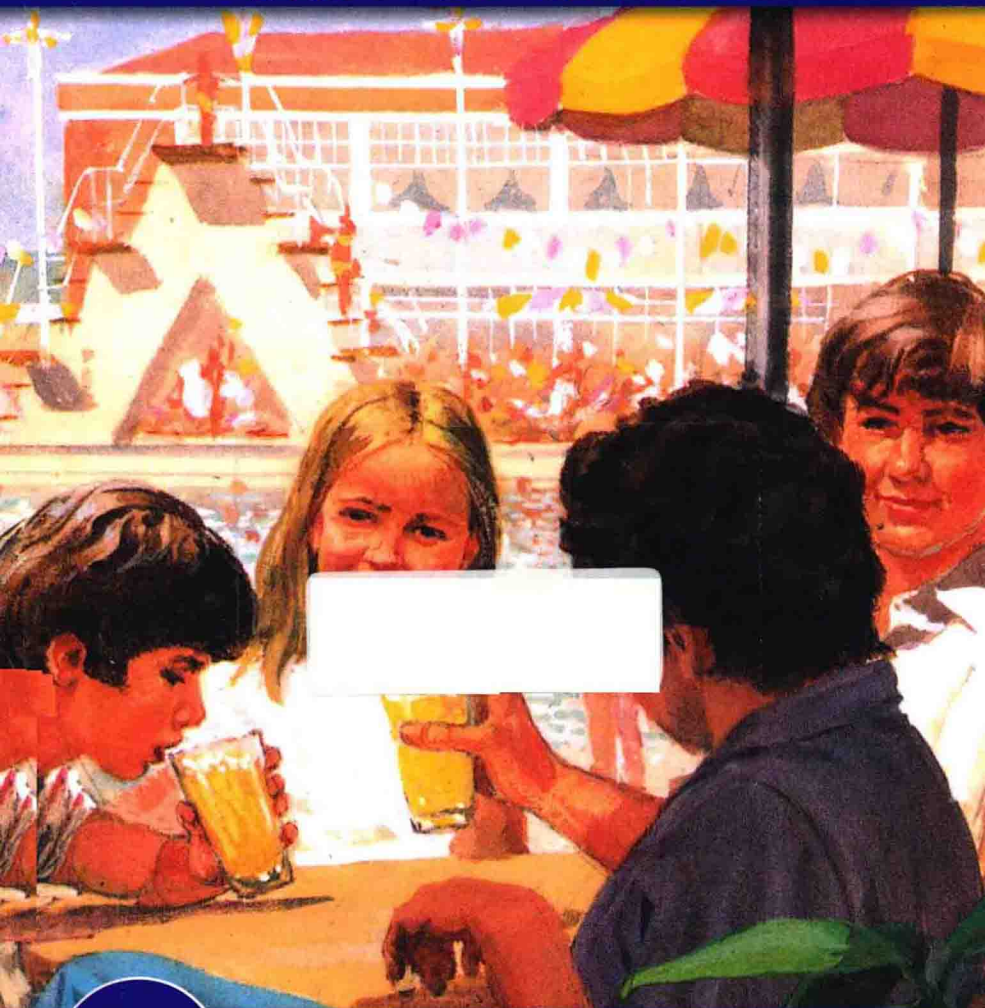


Key Words

with Peter and Jane



12a

度假营地之迷

The holiday camp mystery



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written by W. Murray illustrated by J.H. Wingfield



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Simon and John looked at the plans of the new holiday camp. It was being built on the island their father had bought. They were with the builder's foreman as he explained the plans to them.

"I have coloured part of the plans," he said. "The part of the camp which we have built is coloured red. The other part left white is being built now."

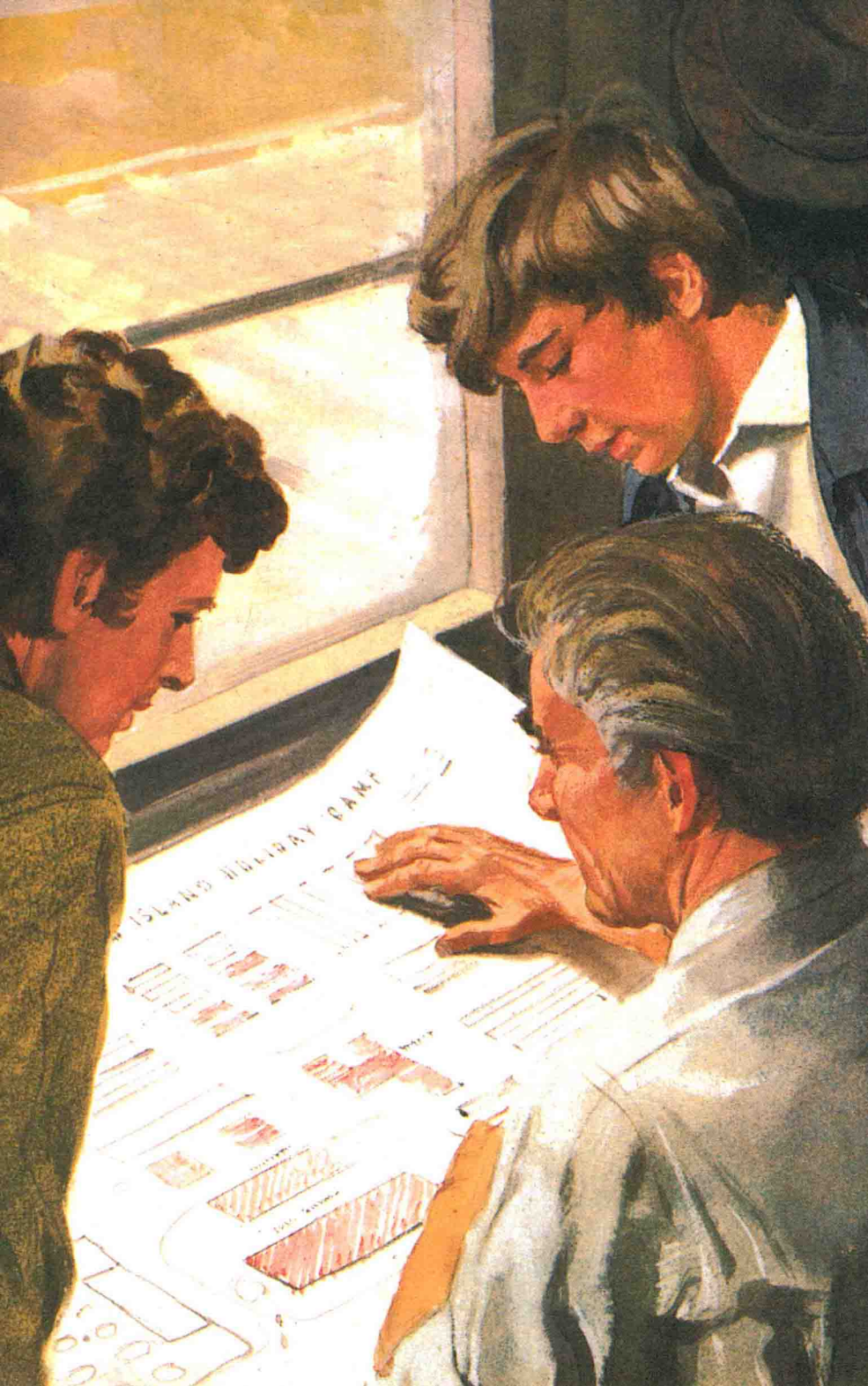
"Your work is very interesting," said Simon, "but it seems difficult. You have to know so much."

"Yes, it is interesting work," replied the foreman. "It doesn't seem difficult to me as I have been building for many years."

He explained more about the plans. He showed them different parts of the island holiday camp, where many people would live and enjoy themselves every summer.

John was very interested in the swimming pool. "It seems to be a large pool," he said. "It is coloured red here. Does that mean it is ready for use? I would like to be the first to dive in."

The foreman laughed. "Please don't dive in yet," he said. "There is no water in it." Then he told them that the water would be put in very soon.



The foreman took the boys round the holiday camp to show them what had been built. He also explained the work that was then being done.

They could see that hundreds of people of all ages would be able to enjoy happy holidays in the camp and on the beach nearby. They could swim in the sea or in the swimming pool, or enjoy themselves in the pleasure grounds of the camp. The boys thought of Peter and Jane when they saw the fun fair.

“Our cousins would enjoy the fun fair,” said Simon. “We must ask them to come over in the holidays.”

“They would like everything in the pleasure grounds,” said John. “There is something here for children of all ages. I can imagine hundreds of boys and girls playing here all day long.”

They walked on to see the excavators at work. They arrived just in time to see something exciting happening. A man with an excavator had just found the entrance to a tunnel.

The foreman went over to look at the tunnel. “We didn’t know anything about this,” he said.

“Father has never said anything about a tunnel on the island,” said Simon. “I can’t imagine why it was built.”



The men with the excavators stopped work to look at the entrance of the tunnel. "Don't go in," said the foreman, "it may not be safe. The roof might fall in. I will examine it first."

The foreman took a torch and went into the tunnel by himself. He shone the torch around as he moved slowly along. He was most careful to examine the roof ahead of him before he walked under it. He knew that rocks could fall in the tunnel at any time.

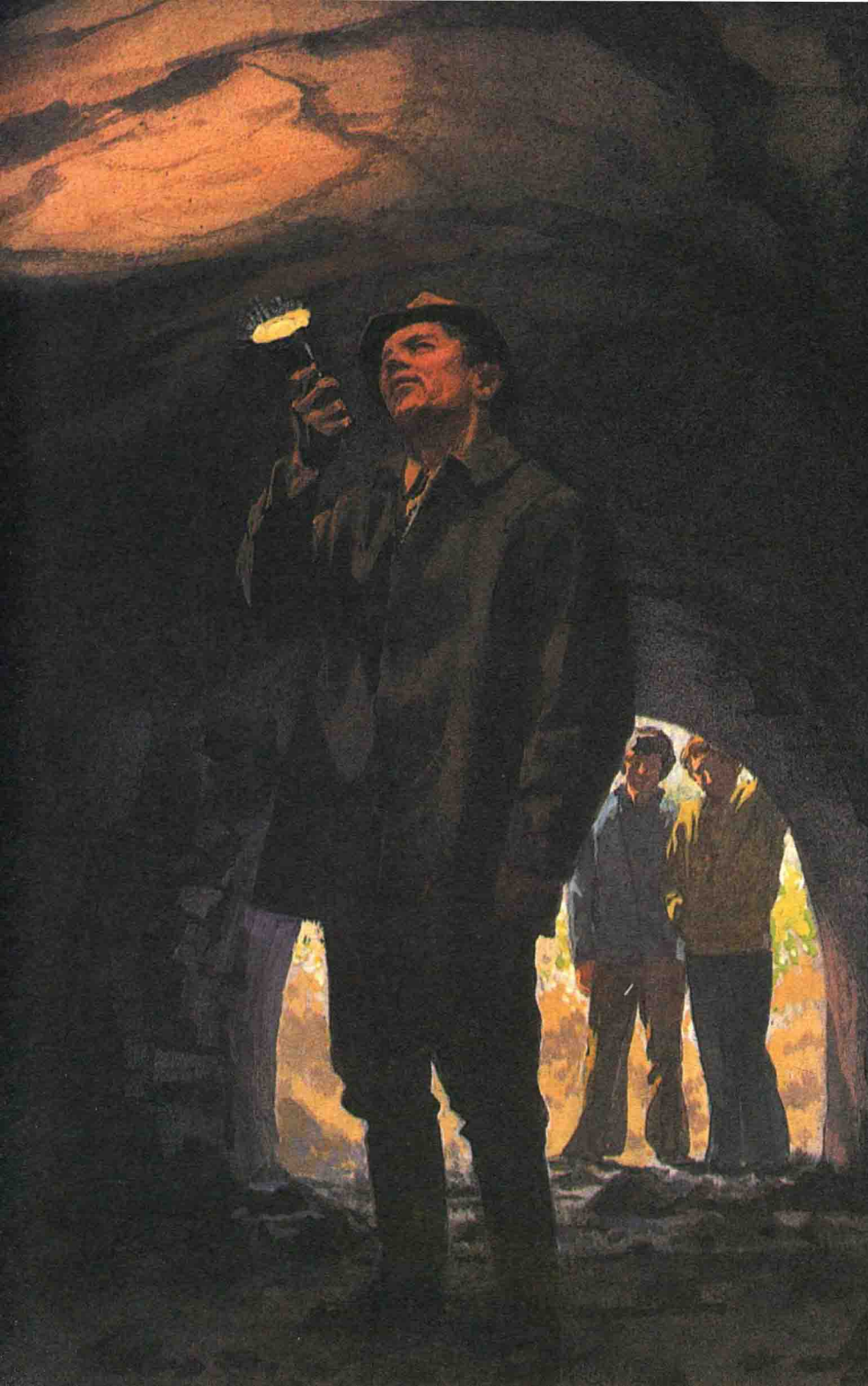
After a few minutes the foreman stopped. When he shone the torch in front of him, the tunnel stretched ahead as far as he could see. It looked safe, but he decided to go back. He knew the others might think he was in danger.

John and Simon were glad to see the foreman come out of the tunnel. They thought that the excavator might have damaged the tunnel and made it dangerous. They knew how easily accidents could happen under the ground.

"I thought it might be dangerous in there, but it seems to be quite safe," the foreman told them.

"Then may we explore the tunnel?" John asked.

"Not yet," replied the foreman. "I must see your father first."



Simon and John were there when the foreman told their father about the tunnel which had been found on the island. The boy's father said he knew nothing about it and examined his own plan of the island to see if the tunnel had been drawn on it. Nothing was shown on the plan. "It is a mystery," said Simon. "Perhaps smugglers built it long ago."

It was decided that the foreman and some of his men should explore the tunnel, and if possible make it safe. If they could do this, then Simon and John would be allowed to go into it.

The next day the foreman took some men into the tunnel. They examined the sides and the roof as they went along. They found that the tunnel was old but strongly made. Small repairs were needed in only two places. They did these repairs and went on to find that the tunnel led to a large cave. Several other tunnels led off from this cave. They explored these other tunnels but they all seemed to have no way out.

When the men returned from the cave the foreman made a report about their work to the boys' father.



Simon and John were told by the foreman that the repairs to the tunnel had been finished and that it was safe to enter. They were allowed to go in and explore if they wished. They got ready at once and set off to explore the tunnels and cave. Both wore old clothes and carried torches.

They tried to imagine what the tunnels and cave had been used for in days gone by. "It is quite possible that smugglers used them," said Simon. John agreed. "We must search for signs," he said.

They went along the tunnel slowly, using their torches. They shone their lights all around. Now and again they stopped to listen. However, all was quiet down there.

"I thought that we might hear the excavators at work, or perhaps the sound of the sea," said Simon. "No," said John, after they had listened several times. "There is not a sound to be heard."

Soon they reached the large cave which the foreman and his men had found. They stood in the middle of it and shone their torches around.

They could see that three other tunnels led off from the cave, besides the one they had been using.

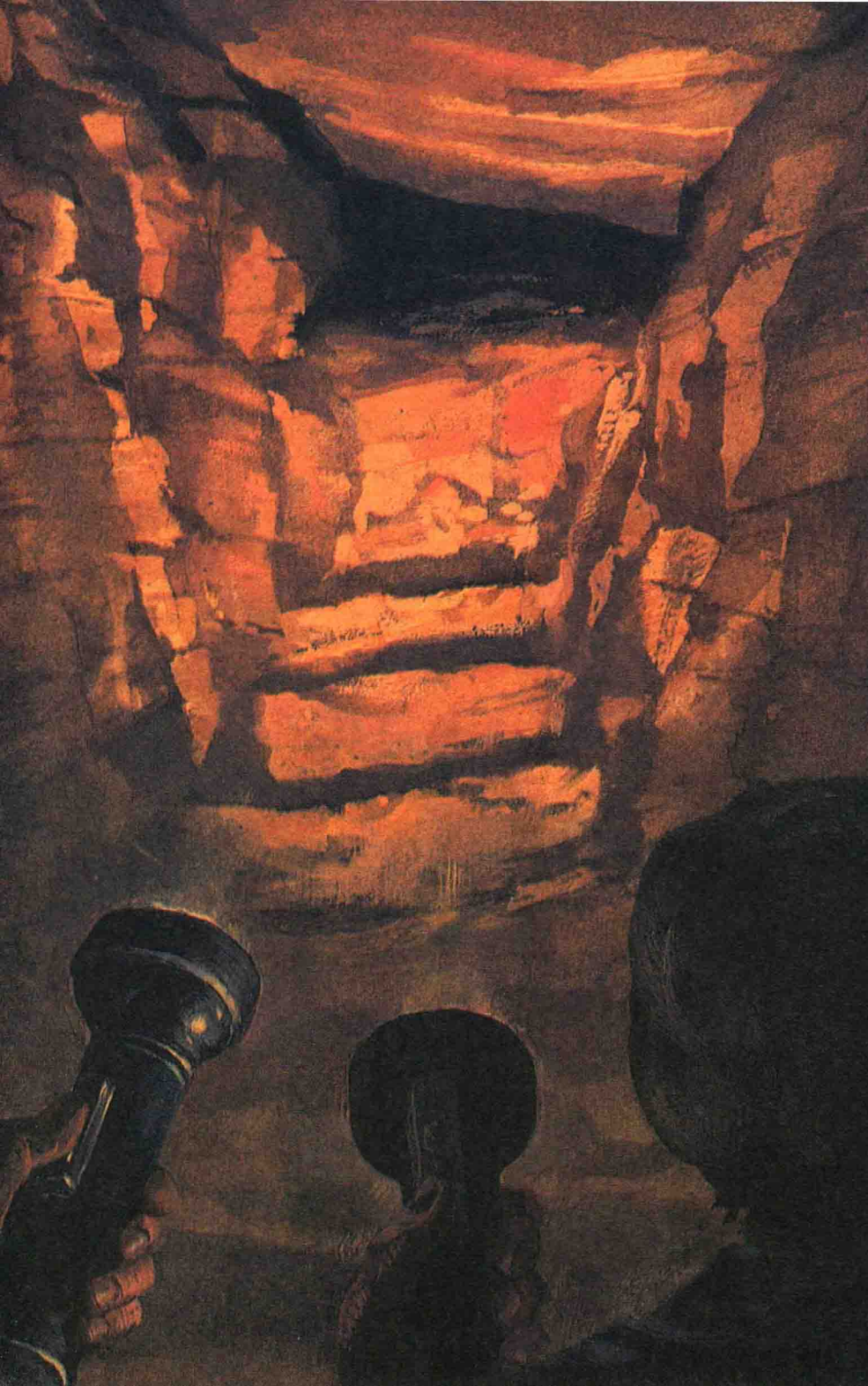


The boys stayed together to search the cave and the tunnels. They looked round the cave and then walked down the middle of one tunnel, examining the floor, walls and roof carefully by the light of their torches. The tunnel seemed to be made of rock, as was the large cave. The boys thought that both the cave and the tunnel were natural and not made by man. This was different from the tunnel by which they had entered, as only part of that was natural rock, the entrance being made of brick.

The tunnel ended suddenly with a wall of rock reaching the roof. The boys examined this and returned to the cave. They carried on their search in the third tunnel. This third tunnel was also made of natural rock with no bricks added. It did not seem that any work had been done there by man.

Once more they returned to the cave and then entered the fourth and longest tunnel. Here the roof was higher and the air seemed to be different.

Suddenly in the light of the torches they saw some steps cut into the rock face at the end of the tunnel.



“The foreman didn’t tell us about any steps cut into the rock,” said John. “Neither he nor his men could have seen them.”

The boys went closer to examine the steps, and then started to climb them. They went higher and higher up the rock until they were close to the roof at the end of the cave. The rock face they were climbing did not reach the roof. There was a small space between the wall and the roof of the cave. Neither Simon nor John had seen this space when standing on the floor of the tunnel.

“There is room to get through the gap,” said John. “I think it leads into another cave.” Then he added, “It doesn’t seem so dark in there and I can hear the sea. Shall we go on?”

“It looks safe enough,” replied Simon. “Let’s get through the gap carefully. We shall have to crawl.”

They crawled slowly through the gap and then jumped down about three feet on to the rock floor of another cave. There was room to stand up and they could just see without their torches.

The cave stretched a long way before them to a low entrance where they could see daylight.