The Cursed Crown

Agent Kahlo: Hola! Welcome to Stories by the Sea. Young art detectives at Bincombe Primary wrote stories inspired by this mural featuring some soldiers, which is called Past and Present. Take it away agents!

(*Mournful string music, then heavy rain)*

Queen: Those clouds look angry.

Maid: No matter your majesty, we're safe in this castle.

Queen: Fetch me my silk robe, I'm freezing.

Maid: The yellow one with the fluffy collar?

Queen: That's right, thank you.

(More sad music and rain)

Soldier 1: Listen to that rain.

Soldier 2: I'm soaked to the skin. How much longer do we have to wait here?

Sergeant: Until it's dark, corporal, like I told you.

Soldier 1: *(whispering)* I don't like this. She's always been a good queen.

Soldier 2: *(whispering)* We don't have any choice.

(*Sounds of a modern small radio playing a rock song called "Careful What You Wish For". Then a page of a book turns)*

Historian: *(reading from a book)* The crown of Queen Velay went missing in the 1860s and has not been seen since.

(page turn)

Historian: Some say the crown was buried for safekeeping, others say it was hidden somewhere safe. Made of gold with amethysts, it was painted in a famous portrait of the queen.

(Book slams shut)

Historian: I'm going to find that crown and keep it for myself!

(Radio gets louder still playing song called "Be Careful What You Wish For.", then crossfades into the mournful string music from the past.

Guards are yawning)

Castle Guard 1: It's getting late

Castle Guard 2: I'm exhausted!

Castle Guard 1: We have to stay awake to protect the queen.

Castle Guard 2: Nothing will happen if we have a quick nap.

Castle Guard 1: Yeah.

(sounds of snoring, then sounds of thunder and heavy rain)

Sergeant: Push!

Soldier 2: It's stuck in the mud!

Soldier 1: We need the cannon to break the castle door.

Sergeant: You can stay here and stay poor living in a miserable wooden hut, or you can attack the castle, grab the crown and be rich.

(sounds of wooden cannon wheels rolling)

Sergeant: Stop here. That's the castle door.

(sounds of a match being struck, then a fuse lit, then an explosion and a heavy wooden door collapsing)

Castle Guard 2: Ahhh! What's happening?

Castle Guard 1: I don't know!

(sounds of both guards being knocked on the head then collapsing)

Soldier 1: They're knocked out!

Sergeant: Up those stairs! Find the queen!

Fast urgent drum music

Maid: Your majesty, intruders!

Queen: Russell, quick, take my crown!

Maid: I'll keep it safe, your majesty.

(sounds of echoey running feet)

Soldier 1: Hey, stop! She's escaping with the crown!

Tense percussive beats

Soldier 2: We've got you now!

Sergeant: Hand it over!

Maid: I'm warning you. Don't wear this crown. It's cursed.

Soldier 1: I don't believe you. Give it here.

Sergeant: Hand it to me. I'm wearing it first.

Maid: I'm warning you.

Sergeant: How do I look?

Soldier 1: Look at your feet!

Soldier 2: They're nothing but bone!

Sergeant: What's happening?

Soldier 1: I can see your ribcage!

Soldier 2: You're turning into a skeleton!

Maid: I told you so!

Soldier 2: Run for it!

(loud drum beats fading into owl hoots and sounds of a metal spade digging in the soil)

Historian: There's gold here! I don't believe it! The crown of Queen Velay!

Maid: *(In a ghostly echoey voice)* I'm warning you!

Historian: Who's there?

Maid: *(In a ghostly echoey voice)* Don't wear this crown. It's cursed.

Historian: There's no one here. Must be my imagination.

Maid: *(In a ghostly echoey voice)* It's cursed!

Historian: It fits!

Maid: (In a ghostly echoey voice) Don't say I didn't warn you!

Agent Kahlo: Pssst! You've spotted there's different stories for the other two murals on this building, haven't you? Which one will you choose next?