

'Do you remember the bamboo patch where we found the skeleton?' continued Lord John.

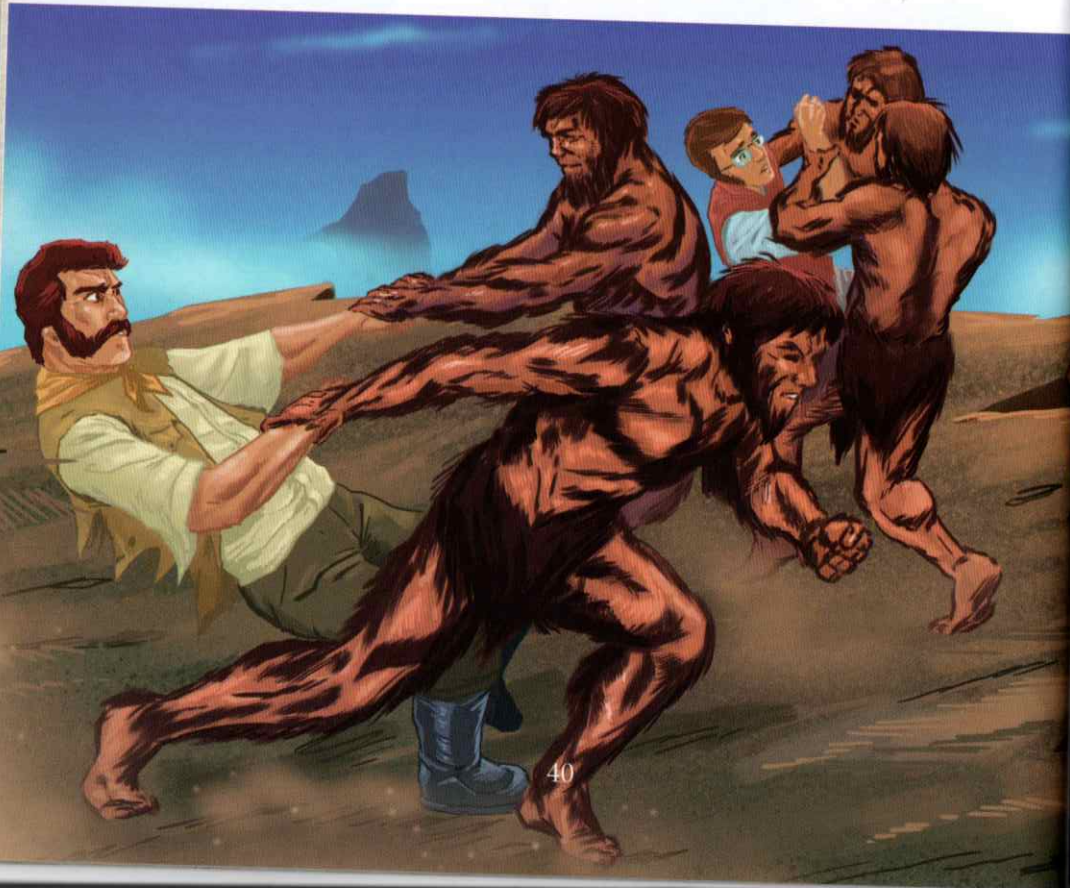
I nodded.

'That's just under ape-town and it's where they throw their prisoners to their deaths. Some are killed by the fall while others land on the bamboo. It's a horrible thing to watch. Once they'd killed seven native Indians, they sent the remaining natives and the three of us back to their camp. I knew our turn was next, so I decided to make a run for it. The apemen can't run as fast as we can, and they don't know what guns are. So, when I got an opportunity, I kicked my guard in the stomach and ran to the camp as fast as I could to get the rifles.'

'But what about the professors?' I asked.

'We have to go back and get them,' said Lord John, 'before it's too late.'

I was just about to stand up when I felt Lord John's grip on my arm. 'By George,' he whispered, 'here they come.'



CHAPTER 8

A GROUP OF APEMEN WALKED PAST US IN SINGLE FILE; THEY were about five feet tall, with long arms and enormous chests. Some of them were carrying sticks. We watched anxiously as they sniffed the air and searched the bushes. Finally, the apes disappeared into the forest.

'We should stay here until they've given up their search,' whispered Lord John.

I nodded. After a quick breakfast, we filled our pockets with ammunition and, at around midday, we set off for ape-town to carry out our rescue mission.

'Go slowly, keep your eyes open and your rifle ready,' said Lord John as we crept through the forest.

It took us two hours to reach the ape-town. When we arrived, we immediately took cover behind a thick clump of bushes, a short distance from the apes' huts. From our hiding place we could see that a crowd of apemen and a small group of Indians had gathered at the edge of the cliff.

'The bamboo patch is just beneath them,' said Lord John. 'I'm afraid those Indians are going to be put to death.'

Just then, the ape king arrived with the two professors following close behind.

'There are the Professors!' I whispered.

Suddenly, two of the apemen seized one of the Indians and dragged him to the edge of the cliff. The apes turned to look at the king; he raised his hand and the apemen swung the Indian back and forth violently, before throwing him over the edge of the cliff. The apes were silent for a moment, then they began to howl with delight. Once their howling was over the apemen prepared themselves for their next victim: Professor Summerlee. Two of the apemen grabbed the professor by the wrists and pulled him to the front. Challenger turned to the ape king and waved his hands, begging him to spare his friend's life. The ape king pushed him aside roughly and shook his head. Wasting no time, Lord John fired his rifle, and the king sank to the ground.

'Shoot, Malone, shoot!' cried Lord John.

We opened fire on the apemen, and the guards who were holding Summerlee were the first to fall. The apemen ran around in confusion; some climbed up into the trees, others disappeared into the forest.

Challenger grabbed Summerlee and the two of them ran towards us. The remaining apemen started chasing us, but we were much too fast for them. We fired several more rounds at our pursuers until finally, they gave up. Once we reached our camp, the apes were nowhere to be seen.

We had just closed the thorny gate to our camp, when we heard the sound of voices outside the entrance. Lord John rushed forward, rifle in hand, and threw the gate open. There in front of us were the four surviving Indians, trembling with fear and begging us to protect them.

'By George,' exclaimed Lord John. 'What are we going to do with them?'

Summerlee looked at the men with pity. 'We have to help them,' he said. 'Just like you two helped us. I can't thank you enough for what you did.'

'We will always be grateful to you both,' said Challenger.

'We did what we had to do,' said Lord John. 'The question now, is what do we do with these Indians? I suppose we should take them home, but I don't know where they live.'

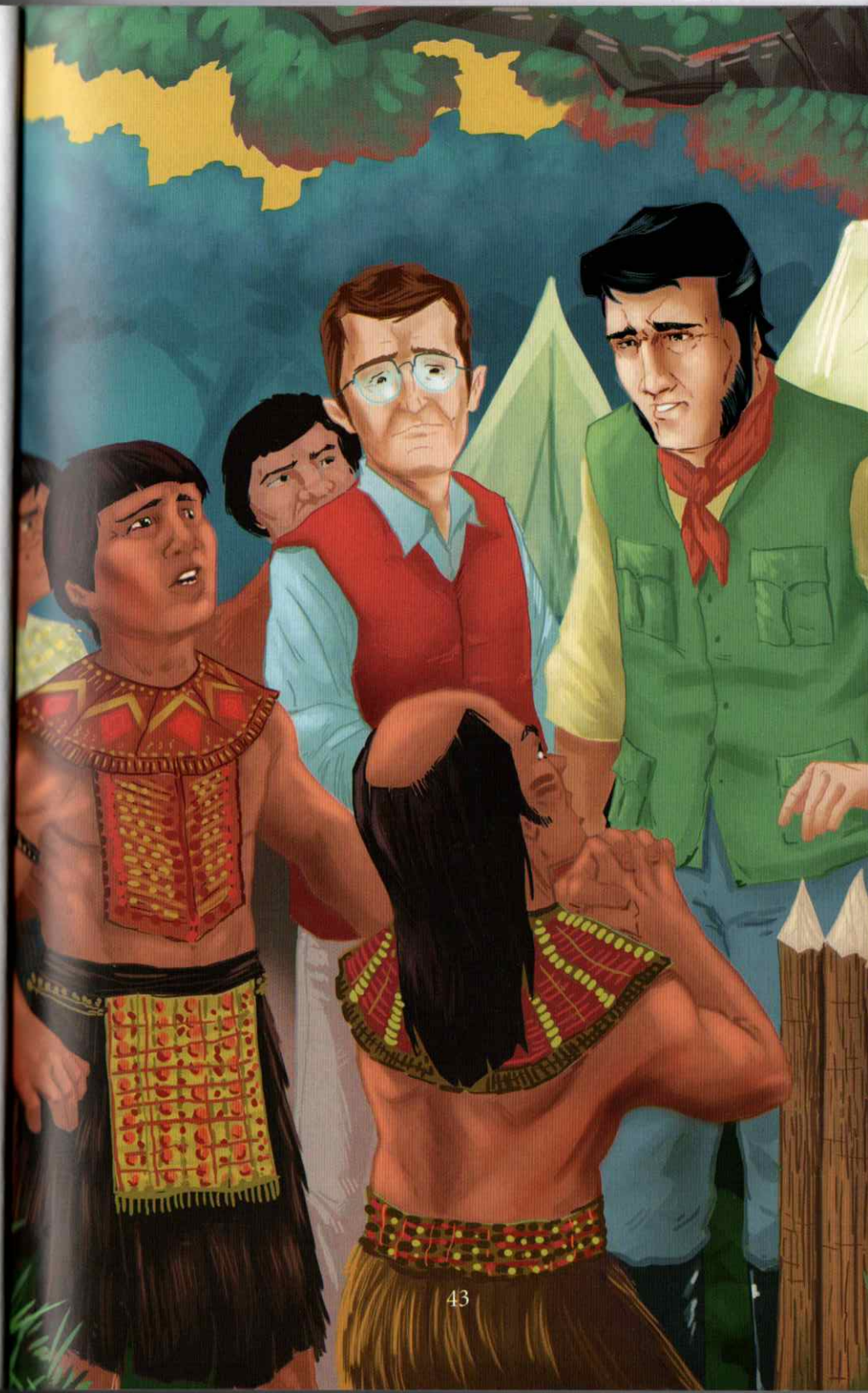
'They live in the caves on the other side of the lake,' I said. 'It's about twenty miles from here.'

In the distance, we heard the cries of the apemen, and the Indians began shivering with fear.

'We must move quickly,' said Lord John. 'Let's take some provisions with us and go back to our hiding place in the woods.'

Half an hour later, we arrived at the hiding place. For the rest of the day, we listened to the sounds of the apemen coming from the direction of our camp; luckily, none of the apemen came our way. We spent the night in the forest and began the journey to the Indian village early the following morning.

The Indians were small, well-built and active men. They couldn't speak English, but we managed to communicate using hand signals. They pointed to each other and said the word 'Accala' several times which we assumed was the name of their tribe. They used the word



'Doda' to describe the apemen.

'I think that the younger man with the shaved head is their chief,' said Lord John as he observed the Indians walking ahead of us. 'The other men seem to treat him with great respect.'

By late afternoon, we had reached the banks of the lake. As we emerged from the forest, we saw several canoes filled with Indians moving slowly across the water. When the Indians saw us, they screamed with delight and began paddling at tremendous speed. They reached the banks of the lake, climbed out of their canoes and rushed towards us. Then, they dropped to their knees and bowed before the chief.

An elderly man walked forward and hugged the young chief. He looked at us and asked the chief a few questions. Then the old man, who we assumed was the young chief's father, instructed the Indians to bow before us. It was clear that they were grateful to us for saving their chief.

The Indians had come ready for war; they were armed with spears, bows and arrows and kept glancing at the forest and muttering the word 'Doda'. There was no doubt this was a rescue party. The Indians sat down in a circle, and the young chief began to address his people. Though we couldn't understand his words, his facial expressions and hand gestures were very clear. 'We are not safe. Those apes will come back and kill us all. We have come here ready for war, and we must now find the courage to defeat our enemies,' he said.

The tribesmen burst into applause and waved their weapons in the air. Then, the old man approached us and pointed at the woods.

'I think he's asking if we want to help them fight the apemen,' said Lord John. 'What do you say, men?'

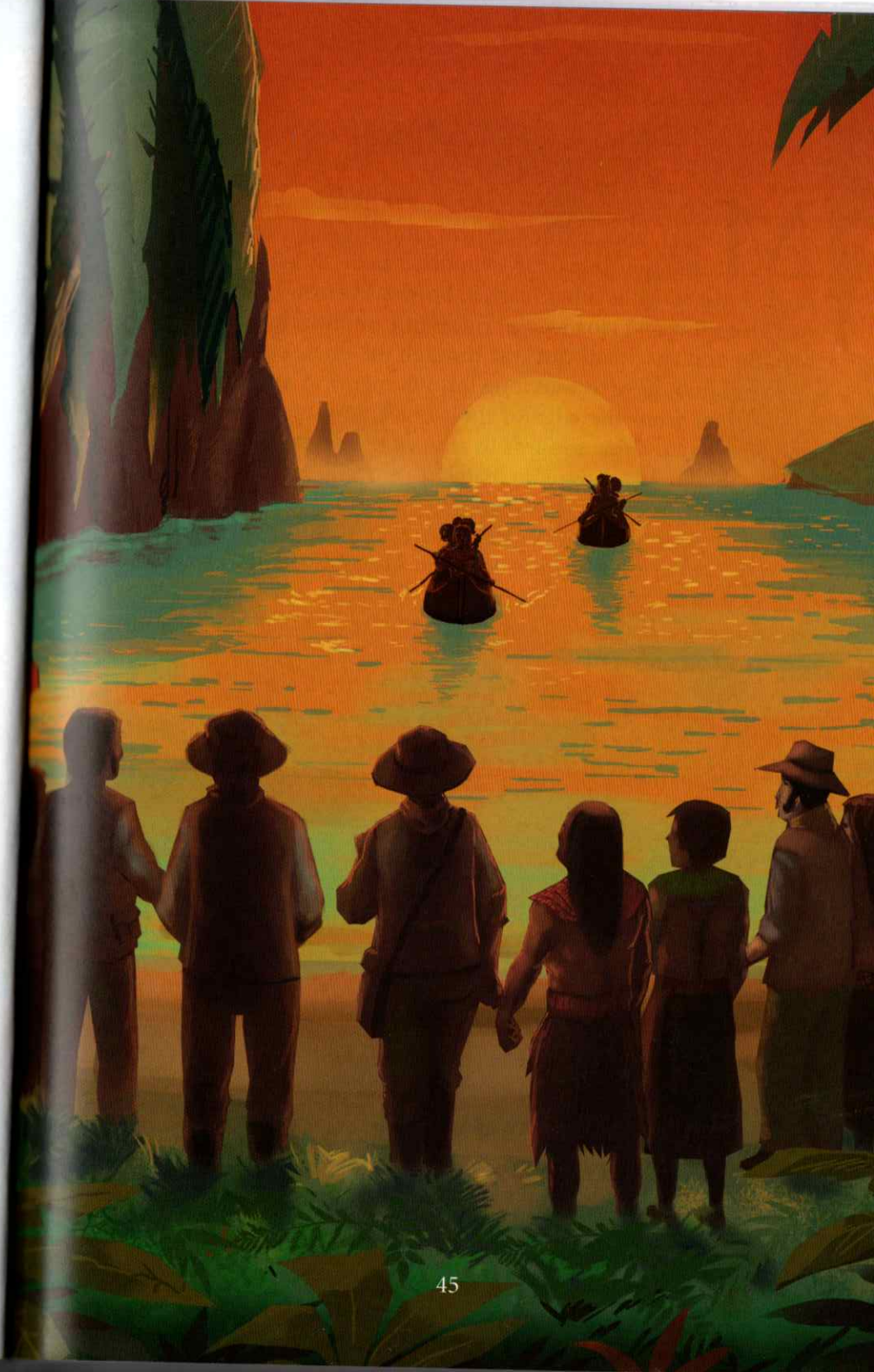
'Of course,' I responded.

'You can count me in,' said Challenger.

'Me too,' said Summerlee.

'Then it's settled,' said Lord John. He turned to the old chief and nodded, and the men cheered loudly again.

We set up camp at the lake, and prepared ourselves for the battle that lay ahead.



CHAPTER 8

Reading Comprehension

1 Put the following events in the order which they happened.
Write 1-6 in the boxes.

- Four Indians came to the men's camp and asked for help.
- Lord John fired a rifle and shot the ape king.
- Challenger grabbed Summerlee and they ran back to the camp with Lord John and Edward.
- The Accala Indians arrived at the lake with the men, and Challenger's team agreed to help them fight the apemen.
- Edward and Lord John began their journey to rescue their friends.
- The ape-men were getting ready to throw Professor Summerlee into the bamboo patch.

2 Read Chapter 8 again and correct the sentences below.

- When Edward and Lord John arrived at the ape-town they immediately hid behind the apes' huts.

- Challenger pushed the ape king to try and stop the apemen from killing Professor Summerlee.

- On returning to their camp, the men heard rifle shots and went outside to find the four Indians who needed help.

- Challenger's team and the Indians spent the night in the camp before travelling to the Indian village the next day.

- The young Indians used the word *Accala* to describe the apemen.

Vocabulary

3 Find words in Chapter 8 which mean the same as:

- To get ready for something _____ (page 41)
- The person who is chasing somebody or something _____ (page 42)

- To think that something is true or possible _____ (page 42)
- To tremble from cold or fear _____ (page 42)
- A large group of people _____ (page 44)
- A movement you make with your hands or head to say or show something _____ (page 44)

4 Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

wrist silent violently begged cheered anxiously

- My sister really wants to get into university and has been _____ waiting for her exam results all week.
- Come on, Terry, say something; don't be so _____.
- The angry boy pushed his friend _____ and then threw him on the ground.
- The football fans in the stadium _____ loudly when their team finally scored the winning goal.
- I hurt my _____ and the doctor says that I won't be able to play tennis for at least a month.
- Tom _____ his parents to buy him a tablet, but they said that he must improve his school marks first.

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- The apemen couldn't find Lord John and Edward in their hiding place even though they were searching the bushes and sniffing the air. Why do you think this was mentioned by the author?
- What do you think of the way the apemen treated their prisoners? What does it show about them?
- How do you think that the four Indians found their way to the team's camp?
- What differences are there between the Indians and the apemen? Why do you think the men decided to help the *Accala*?
- Challenger's team has now agreed to help the Indians fight the apemen. What do you think will happen? Who will win?

6 Imagine you are Edward Malone. Write an article for your newspaper about the discovery of the two native tribes of the lost world. Present the *Doda* and the *Accala*, and compare and contrast them. (100-120 words)