**The Mine of Adventure – by Nathan Woolloff**

**Exploring**

Once there was a boy called Terry. He had a younger brother called Derek and a dad called David, who was a keen explorer. They lived in an old forgotten mansion near the sea.

One day, Terry was going to get water from the well. He needed to do this every day because the mansion that they lived in dated back more than 200 years and so there was no running water for the house. When he arrived, he pulled up the bucket and noticed out of the corner of his eye a ladder! Excitedly, he ran back to the house to tell his brother. Derek was shocked but also felt excited inside. “Let’s go and get together a bag of supplies and go and explore”, said Terry wide eyed.

**Down the Well**

Terry and Derek ran speedily back to the well and the two of them climbed down the rickety ladder. It was dark, wet and slimy. Luckily Derek had brought his torch with him so they could see where they were going. When they got to the bottom they noticed a secret passageway heading in the direction of the sea. They walked very quickly down the passageway. It was hard work because there was lots of upping and downing. They kept walking for a long time until their legs couldn’t carry them any further. Suddenly Derek spotted a trap door. He tried to open it but thought it was locked. Luckily, in the bag of supplies they had a lock picking set\* so they picked the lock. They then pushed with all their might and the trap door creaked open.

**In the House**

They pulled themselves up and found themselves in the corner of an old stone room. It had boxes upon boxes of strange papers. At the far end of the room was a stout oak door. Terry wondered whether or not to open the door because he felt quite scared. Derek was getting tired so he decided to sit on a stool by the door. As he did so, the door slid open!

Behind the door was a steep stone staircase leading upwards. Anxiously Terry went up the stairs and Derek followed. They found that it led to a kitchen. Inside the kitchen was a big open fire that was lit, a big bowl of water for washing things and a long wooden table. In the corner of the room was a dark, deep shaft with a bucket on a pulley at the side of it. Derek wondered what it was used for. At the other side of the room was a stone staircase. By the staircase was a door that led outside so Terry decided to go out.

\*I don’t know how that got there!

**The Discovery**

The door led out to the courtyard of the house. Suddenly they spotted 2 men wheeling strange machines. They ran silently over but kept to the shadows so they wouldn’t be seen. Terry noticed the men were wheeling the machines into a lift around the side of the house. Before they could look any more the lift zoomed down.

“What shall we do?” asked Terry. “I think we should wait until the lift comes up again and then we can get in without the men seeing us”, said Derek. They ran over to the lift shaft and waited. Eventually when the lift came up the two boys hid. The men didn’t spot Derek and Terry so they got in the lift when the men were out of sight.

When they were going down in the lift Derek said, “ This looks like a mine shaft. I think this might go into a mine”. When they got to the bottom the door slid open and they were in a dusty underground passageway. They walked along it. “It looks like the people with the machines are miners and are mining gold because if you look there are gold sparkles in the walls”, said Terry excitedly.

**A Narrow Escape**

Suddenly there came a shout. “Oi, you there, what are you doing?” “That sounds like one of the miners, we need to go and hide”, whispered Derek. They ran down the passageway and hid in a small cellar-like room and shut the door. Terry said, “There’s a light here, let’s turn it on and have a look around”. When they turned the light on they found that inside the room were hundreds of gold nuggets.

“I think the miner is coming after us, we’d better turn the light off”, said Derek. They waited until the footsteps had died away and ran out of the room back to the lift. Luckily the lift was at the bottom so they pressed the up button and found themselves back in the courtyard of the house. Terry said “I think we should call the police” but didn’t know where to find a phone.

**Help at Last!**

For some reason there was a big log next to the house so Derek and Terry heaved the log and put it over the top of the lift shift so that the miners could not come back up. Derek said there probably would be a phone in the bedroom so they ran upstairs and to look for one. In a small neat bedroom with a 4 poster bed in the corner there was a phone on a little table.

Terry dialled 999 and asked for the Police. “I have just found a mine and there are people selling the gold that they mine illegally, please come quickly. We have trapped them in the mine by putting a big log over the lift shaft. We are on an island just near High Rising Mansion in Mother Iveys Bay”, explained Terry.

When the Police arrived in their speedboats, Terry and Derek took them to the blocked lift shaft and they all heaved off the log. They got in the lift with 3 burly policemen and led the way to the find the miners and the gold. “I wonder where the miners will be because there are hundreds of passageways in this mine”, said Terry. “We could wait by the lift shaft and catch them when they come out at the end of the day” said Derek.

So they waited until nightfall and one by one the Police arrested all the miners. “What can I possibly give you as a reward?” said the other policeman. “Well, it would be nice if we could have some more things to do our exploring with”, said Terry. “Ok, we could give you a £100 gift card for Trespass”.

**The End**