

vines and trees. But the path was almost clear. It looked as if somebody had driven a truck through the jungle and knocked down all the small trees and vines.

🌸 Edna said, “I don’t think we should go into that jungle.”

“Yeah, we shouldn’t do it,” Carla said. The girls were silent for a few moments. They just stood there and looked at the great path that led into the jungle. Then Carla said, “But we could follow that path for a little way. We don’t have to go too far.”

“I don’t want to go in there,” Edna said. But she wasn’t telling Carla the truth. Part of her was frightened and wanted to run away. But part of her wanted to see what made those huge footprints. Her mind made pictures of that animal. In one of the pictures, the animal was chasing 🌸 Carla and Edna. Edna was running as fast as she could, but the animal was getting closer and closer and . . .

“Come on,” Carla said. “Let’s go just a little way.”

Now another part of Edna’s mind was taking over. It wanted to see that animal. This part of Edna’s mind was not terribly frightened. It made up pictures of Carla and Edna sneaking up on the animal. In these pictures, the animal did not see Edna 🌟 and Carla. “This animal is not very smart,” Edna

said to herself. “If it was a smart animal, it would have found us last night. Maybe it does not have a good sense of smell. Maybe it has poor eyes.”

“Okay, let’s follow the path,” Edna said to Carla. “But just a little way.”

Carla picked up a short, heavy branch. She practiced swinging it like a club. Edna picked up a branch too. They were easy to find in the path made by the animal.

So the girls started down the path into the jungle. They walked very slowly and carefully. They jumped each time a screech or a roar came from the jungle. They tried not to step on small branches that would make a cracking sound. Slowly, they moved farther into the jungle. Soon, Edna could not see the beach behind her. The trees over them blocked out the light.

“This is far enough,” Edna said after she realized that the girls had gone over a hundred meters into the jungle.

“Shhh,” Carla said, and pointed straight ahead. Edna could see a clearing. In the middle of it was a small pond. From the pond, steam rose into the air. The girls moved forward. Now Edna could see a small stream flowing into the pond. And she saw tall grass.