



“I know it’s got to be here somewhere!” “How do you know?”  
“Haven’t you seen the hundreds of bats flying in the sky in the evening? Their cave’s got to be near here.” Jacob and Renee were primed for this adventure. Tommy not so much. “Why do you want to go anywhere near bats?”

It may be the year 2323, but teens will always be teens.





“Look! That’s got to be it!”





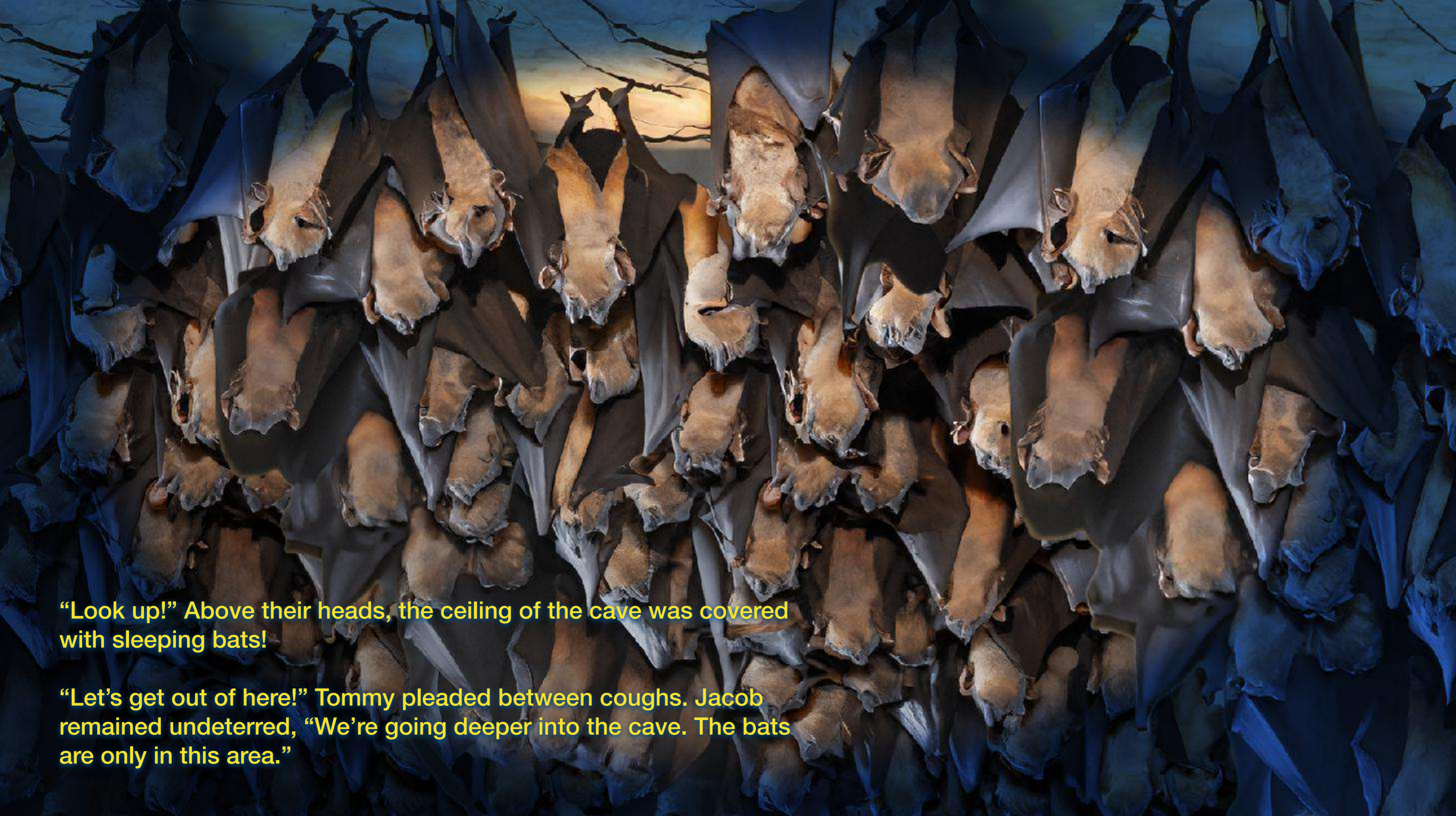
The three stood inside the mouth of the cave debating next steps. “It sure looks dark,” Tommy said a little under his breath. “Come on, we’ve all got flashlights. This is going to be awesome!”





They hadn't gone more than 50 feet into the cave when, "What is that horrible smell? I can hardly breathe!" said Renee. Tommy started coughing, "I think I'm going to heave!" Shining their flashlight down on the ground, they discovered they were walking through mounds of bat guano.





“Look up!” Above their heads, the ceiling of the cave was covered with sleeping bats!

“Let’s get out of here!” Tommy pleaded between coughs. Jacob remained undeterred, “We’re going deeper into the cave. The bats are only in this area.”





Going further into the cave the room got larger.





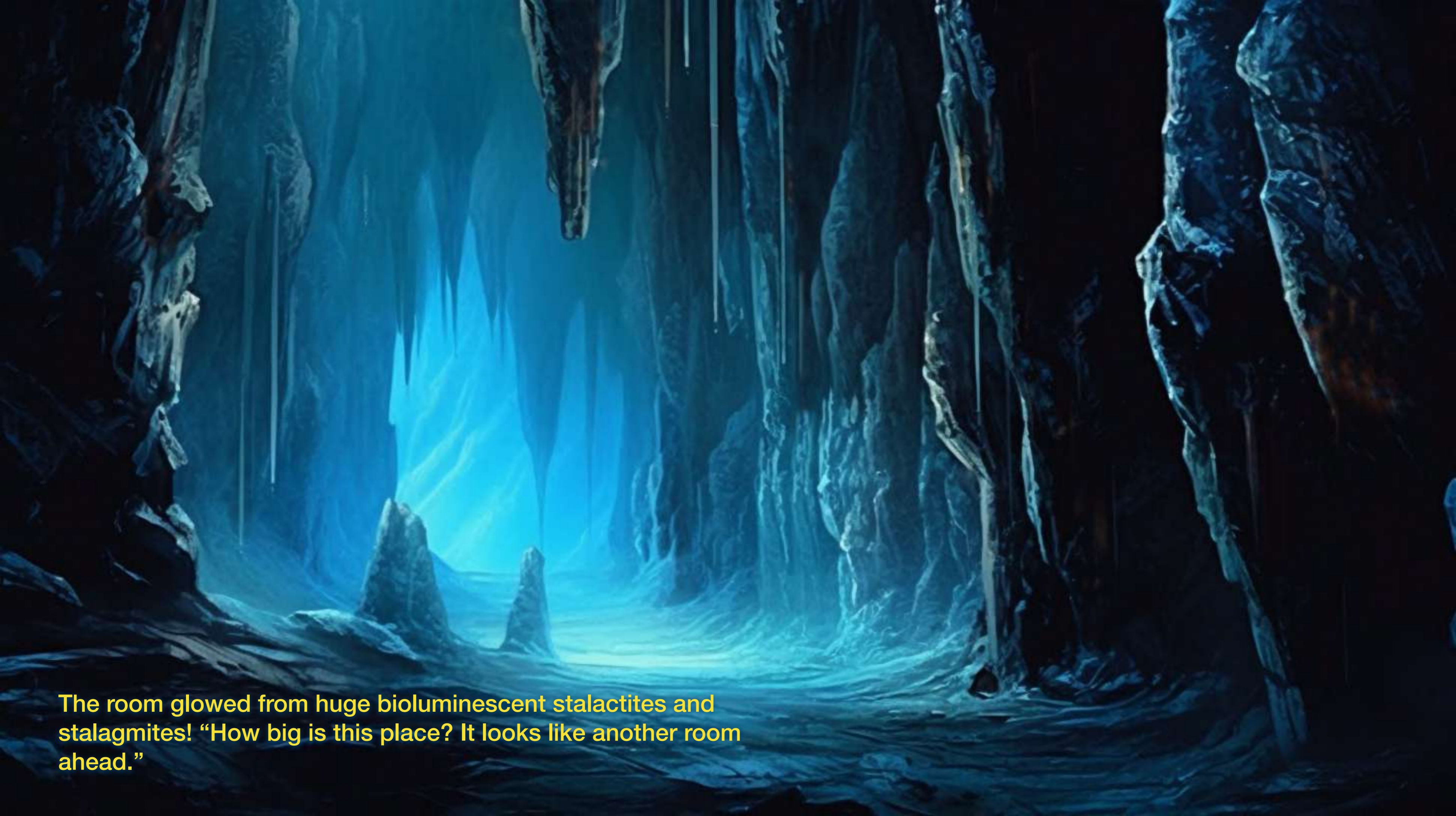
“Wow! Look at this place! Wonder what’s causing that blue light ahead.”





**“Totally Awesome!” “Unbelievable!” “All I can say is ‘Wow!’”**






The room glowed from huge bioluminescent stalactites and stalagmites! “How big is this place? It looks like another room ahead.”









**“Peace and Groovy Times!”** A very strange man approached them from out of nowhere. He had pure white skin, long white hair, beads around his neck over a loose-fitting tunic, but strangest and scariest of all were his oversized blue glowing eyes.





“I’m called Moon Dog. What’s your vibes?” “I’m Jacob.” “Renee.”  
“My name’s Tommy.” Moon Dog replied, “Cool, man! “This is wild, man!  
We’ve never had visitors here before. You must be from Far Out!”






“This is my daughter, Solstice.” Greeting them, Solstice softly said,  
“Peace and good vibrations.”





Renee questioned, "Do you live down here?" "Yes we all do."  
"How many are you?" "We number 157 currently. When we were  
first here we could count 350 free spirits." "How long have you  
lived in here?" Jacob asked.





Moon Dog, closed his eyes as if in pain and responded,  
“Our people came here in 1967 to escape the Vietnam War and  
threats of nuclear war. They just wanted peace, man. Peace.”





Tommy in disbelief said, "This is 2323, that means you've been down here over 350 years! How is that possible?" Solstice responded, "The cave provides for all our needs."





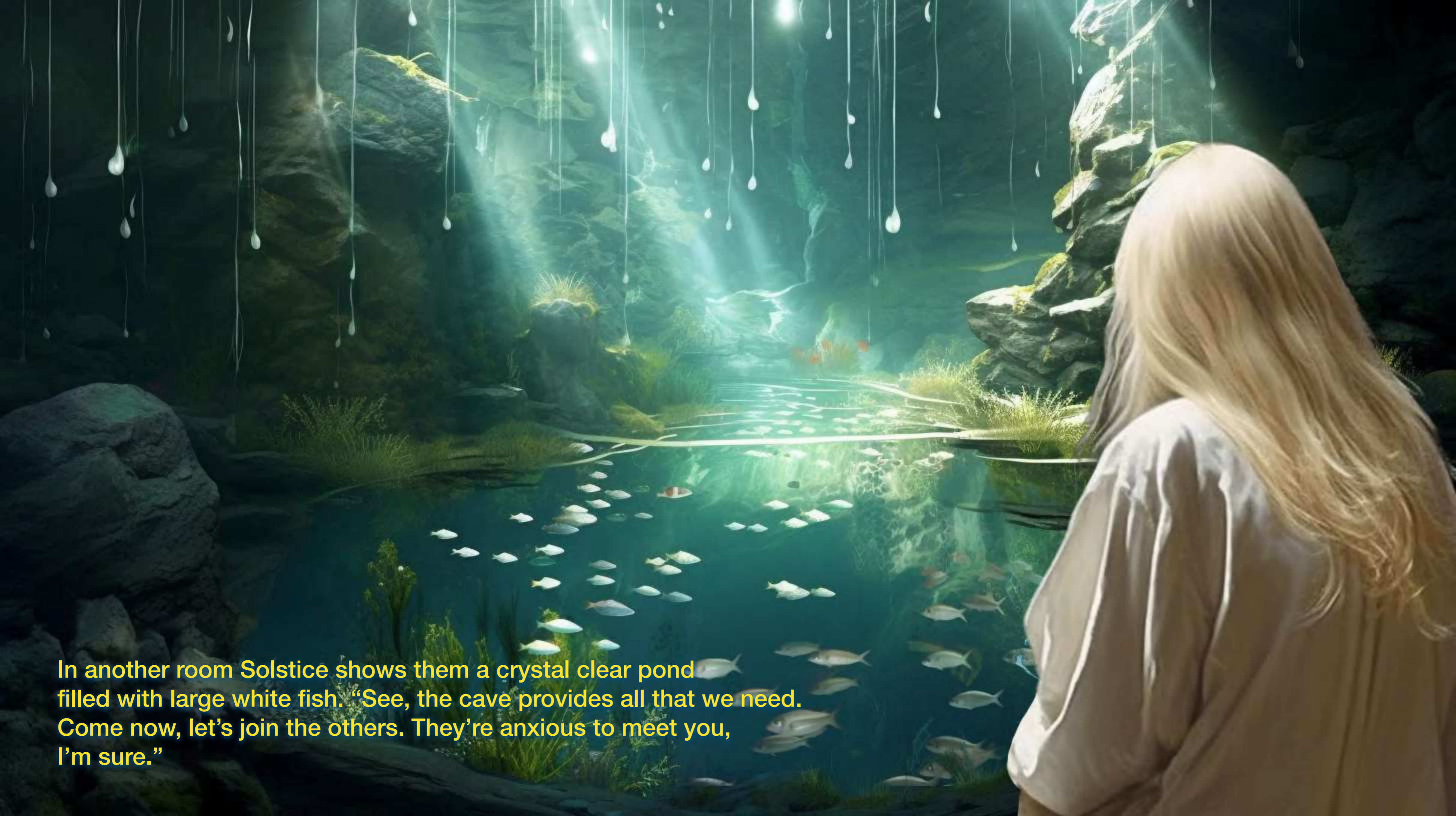
Moon Dog instructs Solstice, "Please take them to see the garden and then come back and join our family for a meal."





Solstice leads the three into the garden room, another bioluminescent area filled with unbelievably lush plants and vegetables.





In another room Solstice shows them a crystal clear pond filled with large white fish. "See, the cave provides all that we need. Come now, let's join the others. They're anxious to meet you, I'm sure."





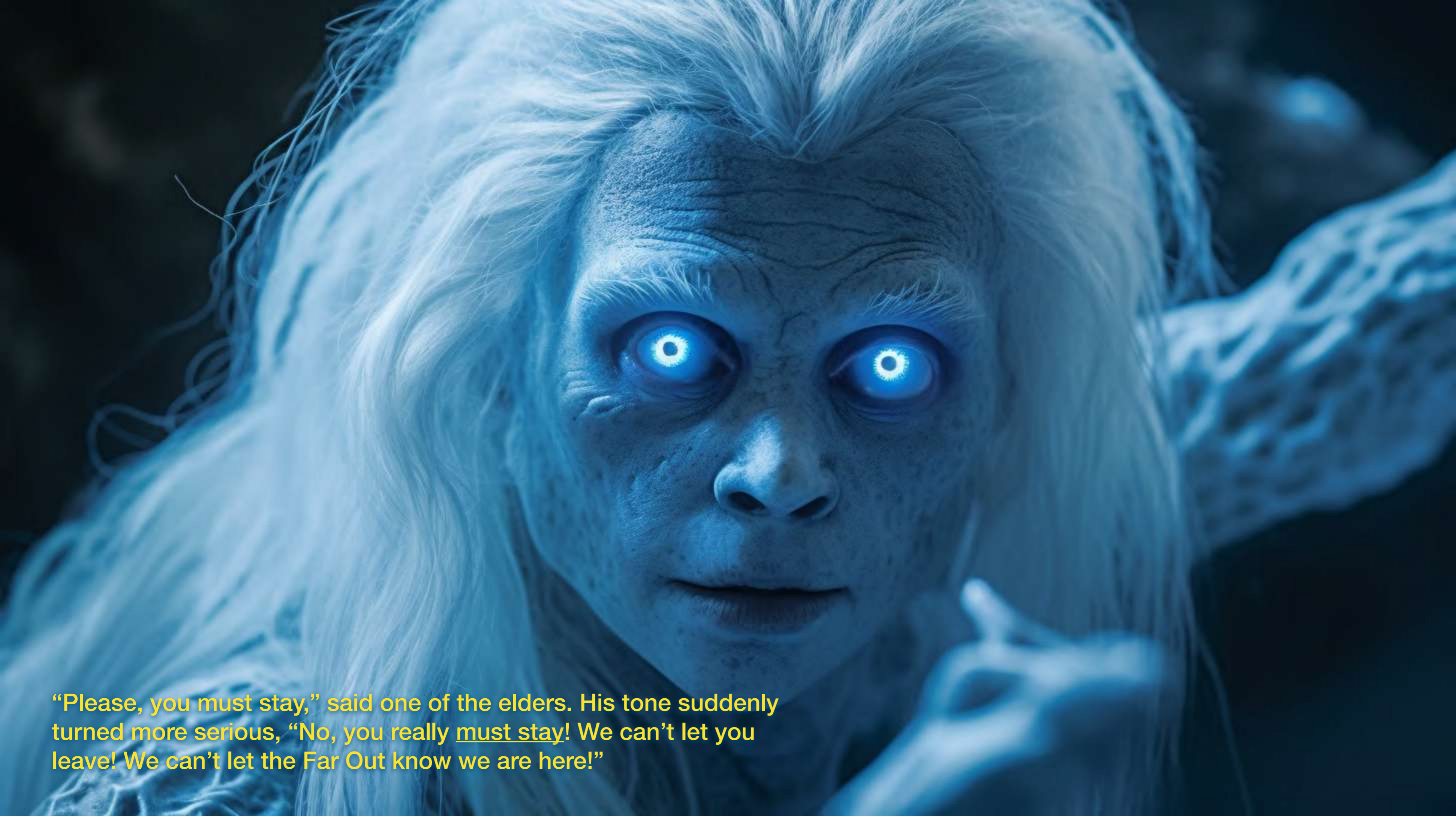
Crossing thru a somewhat narrow passage way, they arrived where they were greeted by a large number of the residents. All seemed happy to see them. Each one had that same all white skin and those large glowing eyes—men, women, and children. Those who were not bald had the same long white hair. “Please join us for a meal. We’ve prepared a welcome feast for you!”





“That’s very kind, but I’m sorry,” Renee replied,  
“we really have to start going home. It’s getting late.”





“Please, you must stay,” said one of the elders. His tone suddenly turned more serious, “No, you really must stay! We can’t let you leave! We can’t let the Far Out know we are here!”





Jacob responded first, “No you don’t understand! If we don’t leave they will come looking for us and then you will be found out!”  
Renee joined in, “We promise you that we won’t tell anyone about you or your location! Please you can trust us! Our word is good!”  
“Yah, that’s right! We promise!” added Tommy.





Solstice spoke up, "In walking around the garden with them, I got to know enough about them to believe that they're all very cool and can be trusted, father."





Moon Dog reminded the rest of his people that the previous generation had prepared for a day like this many years before. "We know what we must do. We have to seal the cave."





“We will give you 25 minutes to get out of the cave and then we will detonate explosives placed to collapse the cave entrance.”





The three teens rushed to get to the entrance. It would take very close to the 25 minutes to exit with hardly a minute to spare.





They got close enough to the entrance to see it was just after sundown.





Suddenly, hundreds of bats began to circle in the air ready to exit the cave. "We can't run thru all those bats!" Tommy screamed.





“We don’t have any choice!” Jacob responded. “Pull your jacket up over your head, bend down and run thru them like your life depended on it—because it does!”





This was even scarier than the thought of having to stay in the cave, but they did it and had barely exited the cave when an explosion caused the hillside to crumble and completely close off the cave.





Finally safe, Renee sighed and said, "I know we can never tell anyone about this whole thing, but if we did, I doubt anyone would believe us."