The Firework-Maker's Daughter – Chapter 2 Text Extract

Next morning, while Lalchand was at the paper merchant's buying some cardboard tubes, Lila went to the Elephant House to see Chulak. When she heard what Lalchand had told him, she was furious.

'Mount Merapi – Razvani – the Royal Sulphur – and he wasn't going to tell me! Oh, I'll never forgive him!'

'That's a bit drastic,' said Chulak, who was busy making the elephant ready for his new job. 'He's only thinking of you. It's dangerous, after all. You wouldn't catch me going up there.'

'Huh!' she said. 'It's alright to let me make Golden Sneezes and Java Lights, I suppose – like baby things. But not to let me become a real Firework-Maker. He wants me to stay a child forever. Well, I'm not going to, Chulak. I've had enough. I'm going to Mount Merapi, and I'm going to bring back the Royal Sulphur, and I'll set up as a Firework-Maker on my own and put my father out of business. You see if I don't.'

'No! Wait! You ought to talk to him-'

But Lila wouldn't listen. She ran straight home, packed a little food to eat and a blanket and a few bronze coins, and left a note on the workshop bench…