Have We Lost Our Minds?

Chapter 1

His blood ran cold.

Drip.

Drip.

Drip.

Trembling he awoke. Where was he? Frightened, terrifying thoughts raced through his mind. Milo slowly sat up and shuddered. He could feel the wind breathing on him as he gazed around. Or was it just his mind playing tricks? It couldn’t be. He could feel the warmth get stronger before fading away as the creature gasped in short sharp breaths. It was as though Milo was aware that someone- or something was dying nearby.

Suddenly, beside him, Ella sat up bolt right, quivering in fear. As quickly as he could, Milo clung on to his sister, wrapping his arms tightly around her bringing her closer to his heart. Scanning their surroundings intensely, Ella mumbled,

“Where are we? What’s going on Milo?” Looking down, she could see that her usual well-kept uniform was blood soaked with tears in her sleeves and patches of dirt and filth covered her knees.

BANG!

Gunshots were fired. The sound of creatures screeching as they fled in terror rang in their ears before a heavy silence descended upon them.

Chapter Two

It had been a regular day at school when Milo and Ella had been making daisy chains, listening to the gentle sounds of the birds humming. Sitting under the old, large oak tree, in the furthest corner of the field, the two young school children had lazed beneath the shade of the tree and its luscious leaves. Stretching her arms out as far as she could, Ella yawned and removed her smart, purple cardigan. She lay back onto the ground where the soft grass tickled her elbows. As he sun’s heat intensified, her eyes closed in relaxation.

Settling down beside her, Milo lay back to watch the clouds pass by, playing his favourite game- Spot the Shapes. Soon, his body also relaxed and he too drifted off to sleep. Neither of them noticed, nor did they care, that their friends had heard the bell for the end of lunch time and had returned back to their classes and they had been left outside alone.

That had been the last memory Milo and Ella could remember- lying underneath the ancient oak tree in their school field. They were petrified and couldn’t understand how one minute they had been at school and the next minute they had awoken to the sense of being watched…

Chapter Three

When hearing the sound of the gunshots, both had jumped out of their skin.

“What was that?” cried Ella.

Milo shook his head, “Ssshhhh, I don’t know!” he whispered, “but I don’t think we’re alone!” Trees surrounded them, draping their long branches down to the ground, suffocating the vast tree trunks. The wet vines twisted around them, squeezing tighter as each second passed by.

Milo suggested to Ella that they could go and investigate to find out what had happened. Slowly, Ella nodded her head in agreement and reluctantly stood up to follow her brother. They set off in the direction that the gun shot had been fired- unsure of what they were about to face.

Twenty minutes later, having trudged through thick bushes of the wild jungle, they both felt exhausted. Their feet felt like they had been torn to shreds. Struggling to see through the dense mist, Ella began to regret their decision.

“Do you think we should head back to where we were?” asked Ella.

“We’ve come so far,” Milo replied, “we can’t give up now.”

Ella sighed as Milo tugged at her muddy sleeve to encourage her to keep up with him when suddenly, out of nowhere, a thin, fast creature flashed by like a bolt of lightning, causing them to fall to their knees in shock.

“Whoahhh! What was that?” Ella shrieked.

“I don’t know- but it went so quickly- where was it going? That’s what I want to know” Milo replied.

Chapter Four

As they were trying to figure out what had flown by, another creature came past, however this time, it was much slower.

“Gosh! That was a leopard! Ella exclaimed in awe.

It had blood seeping out of a small, round bullet hole on its right back leg. Distressed, the leopard was making a low, quiet whimpering sound. It was obviously in a lot of pain.

Ella and Milo raced over to the leopard to see if they could help him in anyway. Leaning over closer to try and see the open wound more carefully, Milo could see that the creature must have been shot recently.

Ella cried in anger, “Who would do that? How could someone hurt these poor defenceless creatures?”

“I’m not sure, but we need to find out,” Milo replied with determination.

Just a few moments later as Milo and Ella were wondering what to do, they both heard a rustling sound coming from behind them. They both looked at each other with anticipation. The sounds started to get louder and amongst the noise of the sticks being stamped on, they began to hear the mutterings of deep voices.

“What are we going to do?” asked Ella.

“Quick, let’s hide before they see us” Milo whispered.

They rushed over to hide behind a bush, however, as they ran, Ella stumbled on a rock and cried out in pain.

“OOOWWWWWW!” she wailed.

“Sssshhh!” Milo exclaimed sternly.

But it was too late.

The men had already seen them and were heading towards them with guns ready to shoot, anger blazing through their eyes,

“What are you doing here?” shouted the man with rage. He still had his gun held up in the air, where as his partner had lowered his face, turning a paler shade of white. He had realised he was about to be caught out- he had to take control.

“Milo, Ella, what are you two doing here? You should be at school!” he snapped nastily.

“Mr Thomson! It’s you!” Milo exclaimed in disbelief.

The large, stern man, who was still holding his gun, turned to face his partner. “how do you know these young kids?” he asked. Mr Thomson took a step back and mumbled, “I know this is going to sound strange, but I’m their teacher.” In shock, the large man blurted out, “A TEACHER? How can you be a teacher? You’re a hunter!”

Milo and Ella, who had been watching in silence gasped. Confusion blurred their minds. How could their teacher, who was supposed to be kind and love animals, be a monster who killed them? Nothing made sense.

Chapter Five

Milo grabbed Ella and pulled her behind the nearest thick large tree. They were astonished at what they had seen and heard. Ella whispered,

“What are we going to do Milo? We need to go and get help and tell someone. We can’t let them get away with this.”

“No we can’t! But we don’t know how to get home! We’re going to need Mr Thomson’s help. He obviously knows how to get back to school from the jungle.” Milo replied.

It slowly dawned on Ella that her brother was right. They were going to need Mr Thomson.

“But then we’ll definitely tell someone about it once we’re back.” Ella insisted.

“OK so we need to trick him- let him think we are going to keep what we’ve found out a secret so he helps us home first. Come on- let’s get back to them.” Milo replied.

Turning back around, they saw the men looking panic stricken and muttering in low voices. Approaching carefully, they both tried to appear more confident then they felt.