



OPHELBERT
SMEE

◦ CAPER CREW ◦

Ophelbert Smee, 12

The Master Forger

To Kai's great relief, he's not the only new kid on the first day of Year 6 – not even the most awkward. New student Ophelbert Smee is not having the smoothest transition right now. He's recently hit puberty, grown more than a foot and a half in the last month and subsequently developed a devastating case of nervous sweating feet. When he's under pressure you can hear poor Ophelbert coming down the halls with an unmissable squeak reminiscent of his favourite pet, Twinkle, the Peruvian truth telling guinea pig. Safe to say, it's been a rough start to the year.

It's Kai who introduces Ophelbert to the Crew – miscasting him in the role of The Muscle. Hidden beneath the newly developed muscle is an artist. Thanks to his carefree, crafty parents, Ophelbert can crochet, whittle, and weave a solution out of thin air and his calligraphy skills prove useful for the occasional forgery! Queenie is the one to recognise this as a skill that the Joeys can capitalise on, cementing him as a permanent fixture in the gang of Joeys.

Despite the increased amounts of testosterone in his system, Ophelbert is emotionally intelligent for a 12-year-old and has a calming effect on the group. He is the moral compass – always with a guided meditation or positive affirmation at hand for Kai's anxious jitters, Amelia's rage blackouts, and Penelope's stage fright. For Ophelbert, being zen is rad! And after moving from town to town with his family every six months for who knows how long, finding himself in Woodspring with his newfound friends is just about the best thing ever.