Mario looked down at the babies on his doorstep, then at the Stork that sat behind them. "I have half a mind to ask if you speak," Mario grunted.

The Stork squawked.

"I guess not," Mario sighed. He looked back at the babies, kneeling in front of them. "Then where do you come from?"

"I think," Pauline said. "We should at least bring them inside. They'll get cold sitting there all night."

"Of course," Mario agreed. He helped Pauline carry the children inside, the Stork following.

A few years ago Mario would have scolded the bird to stay outside, or possibly just yelled at it to leave and take the children with it. But after the whole scene with Donkey Kong, this felt more normal than it should, if not just a tiny bit nostalgic.

The Stork sat in a corner of the living room, waiting to see what Mario would do with the children.

"... Well," Mario huffed, taking a seat in his chair. "You've got my hat." He chuckled and the baby in the red hat smiled.

"I guess I should probably just call ya Mario, keep it simple yeah?" Mario nodded. "Keep the family line going."

"And what of his brother?" Pauline asked, picking up the little boy in the green hat.

"Name him after your father?" Mario asked.

Pauline tilted her head. "Luigi," she smiled. "With the hat... it's like they knew."

"Did you?" Mario asked, looking at the Stork. "You're smart. Honk once for yes, twice for no. Were you prepared when you brought us these kids?"

The Stork honked once.

"And these kids," Mario continued. "We're meant to take care of them?"

Again the Stork honked once.

"Then there you have it," Mario sighed. He looked at the two babies; baby Mario sitting in front of his father, and baby Luigi being held by his mother. "Mario and Luigi."



In the heart of France, Mario and Pauline began raising those two children. The Stork had left, his mission finally complete, but he maintained a constant vigil over them. The Koopa mage Kamek had escaped once again, and the Stork knew it was only a matter of time before his return.

And after two great defeats, his next attack would come in full force.

But until that time came, the twins were in excellent care. Soon, a year had passed, and the twins had all but forgotten about their time spent fighting for their lives on Yoshi's Islands. Poor Luigi's kidnapping was nothing more than a bad dream now, something waking up to their parents always made better.

Of course Mario and Pauline had never really known all there was to their children's adventure, and maybe they never would, not fully. But, it wasn't over yet. There soon came a night where Mario's simple life was changed was once more, and this time it was a far greater

change than a talking gorilla.

They had escaped his grasp, *too many times!* And after so long... Kamek was furious. There would be no more games; no more searching, no more hiding. For the future of his King, those children *must* be found!

So Kamek concocted a simple plan; kidnap *every* child of *every* land the twins were said to one day protect. His original plan was find each of these children one by one... but they were proving to be more trouble than they were worth. Clearly it wasn't as easy as just grabbing them and taking them away, so he would have to take them by force.

Fine, it didn't matter. With them out of the way, he'd be free to do as he pleased. There'd be no one left to stand in his way.

His troops flew out from the castle, sweeping out in hordes to steal away the children of this world and the next.

Children's cries rang out all through Europe as they were ripped away from their homes. Their parents, though shocked at the strange creatures that took their children, fought as hard as they could, but to no avail. The waves of Koopa Troops flew over them, and were gone in moments, returning to the giant castle that floated over them.

People stopped and stood in the streets, watching the enormous monstrosity hover above their heads. Dark as the night, evil radiated from it, causing those brave enough to stand and fight to turn away in fear.

Mario, however, wouldn't give up. He wrestled the Koopas for his children, but there were too many of them.

They overwhelmed him, held him down. He could do nothing but watch as the twins were tied up, stuffed into sacks, and carried off into the night sky.

Luckily, the Stork had continued his watch, even after a year of silence. He chased after the flying Koopas, driving them away from the dark castle. A few other Koopas began surrounding them, each holding a child.

The Stork figured at least he would be able to save a few of them, and if he could at least save the older of the twins...

He charged the Koopa holding the twins, forcing him to drop the child. Baby Mario fell once more, and in one swoop another child was falling beside him.

The Stork dived, falling away from the enemy and rescuing the children. Before he could bring them back however, or even think of getting them to safety, one of the Koopas had shot him down. The fireball had only clipped his wing, singeing the skin and feathers, but it was enough to knock him out of the sky. Keeping hold of the children, he aimed his decent towards a familiar island.

Perhaps *they* could help.

Kamek watched as his troops flew back up to the castle, stopping before him. He'd seen one of the twins from the distance, and wanted to get a closer look, but as they came closer he saw only one twin in their grasp.

Angered, he inspected each of the sacks of children, but couldn't find the other twin. Worse, there was another of his troops that seemed to have dropped a child as well. This child, was almost as important as the twins. This child, was a princess.

"Where did those brats go?" Kamek hissed. His lackeys stepped back, afraid of him.

"AAAAAAAAAAAAAAK! Incompetent FOOLS!" He blasted the troop that had lost the princess, disintegrating him.

"Find them!" Kamek screamed. "I want those children found! *Now!*"

His Koopa Troops disembarked once more.



Yoshi's Island had seen the chaos the Koopa creatures brought, but they had survived. A year ago, when the twins had first come to the island, they lost many Yoshies. Koopas reigned, stomping the Yoshi clans out like flickering embers beneath their heels, but there were a few Yoshies that survived. A clan or two on the other side of the island, and a handful of Yoshies that had traveled with baby Mario at the start of his adventure.

Since that time, the Koopas had fallen. They were a stain that had since been removed. The Yoshies had control of their home at last, and peace had returned to the island. And following the return of the peace, Mario had returned as well.

For the third time now, baby Mario fell from the sky, floating in his cloth safely towards the Yoshi clan. And directly following him, was the Stork and another child. This child was near the same age as young Baby Mario; a little girl with a gold crown on her head.

The Stork rested on the ground, wanting to tend to his wing more than anything, but he needed to make sure the children were safe. Soon however, the Yoshies had crowded around them, and one of the Yoshies that had traveled with Mario before, recognized him.

He knew immediately what needed to be done. He picked up baby Mario, and put him on his back. Another Yoshi followed his example and picked up the young

princess. And another Yoshi began tending to the Stork's wound.

Within moments of their arrival, the Yoshies were already prepared to help them. Whether or not they did it simply to be rid of the danger baby Mario seemed to bring, the Stork didn't know, but he was glad for the help.

They would need a *lot* of help this time, if they planned to save every child the evil Kamek had taken.

Chapter 6: That Horrible Night



WELCOME BACK

CHAPTER 7

The sun rose behind them as they entered the forests of the island. The Yoshi clan had said goodbye to their beach home, and took baby Mario and the princess on their backs. The Stork traveled beside them Mario pointed towards his brother once more.

This time however, there was more at stake than just his twin, or even the whole of Yoshi's Island. There were hundreds of thousands of children that had been ripped away from their homes, and it was up to the Yoshi's, the two children, and the Stork to rescue them.

Of course, their journey would not be an easy one.

Though they may have defeated the Koopa army the last time they were here, other monsters have become restless. They hadn't caused trouble yet, but that was only because Yoshies knew to stay out of enemy territory. To save the missing children they would have to trek through dangerous land.

Even moving silently, it wasn't long until their path was blocked.

Ukikis hung from the trees above them, climbing down branches to block their way. The tiny monkeys weren't necessarily harmful, but they were known for playing tricks. When the Yoshies tried to push passed, the Ukikis grabbed at them, pulling them back. The Ukikis laughed, tugging at the Yoshies tails, and one took Mario's hat.

Mario reached to grab his hat back, but the Monkey jumped away. And that wasn't the only thing they took; the young princess had also been stolen! The Ukikis swung back up the trees, running away, their laughter fading into the sounds of the leaves rustling.

Mario jumped off Yoshi's back, taking his first steps before falling on his face in the dirt. He crawled for another moment before Yoshi picked him back up. The Yoshi sat Mario back on his shell then motioned for the other Yoshies to follow as they continued through the forest. They changed their direction however, now following the princess and the Ukikis.

The monkey laughter was easy enough to track, luckily, but they were too high for the Yoshies to get to. The Stork tried flying, but with the trees so close together, and his wing still on the mend, he couldn't get more than a few feet off the ground.

They were stumped, staring up at the branches high above them, unable to do anything. And that was when they heard the chittering coming from beside them.

Another monkey sat beside the group of Yoshies, watching the Ukikis. Judging by the white cloth sack he'd wrapped himself with, and how young he was, it was clear it was another child the Koopas had kidnapped. It was also clear he was not of the Ukiki species, and instead was more Ape like.

Mario mumbled at the ape, pointing at the Ukikis. The Ape looked up at him, then back to the monkeys. He jumped up his tree, swinging from vine to vine until he was sitting with the monkeys. They regarded him for a moment, but didn't seem to care. At least, not until he grabbed the Human from them.

The Ukiki pushed the Ape away, dragging the princess into the tree. The Ape then shoved the Ukiki out of the way, and grabbed the princess. This went on for several

minutes, until finally the ape got fed up and just started screaming.

It doesn't matter how young an ape is. If the ape yells you give him what he wants, and so the Ukikis backed away and let the Ape take the Human child. As the Ape passed the Ukiki holding Mario's hat, the Ape took that as well, then dropped out of the tree.

He nearly crushed a Yoshi, but landed right next to it, putting the princess on the Yoshi's back. The ape handed Mario his hat back, then sat on the ground.

Mario mumbled at the Ape again, pointing the Yoshies back in the direction of his brother and the rest of the missing child. As they began walking however, they noticed the Ape was still following them. He clung to low branches, just casually staying beside them, and keeping an eye on the princess.

Deciding it was best not to argue, the group continued. The Ukikis left them alone after that, and eventually they made it to the end of the forest, arriving at a river.

To make things worse, it had begun to rain. The trees had protected them from the oncoming storm, and they hadn't even noticed it until now, but the storm was worsening. The rain pouring down made the river wider, and faster.

The raging waters blocked their way now, and while at least there was nothing to steal them away, there was also no clear way across. The Yoshies could jump well enough, but they couldn't clear this river even without carrying the children.

As the Yoshies contemplated their next move however, were already focused on something else.

The river led through the island and along the edge of the forest. But even from here they could see the coast, and just out from shore was a ship. Even from here they

could see the ship sinking, and its crew was already scrambling onto the beach.

The group decided at once that they should head in that direction, and they took off running along the river. Rain poured over the distance between the Yoshies and the sinking ship's crew, but they could at least tell that not all the crew survived. But it wasn't until a flash of lightning that the Yoshies were able to tell what it was they were looking at.

This wasn't an ordinary ship, or an ordinary crew; it was an army. Koopas and masked cloaks disembarked from the fallen airship.

The Yoshies skid to a stop, the children and the Stork useless if this turned into a fight. And it seemed a fight is what it would be, as the Koopa army had already spotted them. Another flash of lightning, and the Koopas and Masks were charging forward.

But there was another reason why the Yoshies had frozen; behind the Koopas, behind the airship, was an enormous tidal wave.

The Yoshies were too slow to get out of the way, and the army never saw it coming. It crashed down on all of them, sweeping them away.

Yoshi, the one who had been carrying baby Mario, woke to find himself laying next to the river. He was also alone, the children, the Stork, and the rest of the Yoshi clan nowhere to be found.

Yoshi got to his feet, shook off the sand, and started back towards the beach where the wave had hit. The rain seemed to have calmed, and the river moved slower, but everything had been washed away. The Koopas and Masks were gone as well, but there were ship parts that had

crashed onto the shore.

Checking there first, Yoshi thought he heard crying. He hoped the children weren't hurt, but judging by the damage the ship had taken, he was doubtful. Still, he hurried to the source of the noise.

Yoshi shoved planks of wood out of the way, giving a sigh of relief as he saw the baby safe and sound. The baby had landed in a hole under the wood, but taking another look at it, as Yoshi picked it up, this baby wasn't any he'd seen so far.

This child was rather large, and heavy, and smelled bad. Judging by the baby's malicious grin, Yoshi had half a mind to think it had something to do with the airship crashing. This meant two things at once.

This child could cause the destruction of an airship despite being barely a year old at best, and any enemy of the Koopas was a friend to Yoshi.

hoping he wouldn't regret this, but knowing he couldn't just abandon the child, Yoshi kept the baby on his back and started out to find the others.

Though the Koopas had once fallen, Kamek took the young future King Bowser back to the tower that still stood on Yoshi's Island. Seeking refuge after their defeat on the floating island, Kamek decided it was best to hide there.

But hiding in a place where only you know where you are, means you're the only one who knows where you are. And now, Kamek stood in front of himself.

An older, more powerful, Kamek, stood in the center of what had become the make-shift throne room. The present-day Kamek knelt, defeated, between his future self and the exit. He would not back down while there was life in him still.

Future Kamek knew this, of course, and knew this Kamek was weaker than he pretended to be. Future Kamek walked passed his younger self, taking with him the baby Bowser.

Present-day Kamek could do nothing but scream as future Kamek flew away, back to the castle in the sky.

He landed on the balcony and dropped his broom as he stepped quickly into the room. Kamek then tossed the child onto the floor, the future King already standing above him.

Bowser, having recovered from his wounds from the fight on the floating island, sat on a large throne, staring down at his past self. At first he looked displeased, even annoyed at the fact that he had once been nothing but this worm. But as the child stood, then defiantly glared back at him, Bowser was impressed.

Young Bowser, took a step forward. "Wait, wait, wait! Let me get this straight. Future-me kidnapped me!?"

"Well technically I had a little something to do with that as well," Kamek growled. "I was certain that those powerful stars had fallen into this time period."

King Bowser grinned. "I'll find those babies and soon that power will be mine. ALL MINE! And so will the entire universe! GWAHAHAHAHA!"

Young Bowser looked confused. "... Wait a second! Are you saying that even when I'm an old geezer, I'll still be trying to take over the universe?" he shook his head. "Lame!"

"Shut your trap squirt," Bowser scoffed, getting up from his seat.

"You can't talk to me that way!" Young Bowser ordered. "You might be bigger than me, but--"

King Bowser blasted his younger self with a ball of fire. The force threw Young Bowser from the room, throwing him over the balcony's edge as well. He tumbled

through the air, screaming.

"Don't think I'll ever forget this!" he shouted. "I won't! Not for a million years! Not even when I'm an old geezer like YOU!"

Both Bowser and his knee-high counterpart seemed to have forgotten which side they were on. Though it was clear neither of them cared.

—

Yoshi had followed the wreckage along the beach searching for any sign of his companions. Despite the large baby weighing him down, he finally tracked the others to the rocky cliffs native to the island. They all seemed to be safe, having sought the cliffs for shelter.

They were excited to see that Yoshi had survived as well, and while they were confused by the new addition to their group, they more than happy to welcome him as well.

But it was when they heard the other child screaming from above that they all realized at once that their group was about to be one person too big.

Chapter 7: Welcome Back



FRIEND OR FOE?

CHAPTER 8

Young Bowser hit the sand so hard he sunk through it. Luckily the beach was made up of loose sand, but it was still funny to the others to see just his head poking out of the ground.

He pulled himself up, ignoring the others and glaring at the sky. "Why are you being so mean to me!?" he shouted. "You ARE me, dummy!"

Bowser looked at the group. They were cautiously watching him but they hadn't moved yet.

"What are you looking at?" Bowser growled. "Who are you, anyway?" Then he saw Mario and looked shocked, but he didn't seem to recognize him. "Hey, you over there in the red hat! I saw a kid in green up there! He was totally stealing your style!"

Then he noticed all the Yoshies. "And what are these? Giant lizards? Neat! Gimme a ride! Giddyup! GIDDYUP!"

Bowser jumped on the back of one of the Yoshies. It tried to shake him off, running in circles, but Bowser just laughed. He was flailing too much for anyone else to help get him off, but after a moment they realized they didn't have to. Bowser didn't seem to be hurting Yoshi, and Yoshi didn't seem to mind playing around.

As stated before, Yoshies are docile by nature. They are peaceful creatures. Too them, this Bowser was only a child. He had yet to grow into that monster that came from

the future. So for now, if the young Bowser wanted to play nice, they could use another ally.

"I'm gonna hang out with you guys for a while," Bowser decided, settling down finally but staying on Yoshi's back.

They only hoped they wouldn't regret that decision later.



"Still no clue where the stars are?" King Bowser rumbled.

"No, sir," Kamek bowed. "But the crystal clearly says that the seven stars did fall during this time period." He held up his staff, the crystal on it's end glowing. "And I am getting a strong reading that they are resting inside the hearts of the babies."

King Bowser gave him a disproving look, unable to see anything himself in the crystal's reflection. "And you're absolutely sure that these stars are powerful enough to take over the universe?"

"No doubt about it, sir," Kamek promised. "The babies are called star children, and they each possess an extraordinary amount of power... And once they're in your royal hands, sir, the world is your oyster." He turned to face the rows of children tied up in sacks, holding his staff and looking through the crystal at them.

"Look into my crystal ball," Kamek told Bowser. "Any star child will have a star hovering above it."

Bowser stood beside Kamek looking through the crystal as he passed it in front of each of the children. Bowser began to speak, almost saying something about how he couldn't see anything, but Kamek beat him to it.

"No no no!" Kamek exclaimed. "None of these stupid kids have stars!"

Unbeknownst to them, a young child in a green hat had escaped his binds, and had wandered out of sight.

Unopposed, the heroes were easily able to make it back to the ruins of the dark tower that stood in the center of the island. They could see the flying castle high above them, but they couldn't yet reach it.

Young Bowser however, didn't seem to understand. "Huh?" he mumbled, looking at his old castle. "What are we doing here anyway? I know what you're thinking, but you can't have the castle's treasure. It's MINE when I grow up! MINE!"

Mario shook his head, pointing up at the floating castle. "Luigi."

"That green hat?" Bowser asked. "You don't care about the treasure? Oh. Okay, fine then. Go on in, but don't touch my stuff, got it?"

They started for the castle entrance, each determined to make it to the top and rescue the lost kids. But Wario (the child in the yellow hat, named for the W that mirrored Mario's M) got a mischievous look in his eyes the second he heard the word 'treasure,' but none of the others saw it.

The halls were just as broken as they'd left them. The black stone walls now covered in dust as they lay scattered in pieces across the floor. No more torches were lit here, and their footsteps were the only sound. The Koopas had abandoned this place, leaving it to crumble.

Every corner they turned they expected ghosts to pop out at them, or to see at least some sign of faint life still wandering about. But there was nothing left except the hollow wind that blew through the cracked stairwells.

When they finally arrived at what was left of the

throne room at the top of the tower, they rested. Above them, the floating tower seemed closer now. It was right over them, so close.

"Well, here we are," young Bowser said, staring at the castle that sat above his own. He looked around the empty room. "I don't see them here," he said, referring to the children. He looked back to the others. "Well, parting is such sweet sorrow and all that jazz, but I don't really need you anymore so you'd better skedaddle."

The Yoshies, the children, and the Stork, remained where they were, still staring at the floating castle.

"Why are you just standing there?" young Bowser growled. "I said SCRAM! This castle is mine!" Then he noticed Wario who had found a gold coin in near the entrance. "I knew it! You ARE after my treasure! This is MY castle! Do you hear me? MINE! No one else's!"

He charged passed the others, leaping at Wario. Before he even hit ground however, the Yoshies caught him. Wario stuck his tongue out at him, and Mario bonked both of them on the head.

Again Mario pointed at the castle above them. "Luigi!" he said determinedly.

Bowser stared up. "Oh," he mumbled. "Right, I forgot for a second, sorry. But we don't exactly have a way up there."

Mario looked to the Stork. The Stork flapped it's wings once, then twice. It stung, and he couldn't carry much, but if he moved them one by one he could get a few of them up there before his wing gave out again.

Luckily, though rather large, the Yoshies were fairly light as well. The Stork grabbed hold of the Yoshi carrying Mario, and began the trek back and forth to bring them to the castle. Then it was the Yoshi carrying the Princess, then the Ape, then Wario, then young Bowser.

There were still several Yoshies left at the top of the

castle, but the Stork had already flopped onto the ground. He was too tired to carry anything else, but he had done his job well enough. All that was left, was for the children and the Yoshies to rescue the stolen babies, and stop Kamek and Bowser once and for all.

So they entered the floating castle.

The great steel doors creaked as they forced them open, torches flickering around them as the air blew through the courtroom. Wicked shadows stretched across the hall, seeming to dance as the group moved in.

Then suddenly the door slammed shut. The light from outside was cut off, only the torches showing the path to the red door at the top of the stairs before them.

King Bowser was right behind that door, along with future Kamek, and possibly the current Kamek. Young Bowser had expected to see him when they returned to the fallen castle on the island, but he wasn't there. He must have come here to get young Bowser back, and is either working with the criminals of the future, or has been captured by them.

They had their answer as soon as they opened that red door.

King Bowser stared down at them from his throne. He'd been expecting them, but only one Kamek stood by his side. The other must have been defeated, but they would worry about him later. What mattered now were the children King Bowser had taken, and where they were.

Yoshi and Mario stepped forward.

"So young," King Bowser growled, his voice echoing in the hollow throne chamber. "You're not even old enough to comprehend this... are you..."

"Luigi!" Mario exclaimed.

"Yes, I know who you're here for," Bowser mumbled, getting up from his seat. "That pesky brother of yours... I wish you could understand me when I say I

haven't any idea where he is..." He walked closer to the Yoshies, and each of them took a step back.

This Bowser felt different to Mario. The Bowser that had come through the tear in the sky above the floating island was more chaotic, fierce... This Bowser seemed, old.

"Kamek," King Bowser said. "... Are these, the star children you've been looking for?"

"Yes, sir," Kamek confirmed, seeing them through his staff. "It seems your plan worked excellently."

King Bowser stared at his younger self. "When I through you from this castle... I knew you would find the rest of them, and lead them to me. You hold one of these stars... and now you will hand it over, or I will rip it out of you."

Young Bowser jumped down from his Yoshi. "I'm not scared of you!"

King Bowser stood right in front of the Koopaling, and knelt. He wasn't eye to eye, being too tall for that, but he was close enough that when he spoke only Young Bowser could hear him.

"You *should* be."

Chapter 8: Friend or Foe?



FAREWELL

EPILOGUE

King Bowser slammed his fist into young Bowser's face, sending him flying across the room. The Yoshies scattered, each of the babies exclaiming in panic. All but baby Mario, who had grown used to this sort of thing.

Mario grabbed the back of Yoshi's head, trying to lead him around King Bowser. The baby Ape got over the panic with ease, and followed Mario's lead.

Young Bowser noticed this, and at first suspected the two of them were simply running away. But then he saw them circling back, and decided to aid their plan.

"Hey snot stain!" young Bowser shouted. He already had King Bowser's attention, but no he was focused. "If you're what I grow into, I would've thrown myself off the castle too!"

"You ungrateful," King Bowser charged forward, but suddenly he toppled. The Ape had jumped on top of him, smashing into his head. Meanwhile, baby Mario had grabbed hold of and was now gnawing on King Bowser's tail. "Get off of me!"

"You brats!" Kamek hissed. He aimed his staff and fired a bolt of energy at baby Mario. However, the Ape had forced Bowser to turn, and the bolt ended up hitting King Bowser. "No! My King!"

Kamek raced forward, but Wario rode in front of him on his Yoshi, snatching the staff out of his hand before he could do anything. Kamek took a step back, but then

found himself surrounded by the Stork and the Princess as well.

"You can't use my staff!" Kamek growled. "It's magic will not w-"

Wario smacked Kamek with the staff, then the Yoshies began their attack.

The King however, was in just as bad of shape. The Ape wouldn't get off, and young Bowser had realized his claws could be used for more than just scratching his head. Mario wouldn't let go of the King Koopa's tail, and that threw him completely off balance.

King Bowser kept tripping over himself, trying to swat the baby away and defend himself from the Ape and the Yoshies.

"ENOUGH!!!" King Bowser roared, bellowing fire in every direction.

Everyone was thrown back. The Yoshies skid across the floor, the children were thrown against the walls, the Stork went spiraling... and Kamek cracked his head against a stone.

"This is over!" King Bowser shouted, unaware of his advisor's injury. "You are children! You are *insects!* You are *worthless!* How do you STILL, DEFY, ME!?"

The Yoshies forced themselves to stand, facing King Bowser. The children also stood, but they turned away.

"Cowards now!" King Bowser scoffed.

But they were not cowards. They turned away not to hide, or flee, but to crawl towards the fallen Kamek. He lay motionless on top of the stone.

King Bowser saw where the children were headed. "No," he hissed. He hurried to his advisor's side, dropping to his knees. "No... Kamek... I... I'm sorry."

The children sat beside the King, none of them fully understanding what had happened, only that something was

wrong. Even Young Bowser seemed confused and worried.

"Back!" King Bowser roared, startling the children.
"Back away! Go away!"

"Tsk tsk tsk," Kamek sighed, shaking his head as he entered the room.

King Bowser turned in shock, forgetting for a moment that the Kamek from the past had been locked away nearby. He didn't care how he'd freed himself, it didn't matter. "Old friend," King Bowser sighed, staring at his Kamek. "I-"

"You screwed up," Kamek said disappointingly. "Look at what you've done... Was the climb to power worth it? The journey back here?"

"You were so sure- *He* was so sure that those children had the power I desired," King Bowser shook his head. "But I let my anger get the better of me. Again..."

"Go home," Kamek told him. "I will take care of things here."

King Bowser looked at the frightened children. "Yes, of course." He got to his feet, carrying his advisor. "Take care of things here," he hissed.

As King Bowser left, Kamek turned back to the kids. "We'll consider this a victory for you all, for now." He walked to Bowser. "As for us, it seems we were used by ourselves in a game we didn't know we were playing. I suggest we cut our losses, and take our leave."

"Yeah," Bowser nodded. "It's getting boring here." He looked at Mario. "This was fun! We should hang out again some time!"

Kamek led Bowser to the exit, but turned around as he reached the door. "The children are just down the hall," he said. "I'd retrieve them before the castle leaves. And Mario... thank that brother of yours for me."

The doors shut behind Kamek and Bowser.

<Directors>

Takashi Tezuka
Toshihiko Nakago
Shigefumi Hino
Hideki Konno

<Novelization>

Lincoln Reign

<Producer>

Shigeru Miyamoto

<Executive Producer>

Hiroshi Yamauchi

The Stork called for his allies, and the rest of the Stork's helped quickly remove all the children from the castle. They were soon returned to the world below, to their homes and families. As for the "star children" as Kamek had called them, they also returned to their proper places, snuggling back into their warm beds.

The Yoshies once again knew peace at last, and the Stork promised to continue watching over the family for as long as he could. The Castle disappeared as quickly as it came, and the world forced itself to forget the tragedy of that horrible night. Mario and Pauline had even moved back to Italy, wanting to raise their children in their ancestor's home.

As the years passed, the Stork grew old, appearing only once to the twins a final time before returning home at last. His job was done, the kids were safe, and Kamek and Bowser hadn't been seen in a long time. He could know peace at last as well.

But the years pressed on, and soon nearly thirty years had gone by in the blink of an eye.

"Ey Mario!" Luigi called, stepping back inside the little Italian house. "The train to the airport leaves in like, thirty minutes! Get ya toosh movin'!"

"Yeah I'm movin'!" Mario countered, setting the picture frame back on the mantel. It was a photo of their family, old papa Jumpman, their mother Pauline, themselves the twins, and the Stork that their father seemed so fond of. They'd only seen that bird once, but it was such an occasion their father felt the need to have a picture taken, but he never said why.

"Mario!" Luigi called again.

"Yeah!" Mario grunted, picking up his bag and heading to the door.

They might not have remembered their adventure, but they still have dreams of an island. Colorful dinosaurs, wicked creatures, towers and caves. A child's imagination is what they wrote it off as, but deep down, part of them knew.

It was real, their adventure through Yoshi's Island.



Epilogue: Farewell