SHAH JAHAN (1592–1666): The fifth Emperor of the Mughal Empire. He built the Taj Mahal as a tomb for his wife.

MUMTAZ MAHAL (1593–1631): Born Arjumand Banu Begum. She married Shah Jahan while he was still a prince.

NAZMA: A girl with a talent for solving problems.

MASHEER: Nazma’s father and a master builder. He helps to supervise the building of the Taj Mahal.

NASHREEN: Nazma’s mother. She hopes to find a suitable husband for her daughter.

JAAN: Nazma’s 5-year-old brother.
The Taj Mahal is the most photographed building in India. It is an amazing place! Some call it the ‘most beautiful building in the world’. Others call it one of the world’s wonders.

The Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan, ruler of the Mughal Empire from 1628 to 1658. It was a tomb built to hold the body of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631.
Chapter 1: A New Life

1638 in Agra, India. A builder named Masheer arrives with his family to work on a very important building project.

LOOK OUT!

Oh, no!

AARGH!

CRASH!
Nazma, Masheer’s daughter, helps her mother up.

Is everyone all right?

Ma and I are fine.

Yes, Father.

Then let’s pick up our things. Jaan, help me with the cart.

How can you be so calm? We were almost killed!

This place is dangerous. It’s a sign that we weren’t meant to come here.

Don’t worry, Nashreen.

I know you didn’t want to move here, but it’s a great chance for us to start a new life.

I hope you’re right.

I am. You’ll see.