



Destination- Karmirnia

Maureen Simpson

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Book brief

- 1 An adventure story about discovering the ancient city of Karminia.
- 2 The story is set in the Scottish Highlands and follows the adventures of Sonia, a professor of archaeology, and her three assistants, Jasmine, Stella and Simon, who are all archaeology enthusiasts.
- 3 The three students decide to help Sonia find Karminia, but they don't realise how hard this trip is going to be.
- 4 There is also danger ahead as the greedy businessperson, Philip Cummins, wants Karminia for himself so he can make money out of it.
- 5 Main themes include adventure and teamwork.

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Main Characters



Sonia Peng

A young archaeology professor at the University of York.



Jasmine

She finds out about Karminia online.



Philip Cummins

A greedy businessperson who wants Karminia.



Stella

*Simon and
Jasmine's friend.
She has a scooter.*



Simon

*He doesn't like
many subjects at
school and would
love to study
archaeology.*



Jim and Tony

*Two men who
work for Philip
Cummins.*

Before you read

Vocabulary

- 1 What would you take with you on an expedition?
Match the words in the box with the correct definition.

backpack map ~~compass~~ sleeping bag torch tent

Something you use to find the right direction: compass

- 1 A tool that allows you to see in the dark: _____
- 2 You use it to carry all the things you need: _____
- 3 You sleep inside it at night to keep warm: _____
- 4 A portable "home" used for camping: _____
- 5 A drawing of an area that shows you where you are: _____

Pair Work

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Skills

- 2 Here are some animals that you can find in the wild.
Unscramble their names, then discuss with your partner which one you'd be most afraid of meeting and why.

- | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|
| bta |  | <u>bat</u> _____ |
| 1 tlebee |  | _____ |
| 2 atn |  | _____ |
| 3 rbbait |  | _____ |
| 4 brea |  | _____ |
| 5 lfwo |  | _____ |
| 6 skena |  | _____ |
| 7 sdpier |  | _____ |
| 8 rrelsqui |  | _____ |
| 9 gfro |  | _____ |
| 10 ilasn |  | _____ |

Reading B1 Preliminary

- 3 Choose the best answer, A, B, C or D to complete the text about the story.

Destination Karminia is a story about a young professor called Sonia Peng (1) _____ wants (2) _____ the lost city of Karminia. It is said to be situated at the (3) _____ of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain (4) _____ Scotland. She needs help and asks three students to (5) _____ her on the expedition. The students are all (6) _____ keen and can't wait to start this exciting adventure.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | A speaks | B says | C makes | D is |
| 1 | A who | B whose | C she | D which |
| 2 | A find | B to find | C finding | D found |
| 3 | A back | B bottom | C top | D side |
| 4 | A to | B on | C at | D in |
| 5 | A meet | B keep | C join | D carry |
| 6 | A a lot | B very | C much | D many |

Writing

- 4 Complete the sentences with the correct adjective.

bumpy tired sleepy dirty excited hungry

- I am so excited about going on the safari!
- 1 Our car was extremely _____ after we had driven through the muddy field.
 - 2 The road is very _____ because it's full of holes.
 - 3 She felt really _____ because she'd woken up very early.
 - 4 After visiting five countries in ten days, we were really _____.
 - 5 I'm so _____. I could eat a massive pizza!

An Unexpected Email

- 2 It's a grey, rainy day in York. Simon is at home with his friend, Jasmine, who's searching online. Simon is looking worriedly out of the window, waiting for their friend, Stella, to arrive.

Simon and Jasmine are waiting for their friend, Stella, to arrive to work on a research project for school. Simon isn't doing too well at school. He'd like to study archaeology.

'She isn't here yet and we have to work on a research project for school. This time I have to get a very good mark! It's really important that I keep up my average¹,' says Simon.

'But you don't have an average to keep up!' Jasmine disagrees².

'It's not my fault: not all my subjects are interesting! My favourite subject is archaeology³ and I'd like to study it at school. I can ask the head⁴ to organise afternoon classes in archaeology.'

¹ **average** the result you get when you add all the marks up and divide by the number of subjects

² **disagree** have a different opinion from someone

³ **archaeology** the study of human history through buildings and objects found under the ground in ancient sites

⁴ **head** the person in charge of a school

Destination Karminia

Finally the doorbell rings. Simon gets up and goes to open the door. It's Stella. She's covered in mud¹ and dripping wet² from head to toe. She looks pleased with herself.

'Exactly twenty-eight minutes! Not bad for a beginner!' She shows them her her greasy³, filthy⁴ hands.

'I got a a puncture⁵ in my scooter tyre⁶ near Clifton's Tower. It took me twenty-eight minutes to change it. Don't you think I'm brilliant?' asks Stella.

'Well ... maybe with a bit of practice you could do better, couldn't you, Jasmine?' replies Simon.

'Not now,' says Jasmine, busy looking at to her computer screen. 'I've just received a very strange email. Listen to this: WANTED: archaeology enthusiasts online. Are you ready to leave immediately? Destination: Karminia. If you want to find out more, go to www.karminia.co.uk.'

Stella is late because she had to change the tyre on her scooter. But Jasmine is more interested in the email she gets about Karminia.

¹ **mud** 

² **dripping wet** very wet with water falling on the floor

³ **greasy** oily from the scooter

⁴ **filthy** very dirty

⁵ **puncture** a hole in a tyre

⁶ **tyre** black part of a wheel

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Sonia Peng, a professor of archaeology, is looking for assistants to find Karminia, an ancient city that disappeared centuries ago. The three friends are really interested and Jasmine suggests visiting Sonia.

After a quick search online, Jasmine finds the site mentioned in the email.

‘Here we are! This is in the email. It belongs to Sonia Peng, an archaeology professor at the University of York. She’s very young to be a university lecturer,’ says Jasmine ‘It says here that Professor Peng has found an ancient map in a library. It contains very important information needed to find Karminia, the red-roofed¹ city... Karminia and its wonderful paintings and statues disappeared several centuries ago because of an earthquake². Professor Peng is urgently looking for assistants who are interested in archaeology. Destination: Karminia!’ says Jasmine.

‘Reply immediately then! It sounds really interesting!’ exclaims³ Simon.

‘Look, here’s her address. I’ll reply and then... why don’t we go and see her?’ suggests Jasmine.

¹ **red-roofed** with red roofs

² **earthquake** a sudden dramatic movement of the earth’s surface

³ **exclaim** shout excitedly



Jasmine, at the computer, and Simon and Stella are looking at the Destination Karminia site.



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The others think it's a great idea and go to the address given on the site straight away.

'Here it is: 14 Low Ousegate!' says Simon 'Let's hope she's in.'

'Well, here's the doorbell,' says Stella.

Ding dong!

The professor is really friendly and Simon and his friends are really keen on becoming her assistants in the search for Karminia.

'Hello, we're looking for Professor ...' says Simon as a woman appears on the doorstep.

'Hello, I'm Professor Peng. I bet¹ you're Jasmine, Simon and Stella,' she says smiling and introducing herself to the group, 'I've just read your email! Come on in!'

'We replied immediately because it just seemed too good to be true!' says Simon.

'I'm sure I've found the right place to begin my search and finally uncover Karminia! I have all the information and now all I have to do is find some keen assistants.'

'Well, that's what we're here for!' replies Simon.

¹ I bet I'm sure

Destination Karminia

‘You certainly are enthusiastic¹, aren’t you? Why don’t we have some tea? Then I can give you all the details,’ adds Sonia.

Meanwhile, the message Sonia sent out to attract interested archaeology enthusiasts, also got to Philip Cummins’ computer. Cummins, a greedy² businessperson with no interest in archaeology, is extremely keen on making money, at all costs!

Philip Cummins, a greedy businessperson, also reads Sonia’s email. He’s only interested in finding Karminia so he can make money out of it.

‘Look here, this seems interesting! A wonderful archaeological find... these things always interest people and where there are a lot of people, there’s always a way of making a lot of money! Ha ha!’ chuckles³ Philip, ‘I want to meet Professor Peng.’

Meanwhile, at Sonia’s, our friends forget to drink their tea because they’re so interested in the history of Karminia.

‘And that’s it!’ says Sonia. ‘I’ve told you all there is to know about Karminia. Now all you have to do is decide whether you want to help find the ruins!’

¹ **enthusiastic** (n. enthusiast, enthusiasm) very keen on

² **greedy** when you want more than you need

³ **chuckle** laugh quietly to yourself

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‘Wow!’ exclaims Stella, who’s speechless¹ after listening to the story.

‘When do we leave?’ asks Simon, carried away² with enthusiasm.

‘It’s a very interesting project, but are you sure we can help you?’ asks Jasmine.

‘Yes, you could be a great help to me. But what about school?’ asks Sonia.

‘We’re on holiday for a week, starting tomorrow’, answers Simon.

‘That’s settled³ then. A week is more than enough to carry out our search. I think five days will be enough!’ says Sonia, ‘We’ll head for⁴ our destination tomorrow.’

Simon, Stella and Jasmine decide to help Sonia find the ruins of Karminia. They’re on holiday for a week so there’s no problem with school and Sonia thinks they can manage to do everything in five days.

Think

What kind of projects do you do with your classmates at school?

¹ **speechless** when you’re so surprised or excited that you can’t think of anything to say

² **carried away** very excited

³ **that’s settled** that’s decided

⁴ **head for** go to



Sonia shows the three friends a map and all the information she has about Karminia. They can’t wait to start the search.



Speaking

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Skills

1 In Chapter 1, we find out some things about Simon, Jasmine and Stella. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- 1 Do you do your homework with your friends, like them?
- 2 Do you get good marks at school or are you a bit like Simon?
- 3 Simon would like to study archaeology.
Which subject would you like to learn about?
- 4 Stella has a scooter. What about you?
How do you get to school?
- 5 Jasmine looks for Sonia's website online. What do you go online for?
- 6 What do you do when you have a week's holiday from school?



Grammar

2 Complete the sentences with the correct phrasal verbs.

keep up ~~look for~~ find out carry out head for

The three friends are going on an expedition to look for the lost city of Karminia.

- 1 I must _____ my average!
- 2 To _____ more about Karminia, you can visit the website.
- 3 The three friends and Professor Peng are going to _____ their destination the following day.
- 4 Professor Peng thinks they'll only need a week to _____ their search.

Writing B1 Preliminary

- 3** Read Professor Peng's email and the notes that Jasmine has made. Imagine you're Jasmine and use all your notes to write your answer to the email

Introduce myself and say why I love archaeology.

When leave?

New message

To: Archaeology Enthusiasts.

Subject: WANTED: archaeology enthusiasts online.

Are you ready to leave immediately?

Destination: Karminia.

If you want to find out more, go to www.karminia.co.uk

Hope to hear from lots of you soon!

Professor Sonia Peng

SEND

yes, - no school for a week.

Great site because

Write about 100 words.

Before-reading Activity

Reading and Listening

- 4 A** Tick (✓) the things you think will happen in Chapter 2.

- 1 They'll have an argument.
- 2 One of them will have an accident.
- 3 They'll leave early in the morning.
- 4 They'll lose their backpacks.
- 5 They'll become famous.
- 6 Philip Cummins will steal the map.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

- 3** **4 B** Now listen to the beginning of Chapter 2 and check your answers.