

My Summer Adventure

By

Sakina I.

I never thought I was one of those people who I was one of those people who could do crazy things under pressure. I always assumed that if something dangerous came up, I would be the first one to run away. I don't even like going out in my backyard at night. However this summer proved me wrong.

I went to India to visit my Grandma during the summer. She lives in a small village in the state of Gujarat called Berana. It is a beautiful village in a valley surrounded by mountains and rivers. It my favorite place in the whole world. It's gorgeous and very peaceful. Its also very rich in history as well. The famous king Akbar of the Mughal Dynasty had built a summer palace. The village existed because of summer. Most of the ancestors of original families in the village worked in the summer palace. The palace was destroyed by the invaders. However even as a ruin, it stills attracts a lot of tourists throughout the year. Whenever I visited, my favorite summer activity was to explore the palace along with my cousins Sarah.

When I arrived to Berana this summer, Sarah could not wait to get me alone. "You won't believe what I found!" she whispered as she dragged me into her room. Her desk was covered with old journals and papers." What's all this Sarah?" I asked her. "Grandma has decided to clean the entire home and get rid of old things. I found a room full of boxes which contained journals and maps from her great great great relatives who worked in the palace. All the stuff is at least couple of hundred years old. Grandma wants to give it all the local museum. I started reading the journals and I found some of them talk about the hidden treasure in the palace!" Sarah said. "You have to help me go through all the journals so that we can find more clues!" "I know you have always wanted to be a detective Sarah but I think it's time you stopped watching the TV shows and concentrate on school work. There is no treasure in the palace. Don't you think someone would have found it by now if there was?" I asked. "People did not have these journals or maps to tell them where the treasure is. According to the journals, it is very well hidden. Please help me look for it. Ii promise I won't ask you for anything else ever again!" Sarah said pleadingly. "Ok ok fine! Ughhh! I can't believe I will be reading dusty old journals this summer!" I grumbled.

Over the next couple of weeks, Sarah and I went through tens of boxes of journals. We carefully noted any mentions of treasures in a separate notebook. It was a lot of work but I was secretly enjoying reading about life in the palace. One evening right before we were about to go down for dinner, Sarah suddenly started jumping on her bed. "I found it! I actually found it!" she yelled.

“Hush!! Be quiet! Do you want everyone to come up?” I asked. “What did you find?” She showed me an old map drawn in the journal. The next couple of pages of the journal explained the map. There were a lot of symbols and marking on the map. We spent the next couple of days trying to understand what was written on the map as it was written in Sanskrit and translating it took a very long time. Finally after five days, we managed to translate the entire map. “I think the treasure is somewhere in the area on the north side. That’s the place near the gorgeous wild flowers. We should go explore it tomorrow.” Sarah said. “That’s a good idea. I think it’s time we got out of the room and actually start looking for the treasure.” I said.

The next day early in the morning, Sarah and I headed towards the old palace. We spent the entire day looking for symbols similar to the ones on the map. However we did not have much luck. Right around evening, when she started to pack up, we heard some men talking. Sarah pulled in into the bushes and signaled me to be quiet. “..... treasure in this part. I am sure we can find it tomorrow” the tall man said. “Are you sure you have everything ready for the treasure to be transported to London?” “Yes sir! I have spent weeks arranging everything. We will put the treasure in one of our containers and it will get shipped to London” another man said. The tall man who apparently looked like the leader nodded his head in approval and they continued walking. Once we were sure they left, we started running home. “What should we do Sarah?” I asked in a panic. “Don’t worry! My friend’s father is the police chief. He will listen to us” Sarah told me. We went straight to the police station and told the chief the entire story from beginning to the end. He could barely believe his ears.

The next day, the chief along with the entire police force went to the palace. They caught the men digging. They arrested them and found various stolen maps and other stuff. Sarah and I went to the palace in the afternoon. The Police were still there wrapping things up. I started examining where the men were digging. I did not see anything. I was sad as I was secretly hoping we would find the treasure.

We started to leave. On the way out, I spotted a tiny weird colored patch near the palace wall. I went to examine it close. I found symbols similar to the ones in our map. “I think I found something” I exclaimed. The police heard me and they examined the wall. They found a tiny passage that lead to a cave. The cave had several boxes. One of the officers opened the boxes. It was filled with gold coins! ‘I can’t believe we actually found the treasure!’ “You girls did a fantastic job” said the chief “The local museum will be so happy to get this treasure”. I could not believe we found the treasure. That was the best summer ever!

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