

“The kid has got a point,” Jolene muttered to Bob. The two of them discussed it quietly together, glancing at the kids every now and then.

Jake's eyes raced around the inside of the shack. The light of Jolene's torch was enough for him to see something move behind Bob's shoulder. Their arrival in the abandoned shack had woken up its sleeping inhabitants. Two large snakes moved silently along the rafters. Jake looked around and saw more snakes. They were coming out of the shadows, crawling out from under old tarpaulins and buckets.

“Are you crazy, Jake?” said Maritska quietly. “Our parents aren't rich. What'll happen when they can't pay that much?”

Jake didn't answer. He watched the snake slide down from the rafter above Bob's head. “Sshh,” said Jake. “No more questions.” Jake grabbed Pim's hand and kicked Maritska, “Up there.” He flicked his eyes to the roof.



6 abandoned [ə'bændənd] verlassen, leer stehend • 7 inhabitant [ɪn'hæbɪtənt] Bewohner • 8 rafter ['rɑ:ftə] Dachsparren • 10 tarpaulin [tɑ:'pɔ:lɪn] Abdeckplane
• 11 bucket ['bʌkɪt] Eimer