

The red caves

The sun rises over the crystal waves and lights up the path to the caves. He thinks of the warning of the elders in the village. "Whoever enters the red caves has seen the sun for the last time." He knows, but his thirst for discovery guides him. Walking into the caves, he remembers his childhood and loses his way. He reaches a dead end. He takes the first path, the creepiest. It's almost 2 and according to the legend, "Anyone who is in the caves at 3 will disappear." It's all so very quiet. After a while he feels wet. He directs his torch to a red river. He is terrified. It looks like the blood of millions. He doesn't know what to do. This river flows from a blood waterfall pouring out of a temple full of sculptures, avatars and ancient paintings. He must preserve this wondrous sight but every time he takes a snapshot the artworks disappear. The prophecy gives him half an hour; he must be quick. He needs to know what's happening. He tries to move on but falls through a crack where he sees an inscription. "Those who try to bring our culture to light will disappear. Leave now. We must protect our home. We are still alive." He is scared but thrilled. Who is alive? What creatures have found shelter here?

It's almost 3; the cave is turning into a maze. He's always been good with mazes so he escapes. He needs to tell his story, but without pictures no one will believe him. In those caves there is life. He must find out more.

What will he do now?