

Chapter

9

THE SECRET QUARRY

MARY followed Grainger through the woods to a place where a small track joined the lane. Grainger signalled with his torch. A lorry was waiting along the lane. The lorry followed Grainger down the track. Mary watched them go, then hurried back to Westbourne Hall.



The next day, Polly, Norman and Dennis went looking for Mary. They found Luigi! Grainger had told him to board up the greenhouse so that nobody could get in.

A moment later, Mary arrived. She had something to show them.

She took them to the track that the lorry had gone along. It led to an old quarry. In the quarry they found a tunnel. Norman and Dennis walked up it to see where it led. It came out in the cellar of Westbourne Hall!

Dennis was scared. "What if Grainger catches us?" he said.

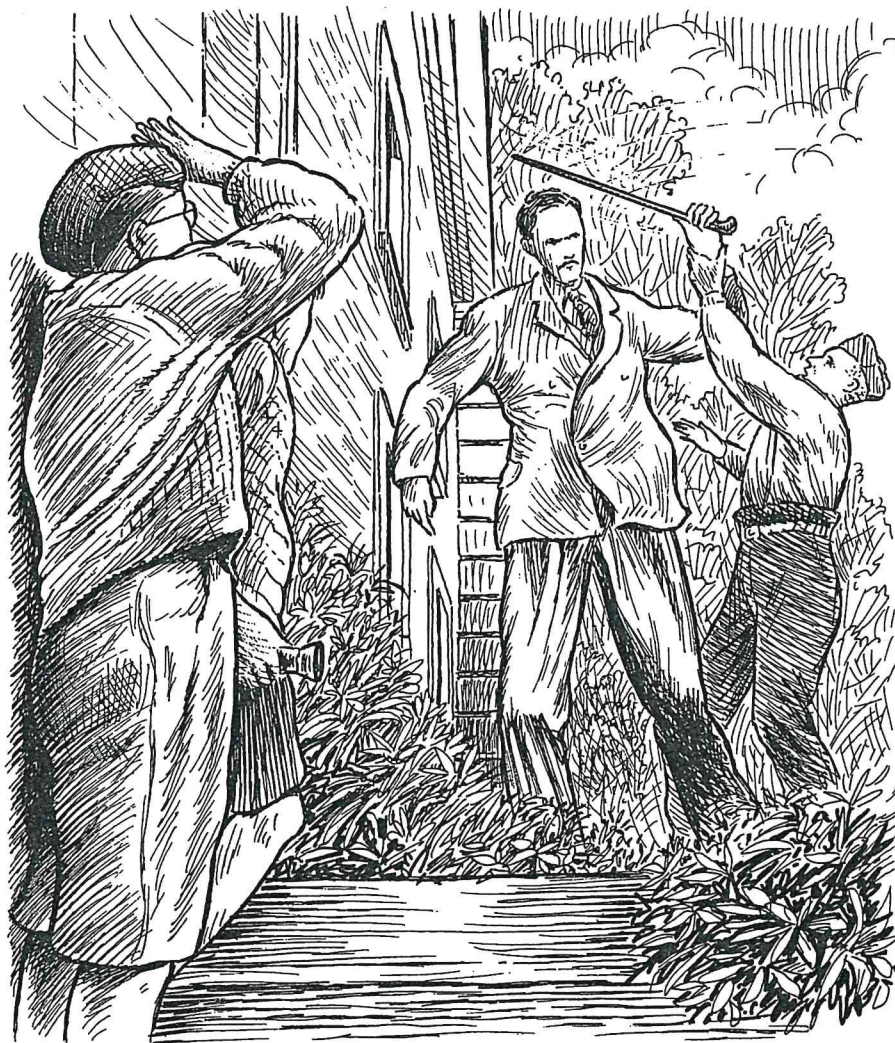
Norman opened a door. A set of steps led to the outside of the Hall. They closed the door behind them and Norman went to check that nobody was around. But before they could get away, Grainger saw them.

"I thought I told you to stay off my land," he said. Grainger had them trapped. He raised his stick in the air. "It's about time I taught you two a lesson," he said.

At the last minute, someone caught hold of Grainger's wrist. It was Luigi. He grabbed the stick and broke it in two.

"You go now," he told Dennis and Norman.


"You're going to wish you hadn't done that," Grainger warned him.



Polly and Mary were waiting anxiously. After Norman and Dennis had told them what had happened, Mary made a decision.

"The next time there's a lorry, I'm going to follow it to see what goes on," she said.

"Not on your own," said Polly. "Come and get us first."



Mary was excited, but Norman was worried. He thought they should tell somebody what they knew. Only one person might believe them – Mike Johnson.

Mike listened carefully to what they had to say about Grainger and Belling. "Mr Grainger's an important man round here," he told them. "I need more proof before I go grabbing a guy like that. But I think I can do something about Vivienne Belling."

Later that day, Mike and two other American soldiers took Vivienne Belling in for questioning.

When Mike arrived back at Wells Farm, Norman, Polly and Dennis raced to find out the news. They were bitterly disappointed.

"Forget about spies. And keep away from Westbourne Hall," he told them. "This is an order."

They were horrified. All their hopes had rested on Mike and he had let them down. Now they had to rely on Mary.

That night, after they had gone to bed, a handful of gravel hit the bedroom window. They looked out and saw Mary on the path.

"Come on!" she said. "It's now!"

Chapter

10

CAPTURED

MARY led the way through the night to the quarry. A gang of men was unloading two lorries. Grainger and Millington were in charge. The lorries were stacked with boxes of cigarettes, nylon stockings, perfume and lots of other things which could be sold on the black market. The boxes were being carried up the tunnel into the cellars of Westbourne Hall.

"So they're not spies," Dennis moaned.

"Just crooks," said Polly.

Polly, Norman and Dennis were disappointed at first. But Mary was as determined as ever. "It's still against the law," she said. "They can still go to prison."

Mary was right. Grainger and Millington were just as bad as spies really. They couldn't let them get away with it. They had to catch them.

"We've got to telephone the police," said Norman.

"We'll do it from the Hall," said Mary. "There's nobody there at the moment."

But as they set off for the Hall, Polly tripped and hurt her ankle.

"You and Dennis stay here," Norman told her. "I'll go with Mary to telephone."

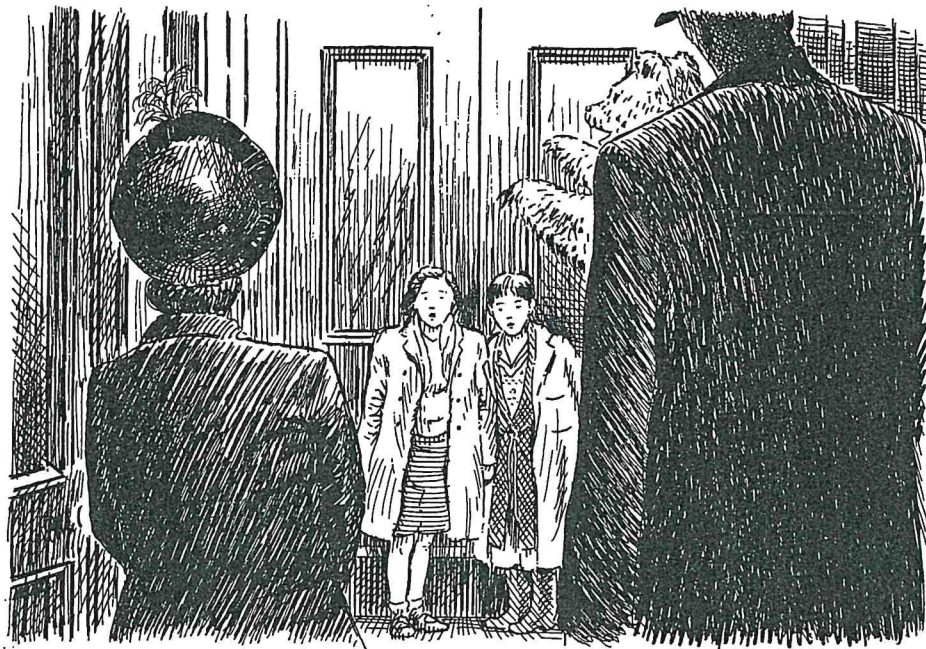
Norman and Mary ran through the woods to Westbourne Hall. The telephone was in the dining room. Mary grabbed it, but before she could call the police, Millington appeared.

"Put that telephone down," she ordered.

"No," said Mary. "I'm not doing anything else you say."

She threw the telephone at Millington. Millington fell backwards.

The children ran to the front door. But it was locked. There was no way out. Grainger and Millington were behind them. They were trapped.



Back at the quarry, Polly and Dennis were worried. Mary and Norman had been away a long time.

"Something's wrong," said Polly. "They should be back by now."

Dennis was looking down into the quarry. Suddenly, he saw Norman and Mary being marched out of the tunnel by Grainger and Millington.

Grainger shut them inside an old shed. But before he could get on with unloading, Millington grabbed his arm.

"Those kids know too much," she said. "We've got to deal with them."

"No!" said Grainger. "Nobody gets hurt."

"There's no other way. And it'll look like an accident," Millington told him.

"Later," said Grainger.

Polly and Dennis had to do something. Polly tried to walk to the telephone box while Dennis climbed down into the quarry.

But Polly had only gone a short distance when Vivienne Belling stepped out in front of her.

"You really are a bit of a nuisance," said Belling.

Polly jumped at her. "And you're a dirty rotten spy!" she yelled.

The next moment, Mike Johnson grabbed hold of Polly. "Polly! It's OK!" he said.



Vivienne Belling wasn't a spy after all. She was just trying to catch Grainger and the black marketeers.

"Where are Norman and Mary?" Mike asked.

"They got caught," said Polly.

"Let's get in there. Top speed!" shouted Mike.

Jeeps full of soldiers, and a police car, roared into the quarry. Grainger and Millington were caught. It was all over.



It was all over for Norman and Dennis as well. When their parents heard what had happened, they decided it was safer in the city after all. Only Mary stayed on, living with Polly and Amy at Wells Farm. Norman waved goodbye for the last time. It was a funny feeling. It was true he was going home. But, in a strange way, he was leaving home as well.