HELP! I'm Trapped in BEE!

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Help! I'm Trapped in BCI!

Chapter One
Research

Jen and Kat were listening attentively in school when all of a sudden, their teacher said, "Oh, and by the way, you all have a project on the Rainforest Connection that is due next Friday."

They looked at each other and groaned because they knew what was coming next. All the Internet websites, all the encyclopedias, all the books, you name it. The teacher was right in the middle of a sentence when the school bell rang. Ding! Ding! School's over! "Saved by the bell!" chorused the whole class.

Jen and Kat pushed and shoved trying to get out of the classroom. They shot across the front lawn of the school as if two cheetahs were trying to catch their prey. When the girls were off school territory, Jen and Kat started complaining.

"We have more than enough projects to do already. We'll never be able to finish."
"I know, what a bummer." "Totally." When they got to their street, they started stalling because they were dreading to do their homework.
"My, am I hungry. Aren't you girls?" asked Dr. Willis. "You bet!" exclaimed the girls.

"Why don't we go to a restaurant? Then, we won't have to walk a long distance," suggested Kat. "Actually, I'm not to fond of the restaurants that are around here. How about going to pick some fresh fruits?" explained Dr. Willis. "Sure." said the girls.

"Why don't you leave your back packs here. It would be more safe," said Dr. Willis. "No, actually, I think I'll bring mine with me," said Jen.

The girls had just finished looking through pictures in Dr. Willis' album, and boy were they hungry. Dr. Willis lived with her husband, Greg Willis and they would be staying at BCI for about a month. Their cabin was an efficiency with a kitchen, a bed, a bathroom with a sink and shower, and no other electricity.

While they were picking fruits from the trees, the girls heard a waiter say to a woman in a restaurant, "The specials today are paca soup and barbecued paca. Which one would you prefer, madam?" "Neither, thank you. They both sound quite gruesome," answered the lady.
Chapter 6

A Walk Through the Forest

When the girls got back to their table, they found Dr. Willis chatting with another woman.
“Who is she?” asked Kat.
“ I don’t know. Let’s go and find out,” answered Jen.
When Dr. Willis saw the girls coming, she immediately stopped talking to the woman and said, “Oh, and speaking of the girls, here they are.”
“So you were the lucky girls that got chased by an ocelot,” said the woman.
“LUCKY?” the girls gasped.
“You don’t know what we went through to escape that... that... creature,” exclaimed Kat.
“What is it called again?” asked Jen.
“An ocelot.”
“Oh, my lord!” said Dr. Willis.
“What?” said the girls. They looked around as if they expected to see a ghost.
“I totally lost my manners. Girls, this is my friend, Oris Acevedo. You should call her Ms. Acevedo,” said Dr. Willis.
Everybody paused for a moment and then started laughing at Dr. Willis. It took them a long time to calm down.
"You mean that's the animal that Dr. Willis was talking about?"
"Yeah, I guess."
"It's scared to death. I think we should save it," said Jen.
"So where are we going to put it?" said Kat.
"Maybe my... back pack."
"What are we going to call it?" pondered Kat while Jen tried to get the squirming paca into her backpack.
"It has to be something that sounds like innocent..." said Kat.
"And maybe we can name it after Dr. Willis." suggested Jen.
"I got it!"
"No, I have it!"
"WILLISENT!!!"
Dr. Willis decided that she would take the girls on a walk through the forest. When they got to their cabin, they packed all they needed for the walk. The group packed cameras, binoculars, magnifying glasses and other items. But when the girls took a second glance they noticed rolls of masking tape inside the backpack. They were so curious that they asked Dr. Willis, "What is the masking tape for?"

"Oh, they're for the ticks..." but Kat cut Dr. Willis off by saying, "OK that's enough of that topic."

"Let's just go for the walk that we were planning," suggested Jen.

"Sounds good to me!" said Dr. Willis.

When the trio got into the forest the twins were amazed, and out of breath, to see the beautiful wonders of the forest.

"It's... it's beautiful," was Jen's response when she was out of a daze, but she knew Kat was thinking the same thing because she was still staring at the forest.

After a few minutes they were deep in the forest, each minute becoming more and more exciting! "I never knew that a forest could be so cool," said Kat.

"I know," answered Jen.

When they came upon a gorgeous butterfly, Jen asked "What is that blue butterfly called?"
"It's known as the Morpho Butterfly," Dr. Willis answered. "They fold their wings together so that you can only see the brown undersides on the wings. They camouflage with tree bark and dead leaves, which helps to protect them from predators. But when they open their wings they have a beautiful covering of royal blue," she continued.

They kept walking and all of a sudden they smelt the worst odor. "What is that?" gasped Kat. "That would be the aristolochia, even though it smells bad it is actually one of the most glorious flowers on BCI. It is a deep purple and white, and measures 7-8 inches," Dr. Willis recited.

"Okay, now can we get out of here?" said Jen. They ran the rest of the way until the stench was gone. "Whew! That was close," exclaimed Jen. "Yeah, I thought we would suffocate!" remarked Kat.

"Now, girls. That wasn't so bad, was it?" questioned Dr. Willis.

The girls looked at each and said, "Yeah."

About an hour passed before Jen spotted something she really liked. It was a flower that was light pink and had soft looking petals. "Wow. What's that flower called, Dr. Willis?" asked Jen.

"Oh, that's called the orchid. It's one of my favorite flowers on BCI, too."
"You guys go on ahead. I just have to take a picture of this flower," exclaimed Jen.

"OK. See ya."

"Catch ya later," said Jen.
Chapter 7
The Chase

Jen absentmindedly opened her backpack forgetting who was inside. She took the camera out of her backpack and aimed it at the flower, but before she could take the picture she saw from the reflection of the camera glass, a fuzzy brown animal come out of her backpack. She suddenly remembered... the paca. Jen dropped the camera and turned around to find Willisent pouncing out of the backpack. "Oh no!" she cried. But it was too late. Willisent had already taken off on the trail.

Willisent jumped into a nearby bush and saw one of the girls that had saved him run right past. He felt guilty about running away, but being cramped up in a backpack for over four hours was just too much for him. Willisent decided to explore his new surroundings and look for the girls later. When he got out of the bush he had hidden in, he felt like something, but he didn't know what, was looking at him.

He turned around and saw a green dangling "rope" hanging from a nearby tree. The "rope" suddenly opened its mouth and showed two fangs that gleamed in the sunlight and reminded Willisent of the butchering knives that he had seen so many times before in the restaurant.
"AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!" he squealed. Then the freaked out paca shot forward like a jet at full speed. He didn't even realize that he had run past that girl.

Jen moaned, "Oh, man. What am I going to do? Kat is going to have my head. WILLISENT, WHERE ARE YOU?" Then all of a sudden she saw a brown jet-like figure race past her.

"Oh, there you are! I guess you heard my call! Awesome!!" Jen started running full speed after Willisesent.

When she passed Kat and Dr. Willis she yelled, "Don't ask, just follow." Dr. Willis raised her eyebrows.

"At a time like this, I think we should just do what she says and follow," explained Kat.

When everything had been settled with the paca, as in catching it and describing what had happened to Willis, she decided to take them to her favorite tree on BCI. Although Kat and Jen were more excited to have Willisesent back, they had some sort feeling that something important was going to happen.

The tree was a Dipteryx and could fit a human into it because it was hollow. "Wow, that is one cool tree," said Kat. Jen held Willisesent in her arms while she stepped into the tree. All of a sudden she just vanished into thin air. "What happened, Dr. Willis?" gasped Kat.
"Why don't you try it yourself," said Dr. Willis with a mischievous smile.

"Okay, if you say so," said Kat in an unsure tone. She stepped into the tree and with a blink of an eye found herself back in her room with Jen and Willisent.
“Oh man, Kat, I just had the weirdest dream. It was about...”

“No, that wasn’t a dream. It happened to me too,” said Kat.

They both looked at each other with a creeped expression.

“Whatever,” they both laughed.

Jen and Kat ran downstairs with Willisent. They saw their mom making dinner and when she saw Willisent she said, “Get that... pig... squirrel... creature... whatever, but out of my house!”

“Mom, we’re sure that it’s tame,” said Kat.

“It won’t bite,” added Jen.

“Where did you get it from, anyway?” asked their mom.

The girls looked at each other and said, “It’s a long story.” And then they started laughing.
Chapter 2

Jen and Kat

When Jen and Kat got into the house, they saw their mom waiting in the kitchen. "Hello, my sweet, charming little angels. How was school?"

"Mo-ther, don't call us that. We're 12 and not your sweet little girls anymore," whined the girls. Their mom chose to ignore that remark.

"So what will it be for a snack?"

"No thanks, mom," said Jen.

"We're kind of on a diet," continued Kat.

"All right then. Go on upstairs and do your homework," said their mom.

"Fine."

"Whatever," the twins responded in a disgusted tone.

The girls raced up the stairs and ran up to their room. When they opened the door, they almost fainted at the sight of a CLEAN ROOM. "Oh my gosh, what happened?" gasped Kat. They thought a moment then looked at each other and said together, "Mom." "She probably hired a maid. Again." "Hurry. We have to get things messed up just to get revenge," grinned Kat.

"You go girl," said Jen with a mischievous smile.

The twins were the kind of girls that were always looking for trouble. They didn't do the normal sister-sister
The orchid is the national flower of Panama.

The quetzal is one of the most colorful birds in Panama.

The Morpho butterfly has brilliant blue wings.

The White Faced Monkey is also known as the Capuchin.
The toucan has a very loud, noisy call.

The tapir is a pig-like animal with short ears.
fighting act, which was getting revenge on each other, but instead they liked getting revenge on other people... together.

Both girls had many things in common. For example: talking on the phone, listening to CDs (although they never agreed on their favorite band), going shopping, surfing the net, doing sports, etc. Most of the things they did were done together. Like in sports, either one of them was playing and the other cheering, or visa versa.
Chapter 3

Sucked Into the Knowledge Machine

After they had gotten everything back to what they called "normal", they browsed through the Internet looking for information on their project on the Rainforest Connection. They came upon a beautiful picture of an island. The girls clicked on a little microphone near the picture.

Then a voice said, "Hi, I'm Dr. Willis. Today I'm here on an island called Barro Colorado Island, in other words BCI. The weather here is just superb, not a single cloud in sight. Many species of animals like ocelots are rustling through the leaves. People should come and visit BCI one of these days. Here are some pictures of an ocelot on the move to catch its prey," she continued.

"Ocelots are part of the big cat family on BCI. These beautiful, black spotted animals are unfortunately endangered because they are hunted for their coat of fur. They love to feed on small rodents like opossums, agoutis, spiny rats, and tinamous. Their big, powerful jaws and strong pink paws help them catch and hold their prey."

Then they zoomed into the computer like they were in a furious tornado going around and around and around until they landed on solid ground and collapsed.
Chapter 4
The Talking Encyclopedia

"Was that just me or did something very weird happen?" questioned Jen.
"No, I don't think that was just you, trust me." replied Kat.
"Oh good, I thought I was coming down with something weird." said Jen relieved.
"You do look kind of weird, though," said Kat.
"I wouldn't be talking if I were you," remarked Jen.

When Jen and Kat looked around them, they found out that they were in the forest that they had just been viewing seconds ago. They stared in disbelief at the scenery around them. The trees looked two times larger and the grass was up to their knees! All of a sudden, Jen and Kat snapped back to life as they heard a faint rustling sound behind them.

As the girls turned around cautiously around, to face a bright set of golden eyes that belonged to a hungry looking animal...

"RRRUUUNNN!!!" the girls screamed as the animal pounced towards them. Jen and Kat zig-zagged through trees leaped over logs and ducked under low branches. Then, BUMP!! The girls collided into a figure.
“Ouch!” said a familiar voice.
“Owe, my head,” wailed Jen.
“Owe, my shoulder,” complained Kat. Jen and Kat looked up.
“It’s her,” both girls gasped.

“Who, me? You probably know me already. I’m Dr. Willis. I am a scientist that conducts a census of mammals here in BCI each winter. I can show you a bit of the forest in my spare time, if you want.”

“Are you kidding?”
“No,” said Dr. Willis.
“Awesome!” exclaimed the girls.
“Come to my cabin. You might find it a little interesting.”
"What drinks do you have?"
"Well..."
The girls stopped listening right then and there and asked Dr. Willis," Dr. Willis, what are they talking about and what is a paca?" questioned Jen.
"Is it a ... pig?" said Kat.
"No, actually, a paca, or Cuniculus paca is a nocturnal rodent of the Dasy Proctidae that lives in the forest. It measures 51 to 76 centimeters. It weighs 20 pounds and feeds on fruits and other plant material," Dr. Willis recited.
"Dr. Willis, do you think that we can take a look inside the restaurant?" asked Kat.
"Sure, why not!"

When they were seated at their table, and got their drinks, the girls asked if they could go to the bathroom to wash their hands. They were headed for the bathroom when they heard Dr. Willis joke, "Don't get lost!"

When the girls were looking for the sink, they found a large room filled with hundreds of empty cages. Near the back of the room, they saw a brown and white ball of fur. They walked carefully through the maze of cages, but as they got closer, they discovered that the "thing" was trembling continuously.
"Is that thing a paca?" asked Kat.