

Recapitulation:

The bush children found a bushranger's secret map containing mystery clues in the form of a rhyme. They solved the first clue, but while they were working on the next, Crafty Carson Carpetbag and Old Man Redback were lying in wait to pounce on them. They did not realise the danger they were in. And they were a long way from the protection of their faithful friend -

(singing) The Flying Dogtor

Colin Kanga pointed to the rhyme on the map again and read:

COLIN: "Forty paces after breakfast (that's where we are now)

Stop where waters meet (that means a junction of two rivers)

Join at tea the saplings three (I can't understand that yet)

Dig for seven feet. (That means the treasure is buried seven feet down)"

Then they all began talking excitedly.

(DIFFERENT WORDS)

"All we have to find is a meeting of two rivers."

"And three saplings having tea..."

"What's saplings?"

"They're baby trees, stupid."

"How can saplings have tea?"

"I don't know, but let's look around."

So the bush children started hunting about for a sight of two rivers or three saplings.

They were so engrossed in the search, thinking of nothing else, that they did not notice the shadows getting longer and the light fading around them.

But suddenly Colin stubbed his toe on a stone he had not seen, and he realised that the sun was nearly down. He called the others together. "We'll have to leave the search till tomorrow," he said. "It's getting dark. Let's go home."

MENACE MUSIC, UNDER

Crafty Carson Carpetbag, watching from behind a rock, hissed: "Let'sss not let them go home. Let'sss pounce on them now. I'll scare them; you ssting 'em."

Now Old Man Redback agreed, and quickly planned an attack.

"you ~~gatkrixafxthm~~ scare them" said Old Man Redback "and I'll get the map."

MENACE MUSIC UP, THEN UNDER

So the bush children plodded home, not knowing they were overlooked or in danger. Colin folded the map and put it in his pocket.

They climbed the big hill, and soon they were almost at the top, near the ridge from which they would see Granny Goann's homestead. The path was narrow here. Thick gorse bushes, bristling with prickles, lined both sides without a gap. Then suddenly...

MENACE MUSIC UP and loud "HISS-S-S"

"Hiss-s-s." It was Crafty, rearing to his full, fearful snakey height, colling and curling across the path ahead of them!

The bush children fell back, tumbling over each other. Colin Kanga, who had been at the rear, was backed into by three or four others, and they all fell in a heap.

The map came out of Colin's pocket and rolled into the dust at the side of the track.

The children scrambled to their feet and backed further down the path. They were too busy looking at the awful waving figure of Crafty in front of them to notice the treasure map being dragged into the bushes by a cord of spiders web...

DOGTOR MUSIC

That evening far away across the hills, a light was showing in the Hilltop Hospital. It was the Flying Dogtor, working late in his laboratory. Now the radio on his desk crackled and Granny Goanna's voice spoke:

GRANNY: "Calling Flying Dogtor."

The Dogtor answered and Granny Goanna asked him if he knew what had happened to the children.. They had not returned from their walk to Mangrove Mansion. The Dogtor was alarmed. He explained that they were safe when he left them in the middle of the afternoon. "I'll come at once," he said.

MENACE MUSIC

But back on the hillside track it was almost dark. And all the children could see clearly were the glittering eyes of Crafty...coming closer.

VOICE OVER END TITLE:

Will the Flying Dogtor arrive in time to help the bush children? And is the mystery treasure map lost forever?

See the next exciting episode of
(singing) The Flying Dogtor