# Chapter 1: The Season for Mystery

Where do I begin?

Malibu was a dream. The golden sands and the crisp, blue oceans were so beautiful that it could only have been a figment of my imagination. But it was real! We really were hired to build a vacation house on the beaches of Malibu.

Not long after, a mysterious man approached me and my father. He seemed to be cloaked in shadow. Really, he was just wearing a very dark coat, and I think the moon was hidden behind some clouds when he appeared. Still, the air of mystery surrounding him made his offer that much more intriguing.

A job—in Spain! We don’t normally take strange jobs from strangers, but a trip to Spain and a chance to spread the name of Squid and gain the title “The Greatest Architects in the World” was far too tempting.

We boarded a private plane the very next day, and so began our new adventure.

Baji sat in the seat beside me the whole time while my father enjoyed the luxuries of private plane life.

There was an assortment of slippers and gowns for us to use. Naturally, he tried on every single one of them until he found a gown that hugged his arms just right and a pair of slippers that fit his feet perfectly. Then, he reclined his chair back as far as it would go. He delicately sipped from a cup of expensive coffee that filled the plane with a strong smell of gingerbread and pumpkin spice.

I, however, enjoyed my time by tasting the plane’s wide range of treats. In other words, I stuffed my face with candy. There was a lot of candy. I ate licorice that looked nothing like it and tasted more like chocolate. I ate chocolate that looked like a skeleton and tasted like coffee.

There was even a bowl filled with dog food for Baji and a fluffy bed for him to lie in. He preferred to sit beside me and rest his head in my lap, but it was nice that they tried to accommodate him.

The trip, on a whole, was RAD!

It was a shame that it had to end, but at the same time, my father and I couldn’t pull our eyes away from the windows as we came in to land in Barcelona. We didn’t go to the