



## Chapter 25

“Ben, be careful,” Bekka warned. “What if it’s a wild animal caught in a trap?”

“Who’s going to set a trap out here?” he asked.

Jack tried to remember which direction they were going on his compass. They turned so many times, he wasn’t sure he could remember which way to go when they headed back.

The noise stopped. They didn’t know what they should do—head for the waterfall or find whatever was making the noise.

“Let’s just go to the waterfall,” Bekka suggested. She wanted to take a picture of it and then go back to the picnic area.

“Good idea,” Kyla said. Maybe she didn’t want a scary adventure with her cousins after all.

But then they heard it again. This time it was louder than before. It did sound like an animal moaning.

“I think it’s up here by the waterfall,” Ben said.

“Maybe it hears us talking. Animals have good ears.”

Bekka really wanted to go back to Phantom Ranch. She wished the others weren’t so brave. “I’m too scared to go any farther,” she declared. Her voice was almost hysterical and very loud.



The others were about to turn and run back down into the canyon when they heard a voice.

“Help. Help.”

They turned in a circle looking all around. They couldn’t tell which direction the voice was coming from.

“It’s a person and they must be hurt,” Ben said, looking high and low. “We have to help them.”

“Where are you?” Jack called out. There was no answer except his own voice echoing back at him.

They began looking under trees and bushes, as well as nearby rock cliffs on the canyon wall. They searched but didn’t see anyone.

“We’re coming,” Bekka yelled, hoping they were going in the right direction.

“Help, help me,” called the voice again.

“Are you near the waterfall?” Ben asked. But there was no answer.

“Hello, Hello.” Jack called again. His voice echoed back at him. His compass showed they were now going south.

“We should get help, but we don’t know where the person is,” Bekka said.

“Okay,” Ben said, coming up with a plan. “You girls go that way, and Jack and I will go this way. Yell if you find someone.”



Bekka and Kyla were kind of scared to go off by themselves but didn't want to admit it to the boys.

"Wait a minute," Jack said to Ben, "I'll go with Kyla, and Bekka can go with you. That way we'll be there if something jumps out at them."

"What can jump out at us?" asked Kyla.

"Who knows," Jack admitted. He was quite sure one of them would scream if even a lizard ran over her foot.

"Help, help," came the voice again. This time it sounded like a woman.

"We're coming," Ben yelled. "You go that way. We'll go this way," he said to Jack and Kyla, pointing toward a path heading west. "Yell if you find anyone."

"We will," Jack said.

Ben and Bekka headed away from the waterfall toward the canyon wall, hoping they'd find the person soon.

"We're looking for you," Bekka yelled, "but we can't find you." The word *you* echoed back around to them several times.

"Can you say something again?" yelled Ben with his hand around his mouth. "We're trying to find where you are at."

"Help, help." Again the person's voice echoed back to them.



“Where are you?” Ben asked, determined to find her. He put his binoculars up to his eyes to see everything up closer. As he turned his head, a movement caught his eye. An arm came into sight.

