

NED BUSTARD
**LEGENDS
& LEAGUES**
E A S T

DREAMS, DRAGONS & THE PEACH GIRL

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DREAMS, DRAGONS,
& THE PEACH GIRL

Written by Ned Bustard

*Illustrated by Ned Bustard
& Matthew Clark*

THIS BOOK
is dedicated to my Number One Daughter
(as Charlie Chan would say),
CAREY ANNE BUSTARD
—who traveled to the East,
and is more delightful than
PERI, PANDAS, *or* PEACHES



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CHAPTER 1

in which

WE MEET THE PEACH GIRL AND HER METAL BIRD

SOMEWHERE between the 51st and 52nd parallels—and not too far from the Flamsteed House—you will find Legends & Leagues, Ltd., the overstuffed offices of Mr. Azimuth Latitude and Mr. Meridian Longitude.

In these offices one Tuesday morning, Mr. Latitude and Mr. Longitude were admiring a lovely antique compass (made by the Chinese during



the Song Dynasty) that Rose, their sister-in-law, had given to them. It was in the shape of a turtle, and when they rotated it, the needle at the tail would always point North. While they were studying the wooden compass, they heard a sudden pecking on the door.

“I thought you said our tutoring session with young Sherlock had been canceled for today,” said Mr. Latitude with surprise at their mystery visitor.

“I’m sure that it was,” replied Mr. Longitude as he stepped up from his desk. “Sherlock told me that he had to go visit his brother, Mycroft.”

When Mr. Longitude opened the door, in waddled a rotund bird that seemed to be made entirely of metal. It whirred and clicked and clucked. It then rotated its head forward and folded back its wings to reveal gears and pistons—and a small girl.

“Good evening, Longitude-*sensei* and Latitude-*sensei*,” said the girl. “Or should I say good morning? In Japan sun is setting—Tokyo is nine hours ahead of London.”

“They say the sun never sets on the British Empire,” Mr. Longitude replied cordially. “And who, may I ask, are you?”

“I am Momochan, from Okayama on Honshu



WE MEET THE PEACH GIRL



island—near Koraku-en.”

“Ah, yes, Koraku-en . . . the ‘Garden-of-Pleasure-After’—one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan. Well, welcome Momochan from Okayama, to Legends & Leagues, Ltd.,” said the spindly Mr. Longitude with a bow. “We provide geographic services for people who need help knowing how to get from Here to There.”

“With the new and old maps we have in our offices, we can go anywhere and anytime,” added the stout Mr. Latitude. “Is there somewhere we could help you go?”

“Do not want to *go*,” said Momochan, slightly puzzled. “I *come*. Honorable wife of Latitude-*sensei* always most helpful to my people in past, so I fly all way to London in this *meka-tori* (that is, metal bird) to see Longitude-*sensei* and Latitude-*sensei*. I come to get help.”

“So you know my dearest Oceania?” exclaimed Mr. Latitude. “How very splendid. Certainly, we will be more than happy to help as well.”

“Yes, indeed,” agreed Mr. Longitude. “How can we be of service?”

“You come with me to East,” said the little girl. “You must stop nightmares.”

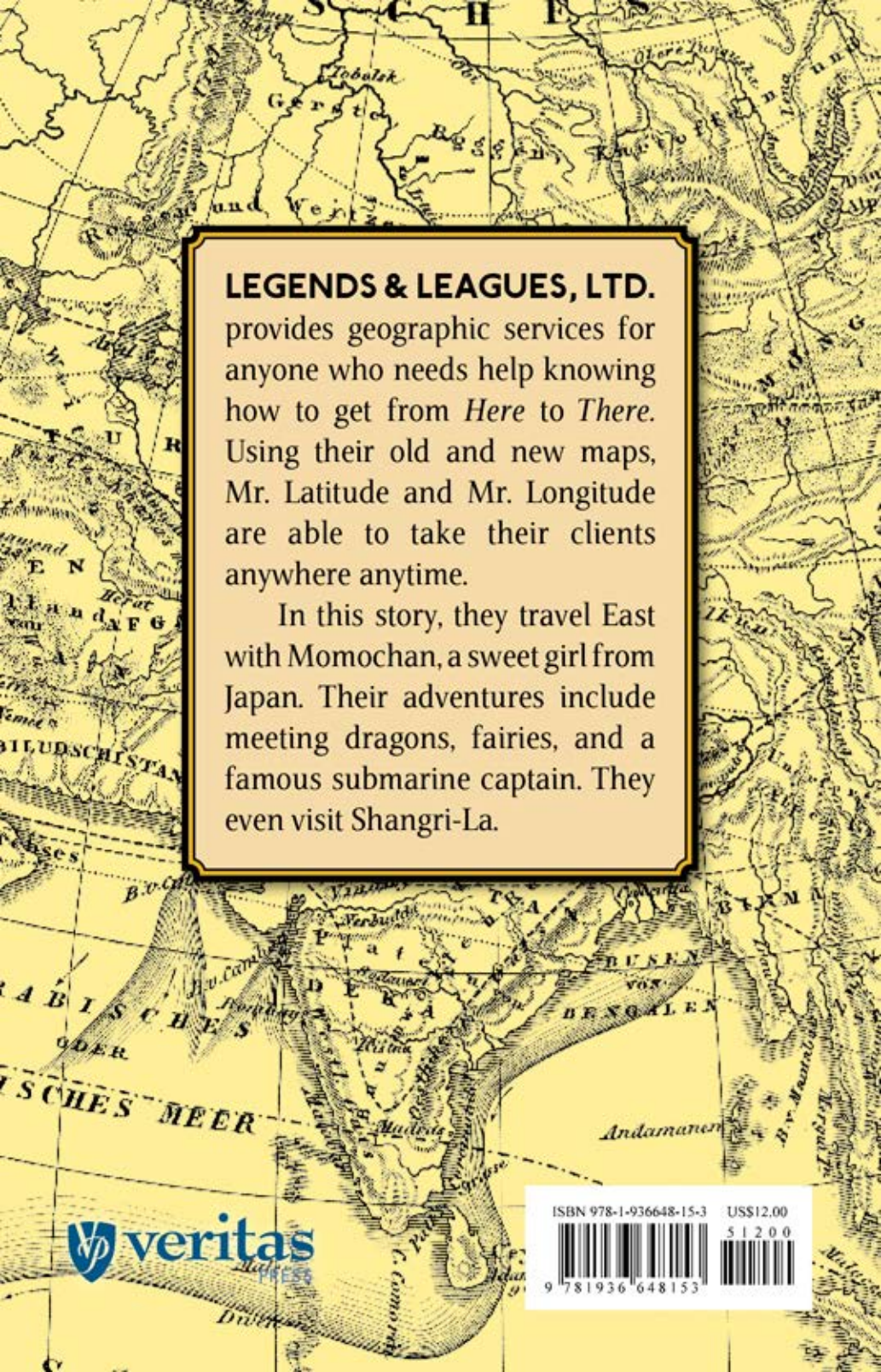


CHAPTER 2
in which
**WE LEARN WHY
WE MUST VISIT ASIA**
(BUT WITHOUT THE
METAL BIRD)

NIGHTMARES? My dear little girl, I think you must misunderstand our line of work,” gasped Mr. Longitude. “Although maps do include imaginary elements like axes, equators, parallels, and such—our company is very much rooted in reality.”

“Why do you say nightmares are not real?” asked Momochan. “Havoc from all people having bad dreams and not having good sleep is very real.





LEGENDS & LEAGUES, LTD.

provides geographic services for anyone who needs help knowing how to get from *Here* to *There*. Using their old and new maps, Mr. Latitude and Mr. Longitude are able to take their clients anywhere anytime.

In this story, they travel East with Momochan, a sweet girl from Japan. Their adventures include meeting dragons, fairies, and a famous submarine captain. They even visit Shangri-La.

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