

CHAPTER 9

MORE INDIANS FROM THE CAVES JOINED US DURING THE night, and, by the following morning, our army consisted of about four or five hundred men. Some of the Indians carried spears, while others carried bows and arrows. Lord John, the two professors and I loaded our rifles with ammunition, and together with the Indians, made our way through the thick, dark forest.

We did not have to wait long for our enemy to appear. We heard a loud roar from the edge of the woods, and, moments later, the apemen were rushing towards us with clubs and stones.

But the slow apes were no match for the quick and agile Indians. The Indians shot their arrows at the group of apes, and the beasts fell to the ground, dead. We knew there were more apes waiting for us in the woods, so we proceeded cautiously. We heard another loud cry, and the apes leaped out of their hiding places among the trees, carrying huge clubs. We opened fire on the apes and the creatures began to scream and howl and run in all directions. The Indians raced after them, shooting their arrows and throwing their spears. Two hours later, the apemen had been defeated.

'It's over,' said Lord John.

'We have just seen one of the greatest battles in history,' said Challenger.

Summerlee sighed. 'I think we've had enough adventures,' he said. 'It's time to go home.'

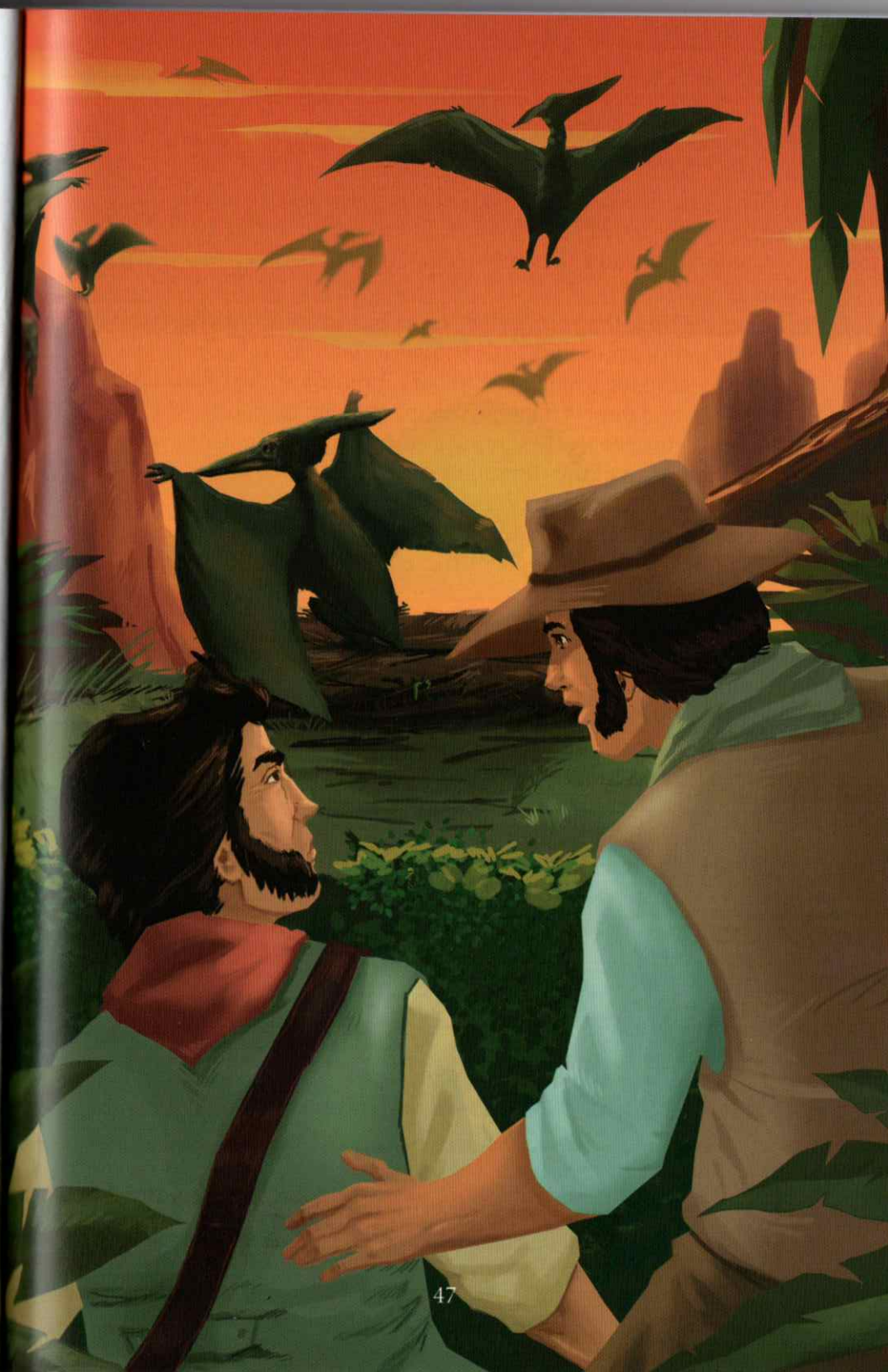
We returned to the caves with the Indians, and set up camp at the foot of their cliffs. We spent a few days with the tribe, studying their habits and culture. They gave us food, water and gifts, but refused to help us leave the plateau – they believed that we brought them good luck.

During that time, I went to our old camp twice to talk to Zambo and to see if the Indians had returned with rope – they hadn't. When I returned from my second visit, I found Lord John crouching behind a bush near the pterodactyl pit.

'What are you doing?' I asked.

'Watching the pterodactyls,' he whispered.

'But why?'



'Challenger asked me to capture a young pterodactyl,' he answered. 'He wants to take one back to England.'

'That's madness!' I exclaimed. 'You're going to get yourself killed!'

Lord John smiled. 'Don't worry about me, I'll be fine.'

I shook my head and continued on my journey.

One evening, the young chief came to our camp to visit us. He had taken pity on us and had decided to help us leave. He walked up to me, gave me a small roll of bark, pointed at the row of caves above him, and put his finger to his lips as a sign of secrecy. Then, he returned to his people. I examined the bark in the firelight and saw that it was a map of the caves. One of the caves was marked with an 'X'. I showed the map to my companions.

'But what does the X mean?' asked Summerlee.

'It must be a cave that goes through the mountain – a tunnel!' I cried.

'You could be right,' said Challenger. 'And if that cave does go through the mountain, we'll only be a hundred feet from the ground.'

'Our rope is longer than a hundred feet,' I said, 'we'll definitely be able to get down.'

'What about the Indians in the caves?' asked Summerlee.

'There are no Indians in those caves,' I said. 'They use those caves to store food.'

'We'll leave tonight,' said Challenger.

That night, we collected our belongings, lit our torches and made our way to the cave. The walls of the cave were smooth and grey and covered in Indian symbols. After what seemed like a very long walk, we reached the end of the tunnel. We climbed through a hole no larger than a window, and lowered the rope to the ground. Two hours later, we were at the foot of the cliff.

We made our way to Zambo's camp and found that a rescue party consisting of twenty Indians had arrived. We had seen great wonders in the lost world, but I couldn't wait to go home.



CHAPTER 9

Reading Comprehension

1 Answer the questions.

- Why were the Indians better at fighting than the apemen?

- What weapons did the Indians use and what were the weapons the apemen used?

- Why didn't the Indian tribe agree to help Challenger and his team leave the plateau?

- Why was Lord John watching the pterodactyl pit?

- How did the young chief eventually help the men?

- How do Challenger and his men plan to finally leave the lost world?

2 Complete the following sentences with the names in the box.

The young chief	The apemen	Lord John	Challenger
	Edward	The Indians	

- _____ had an army of about five hundred men.
- _____ screamed and howled as they leapt from the trees.
- _____ had been asked to catch a pterodactyl.
- _____ felt sorry for Challenger and his team, and decided to help them.
- _____ looked at the bark in the firelight and realised it was a map.
- _____ decided that they would leave that night.

Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct word.

- My mother is such a kind person and I am sure that she has never had an **enemy** / **army** in her whole life.

- She sat by the window and **sighed** / **leaped** as she remembered the happy times she had had in that house.
- The man **refused** / **examined** to tell the police where he had hidden the stolen money.
- Tom exercises regularly and is very **smooth** / **agile** for his age.
- Dennis lit a **torch** / **symbol** because he wanted to have a better look at the cave paintings.
- It is so windy today that all the apples have fallen off the trees; let's go and **collect** / **lower** them.

4 Match the words/expressions 1-7 with their synonyms a-g from Chapter 9.

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. to go ahead | a. to be over |
| 2. to feel sorry for sb | b. secrecy |
| 3. for sure, without doubt | c. to take pity on sb |
| 4. very carefully | d. to leap |
| 5. to make a big jump | e. to proceed |
| 6. being kept secret | f. cautiously |
| 7. to end | g. definitely |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- Challenger described the battle with the apemen as one of the greatest in history. Do you agree with this description? Why / Why not?
- The Indians refused to let the men go because they believed that they brought them good luck. Do you think it is right to refuse someone their right to freedom, even if you treat them well? Why / Why not?
- Lord John wanted to capture a pterodactyl to take back to England. Do you think this will be an easy or difficult task? Why?
- Do you think it is cruel to take animals out of their natural habitat? Can it ever be justified?
- Why do you think that the young chief took pity on the men and decided to help them? How do you think the men are feeling now that they know they are going home? How would you feel?

6 Imagine that you are Edward, just returning to the camp at the foot of the cliff. Write a letter to Gladys, narrating the battle, how the young chief helped, and your plans to return home. (100-120 words)