

Brothers Beware

Chandler and Sammy were lost. Hiking in any national park was difficult, but when you stray from your parents and try to find your way back, it could be a nightmare. Their hike was going well until they both looked at the map and decided to turn right. The map said go left, but the two brothers ignored directions.

After turning right and going just ten steps, they saw a gate with the words in red paint, DO NOT ENTER. Once again, they ignored the warning and climbed over the wooden gate. They walked on and Sammy, the younger brother turned to Chandler and asked, “Maybe we should go back? I’m scared.”

“Don’t be scared, Sammy. I want to see what’s here. There’s something in here they don’t want us to see.”

The boys walked on farther and came upon a wooded area. They froze in their tracks. Painted on the trunks of the trees were the words, BEWARE.

“Strange,” Chandler whispered. “What could this possibly be?”

“I want to go back to mom and dad,” Sammy said, tears starting to form in his eyes.

“No, wait, Sammy. Maybe we must go this way. You know mom and dad are looking for us, and this can be the right way to get back to them.”

“But you don’t know. You’re guessing, and I’m really scared. Please, Chandler, let’s go back the other way and go left where the map told us.”

An eerie noise came from beyond the trees. Sammy grabbed Chandler’s arm and tried to pull him back in another direction. Chandler froze, listening to the sound. It was... bubbling...hissing? With fear in their eyes, both boys turned back to run but there were only thick trees with no opening in sight. Snakes were wrapped around the trees, raising their ugly heads and showing their forked tongues. They looked left, right, behind, and in front. The snakes were everywhere.

The only way they could go was straight. If they walked slowly, they would not be struck by the snakes. They moved step by step, trying not to take any deep breaths, hoping not to be bitten.

“It’s getting dark, Chandler,” Sammy choked out as it seemed that they had made it past the snakes. Sammy began to sob.

“Quiet Sammy. We can’t provoke the snakes.”

“I want to go home.”

Chandler put his arm around his little brother, trying to comfort him and keep him quiet.

They stumbled upon a bubbling pool of greenish-brown water that made the same sounds they heard before entering the woods. The bubbles got bigger, and the gurgling noise grew louder. Suddenly, like an ocean wave, water rose above the boys’ heads, making a thunderous sound as a large tentacle appeared. Sammy jumped back and started to run Chandler held him with both arms, keeping his brother close.

“Don’t move, Sammy! Please, stay still!” Chandler shouted.

Sammy was screaming loudly as more scaly tentacles rose from the water. There were four in all ready sweep the boys up, only inches from their faces. They closed their eyes.

“How did they get away from us?” the boys’ mother, Jean sighed through her tears, as the rescue team climbed over the gate with warning, DO NOT ENTER. The boys’ father, Brady helped mom over the gate. The rescue team was in the lead, with Jean and Brady close behind. They came upon the trees with the words, BEWARE painted on them.

“What is that?” Jean asked, horrified and holding both hands to her face.

The lead agent turned to both parents and replied, “Practical joke. Kids put that up there to scare hikers. We were going to remove it today. Maybe tomorrow. We need to find the boys right now.”

Jean was not sure, but she followed Brady and the team into the woods. They heard a gurgling, noise, that grew to a loud, splashing noise causing the rescue team to break into a run. They ran past the woods and found an opening where a pond with greenish-brown water was before them. The water was calm, and the two boys were holding on to each other crying.

Jean and Brad ran to the boys and held them close. As they got the boys to their feet and started to walk away, a loud splash like an ocean wave sounded and large tentacles grabbed them all, pulling them into the water. Gone. Beware.

