

The Hidden Mine

Cara knew that there was something special at the bottom of the garden - a mystery both magical and wonderful. But what she didn't know was that in the same place was something quite sinister, even dangerous. Did she dare find out?

Well readers, of course she did, because she was a brave and curious young girl with a heart of gold and courage to match.

One sunny afternoon, when her parents left her in charge of her twin brother Joseph, she packed a picnic and they headed off towards the bottom of the garden.

Joseph was never very good at sitting still, so they decided to have a game of hide and seek. While Cara was looking for a place to hide, a good place to hide, she stumbled upon a hidden stairway that led down into the dark.

“Joseph!!!!” she shouted, “come here, I found something amazing!!!”

Joseph, being 12 years old, ran to his sister at full speed, tripped and fell down the first couple of steps head first.

“Owwwwwwwwww that hurt!!!” he cried “Wow sis, look at this, it's amazing!!!!”

“That's what I said, you silly banana!!!! If we are going to go exploring we need a torch”.

Cara and Joseph ran back to the house and grabbed their dad's torches and were back at the hidden staircase within five minutes.

“Let's go!!!” they both exclaimed at the same time.

Joseph dashed down the tunnel and Cara being the mature 12 year old she is walked down the steps being very very safe, calling, “Joseph, Joseph, stop running, you could hurt yourself or even worse you could die!!”

Joseph stopped running and went back to his sister. “Sorry, I was just so excited.” he apologised.

“Blah blah blah,” echoed up the tunnel from the murky depths below. Cara and Joseph stopped, frozen in their steps.

Whoosh! Cara and Joseph were whisked away at top speed by a murky white figure.

As they descended into the gloomy darkness the figure whisked off her coat, hitting Joseph in the face. “Hello children, I am Negative Nellie!!!”

“What happened to you Nellie? Why is your head hanging down by your shoulder?” asked Joseph intently, pulling the cloak off his face.

“Plain and simple, I was an average negative teenager then I got murdered, no big deal.” Nellie said.

“Murdered by who?” asked Cara, poking her brother.

“Chris Aberlack,” replied the disfigured teenager.

“But I’m *Cara* Aberlack. Chris is my grandad.”

Silence, more silence, even more silence.

“NO WAY!!” shouted Nellie “Do you have a guillotine?”

“Yes, it’s in the garage.”

“Does it have dry blood on it?”

“A little.”

A lot more silence.

“Do you like jewels?” asked Nellie

“Yes!!” yelled the twins in unison.

Nellie gave them a quest to find her magic necklace that would restore her head to its former glory and in return she would give them the directions to a pit of jewels.

Cara and Joseph dashed off down the tunnels blindly, not knowing where to start looking.

“We are losssssttttt!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” Joseph wailed.

“Be quiet Josephine, I’m thinking here!!” hushed Cara.

“I’m not a girl!!!!!!” replied Joseph.

“Stop acting like one then. Hmmph ... brothers,” muttered Cara. Cara walked away from a mumbling, grumbling Joseph, contemplating what they should do next.

It was one step too far. Cara released a blood-curdling scream as she tumbled down a dark slide of doom. THWAK!!!

Joseph heard her hit a wooden wall, “Cara, Cara are you OK?!”

Silence filled the tunnels for about two minutes. Finally Cara called back up the slide, “Wow! What an amazing ride! You have to see what I found Joseph, it's a map of some kind.”

Joseph slid down to see for himself. Cara caught him at the end just in case he got knocked out.

The map was an ancient tile carved into the wall.

“Wow! It’s just like the Egyptian hieroglyphics!” exclaimed Joseph.

“How do you know that!! What does it say then, smarty pants!” replied Cara.

“Hmm, take a right turn at the golden leafed tree, go straight ahead at sapphire castle and then make a left turn at topaz stables, 4 steps to the left and dig 2 hands down to find the ancient magic.”

“How on earth are we going to know what is the golden tree and all that other stuff, it makes no sense at all,” cried Cara.

“Oh cry baby Cara, it makes total sense, there will be other tiles on the wall of the tunnel to show the way,” sighed Joseph.

“Don't call me cry baby” muttered Cara, “OK, then smarty pants, lead the way,” she said in a louder voice so Joseph could hear.

Joseph walked out in front of his grumpy sister so that *he* could finally lead the way.

“Joseph please heeeelp!”

Joseph watched helplessly as his twin sister tumbled down into the darkness.

Cara yelled up to Joseph “Jo, it’s another tile!!!” Joseph jumped down too.

“The golden tree is to the right of this tile.” read Joseph. They looked to the right and saw a golden glow.

VROOM!!!! The sound of a chainsaw echoed through the tunnel. “We have to move!” yelled Joseph. They were too late, all the power and glow in the tunnel had vanished, but a necklace was revealed.

“Nellie come here we found it!!” the twins shrieked.

Nellie appeared in a puff of chocolate scented fog. She put on the sapphire necklace and her head magically appeared on her neck.

“Thank you kind children for finding my necklace. In return I shall show you a treasure.”

Cara pulled a yapping Joseph up the path, following the beautiful ghost who had changed her name to Positive Penny.

Penny showed them to a pit of shining jewels. The twins screamed with joy and filled their pockets with precious jewels.

They made the long journey home. As they came to the surface they came face to face with their parents.

“Cara, Joseph!” exclaimed Dad.

“My little Cara, are you OK?” asked Mum.

Cara just pulled out the jewels, as did Joseph. Penny emerged, the adults screamed, the twins waved.

“Mum, Dad this is Penny, she gave us the jewels.” said Joseph.

“Yes I did please can I stay with you?” From then on the family had fortune, friends and more family. :)

The dangerous journey turned out to be an amazing trip and not so sinister after all.

Do you know how I know this? It is because I am Cara.



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