

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-84-832-3584-3 – A Little Trouble in the Yorkshire Dales
Richard MacAndrew
Excerpt
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Cambridge
Discovery
Readers

A Little Trouble in the Yorkshire Dales

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People in the story

Mary Lawson: a fifteen-year-old girl; Andy Lawson's twin sister

Andy Lawson: a fifteen-year-old boy; Mary Lawson's twin brother

David Lawson: Mary and Andy Lawson's father

Gladys Whitehead: David Lawson's sister; Mary and Andy's aunt

Lord Fitch: the owner of Arkle House

Jack: works for Lord Fitch

Martin: works for Lord Fitch

David Metcalfe: a private detective

Inspector Rawlinson: a police officer

BEFORE YOU READ



1 Look at *People in the story* and the pictures in the first chapter. Answer the questions.

1 Who are the main characters in this part of the story?

.....

2 Describe where the action takes place.

.....

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Places in the story



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Chapter 1

Discovering an old mine

YORKSHIRE EVENING NEWS

Arkle House papers sold for £75,000



A suitcase full of old papers dating from the nineteenth century was sold this morning for £75,000.

The suitcase was discovered last year in a farmhouse near Reeth, North Yorkshire. Inside

it were photographs, letters, bills and other papers that once belonged to Sir Francis Goodwin.

Sir Francis, the owner of Arkle House in Arkendale from 1802 to his death in 1866, was always thought to be extremely rich. However, after his death, his children and grandchildren were surprised to discover that he had left almost no money. There are many stories of undiscovered money, or even gold, hidden somewhere in the grounds of Arkle House, or possibly in the house itself. But nothing has ever been found.

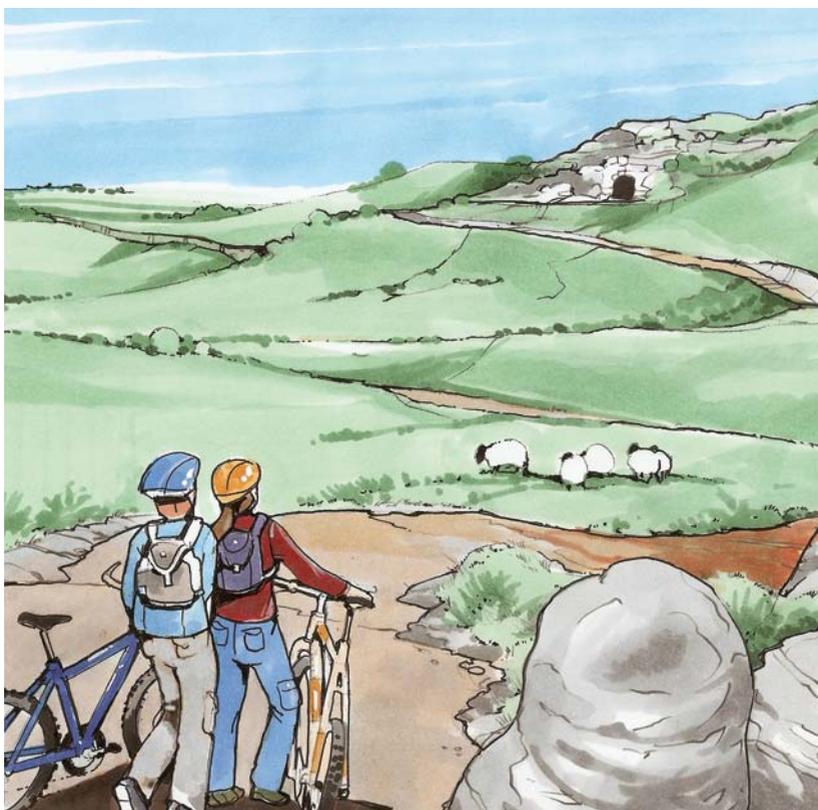
The suitcase was bought by Lord¹ Fitch, the present owner of Arkle House. Thomas Goodwin, the great-great-grandson of Sir Francis, was also interested in the papers. However, he was unable to offer as much for them as Lord Fitch.

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‘What’s that?’ asked Andy, pointing to a dark area on the side of the hill in front of him and his sister.

‘I’ve no idea,’ said Mary. ‘Let’s go and have a look.’

Andrew, always called Andy, and Mary Lawson were on holiday in the Yorkshire Dales² in the north of England. The Yorkshire Dales are very beautiful: hills and dales, up and down, wild countryside on the tops of the hills, sleepy villages, rivers and farms in the dales at the bottom. Today Andy and Mary were out cycling in the hills.



‘Let’s leave our bikes here,’ said Andy, putting his bike against a large stone.

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‘Good thinking,’ said Mary, placing her bike carefully on the ground. ‘There’s no one around to steal them.’

They hadn’t seen anyone at all for the last hour. The countryside was completely empty of people: no other mountain bikers, no walkers – just birds, lots of rabbits and a few sheep.

There was a kind of road going up the side of the hill. Together Andy and Mary climbed until they were standing in front of a large hole in the side of the hill.

‘It’s very dark in there,’ said Andy. ‘What do you think it is?’

‘It’s a mine,’ said Mary, sounding very sure of herself. ‘You know, where people dig³ into the ground looking for a metal like gold or silver or something like that.’

‘You mean there’s gold here in the dales?’ said Andy, looking rather surprised.

‘No, silly,’ said Mary. ‘Dad was telling me about it last night. There are lots of mines in this part of the dales, but they’re lead mines. And if you ever listened in your geography class, you’d know that lead is a metal that’s used on roofs.’

‘Yeah, yeah,’ said Andy. ‘So why aren’t they still digging for it now, Miss Clever?’

‘Because they’ve taken out almost all the lead that is there,’ said Mary, and she started to take off her backpack and look inside it.

‘What are you looking for?’ asked Andy.

‘My torch,’ replied Mary. ‘I know it’s here somewhere and we’re going to need some light if we want to go and have a look inside.’

‘But ...’ Andy looked into the entrance to the mine and shook his head a little. ‘Why? It’s dark and cold and wet and probably dangerous.’

‘Here it is,’ said Mary, finally pulling a torch out of her backpack and turning it on and off quickly to check that it worked.

‘Let’s go,’ she said and started to walk into the mine, holding the torch in front of her.

Andy shook his head again and followed her in. He and Mary were the same age, fifteen – they were twins – but everything else about them was different. He was 180 centimetres tall; she was shorter. He had short red hair; she had long brown hair. He had blue eyes; she had brown eyes. And if they got into trouble, it was usually her fault. He didn’t really want to go into the mine, but he thought he should go with her to make sure she was OK.

‘I thought mines went downwards into the ground,’ he said, as they moved carefully along.

‘Some do,’ said Mary. ‘And some go flat, straight into the side of a hill.’

The floor of the mine was even and the roof was low. Both Mary and Andy had to be careful not to hit their heads. In one or two places someone had put pieces of wood across the roof of the mine to stop it falling down. When they came to one of these places, Mary shone the torch on the wood.

‘Look at that,’ she said.

‘What?’

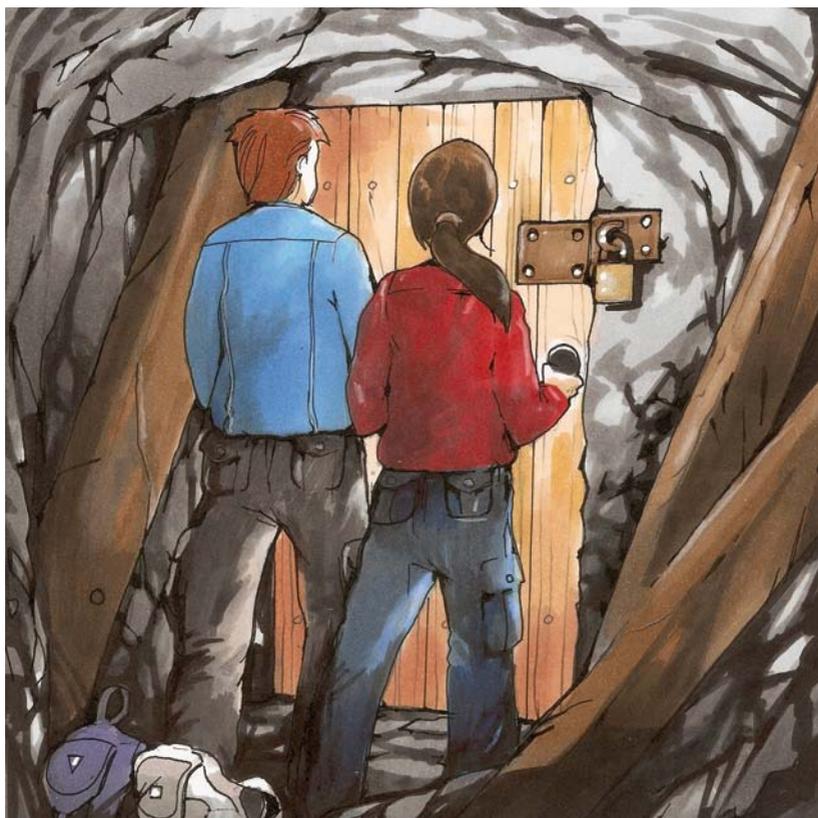
‘Well, those are new pieces of wood,’ she said. ‘Someone’s been looking after this mine.’

‘Maybe they’re still looking for lead,’ said Andy.

Mary did not reply. She just kept moving forward into the mine, waving her torch slowly from side to side. Then suddenly she stopped.

Andy came up beside her. The torch was lighting up a new wooden door in the side wall. There was a lock on the door. Mary went over and pulled at the lock, but it didn’t open. She pulled at the door, but that didn’t open either.

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‘I think you should leave it now,’ said Andy.

‘Why?’ asked Mary.

‘Well, if you get it open, someone’s going to know we’ve been here,’ he replied. ‘And they might not like that.’

‘Why not?’ asked Mary.

‘There’s a lock on the door, stupid,’ said Andy. ‘That probably means they don’t want people to go in there.’

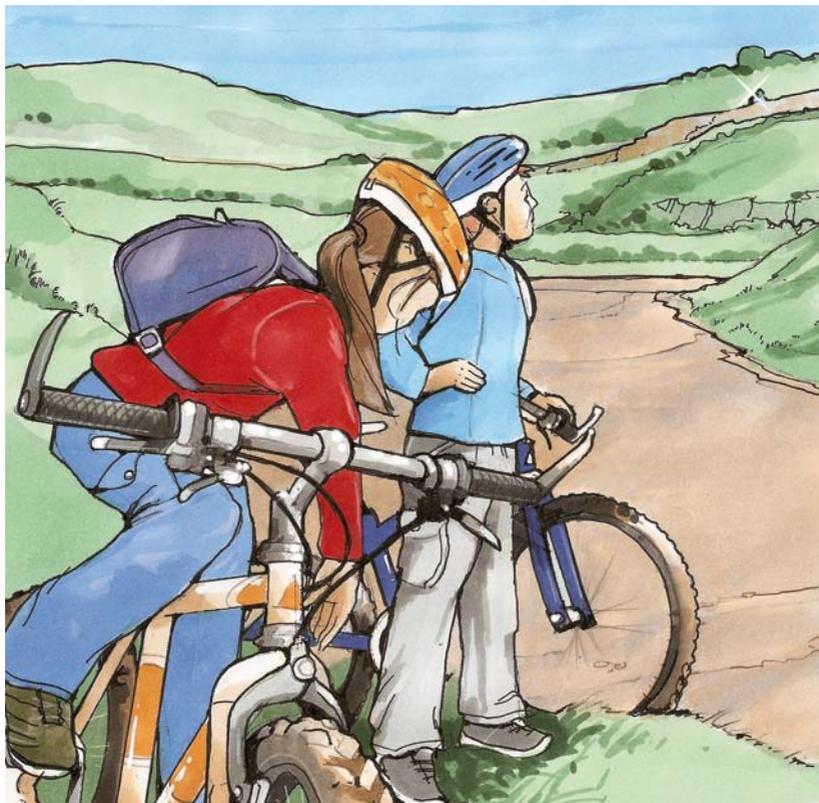
He put a hand on his sister’s arm.

‘Come on,’ he said. ‘I really think we should go. If someone finds us here, we could be in trouble.’

Mary said nothing for a moment, then she spoke, ‘OK, Mr Careful. You’re right, as usual. Let’s go.’

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A few minutes later they were back out in the warm afternoon sunshine. They jogged back down the hill and picked up their bikes.



Before getting on his bike, Andy looked round at the hills. This place is beautiful, he thought, not for the first time. But what was that? Up on the side of one of the other hills the sunlight had caught something. A mirror? It couldn't be. Then the light disappeared and Andy saw a head move. Someone was watching them! Through binoculars!⁴ A man in a dark blue jacket.

'Look. There's someone watching us,' said Andy. 'Up on the side of the hill over there.'

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Mary looked up, but by then the man had gone.

‘Too late,’ said Andy. ‘He’s gone. Come on. Let’s get going.’

Quickly, they started cycling back the way they had come. A few minutes later, as they came over the top of a hill and started down the other side, they saw a Land Rover driving towards them along the dirt road. The Land Rover stopped and a man got out, waiting for them to reach him. He was youngish, maybe twenty-five to thirty years old, and dressed in a green and brown shirt and trousers, and walking boots. He had dark hair, very light blue eyes and an unfriendly look.

Andy and Mary had to stop and get off their bikes to get past the Land Rover.

‘Where have you been?’ asked the man, as they walked up to him. ‘Down any of the mines?’

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Sir Francis Goodwin	Andy	Thomas Goodwin
Andy and Mary's dad	Lord Fitch	Andy and Mary

- Sir Francis Goodwin died a long time ago.
 - lives in Arkle House.
 - wanted to buy Sir Francis's papers.
 - find a mine.
 - told Mary about the mines in Yorkshire.
 - doesn't want to go into the mine.
- 3 Underline the correct words in each sentence.
- They found Sir Francis's papers in *Arkle House* / a farmhouse.
 - Andy and Mary are in *a big city* / *the countryside*.
 - Andy and Mary are *cycling* / *walking* in the dales.
 - In the past, there was *more* / *less* lead in the Yorkshire Dales than there is now.
 - Andy *is* / *isn't* older than Mary.
 - The twins find a *door* / *torch* in the mine.

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4 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 Thomas Goodwin wanted to buy Sir Francis's papers but c
- 2 Mary looks for her torch because
- 3 Andy doesn't want to go into the mine, but
- 4 Mary and Andy know that people still use the mine because
- 5 A man is watching Andy and Mary, but
- 6 The man in the Land Rover stops because
 - a he follows Mary into it.
 - b Mary doesn't see him.
- ~~e~~ Lord Fitch could pay more than him.
- d there are new pieces of wood on the roof.
- e he wants to talk to Andy and Mary.
- f it's very dark in the mine.

5 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why are Andy and Mary in the Yorkshire Dales?
Because they're on holiday......
- 2 Why doesn't Andy want to go into the mine?

- 3 How does Andy know that someone is watching him?

- 4 What does the man ask the twins?

LOOKING FORWARD

6 Tick (✓) what you think happens in the next two chapters.

- 1 Andy and Mary see the man with the binoculars again.
- 2 Andy and Mary go back to the mine.