

MACMILLAN READERS

BEGINNER LEVEL

ALWYN COX

Dangerous Journey



MACMILLAN

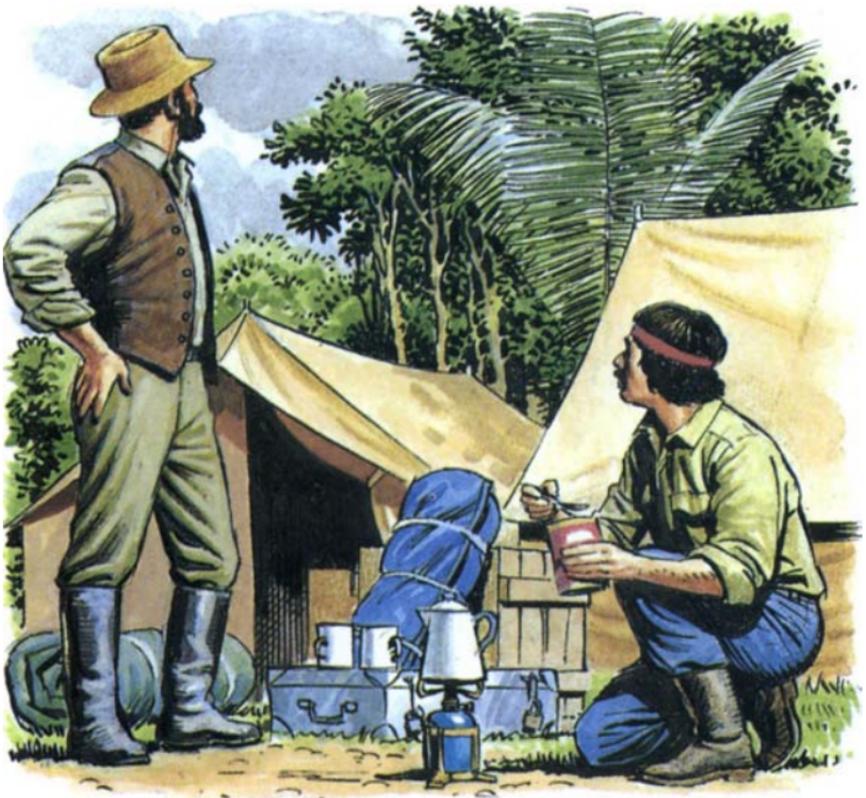
There was forest all round. All round for hundreds of kilometres. And there were no roads in the forest. There were only tracks.

Two tents stood in a clearing. Two men were standing near the tents. The younger man, Manuel, was making coffee on a small stove. He looked up at the sky.

‘It’s going to rain today,’ he said.

‘I know,’ replied Leon. ‘And the rain will turn the ground into mud. Then we’ll never get back to base.’

Four men were working in the forest. They were looking for iron and other metals. Leon was the boss and he was angry.



It was early morning. Leon and Manuel were ready to leave. But Joe and Pedro were out in the forest.

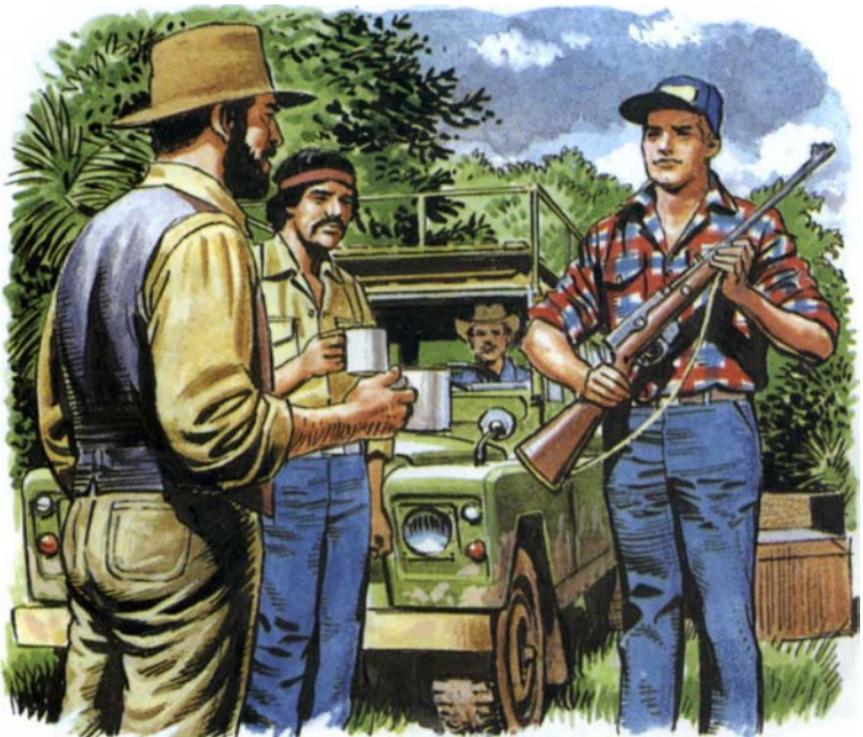
'They left in the truck two days ago,' said Leon. 'They're very late.'

Joe was always making trouble. He was younger than Leon and he was clever. He wanted to be boss.

Manuel poured the coffee into mugs and the two men drank it slowly. Suddenly they heard the sound of a truck.

'They're back,' said Manuel.

The truck came up the rough track. It stopped near the tents. Joe jumped out. He was a big man with red hair. He was smiling. His smile made Leon more angry.



'You're late,' said Leon. 'Where have you been?'

'Hunting,' replied Joe. And he held up his rifle.

'Hunting,' Leon shouted angrily. 'That's not your job. We haven't time for hunting.'

'We were away for two days,' replied Joe. 'We're not very late.'

'I'm the boss here!' Leon shouted.

Joe looked at Leon angrily. He was not smiling now.

'We're late — very late,' said Leon. 'The rain will start soon and then there will be mud everywhere. We must leave now.'

Manuel took down the tents and Joe and Pedro put the boxes into the truck.



'Hurry!' shouted Leon. 'It's ten o'clock. Let's go.'

Soon everything was in the truck. Joe sat in the driver's seat. Leon sat beside him. Manuel and Pedro climbed into the back of the truck.

Joe started the engine and the journey began. They drove easily for the first twenty kilometres. Then they came to a stream.

'There was no water here last week!' Pedro shouted to Manuel. 'Look at the water now.'

The stream was full of water. Joe slowed down and drove the truck carefully through the rushing water.

They crossed the stream and Joe drove faster. The



rain was now falling heavily. The track was very muddy and the truck began to slide.

‘Watch out!’ shouted Leon. But it was too late.

The truck stopped. The wheels were still turning, but the truck was not moving. The wheels were turning round and round in the mud.

Leon got out and Pedro and Manuel jumped down. Joe sat in the driver’s seat.

Leon looked at the wheels in the mud. Then he looked up at Joe.

‘It’s your fault,’ he said angrily. ‘You were driving too fast.’

