



Grue

NEW
VENUE
for 2023

GRUE 2023 Transcript

SAM

Hello everyone, my name is Sam. I'm a Librarian. Welcome to my secret space! I'm sorry to burst in on you like this, but from the moment Diana said you were coming and that you were very clever, I knew you were just the right people to help me with a problem I've got. I've been bursting to tell someone my story. You look like trustworthy, nice people... Can I tell you?

Last summer, I was asked to clean this store room. It was thick with dust and the books were piled high, to the ceiling! At first I thought it would be boring but then I realised this is a great place to sneak off to and have a secret break... Then one day, when the Library Manager was looking for me, I was looking for a place to hide and I realised that there is a secret door RIGHT HERE in this room.

Of course, I went through it, and I found that it leads to the most amazing, magical world! I've been studying plants and animals all my life but I've never seen anything like it!

I've been going through the door, searching for new species and studying them and I've been writing a book about it - I would love to see my book on the library shelves! I had nearly finished it - but now I'm not sure I will ever be able to, because the last time I went there, something bad happened.

I had been looking for the most curious creature. I saw her in the corner of my eye; an imprint in sand, the shimmer of a scale or one of the holes she makes as she burrows. She makes her nests using pages torn from books - which explains her close proximity to the library - and it is because of this that I have named her the Ink Thief. I had seen her everywhere but never got close - she is such a shy and gentle creature.

I was about to write the last page of my book and I was determined that she would be the final creature I documented! I went deep into the dark forest and fought through dense jungle and dived into vast oceans looking for her. All when I was supposed to be at work!

Then, one day, I found her! Moon-bathing under the stars, all curled up in her nest made from pages! I stepped forward to get a closer look, but as I did, I slipped! My book flew out of my hand and went tumbling down the hill. I hurt my leg - and my bum - and I'm afraid I frightened the Ink Thief so much I don't think she will let me near her again.

Worse than that - when I looked down, I noticed that the final blank page of my book had been torn clean from the cover. She must have taken it for her nest as she rushed past.

I thought my book might never be finished, but when I saw you, I had a feeling, and I know that you are the people who can help me fill in my last page. Will you help me?

I'm going to let you through the secret door, and you're going to go and find the Ink Thief! You'll need to look for signs of her and the other creatures I've met along the way will help you - they may even speak to you - everyone is very friendly and kind, so you don't need to worry.

I've made you these notes to take with you, which explain what you need to look for and gives you a little information about the creatures.

Be incredibly careful won't you? The world is incredibly fragile so please take care. I'll be here waiting when you get back!

PANTHERA

Humans! We don't see many humans in this place! Welcome! I am Panthera, I live here, in this jungle. I love it because it's warm and it rains - a lot.

Do you know my friend Sam? Sam is very nice and kind - he has drawn a very flattering picture of me in his book - have you seen it? It describes me as being very graceful and agile, and of course, I am both of those things! (laughs)

Sam was trying to find something in my jungle - a creature - are you looking for her too? She was just here!

Did you find the hole she went through last?

Do you have Pantheras in your world, humans? What do you have?

I think you will find I am far more special than them. Did Sam tell you that I eat thunder clouds? Well I do! That's why I like it when it rains!

In fact, it sounds like it's getting heavier as we speak - you should move on humans, I don't think you like it when it rains do you? If there's one thing I know about humans it's that they love to complain about the weather haha!

Off you go! Soon it will be thundering - which means it's time for my tea!

SAM

Welcome back adventurers!! How was it?! Did you find the Ink Thief?!

What did you see?! Did you meet my friends?

Now my friends, I need to ask if you will help me complete my book. Will you do me the honour of drawing the last page for me?

You will?! If you turn your map over, you'll see that there is space for you to do it and my book is also outside for you to look at - do be careful with it, won't you?

I can't thank you enough for what you've done! I hope you've enjoyed your trip and we'll maybe see you next year!