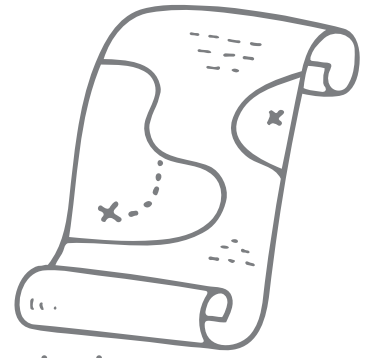# A DAY AT THE VILLAGE

by Leon X. Clayton

"I got treasure!" Joy shouted rushing into Fort Christian during the day at the carnival kids' village. A small sugar bird appeared over the Ferris wheel ride and said, "You can get on all the rides and eat as much candy as you like as long as you have treasure. If not, you will be told, No Treasure, No Candy." Joy not paying attention, bolted to the village ride called Happy Time, holding on to a stuffed animal. Joy placed the stuff animal on the seat of the ride while buckling up feeling the seat vibrate and held on tight. Once on, Happy Time whirled them around in circles. Joy relished all the smells of the different carnival family foods, cotton candy, cakes, and tarts all while breezing through the sky. Once the ride stopped, Joy, not paying attention, rushed out of the seat and ran to get in line for some Carty's Cotton Candy. Thinking about video games, Joy dropped the stuff animal on the ground as the line moved forward. When it came time to pay, Joy could not find treasure. "No Treasure, No Candy," Ms. Carty said. That's when the wise sugar bird showed up again and said, "What I have is valuable, take this trusted treasure map and follow the directions. The clue you need is at Joseph's Journeys Cakes." Handing Joy the trusted map, the sugar bird flew away, up and over the carnival village stage. Not paying attention, Joy snatched the map and ran off looking for treasure........

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Dashing passed the down island families' carnival stands, out of breath, Joy finally made it to Joseph's Journey Cakes booth next to Turnbull Tarts holding nothing but the map. "No Treasure, No Candy!" Mr. Joseph shouted. Joy, looking down. replied, "Sir, I have no treasure and I need a clue to find it." "Where are you from my child?" The businessman inquired. Joy replied, "St. Thomas." The business owner cleared his throat and said, "Very good. Now keep an eye and a heart on what you truly love. Not to watch, but to adore. You will find treasure at Boschulte's Bakery. Now take this feather to them and remember to be kind to all the families on the way." Not paying attention, Joy grabs the feather and takes off towards the bakery crashing into another kid at the carnival. "I'm sorry." Joy mumbles ashamed getting up and dusting off. "Watch out, geez! By the way, I'm Raisin. What's that?" Raisin asked. "I'm Joy, and this is a clue to treasure." Joy replied. Raisin laughs out, "No Treasure, No Candy!" "Do you know where the bakery is located?" Joy asked pointing to the map from the sugar bird. "Yes!" Raisin replied. "They're the best, and like me, their family is from St. John. That's two carnival stands down from Bubble Gumbs." Joy exclaimed, "What?!? I love bubble gum!" Without paying attention, the two darted off on a hunt for treasure........

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"I'll race you!" Immediately taking off in full steam yet coming in last place still. Now thirsty and in hopes to find treasure, standing in line catching their breath, Raisin tells Joy about another kid named Sonrisa from St. Croix. "I never been across the water." Joy says as the dazzling sugar bird appears. After whistling her favorite tune, the bird says, "You both worked together to find treasure and all the families are proud of you both." With the bird moving out their way, the two step up to be next in line. Joy and Raisin looked amazed at all the treasures on display. Gold ones, silver ones, greens ones, big, small, chubby, long, red, yellow, and light blue, all lost stuff animals. Raisin just started singing the song, "Sooo nice, Virgin Islands nice." Joy shouts, "There's my stuffed animal named Treasure!" The booth owner, in exchange for the feather, gives Joy the stuff animal named Treasure and offers Raisin a handful of coins for candy. Joy raises treasure skipping and singing along with Raisin thinking about all the candy and rides at children's village, not paying attention laughing and repeating, "No Treasure, No Candy!".

CARNIVAL KIDS VILLAGE
ALL AGES