

Julian Charter School

**Cami and the Cliffside Cave**

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The crashing waves, high cliffs, and calling seagulls flying overhead. Cami just loved the beach. It was summer vacation and her, her Mom, Dad, and older sister Tasha were staying at the Cliffside Hotel. Cami didn't want to miss a second of the beach, even if she couldn't go alone and her older sister had to 'babysit' her. Besides, it seemed as if Tasha weren't even there, sitting on a beach towel texting her 'BFFs' back home.

While playing in the sand, Cami thought about the stories she had heard. Apparently, archaeologists had discovered 4-foot-wide clay pots from ancient times in caves among the cliffs. Cami turned to her sister. "Can I go for a walk?" she asked. "Mmm-hmm," was the short reply Tasha gave without even glancing up from her phone. So, off Cami went, scanning the cliffs anxiously as she walked. She was searching so intently that she nearly jumped out of her skin when she heard a pelican!

Finally, after walking for half an hour, she spotted what looked like the entrance to a cave about eight feet off of the ground. Cami quickened her pace, first to a jog, and then a run. Had she discovered something? As she came closer, she could see that, sure enough, it was a cave. Her heart was pounding. What was in that cave? She was so curious, and determined to find out.

As Cami walked over to the stone wall, she noticed that there were plenty of nooks and edges. "Maybe I can climb up," she thought. So, she kicked off her flip flops, and put her curly, caramel colored hair back. Slowly and carefully she climbed, wisely checking each edge before pulling on it.

All of a sudden, the edge under her foot gave way! "Ahhh!" she screamed. Luckily, Cami was able to catch herself. When she looked down at her knee, however, it was bleeding. It stung too, for she had scraped it on a sharp rock. Cami was brave though, always trying to prove how intrepid she was. "I can't turn back now," she thought, "not when I'm this close." So, she kept on climbing. Finally, she reached the top.

As she pulled herself up, Cami looked around. It was much cooler inside the cave. She felt like she was in a hollow cucumber! That wasn't what drew her attention, though. It was the paintings and ancient writing that covered the cave walls. Cami was mesmerized. She ran her hand gently along one wall, feeling magic inside as her fingers passed over one picture after another. When she reached the back of the cave, about twelve feet from the entrance, she noticed what looked like a piece of pottery in the corner. She carefully pulled away some dirt to reveal more of the pottery.

"Maybe this is part of a huge clay pot that was carried into the cave by people thousands of years ago!" Cami thought excitedly. She knew that the cave was an

archaeologist's treasure trove. She just couldn't wait to tell everyone that she had made an archaeological find! Maybe she would even become famous! Cami knew that didn't matter though. All that truly mattered was that she would have this inspirational memory forever.