

Contents

Chapter 1	In New Zealand	▶ 7	6
Chapter 2	Mac and his family	▶ 8	11
Chapter 3	Cathedral Cove	▶ 9	16
Chapter 4	Who is Mac?	▶ 10	20
Chapter 5	The letter	▶ 11	24
Activities		▶ 3-6	28
Glossary			36
Key			40

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In New Zealand

‘Look, Mum! The holiday home is beside the beach.’ Zoe holds up her phone. ‘Can you see Gemma?’ Zoe’s sister is in the water, swimming.

‘Oh, yes!’ Zoe’s mother Alice says. ‘I see her. Give her my love. That sky looks nice and blue. It’s snowing here today.’ Alice is at home in England.

‘Yes, it’s sunny. Christmas is in summer here in New Zealand!’

Alice smiles. ‘I remember.’ Alice is from New Zealand. ‘I’m making Christmas cake today. I know you love it.’

‘Great! Gemma and I will be home for Christmas. I’ll eat a lot of that cake. But I have to go now. It’s time for breakfast. Fran is making pancakes.’

‘I remember Fran’s pancakes. She puts bananas in them. Dad is cooking dinner here. Be good for Fran, darling.’

‘Yes, Mum. Love you. Bye.’

Zoe ends the video call. She and her sister are staying with their aunt, Fran, in a holiday home. It’s in Mercury Bay in New Zealand. Zoe is fourteen and Gemma is eighteen.

Gemma comes back from the beach. ‘I’m hungry!’ she says.

Fran and the girls eat breakfast on the veranda of the house.

Fran says, ‘Girls, I’m sorry, but I have to work today.’

Fran is a lawyer. She can work online. Her computer is on the dining table. ‘You can go into town and to the beach. But stay together, please.’

Mac and his family

'Gemma! Wait!' Zoe says. 'You can't. We're going swimming! We have to stay together!'

'Sorry, Zoe,' Gemma says. She steps onto Mac's boat.

'I'll go swimming with you,' Danny says. 'Come on, we can get the ferry across the estuary. I love swimming at Front Beach.'

'Okay,' says Zoe, but she's not happy. What is Gemma doing? Zoe doesn't say goodbye to her sister.

The ferry comes across the estuary and stops at the wharf.

'Oh, but I don't have money for the ferry!' says Zoe.

'That's okay. I know the skipper.'

'Hi, bro!' calls the ferry skipper.

Danny calls back, 'Hi, bro!' He grins. 'That's my brother, Liam.'

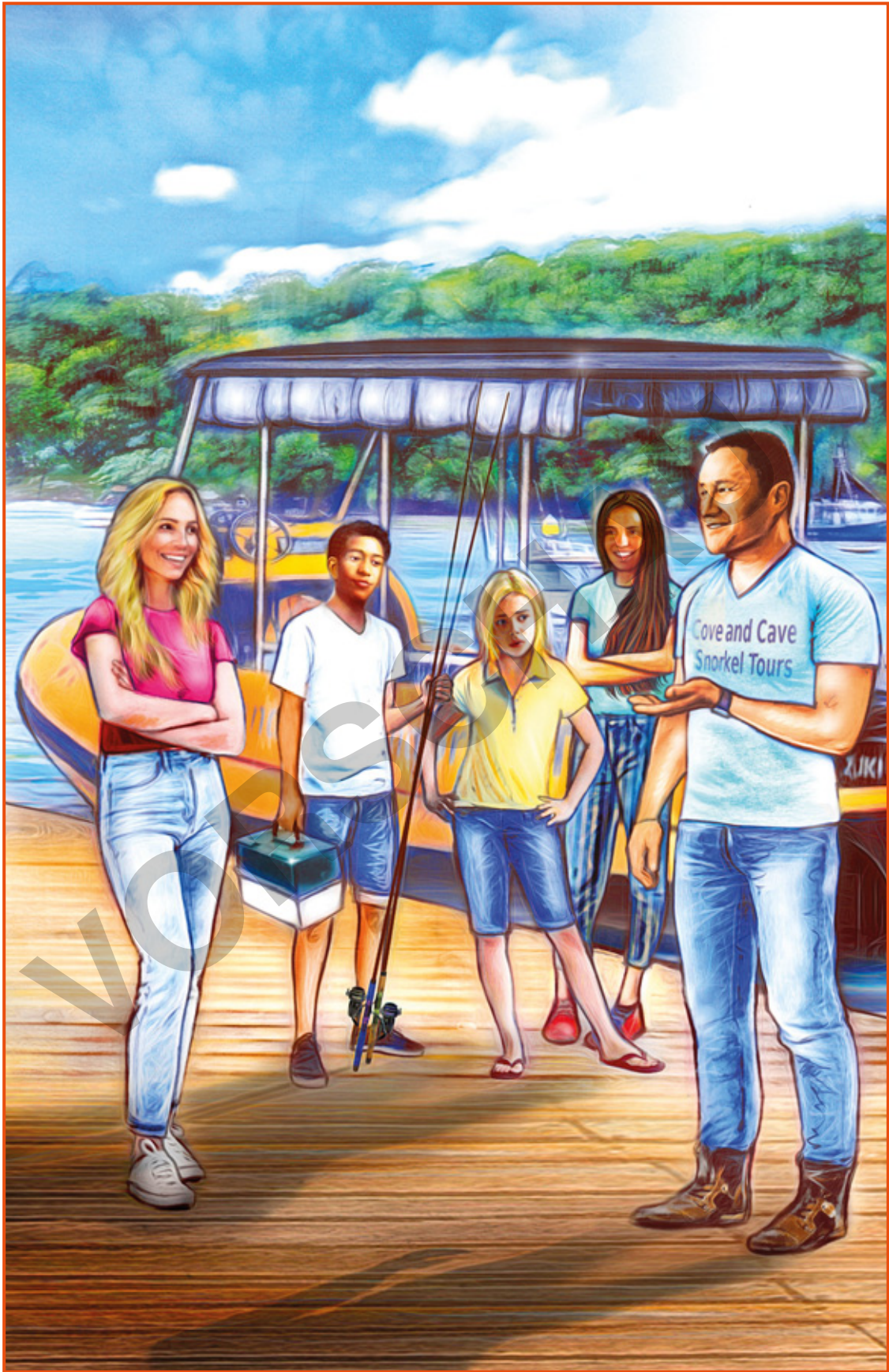
The ferry takes about five minutes to go across the estuary. Zoe sees the Cove and Cave Snorkel tour boat go into Mercury Bay. Mac is the skipper. Gemma is giving bottles of water to the tourists on the boat.

Danny says, 'Come on, we have to walk for about ten minutes to get to the beach.'

Zoe and Danny walk along the road to the beach. There are no cars.

'Are you okay?' Danny asks.

'Oh, this holiday is weird. My parents aren't here, and my sister is being weird. She phones Mum, but she stops talking when I come into the room. And now she's on the



Activities

Chapter 1

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on pages 4 and 5. Circle the correct answers.

- Where is the holiday home?
a. on Front Beach b. in Cook's Bay c. in Whitianga
- Which is the nearest town to Whitianga?
a. Auckland b. Hamilton c. Wellington

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

- work hungry ferry fishing
- We can go across the river on that _____.
 - Keith can't come to the football match with us. He has to _____ today.
 - My brother and I like to go _____ at the river.
 - Is it time for lunch? I'm _____.

C. Listen to Track 3 and answer these questions.

- Where is Zoe?
a. in England b. in New Zealand
- Who is in the water, swimming?
a. Zoe's sister, Gemma b. Zoe's aunt, Fran
- What is Fran making for breakfast?
a. Christmas cake b. pancakes

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

- How old is Zoe?
a. fourteen b. sixteen c. eighteen
- What does Fran have to do today?
a. go swimming b. go fishing c. work
- What time of year is it in New Zealand?
a. spring b. summer c. autumn
- Where does Zoe meet Danny?
a. at the holiday home b. on the beach c. on the wharf

Glossary

adj. adjective; *adv.* adverb; *det.* determiner; *exp.* expression;
n. noun; *prep.* preposition; *v.* verb

about <i>adv.</i>	ungefähr
about <i>prep.</i>	über
a couple of <i>det.</i>	ein paar
adventure <i>n.</i>	Abenteuer
angry <i>adj.</i>	böse, sauer (auf jmdn.)
back yard <i>n.</i>	Hinterhof
barbecue <i>n.</i>	hier: Grillparty
birth father <i>n.</i>	leiblicher Vater
blonde <i>adj.</i>	blond
bowl <i>n.</i>	Schüssel
bus station <i>n.</i>	Busbahnhof
call out <i>v.</i>	ausrufen
cave <i>n.</i>	Höhle, Kliffhöhle
Christmas <i>n.</i>	Weihnachten
cliff <i>n.</i>	Klippe, Felsen
coast <i>n.</i>	Küste
come back <i>v.</i>	wiederkommen, zurückkommen
cough <i>v.</i>	husten
cove <i>n.</i>	Bucht
cry <i>v.</i>	weinen
curly <i>adj.</i>	lockig
dark <i>adj.</i>	dunkel
darling <i>n.</i>	Liebling, Schatz
dessert <i>n.</i>	Nachtisch, Dessert
dining table <i>n.</i>	Esstisch
dolphin <i>n.</i>	Delfin
end <i>v.</i>	beenden
estuary <i>n.</i>	Meeresarm
fall in love <i>v.</i>	sich verlieben