

CHAPTER 7

I SEARCHED THE WOODS SURROUNDING OUR CAMP AND CALLED OUT for my companions, but no one answered. What had become of my friends? Had they been attacked by wild animals? None of our possessions were missing and even the rifles had been left behind. I searched the forest again, but found no animal tracks. An hour later, I returned to the camp. Was I going to die alone in this terrible place? Then I remembered Zambo, down at the bottom of the cliff.

I peered over the edge of the cliff and saw our faithful servant cooking a meal over a fire. Mojo sat nearby him. I waved my hands and shouted. Zambo looked up, waved back and then climbed to the top of the rock. He listened to my story with great concern.

'The evil spirits got them, master,' he said. 'You must come down or they will get you too.'

'How will I get down?' I asked.

'We need more rope,' said Zambo. 'I will tell Mojo to go to his village and get more rope. The other two have already gone to get help.'

'All right,' I said.

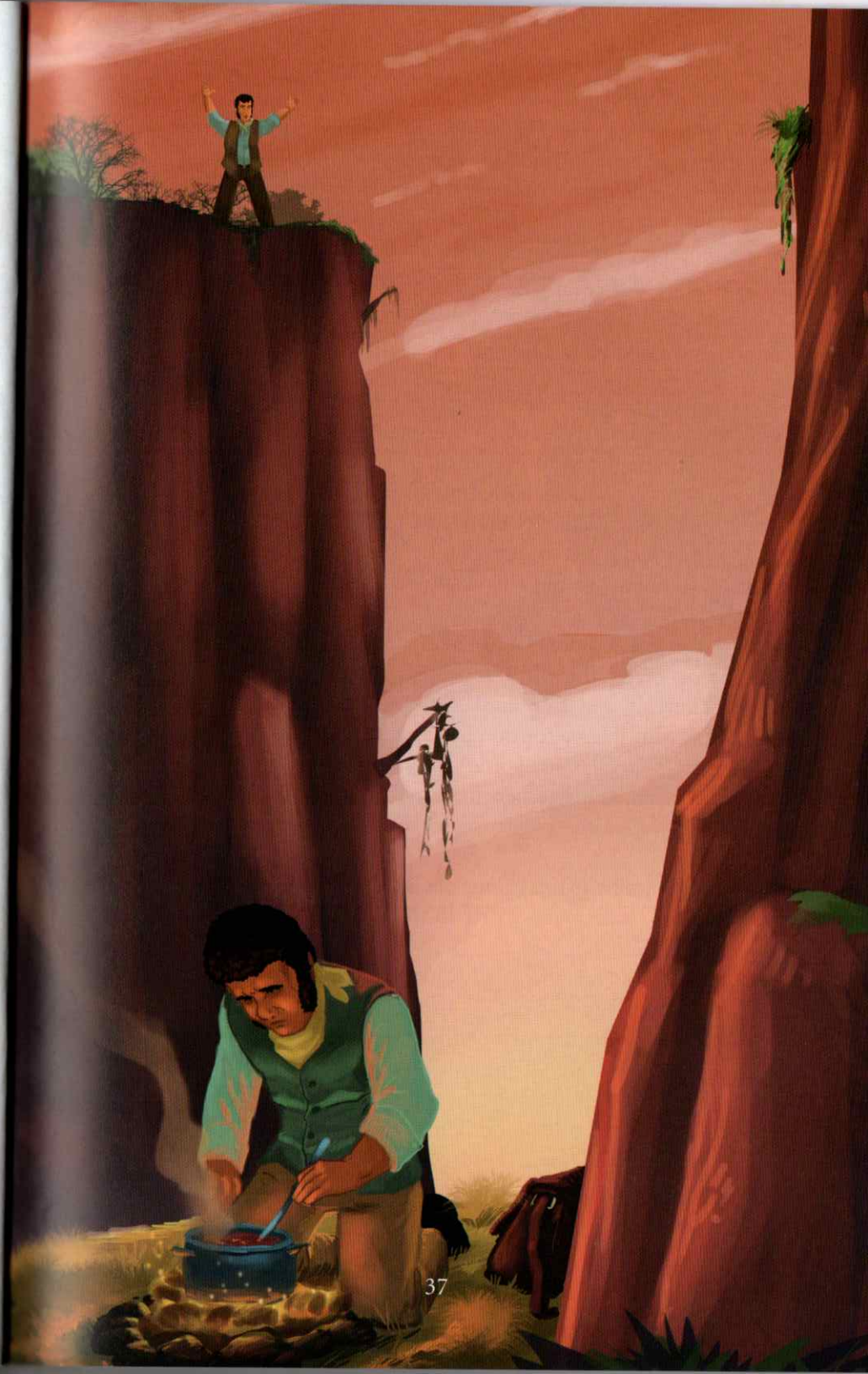
Zambo returned to his camp, and I returned to mine. I spent the rest of the day writing about my adventures of the night before. When night came, I closed the thorny gate of the camp and lit three fires in a triangle. I ate dinner, and then fell into a deep sleep.

In the early morning, just as the sun was rising, I felt a hand touch my arm. I opened my eyes with a start and saw Lord John kneeling beside me! He was pale and wide-eyed; his face was scratched and bloody, and his clothes were torn.

I stared at him in amazement, but he gave me no chance to ask questions.

'Quick, young fellow,' he cried, as he raced around the camp filling bags with provisions. 'Get the rifles, get the cartridges, fill up your pockets! Get some food! Don't stop to think, every moment counts!'

Still half asleep, I ran into the woods after Lord John, with a rifle under each arm and bags of food in my hands. He stopped at a thick clump of bushes and quickly took cover. I did the same.



'We should be safe here,' he panted. 'They'll probably go straight to the camp; they won't find us here.'

'Who?' I asked, breathlessly. 'Where are the professors? Who's chasing us?'

'The apemen!' cried Lord John. 'Keep your voice down; they have long ears and sharp eyes. Where were you when they attacked?'

In a few short sentences, I told Lord John about my trip to the lake. He listened with interest.

'So what happened?' I asked.

'It was early in the morning,' said Lord John. 'The professors hadn't even woken up yet when the apes began falling out of the trees like apples! They looked like apes, but they behaved like humans; they were carrying sticks and stones and talking to each other. They were big fellows; as big as men, and much stronger, with curious, glassy eyes. I managed to shoot one of them, but the others attacked. We tried to get away, but they captured us and tied our hands with creepers.'

'What happened next?' I asked.

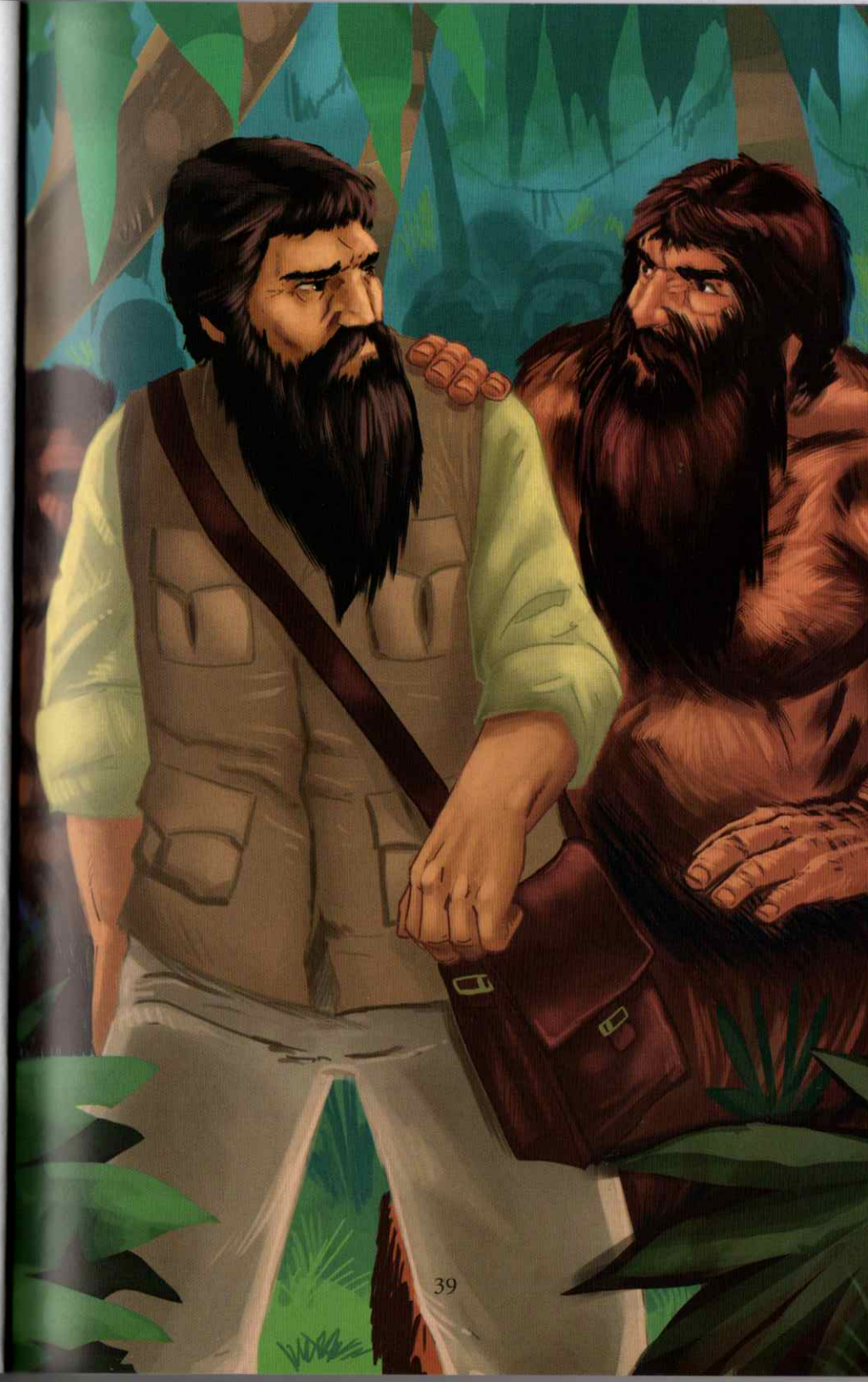
'One of them, the old ape king, stood beside Challenger. You won't believe it, but they looked like twins! They both have thick bodies, big shoulders, round chests, and long beards. The ape king looked at Challenger for some time before putting his paw on his shoulder. Then, the apemen dragged me and Summerlee through the forest, while Challenger was carried like a Roman emperor by four apemen!'

Just then, we heard a strange clicking noise in the distance.

'It's them,' whispered Lord John. 'Load your rifle, they might come this way.'

I did as I was told and Lord John continued with his story. 'They took us to their town, which is made up of about a thousand huts – it's further north than our camp and close to the edge of the cliff. You say you saw signs of men, but we saw the natives themselves. It seems that the humans occupy one side of the plateau and the apemen occupy the other side. They are at war with each other, as far as I can tell. The apemen captured about a dozen human prisoners yesterday, and put two of them to death right there in front of us.'

I gasped in horror.



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

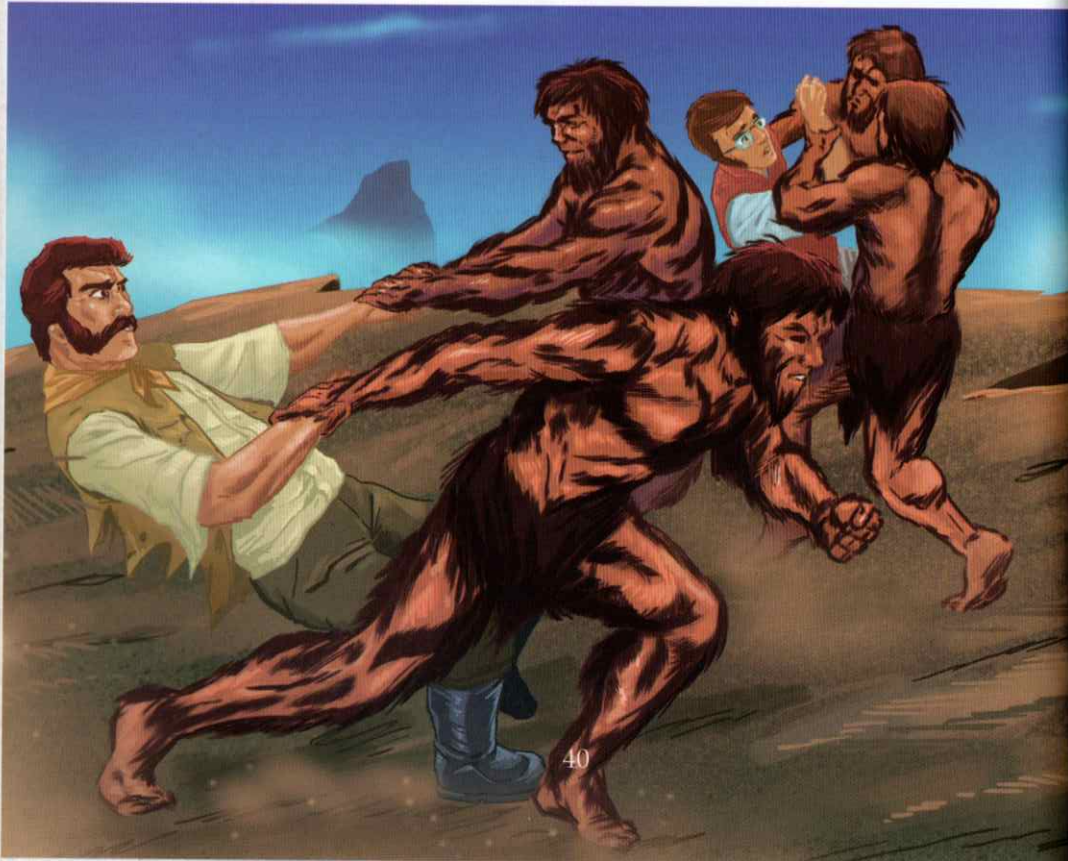
I nodded.

'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.

CHAPTER 7

Reading Comprehension

1 Answer the questions.

1. How does Edward plan to get down from the plateau?

2. What did Edward take with him when he ran into the woods with Lord John?

3. Where did Lord John think that the apemen would go first?

4. What weapons did the apemen fight with?

5. How was Challenger carried away from his camp?

6. How did the apemen kill their enemies?

2 Read the sentences and decide if they are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Edward looked over the side of the cliff and saw Mojo cooking a meal. ☐
2. Zambo believed that the evil spirits took Edward's friends. ☐
3. Lord John woke Edward by putting his hand on Edward's arm. ☐
4. Lord John said that the apemen were throwing apples from the trees. ☐
5. Challenger, Summerlee and Lord John were dragged through the forest by the apemen. ☐
6. The apemen and the humans were at war with each other. ☐

Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct word.

1. If you ever have the **amazement** / **opportunity** to study abroad, make sure you take it.

2. The children went to the forest to gather some **sticks** / **stones** for the campfire.
3. Her face was so **torn** / **pale**; I could tell that she hadn't been sleeping very well lately.
4. Oh, your hand is **glassy** / **bloody** - when did you cut your finger?
5. The sofa was too heavy for her to pick up, so she had to **peer** / **drag** it across the room.
6. Neal ran all the way home from school and was **racing** / **panting** when walked into the living room.

4 Match.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. animal | a. sleep |
| 2. faithful | b. clothes |
| 3. thick | c. servant |
| 4. wild | d. clump of bushes |
| 5. great | e. track |
| 6. deep | f. concern |
| 7. torn | g. animals |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. After speaking to Zambo, Edward lit three fires in a triangle before he went to sleep. Why do you think that he did this? Do you know or can you guess what kind of signal this is?
2. Why did Lord John return to the camp? Were you surprised to learn that all of the men are still alive? Do you think that they will all survive the lost world?
3. There is a war between the apemen and humans. Why do you think that is? Which side do you think is more powerful? Why?
4. Challenger is very similar physically to the king of the apemen. How does this account for the apemen's special treatment of him?
5. What do you think of the way the apemen treat their prisoners? Do you think they will manage to capture Lord John and Malone?

6 Imagine you are Professor Challenger. Write a diary entry describing how you were captured by the apemen, how they treated you and your companions, and what you witnessed in the ape-town. (100-120 words)