



Chapter Six - by Kay Hively

Sheriff Martin was sure the two robbers had been living in the cave where Emily and her friends had become lost. He hoped that he and his posse could trap the men in the cave and then arrest them and recover the money.

Emily watched as the last man in the posse entered the cave. As the posse started down the winding paths of the cave, the light from their torches disappeared. For a few more seconds, Emily could hear the men talking, then the sound of their voices faded away. Now, there was no sound except the chirping of birds and the lap of the water on the river below. The world seemed very peaceful and quiet.

Quietly Emily rose from behind the big rock, looking for a more comfortable place to sit. As she stood up, Emily saw movement nearby. Quickly she ducked back down behind the rock and peered over the top. That's when she saw the man with the bushy black beard. Not far behind him was the man in the green plaid shirt. Emily stood still and watched. This time she was not afraid. She thought it was exciting to be chasing bank robbers.

Emily followed the two men with her eyes. As quietly as they could, the men made their way past the front of the cave. Then they began running down the steep bluff that rose up over the river. By moving a bit to one side, Emily could see the two men running and falling down the bluff. When they finally landed at the bottom of the cliff, they dived right into the river.

Knowing the men were gone, Emily ran to the edge of the bluff to see what would happen. Down in the river she could see the two robbers making their way to a big raft that was loaded with lumber. Both men made the swim safely and pulled themselves up on the raft just as it floated out of Emily's sight.

Turning back toward the cave, Emily heard voices. Sheriff Martin and his posse came out of the cave. The sheriff was carrying a canvas bag filled with money. He told Emily the stolen money had been found, but the robbers were gone.

Sheriff Martin thanked Emily for leading him to the cave. He said she was a big help in getting the money back. He also said they would keep looking for the robbers to keep them from running off down river.

Emily said nothing about the two men who had fled on the raft. Instead she just started walking back to town with the sheriff and his posse following behind. Emily smiled broadly as she walked.

Since all the money was found and no one was hurt, she decided not to tell where the robbers had gone. After all, she did owe them a favor, and they had brought some excitement to the village – at least for one day.



*Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri.
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Things to Think About and Do

- Look at several newspapers and find stories about criminals being arrested. Find a story about someone being arrested for stealing money.
- The two bank robbers got on board a raft that was going down the river. The raft was loaded with lumber. Why do you think a raft would bring lumber down the Mississippi? Where do you think the raft was going and why?

STANDARDS: G1:2; G1:5; G3:5; CA:3; S:8; SS:4

Next Week: Chapter Seven – Back from Memphis