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**Tommy Tales feature the lovable rascal
Tommy Tomkins and his friends.**

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BOOK 11



Tommy Goes to the Caribbean



Tommy Tales



Tommy and his friends were on a beach on the island of Mumbles, in the Caribbean Sea. Their little robot friend, RK-5, had transported them there.

They were startled by a large, green parrot that suddenly flew out of the bushes behind them.

"That's strange," said Tommy. "I thought I heard that parrot say 'I must tell the captain.' I'm going to see where it's going. I'll follow the parrot with my binoculars."

Tommy ran to the top of a sand dune to see where the parrot had gone. When he reached the top, he looked through his binoculars. He shouted, "Oh, no! RK-5 has done it again!"

"What's happened?" asked Andy.

"RK-5 has brought us to the Caribbean Sea, but he has also taken us back in time. There's an old pirate ship down there. It's flying a skull and crossbones flag."





"Let's go and find the treasure, before the pirates find us," said Kim.

They studied the map. They decided to first go over the sand dunes behind Oxwich Bay. Then they'd head for Alligator Beach. Next, they'd go past Palm Tree Forest. Finally, they'd go around Raven Hill to the place where the cross was marked on the map.

The group set off up the sand dunes.

From the top of the sand dunes, they could see Alligator Beach in the distance. It did not take them long to get to the bottom of the dunes. They slid and tumbled down the soft sand.



They were happily walking along the edge of Palm Tree Forest. Suddenly, the green parrot flew from the trees. It was screeching, "Rascals! Rascals!"

Then they heard a deep voice behind them. "What are you urchins doing on my island?"



They turned and saw the most frightening sight they had ever seen. In front of them was a huge man with a long, black beard. He wore a long, dark blue coat and a big hat. The parrot flew onto his shoulder.

"Toby, my parrot here, told me that some fancy little ladies and gentlemen had sneaked onto my island," he said.

Two more pirates walked out from the forest. "What shall we do with them, Captain Blackbeard?" asked one of the pirates.

"Tie them up and put them with the other two ragamuffins. They look strong and healthy. I should get a good price for them in Port o' Prince."

"Aye! Aye! Captain," said the pirate.

The five little friends were so scared, they were speechless. Bongo was watching from the top of a palm tree and Taffy was hiding behind some bushes.



The pirates tied the hands of the children and made them follow Blackbeard through Palm Tree Forest. When they arrived back at the shore, they saw two other children in the small rowboat. Their hands were also tied.

The five scared friends were pushed into the boat. Sam and Tommy sat next to the boy and girl. The girl, who was the older of the two, whispered to Sam. "I'm Lily Slade. This is my brother, Jack. My father and older brother are camped at Smugglers Cove."

"Quiet, you," yelled Blackbeard, "or I'll feed you to the sharks!"



The rowboat reached Blackbeard's ship and they were soon on its deck. It was then that Blackbeard saw Sam's medallion shining in the sun.

"Where did you get this?" roared the pirate captain.

"F . . f . . from Mmmm," stammered Sam. She was trying to say "from Mrs. Thatch," but Blackbeard thought she said "from Mom."



"Ahrrr! So we are family, little lady! My name is Edward Thatch. All Thatch children are given these medallions when they reach their first birthday," said Blackbeard. "I can't sell my own kin. Take her back to the beach, Perkins, and let her go."

Nobody noticed Lucy slip the map into Sam's hand as she passed by. Perkins then rowed ashore with Sam.

A short, fat pirate made the other children follow him down some stairs. He then pushed them into a small, dark cabin and locked the door.



Perkins left Sam at Morgan's Landing and rowed back to the ship. Sam knew she had to find Smugglers Cove. Mr. Slade, Lily's dad, was camped there. She looked at the map, but Smugglers Cove was not marked.

"It must be on the missing half," she thought. "So I have to walk east."

Just then, she heard a noise behind her. Fearing the worst, she turned around. She saw Bongo and Taffy running towards her.



She felt less lonely now that Bongo and Taffy were with her. They set off walking east. After they had been walking for an hour, Sam saw some smoke rising in the distance.

"That could be coming from Mr. Slade's camp," said Sam. "But it could also be a pirate camp. I had better be very careful."

Within thirty minutes, she arrived at the camp. She peered through some bushes. She was happy to see a man and a boy. The boy was about twelve years old. "This must be Smugglers Cove," she thought.



Sam ran into the camp yelling, "Help! Lily and Jack and all my friends have been captured by Blackbeard the Pirate!"



Mr. Slade and his son Billy were surprised to see this strangely dressed little girl run into their camp. They were very worried about Lily and Jack, so they listened to Sam's story.



Mr. Slade explained to Sam that he had found the other half of the map. Lily and Jack had gone out early that morning with the map to look for the treasure. The treasure belonged to the Slade family. Blackbeard had stolen it from them the year before.

"The first thing we must do," said Mr. Slade, "is to rescue all the children. Then, as we have your half of the map, we can recover the treasure. I have a plan. We'll need to wait until it gets dark, so try to get some sleep."

TO BE CONTINUED IN BOOK 12