

The Beette's

magic cave



Parameters Form

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Team Details

STATE: NSW
DIVISION: Middle School
SCHOOL/GROUP: Tumut High School (TUMUT)
TEAM NAME: They Who Shall Not Be Named
TEAM ID: 238

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1 Nanny
Primary character 2 Private detective
Non-human character Beetle
Setting Bush dance
Issue Discovery of magic powers

Random words

ruby
melts
shiver
tasty
sponge

Instructions

- Start no earlier than **8am**
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above) as written, and in bold type
 - with some identifiable **Australian content** (in theme or setting or characters, etc)
 - keeping within the allowed word count (remember every word on every page counts!)
 - include this parameters form in your book **immediately after the front cover**
- Remember: **Every** word on **every** page counts. This includes your front cover, back cover, blurb, acknowledgements and copyright form.
- **Be sure to give yourself enough time to submit your book and complete the following checklist before 9pm**

Log on to the Team Coordinator Portal to:

- Check the spelling of your team name and team members' names
(how these are spelt on submission will be how they are displayed on certificates)
- Complete the Declaration
- Submit your finished book in **both** PDF and plain text format by 9pm

They Who Shall Not Be Named

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Published by They who shall not be named, Tumut High School, 2/20 Bogong Place Tumut NSW, Jewin-Alexis Cooke, Wendy Corcoran, Hayley Evans, Zoe French, Georgia Frowd, Lulu Hardwick, Jarred Lotter and Erin Morgan.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the land we write and draw on and for elders past present and future

Dedication

We would like to dedicate this book to all children in hospital, suffering from cancer, and everyone recovering. We would also like to have a shout out to our donors and teachers for letting us do this. We appreciate all of our donors and thank you all so so much.

Target audience

We have a target audience of ages ten to sixteen.

Contents

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Prologue Detective Rain's point of view

Rain sat peacefully at the glowing campfire, watching the orange flame. He held out a dark, long stick, raw damper at the end, slowly turning it to cook the soft dough. A crawling sensation alerted him, and he stomped one leg with a small gasp and peered down, seeing that the offending item was a significantly small ruby-red beetle, you wouldn't be able to find it just looking around it was smaller than a pin.

"Go away!" he hissed, stomping again. The beetle, unbothered, continued its march up his leg, and before Rain got a chance to flick it off, his head started spinning. Colours spun in his vision, and he felt himself hit the ground before passing out.

"Hello...?"

Rain slowly came back to consciousness. He glanced around. He was in an unfamiliar place, stone walls surrounded him, and the faint glow of crystals was the only light. A cave, perhaps? As he admired the room, a low, guttural growl came from seemingly every direction.

Rain froze. his heart speeding up, not knowing what to do, he ran. The cave was a labyrinth. However, the growl didn't happen again, so he slowed down. There had to be an exit somewhere. Thankfully luck was on his side, because when he found an exit and stepped into the light, the only creature he saw was a ruby-red beetle, sitting like a marble statue, waiting as if it knew something was going to happen very very soon.

New Nanny

"Yes.. come on... LET'S GO!" a young boy shouted in victory.

"Aw man," whined the young girl who wore her hair in small pigtails next to him. "That's the 5th time you've won! Go easy on me, Christopher," she complained.

A familiar knock on the door interrupted their bickering and they both looked up. The kids' mum stood in the doorway.

"Christopher, if you don't let Jenny win sometimes, you'll be off that Nintendo."

Christopher just sighed in response. His mother continued.

"Your father and I are going on a business trip. I know it's the fourth time this year, but we need to, I'm sorry," she explained.

"Whatever. We're used to it," Chris muttered, rolling his eyes.

"Oh, and we got you a new nanny. We know you didn't like your previous one."

Chris's eyes softened a little, only to narrow a second later. "Why do you even need to go on business trips? You own a *toilet paper company*."

Just as his mother opened her mouth, the doorbell rang. "Here she is now!" She ran downstairs, the kids hesitantly following, not sure if he would like the new nanny.

At the door, their mother was already welcoming the nanny. "Beatrice! Welcome! This is Christopher, and this is Jenny. Their bedtime is 8pm and if possible wake them up at 9am. Anyway we're already running late, bye kids!" she rushed walking to the door.

Their parents ran out the door, leaving them alone with the nanny.

"Hi!" said Beatrice. "I was thinking we could go camping, do you like camping?" she suggested. The kids just hummed and shrugged in response.

"Never been," Jenny finally said.

"Right," said Beatrice. "Let's get packing, then, hey Christopher?"

"It's Chris..." he muttered, annoyed.

"Right."

They took Beatrice's shiny dark blue mini van to the campground, and everyone was starving by the time they had finally got there. Everyone voiced their opinions on what to eat, until Beatrice just went with a common aussie camp food.

Camping

"Chris? Could you please take this large bowl, put it down next to the fire, and we'll start cooking some damper after we finish cleaning up. Jenny, can you come with me to get the water to help with the cleaning up?" Beatrice said.

When Chris ignorantly put the bowl down, nobody saw the tiny red beetle that crept into the bowl and hid down in the raw damper making itself at home.

After the kids helped clean up with the **sponge** Beatrice brought, she said, "Thank you for helping clean up. Now how about we go on a fun hunt!"

Chris made an attempt to raise one eyebrow. "A hunt?" he questioned.

"A hunt for what?" Jenny added.

"A *bear*!" Beatrice exclaimed.

Jenny looked worried. "A.. bear hunt..?"

However, Chris seemed unfazed. "I'm not scared of a bear!" he declared.

Beatrice shook her head with a giggle. "I'm just messing with ya. There's no bears here! We're hunting for sticks to cook the damper on!"

Chris looked a bit disappointed, but he still went into the woods to find sticks anyway.

"Don't stray too far away from the campsite!" Shouted Beatrice "Make sure you can still see the camp at all time kids"

It only took them a few minutes to find a few long sticks, the whole time Beatrice singing "we're going on a bear hunt!", making the kids laugh.

They returned to the fire with their newly acquired sticks while Beatrice got the damper and evenly divided it into 3 equal parts.

"Now, don't hold your stick too close to the fire," she warned while putting damper on each stick.

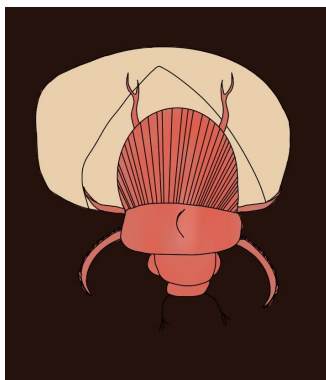
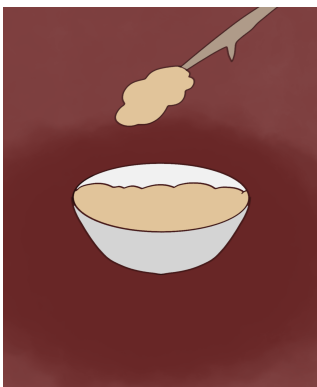
"You don't want to burn it. No one likes burnt food hey?" She joked

The kids nodded and gave a small laugh

Once the damper was cooked, the kids dived straight into eating it, murmuring things like 'mmm, **tasty**' or 'this is so good' or even 'it is so soft it **melts** in your mouth' to themselves or even each other. Beatrice loved that they enjoyed it so much, she had learnt how to make it when she was a kid and loved that she could pass the knowledge on, but something caught the side of her eye.

Crawling out of the damper was a small red beetle that almost looked as if it were made from gemstones. She frowned and picked up the bug to move it, before quickly whisking the thought away like air, and continuing to talk to Chris and Jenny.

Beatrice eventually stated that she felt a bit off, but brushed it off as tiredness or maybe a bit of dehydration, and went off to bed. Later that night, she awoke again, only to find herself laying in the middle of a vast expanse of crystal caves.



Where's Beatrice

Chris and Jenny wake up far too late, eleven seventeen am, to be exact. Jenny yawns and rubs her eyes, trying to see better. Chris walks in a circle with a puzzled expression on his face.

"Where's Beatrice?" Chris asked, more confused than Jenny had ever seen him before.

"Maybe, she's hiding somewhere like a game", Jenny suggests, looking behind trees and rocks. "I can't find her" Jenny starts to cry, tears flooding from her adorably large, green eyes. Chris is doubting that they will ever find their nanny and it was their favourite nanny they had for a long time.

"She should have woken us up by now though" Chris said almost in tears
Now they were both in tears, hungry, and worst of all, they were missing their parents!
"I miss mummy and daddy!" She exclaimed.

"Me too," Her brother whispered very quietly, not wanting to be weak in front of his sister. He was now on the ground crying with Jenny hugging her.
They had decided that she wasn't there and they needed to find help. They walk around holding hands, scared as can be.

"Hey, are you okay?" A stranger asked, sounding quite concerned. "Do you need any help?"
Both of them jumped and turned to look at where the sound came from and what made it.
"We were camping and now, our nanny is gone" ,Chris sniffled.

"Oh, my. What's your nanny's name dear?"

"Beatrice", Chris answered, shyly.

"Awww poor things, give me a second and I will make a call.
Hello, police, I'm in the woods and there are two children with me. They say that they were camping and their twenty six year old nanny, Beatrice, who is now missing. Could you please file a missing person's report?" The lady spoke smoothly and clearly.
Now looking at the children she smiled and extended her hand, "My name is Rose, it's excellent to make your acquaintance"
These children look so very terribly scared, horrified by the huge word of acquaintance.
She spoke again, "Afraid of a long word are ya?"

"Maybe", Chris said, a little unsure. His sister, Jenny was now back in tears, sitting on the cold, wet, mushy grass.

"What's wrong Jenny?" Chris asked, sitting beside her, trying to comfort her. Making weird faces, doing weird dances, everything he could think of.

"I want to go back to the bush dance" ,Jenny cried "I miss the bush dance!"

"It's ok, let's play Little Miss piggy!" Chris excitedly yelled.

"Ok" , Jenny said rather cherry "Little miss piggy fell down the sink, how many gallons did she drink?"

"20!" Chris yelled, making sure that the whole world could hear him.

"Okay, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, and, twenty! Out scouts you're out!" She's so excited but tired. She's yawning and her head is hanging so low and her eyes sleepy.

Rose left them and packed up camp, instructing them that help would be there soon.

Detective Rain

Around 10 minutes later, Rain, the detective sent out to the campsite, found the kids and tried to speak to them, but the only words they could hear through the sobbing and crying was something about their nanny had put them to bed, disappeared, and they just wanted to go home.

Rain tried desperately to understand them, but couldn't hear much more of what the kids were saying. He sighed in defeat.

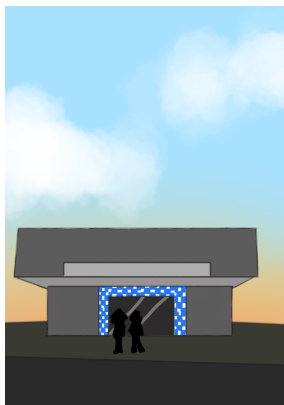
"Hey, I'm just going to take you to the police station so you don't get lost or hurt," he explained to the kids.

He ushered the kids into the car and drove them to the nearest police station. On the way there he managed to get a bit more information out of the kids.

"Sh-she told us to go to b-bed and that was the last time we saw her..." stuttered Chris.

After Rain dropped off the kids he drove his black Toyota Ute back to the campsite to take a closer look and see if there were any clues he'd skimmed over in the short time he had to look around. Anything at all to find Beatrice.

Just as he thought that there were no clues as to where Beatrice could be, a small red glittering flashed in the corner of their eye. He went over to examine the substance, and found it was tiny, blood-coloured pieces of **ruby**. Leading away into the wondrous forest were more rubies, trailing away into the haunted-like trees.



Cave

“Let’s see if this one goes all the way, rather than stopping like the other trails have...” Rain muttered to himself.

The trail was quite long, being an almost 10 minute walk, but unlike the other trails it seemed to go in the same direction and went much further.

After a long walk the trail seemed to suddenly stop, and the detective huffed in annoyance, but realised in the cliff wall was an opening just big enough to fit a small person.

The detective squeezed his way through the gap and emerged into an expansive cavern, with crystals jutting out of the walls, roof and floor at every angle. Every crystal had a faint red glow.

The air inside the cave was much colder than the outside temperature, and Rain felt a **shiver** go down his spine. A sinking feeling became noticeable in his stomach that something, or someone, was watching him. He whipped around, staring into every patch of pitch-black. Something was off. The glow from some of the rubies wasn’t just disappearing, it was reflecting. There was no way that the light could reflect off the dirt walls. Walking up to a wall to have a closer look he found they were bugs! He jumped back in surprise but soon got over it.

“I found it...” he whispered to himself. “That’s where that beetle came from, so long ago...” He slowly trailed through the caves, and was pleasantly surprised to see Beatrice laying unconscious on the floor. Although maybe the unconscious part wasn’t so good.

“Beatrice! Beatrice, wake up!” Rain shouted, shaking the nanny. She jolted upright with gasping breaths, looking around wildly.

“Where am I?!” she cried. Rain shushed her and put a comforting hand on her shoulder.

“Relax,” he soothed. “You’re in a cave. I can get you out, just take it easy and follow me.”

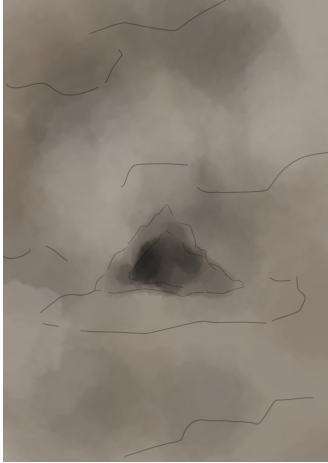
Beatrice nodded and stood up on wobbly feet. “Okay...” she said hesitantly. “But are the kids okay? Where are they? How long have I been here for?”

Rain sighed. “The kids are fine, don’t worry. They’re at the police station, and you’ve been in here for a good while.”

Both the detective and Beatrice stumbled through the cave with Beatrice holding on to him for support and both of them occasionally tripping on random things on the ground, knocking the air out of them.

It was a long walk, longer for Beatrice in her exhausted state, but they eventually reached Rain’s car, and he eased her into the back seat. She practically collapsed into it, and Rain sat down in the driver’s seat.

“Now, can you tell me what happened while you were in there?”



Explanation Time

“I was feeling really sick after I picked up the bug to move it but it came out of our damper. I tried not to show the kids I was sick but I am not sure if it showed or not”

“Wait, you picked the bug up!?” The detective asked, sounding quite panicked.

“Yeah it was in the way and I didn’t want anyone stepping on the bug?”

The detective ran his hand down his face “And that explains a lot”

“What?”

“Look it's hard to explain but those bugs are magical bugs, don't ask me how, I don't know but all I know is when you touch them with your bare skin you get teleported to their cave which is where I found you.” He finished with a sigh “I can't tell you much more because it is strict police stuff”

“Why did you tell me then? I mean I am not part of the police or any of that business” Beatrice asked.

“ There are a few reasons for that” He looked up from the road to look at her “There have been many cases on people disappearing at this campsite we are thinking of closing this place but we know there will still be people camping here weather we like it or no and it will be easier to just deal with this then having to arrest people or press charges because as you have probably see you don't get hurt just get teleported to their cave. All the people that experience this don't remember so you won't remember this after you go to sleep.”

“How do you remember, then?”

"I've seen this many times in my days and I've been working on these cases for a long time now. I guess you could just say that I have seen it too many times and it has just stuck." He replied

Back at the police station the 2 kids have both been taken into a room with some toys, water and some food. After a while the police called the parents and told them that no harm had come to their children but they were a bit shaken up from the whole ordeal and might be best if they come, the kids had also been voicing that they want their parents.

"We have found the person you have described, does this lady look familiar to you?" The detective says walking in and pointing at the nanny, "yes that is our nanny that we had hired to look after our kids while we were out of town and they went on a camping trip please tell us our kid, ok please tell me are my children are safe I need to know." Said the parents.

"The kids are fine, they are right over there" Said a police officer standing in a corner of the room.

"Oh, Christopher, Jenny, we missed you so much. When we got a call from the police, we were so worried" The kids' mother said.

"We're fine, really," Chris started as he and Jenny were led into the room "Beatrice!"

"Hello Chris, Jenny. Are you all okay?"

Before she knew it, Chris and Jenny were hugging her. She felt so special and appreciated. A single tear rolled down her cheek as she hugged the children back.

A new beginning

Years passed and nothing much changed, the kids parents kept going on their business trips but the kids got more used to it. They kept in touch with Beatrice and became good friends.

Beatrice never mentioned what happened to her or anything, the kids debated whether or not she even remembered it but they weren't sure so they never brought it up either.

Both kids grew up to be great people and work colleagues, Christopher thought that he could get a better job somewhere else and ended up being a successful lawyer while Jenny took the toilet paper business. They moved out and had a few kids each but never and I mean NEVER did they take their kids to that camp ground.

Jenny became famous for one of the biggest and one of the only toilet paper companies out there after the pandemic while Chris became famous for the best lawyer in Australia and almost the world. Neither of them thought of the past and let that control them and always look into the future and what that holds for them.

Beatrice eventually became old and less mobile but no one could stop that. The detective, Rain got incontact with then again and offered then to come back to the campsite and get told the truth about the bugs and what happened that night. Even the possibility of taking one of the rubies from there. Each of them were able to take one of the bugs home when some testing was done and they found out that each bug has its own power, they only got one of the harmless

ones. They were still very stunning to look at but on strict rules that they couldn't take them out EVER.

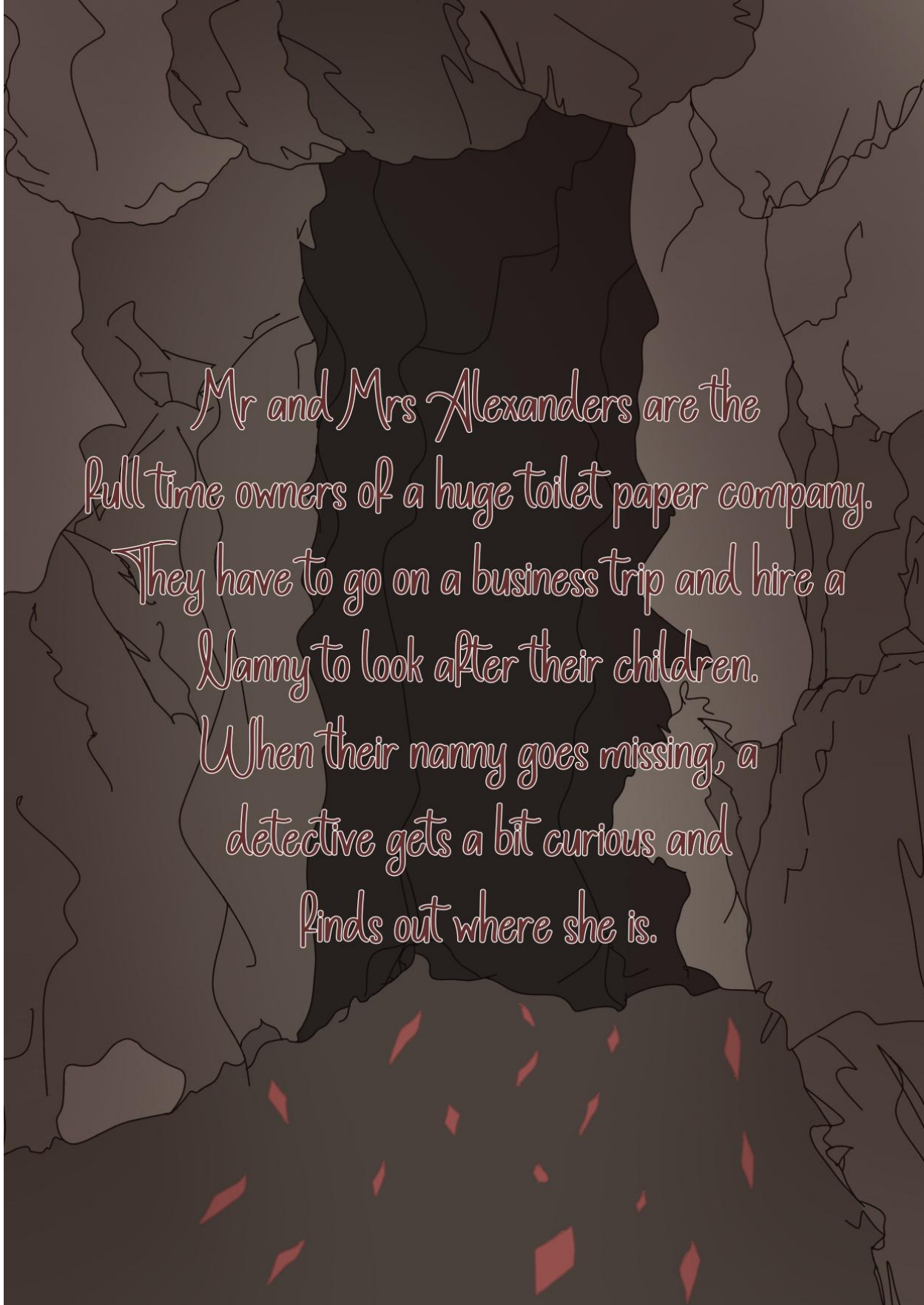
Chris and Jenny's parents grew old and went to a retirement home but lived happily there, sharing stories of what they did in their life but never mentioned what they got told what happened that night at the campground.

Only one day when Jenny was on a business trip and Beatrice's daughter was over babysitting Anna, Jenny's little girl, did Anna open the bug's cage and touch it not knowing any better. Anna woke up in the middle of the night screaming for her nanny because she was floating above her bed. Yet again did Jenny have to see Rain, she hoped she wouldn't have to see his face again but she was wrong.

That camp ground is still open to this day and that family still goes there sometimes but they are always cautious about what animals they find and what they touch. There have been rumours that the magic has spread from the bugs to other animals, even plants.

All the rubies have been taken from that cave and sold for high prices but if you own one of them don't sell it they look better in your home then the buyers.

Every Christmas that family meets up and talks the tales of that yeah sometimes joking about what they have done and when they thought they lost them. All of them named their new pet funny names like Bertie and Carl



Mr and Mrs Alexanders are the full time owners of a huge toilet paper company. They have to go on a business trip and hire a Nanny to look after their children. When their nanny goes missing, a detective gets a bit curious and finds out where she is.