



# Contents

Meet the Author	6
Before Reading	7

1 My father	13
2 My mother	16
3 The police station	21
4 Archaeology police	25
5 The British Embassy	30
6 Nat	34
7 Starting the search	38
8 The taxi driver	45
9 The British School	46
10 Out of Athens	49
11 The password	52
12 The caves	58
13 The men	64
14 The cliff	66
15 Dad	70

After Reading	73
---------------	----

with  
**NEW ACTIVITIES**



# BEFORE READING



1 *Danger in the Sun* is set in Athens and on the island of Crete. How much do you know about Athens and Crete? Do the quiz, then listen and check.



1 Who was the city of Athens named after?  
a  a king      b  a goddess      c  a queen

2 When were the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens?  
a  1796      b  1896      c  1996

3 What is the Parthenon?  
a  a castle      b  a park      c  a temple

4 When was it built?  
a  447–438 BC      b  1430–1440 AD      c  1110–1000 BC

5 What is the Acropolis?  
a  a castle in Athens      b  a city on a hill      c  a bridge in Athens

6 What is the capital city of Crete?  
a  Melissa      b  Athens      c  Heraklion

7 Which is the largest Greek island?  
a  Rhodes      b  Crete      c  Corfu

2 Choose one of the following subjects. Find out more about it. Then give a presentation to the class.

- The Acropolis
- The origins of the Olympic Games
- Athena
- The Parthenon

## BEFORE READING



### 1 Match each word to its definition.

a <input type="checkbox"/>	vines	1	high rock face often over the sea
b <input type="checkbox"/>	rundown	2	small rivers
c <input type="checkbox"/>	ravines	3	part of the coast where the land curves inwards
d <input type="checkbox"/>	islands	4	in bad condition
e <input type="checkbox"/>	bay	5	small green and black fruit that produces oil
f <input type="checkbox"/>	olive	6	plants that produce grapes
g <input type="checkbox"/>	cliff	7	deep narrow valleys with steep sides
h <input type="checkbox"/>	streams	8	pieces of land surrounded by water

### 2 Use the words from Exercise 1 to complete the description of Crete.

Crete is not what I expected. It's not like other (a) ..... . It's bigger, for one thing, and it keeps changing. The house in Panormou is on a steep (b) ..... above a tiny (c) ..... where the sea is deep green, but in other places there are just long beaches and the sea is an incredibly deep blue. As we drive south, it changes. There are little villages and deep (d) ..... with racing (e) ..... that remind me of home, and then miles of rocky mountainside that looks like the surface of the moon. We're driving through a valley of (f) grape ..... and (g) ..... trees and a scattering of (h) ..... houses, when I see a familiar face.

### 3 Now find a picture of this place in the book.



# 1 My father

 This is the fantasy\*. I am in Athens with my father. Where? Maybe the Parthenon. Yes, I am standing in the middle of the Acropolis with my father. OK, I know you're not allowed to stand there, because they are repairing\* it. This is my fantasy, OK? So, I'm there, and although I've seen it a thousand times on posters and postcards, it seems quite different. It is the same, but not exactly the same. I love the place, and how old it is, and suddenly, I understand why my father is an archaeologist. Then he looks at me, and he sees all of this in my expression, and I know he is really happy. I know that this is what he has always wanted—to share\* his passion for Greece with his son.

‘I guess you’ve been up here hundreds of times,’ I say.

‘Maybe dozens\*,’ he replies. ‘In the old days, it was free entry on Sundays and evenings when there was a full moon. We often came up here with a bottle of wine, and we drank and toasted\* the glories\* of Ancient Greece.’

‘In the old days?’ I joke.

‘Yeah,’ he says. ‘When dinosaurs walked the earth.’ It is our joke. We have jokes. We do things together.

I have many fantasies about my father, Alexander Wyatt. This is one of them.

- **dozens:** (here) many times
- **fantasy:** dream
- **glories:** great successes
- **repairing:** fixing
- **share:** enjoy with another person
- **toasted:** raised their glasses and honoured someone or something

I have not seen my father for five years. I was ten when he left home. But here I am at Athens airport and, finally, after all this time, we are going to have a holiday together. We will visit the Acropolis, and he'll show me amazing things, and we will have jokes together. Except...

Except I am here at Athens airport, and he isn't. He isn't here to meet me, and I don't know why.

## Waiting

Why do you think Mr Wyatt is not there to meet his son?

Have you ever waited for someone who arrived very late or didn't turn up\*?

How did you feel?

What did you do?

I take out the last email he sent me. "I am so pleased you're coming here at last. I'll be at the airport to meet you at 14:20." But now, it is 15:30, and I'm standing in a crowd of people with cards saying "Mr Jones" and "Olympic Hotel" and I decide that I don't want to spend my holiday hanging around\* Athens airport with a lot of strangers. What I want is my dad, and just like every other time in my life when I've wanted him, he's not here, and I feel really angry and fed up\*.

- **fed up:** annoyed
- **hanging around:** waiting in; staying somewhere without doing anything
- **turn up:** arrive for an appointment

When I was ten, and I wanted him, I used to tell myself stories. But I'm not ten any more, and I am not in the mood<sup>•</sup> for stories. I am going to find my father, and I'm going to tell him that when his only son comes to visit after five years, he needs a very good excuse when he doesn't turn up. A very, very good excuse.

Then I act. I go to the information desk, where a pretty, dark-haired girl smiles at me, and says that she is sorry that my father is not there. She then says quite sharply<sup>•</sup> over the loudspeaker<sup>•</sup>, 'Alexander Wyatt must come immediately to Information, where his son Jake is waiting!' And when he does not come, she looks worried and asks if I am OK.

I tell her that I'm fine, and that I'll go to the hotel and wait for him there. So she smiles again and says that the traffic in Athens is terrible, and he must be delayed<sup>•</sup>.

I change some money, and I get the metro to Syntagma Square, which is where the Parliament is, and also (as the nice girl at the information desk showed me) two minutes' walk from my hotel. According to my father, the best thing about the hotel is the view of the Acropolis from the roof. When I get there, I find that my father does have a room for us, and that he has talked to the receptionist about my arrival, and that he is happy that I am finally coming to Greece.

'I do not understand why he was not at the airport,' the receptionist says, and looks worried. 'He left here three hours ago because he did not want to be late.'

- **delayed:** stopped from arriving in time
- **I'm not in the mood:** I don't feel like; I don't want

- **loudspeaker:** piece of equipment that makes sounds louder
- **sharply:** in a determined and direct way

## 2 My mother

 The receptionist gives me the key to our room, and I go upstairs. When I go in, I find a small case, and some clothes that must belong to the man that I call my father. But I don't know, because I haven't seen him for five years.

I feel as if I am in the room of a stranger. What makes me really angry is that I can hear my mother's voice in my head, and she is saying, *You see, Jake, I was right. Your father doesn't care about you. You can't rely on\* him.* But I don't want to believe her. I want to believe that my father does care, but something unexpected has happened. So I tell myself if I go for a swim in the pool on the roof, then he will arrive, and we'll go and visit the Acropolis, and joke together like a father and a son.

So I go for a swim, and there is a great view of the Acropolis, which does look like a postcard, and different at the same time. But my father does not arrive. I ring his mobile phone again (and again and again), but it is not switched on\*. Why? It doesn't make sense. I know my father wants to see me. Or is this all some terrible way of getting back at\* my mother? No. That can't be it. My mother would be really happy to prove that my father was unreliable.

The reason I am here now is because after four years and ten months, I discovered that every time my mother said, 'Your father isn't interested in you,' she was lying. I discovered this on my birthday, when I woke up early and was the first to get to the post.

- **getting back at:** hurting someone for what they did in the past; taking revenge on

- **rely on:** trust
- **switched on:** turned on; with the power on



Lying on the hall carpet was a letter from my father. That's the same letter that I am reading now, as I sit in a hotel in the middle of Athens, and look at the linen<sup>\*</sup> jacket in the wardrobe and think: *That's my father's jacket. He wears linen jackets.*

The letter says—I can tell you without reading it because I've read it so many times:

Dear Jake,

Happy birthday. Fifteen. I imagine you must be almost as tall as I am now, yet I still see you in my mind as the small boy in corduroy<sup>\*</sup> trousers that I last saw so many years ago. And I suppose<sup>\*</sup> you still don't want to hear from me, as your mother says in her letters, but I'm going to write to you again, just as I always do on your birthday and at Christmas because you are my son, and I love you very much and miss you. I hope that one day you will be able to forgive<sup>\*</sup> me, and we will meet up again. And maybe I can show you a little bit of Greece, and we can begin to discover each other. So I hope that this year you won't send this letter back to me unread<sup>\*</sup>...

- **corduroy:** heavy soft cotton material cut in lines
- **forgive:** pardon

- **linen:** light natural cloth
- **suppose:** imagine
- **unread:** without reading it



And it was at this point that I started to shout at my mother, and ask her what she had done and how could she have done it? And we had a huge row<sup>•</sup> which went on<sup>•</sup> for days. And my mother cried and said I didn't understand, and I told her that *she* didn't understand. My father wrote to me every year, and I didn't know. I still can't forgive her. It was not as if my father was a criminal. He was an archaeologist who had an affair<sup>•</sup> with another young archaeologist, and my mother found out and threw him out of the house. And she told him that he was never going to see me again. As if I was just something to use in a row. As if I didn't have feelings or wants. As if growing up thinking your father didn't care was OK. Which it wasn't.

- **had an affair:** had a romantic relationship with someone who is not his wife

- **row:** fight; argument
- **went on:** continued

## Secrets

Jake's mother keeps his father's letters a secret from him.

Why do you think she does this?  
Have you ever kept a secret from someone?

Why did you decide to do this?

 Choose one of the following secrets, and research it in small groups.

- The location of Genghis Khan's tomb
- The Bermuda Triangle
- Banksy's identity

Present your findings to the class.

After the rows, I phoned my father, and we had an amazing long talk. Then we emailed each other, and he invited me to come to Greece for the summer. My mother was so angry she could hardly speak to me. So she decided to spend the summer at some yoga place in Scotland, where she could find herself. Or that was what she said.

And so, here I am in Greece at last. But I'm still without my father. And I have no idea where my mother is. I don't think she gave me the name of the yoga place, though I do remember she said it was very peaceful, and it didn't even have a phone. And it is now about eight in the evening, and I still don't know what has happened to my father.

**NEW**

## AFTER READING

### VOCABULARY

#### 1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

bothering cave clearing concerned drop  
faded spare sprain

- a Jake was sensible enough to take some ropes, torches, and ..... batteries.
- b Nat fell and hurt herself, but she said it was just a .....
- c 'This thing keeps ..... me,' says Nat. 'We've got to do something!'
- d Spiro looked genuinely ..... that Jake's dad was missing.
- e They followed a path and found themselves in a .....

#### 2 Write three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

#### 3 Unscramble the following words with the help of their meaning.

a sodnez	.....	a large number (multiples of twelve)
b cntsyuaar	.....	a nature reserve; or (here) a safe place
c wunornd	.....	in poor condition
d gmsleug	.....	take things in or out of a country illegally
e heiddelgt	.....	more than happy
f pcasoms	.....	device for finding directions (North, etc.)
g ifvoger	.....	stop being resentful towards someone
h ubrmlce	.....	break into small pieces

#### 4 Complete the sentences with the words from Exercise 3.

- a Jake managed to climb down the rock face without proper equipment because the rock was hard and dry, and it didn't ..... .

## AFTER READING

### CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMS

#### **P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5**

**1 For each sentence, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).**

- 1 Susie suggested they go to the top of Lykavvitos, to enjoy the ..... .  
A view      B sight      C seeing      D look
- 2 When they reached the edge at the top, they realized why the men didn't need to fence the top of the farm. It was a sheer ..... down the other side.  
A high      B drive      C drunk      D drop
- 3 When he was outside the British School, Spiro noticed a black car parked ..... .  
A around      B across      C opposite      D along
- 4 Jake's mother thought that Jake's father was ..... .  
A unlikely      B unreliable      C understandable      D unexpected
- 5 How do you ..... a kidnapper know that you have discovered him?  
A make      B try      C let      D get
- 6 One of the cupboards in the room ..... a bottle of tiny pieces of pottery.  
A contains      B includes      C involves      D finds
- 7 The kitchen is where the family can come to ..... they don't live in an embassy.  
A forget      B pretend      C show      D communicate
- 8 To climb down the cliff without a rope, Jake needed Nat to ..... herself into his back as much as she could.  
A flatten      B lay      C crumble      D tight
- 9 Jake takes the torch, and together they ..... their way inside the cave.  
A have      B go      C get      D make
- 10 We see the earth paintings one final time, ..... they are photographed and closed behind glass.  
A until      B before      C after      D during