

"Quick! Let's hide in here," said Joe, rushing into a cave. It was dark and damp inside and they could hear water dripping. They felt their way further in and crouched behind a rock. Rahul's heart pounded like a bass guitar. All at once, the scruffy man appeared at the cave mouth. He shone a torch around. The light cast shadows on the cave wall. The children ducked down and kept as still as stone, but the dog could sense them. It padded closer and closer, growling menacingly. Rahul gripped Joe's arm. They could see its white teeth, smell its damp hair and feel its hot meaty breath.

Suddenly, there was a distant shout. "Here, dog!" hissed the man, roughly grabbing its collar. "Those boys have got away - quick, after them!" Joe and Rahul held their breath until they could hear the sound of the man and his dog stumbling back across the rocks. They waited for a long while before creeping out. Even though the beach was empty, the boys ran home as fast as they could.

At first, Mum didn't believe them. It was only when Joe opened the box that she decided to call the police. When the police arrived, they told Mum that the big house up the road had been burgled only the night before. They had spent all day searching for a trace of the jewels. Their only clue had been the footprints of a large dog. Joe shut his eyes. He could imagine the headlines: 'PRICELESS JEWELS FOUND BY SCHOOLBOY DETECTIVES. And there was a reward too.

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