

THE DANGEROUS NEW WORLD



MAULIA SELVARAJAN

A DANGEROUS NEW WORLD

By

Maulia Selvarajah

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PREFACE

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I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce Maulia Selvarajah's book. I received my copy on an historic day for Maulia Selvarajah and two of her other colleagues who were invited to tea by Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife, at number 10 Downing Street. Maulia also presented a copy of her book to both Cherie Blair and unexpected visitor to the party, the Prime Minister himself, Tony Blair. Cherie Blair promised to pass the book to her children, in order that they too could enjoy Maulia's writings.

I read Maulia's book with delight and enjoyed it so much that I passed it on to my nephew, Killian, who I know has enjoyed it equally as much as I did. Maulia has shown great initiative and imagination in writing this book and getting it printed in this way. I am sure that this shows signs of a budding successful author and I am glad I have Maulia's signature now before she becomes too famous!

I hope all readers will enjoy Maulia's book as much as I have and I am sure that Tony Blair's children will too!

Best Wishes.

Margaret Moran, MP for Luton South.

INTRODUCTION

HARTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL Brooms Road, Luton LU2 OJP

Head Master
D.J.Pymont.

Maulia has at all times proved to be a most conscientious and enthusiastic pupil, who has succeeded in all areas of school life. It is always a joy to teach a child who doesn't merely do the work, but is genuinely enthused by it. Her positive attitude, which began in the class room has now developed well beyond it.

She is a responsible prefect and library monitor and she can be relied upon to complete her duties about the school. Maulia also participates in the school social life and is an active member of badminton, music and guitar clubs.

A combination of good teaching, a most supportive family and a willing pupil in Maulia has enabled us to exceed our high expectations of her. Maulia is a wonderful example of a pupil, who has achieved great all-round success as a result of the close partnership of the child, the home and the school.

In conclusion, Maulia is a good citizen, a model pupil, and we are all proud of her great achievements. We wish her continued success in her future.

David Pymont.

Contents

	Preface	
	Introduction	
Chapter		Page
One	New people	01
Two	Picnic	05
Three	The secret cave	10
Four	New Dimension	17
Five	We're trapped in this dimension	21
Six	Atusha's Story	26
Seven	Jacupp Becker	29
Eight	Captain Jacky	32
Nine	The war	35
Ten	The Magic Man	38
Eleven	Home sweet home	40
	About my book	
	Appendix	



It was the summer holidays. Anne Palm was moving in to a new house.

“Anne why don’t you take your bike and look around the area?” asked Mr Palm.

“OK” answered Anne and went outside to get her bike. Not before long Anne could see a little girl from a distance. The girl came to the road and stood there. Anne did not notice until the girl shouted “STOP!”.

Anne slammed the brakes on before she hurt the girl. “Can you help me please?” asked the girl. Anne said “First of all, tell me your name and what’s wrong?”

“My name is Caroline Lawrence and my little bike is stuck in the middle of that fence.”

“How did you get it stuck?” asked Anne.

“Well, I was riding my bike in the garden but I went too fast and crashed it into the fence.” replied Caroline.

“Ok. I’ll help you.” said Anne.

The dangerous new world

“Thank you very much” answered Caroline.

Anne told Caroline to go into the garden and hold the bike and she'd give it a push to see if it would come out. So Anne gave the bike a push but it did not seem to want to come out. Anne gave another push and another. Soon Anne got the bike out.

“Thank you very much,...um ...um”

“It's Anne”

“Oh thank you very much Anne. Do you want to go to the park with me?” asked Caroline.

“I'm not sure. Let's go back to my house and ask my parents.”replied Anne.

Caroline's house was not too far from Anne's. Anne and Caroline could see the removal van go.

“Hello mum” said Anne. “This is my friend Caroline.”

“Hello Caroline”said Mrs Palm.

“Hello Mrs Palm” said Caroline softly.

“Mum, can I go to the park with Caroline please?” asked Anne.

“Of course you can. But make sure you come back before six o'clock.” replied Anne's mum. Anne and Caroline rode their bikes toward the park.

Before long Caroline could see her friends.

“Come on Anne I want you to meet my friends” said Caroline. When they came near to Caroline's friends she introduced Anne to them. They were Jacky and Tommy.

“ Anne, this is my friend Tommy and his brother Jacky. Jacky, Tommy, this is my friend Anne.” said Caroline.

“ Hello Anne” shouted the boys.

“ Hello.” replied Anne softly.

Anne, Caroline, Jacky and Tommy began to play Tag. Anne was 'it'. She tried to get Jacky because he was the fastest. But when Anne got closer Caroline bumped into Jacky and they both fell down. Caroline fell into the grass. So she didn't get hurt that much. Jacky fell into some soil and hit his ankle on some thing. It sounded like someone had hit a piece of metal. The noise was so loud that everyone could hear. Tommy pulled Jacky up with the help of Anne.

"Did you hear that?" wondered Tommy.

"Yes, we did." said everyone.

But before another sentence could be said, Anne's watch beeped.

"It's six o'clock. I've got to go home before mum and dad get worried. I'll meet you lot tomorrow at four o'clock." Anne ran off to get her bike.

When Anne got home her father and her mother were furious.

"It's six o'clock young lady, and your mother told you to be back home before six o'clock. What have you been doing?" demanded Mr. Palm.

"John, calm down." said Mrs. Palm, trying to calm down her husband.

"Anne, go to your room and I don't want to see you till morning." shouted Mr. Palm.

Anne went to her room and fell on to her bed and began to sob.

"What shall I do Teddy? Daddy doesn't want me to

The dangerous new world

come out of my room.” Anne sobbed even more. She was hugging her teddy bear. Her tears fell on to the cuddly toy.

Anne could hear her mother talking in the kitchen. She stopped crying and began to listen to what her mother was talking about.

“ Anne and Caroline came to our house. Caroline’s mother is Mrs. Lawrence. She works with me.”

Then Mrs. Palm was interrupted by a telephone call.

“ Hello, who is this? Oh.. it’s Mrs Lawrence. Yes, of course. Four o’clock? Ok. Bye. See you tomorrow.”

“Who was that sweet heart?” asked Mr. Palm.

“That was Mrs. Lawrence. She says that they are going to have a picnic and want us to join, tomorrow dear.” replied Mrs. Palm.

“Alright then.” said Mr. Palm.

Mrs. Palm went upstairs to tell the good news to Anne.

“Hello dear, Are you still upset? Well I’ve got good news for you. Mrs Lawrence has invited us for a picnic tomorrow at four o’clock.” said Mrs. Palm cheerfully.

“I’m sorry Mummy for being late. I won’t do it again. I promise.” cried Anne. Then Anne gave a yawn.

“Good night Anne.” said Mrs. Palm and kissed her on the forehead and turned off the light.



It was around 3:30 in the afternoon and Anne was dressed. She was wearing her blue jeans, her red T shirt and her red jumper.

“Anne are you dressed yet?” asked her mother.

“Yes I am.” replied Anne.

Anne came downstairs and took her shoes to put on.

Anne sat down on a chair and quietly put her shoes on. She knew that her father would be angry, if she disturbed him when he was reading the newspaper.

“Oh, look Jane. They will soon be starting to make the new car park.” said Mr. Palm. “Isn’t that interesting?”

Anne by now had finished putting her shoes on and was waiting to go into the car.

“Shall we go now?” asked Mrs. Palm.

“Yes but where is the picnic going to be?” wondered Mr. Palm.

“It’s going to be in the Park dear.” replied Mrs. Palm.

The dangerous new world

They all went into the car. Anne wondered if her father was still angry after yesterday. On the way Anne spotted Miss Cran. She was their new next door neighbour. Miss Cran was always grumpy that's what Anne thought. But her mother thought that she was a kind woman.

"Stop the car John. There is Miss Cran."

"Hello there. Do you want a ride?" asked Mrs Palm.

"No." Shouted Miss Cran. She hurried off.

Mrs Palm could see Mrs Lawrence. They parked the car and went off to meet her. Anne ran to Caroline while her Mother and father took the food from their car.

They all sat down in a quiet place ready to eat. Anne wasn't hungry. So she and Caroline went off to play.

"Look I can see Jacky and Tommy. Let's go and play with them." shouted Anne.

"Ok." said Caroline.

They began to play racing tag. Anne did not know how to play. So Tommy explained to her.

"Say I am 'it'. I will run around and you all will chase me. But if I get to the end of the line, and you have not caught me then I will catch you all. If I catch one of you lot, then you are 'it'."

"Ok" said Anne.

Jacky was 'it'. They all began to chase him. No one could catch him. Jacky turned around and began to chase Tommy. It was easy for Jacky because he was the fastest runner. In no time Jacky had caught Tommy.

"Now it's your turn Tom." said Jacky.

He liked calling his little brother Tom. It was his nick name.

“Ok Jack.”replied Tommy.

Like Jacky, Tommy also liked to call his big brother Jack for it was a nick name for Jacky. Neither of the boys minded their nick names.

Half way through the game, Caroline’s mother and Anne’s mother came to see what they were doing.

“Jane, this is Caroline’s friend Tommy Wilson, and his brother Jacky Wilson. Do you know Mrs. Wilson in the factory? Well these are her boys” introduced Mrs. Lawrence.

“Do you mean Emma Amanda?” asked Mrs.Palm

“Yes” replied Amanda.

“I didn’t know your mum’s name was Emma. Jacky and I didn’t know your mum’s name was Amanda Caroline” said Anne in a surprise.

“We didn’t know your mum’s name was Jane, Anne”said Jacky and Caroline together.

All four of them stopped playing racing tag and sat by a log. They began to talk.

“What shall we do?” asked Tommy.

“I know lets pile some stones together and flick them. Whoever flicks their stones the shortest distance has to tell us about themselves” said Anne.

Everybody agreed. Then they began to gather stones.

“One....two....three....GO!”shouted Tommy and with that they flicked their stones as far as they could. Jacky’s stone went the furthest of them all and Tommy’s was the shortest of them all so he began to tell everyone about himself. They listened quietly.

The dangerous new world

“I’m the youngest in my family. I have Asthma, I have a pet dog called Rex. I also have a room of my own. My favourite colour is navy blue. My favourite food and drink are chips and cola. My best friend is my brother Jacky and....and....that's all” finished Tommy.

Then they all began to take another stone and flicked it. This time it was Caroline’s stone.

“I have a younger sister called Sarah she’s two, I have a pet which is a parrot called Polly. I have a room of my own. My favourite colour is red. My favourite food is rice and curry. My favourite drink is orange juice. Now my best friend is Anne. My favourite animal is a giraffe.” said Caroline.

Once again they flicked their stones and this time it was Tommy again so they decided that Jacky could have a go for his stone was second last. Jacky began his story.

“I’m the oldest in my family. I used to have a hearing problem but now I don’t. I have two pet hamsters named Philip and Martin. I have my own room. My favourite food is pizza and my favourite drink is cherryade. My best friend is Tommy. I like to tell jokes” said Jacky.

They all agreed that after Anne had her go they would do something else. They flicked their stones and saw that it was Jacky’s turn again. But they noticed that Anne was the only one who hadn’t had a go, so they decided that Anne should have her go.

“I am the only child in my family. I don’t have a pet but I’m going to get a goldfish and I have decided to call it Rosy if it is a girl and Jack if it is a boy. I have a room of

my own. My favourite colours are all the colours in the rainbow. My favourite food is fish fingers. My favourite drink is orange juice. My best friends are all of you lot” said Anne.

They were interrupted by Anne's dad.

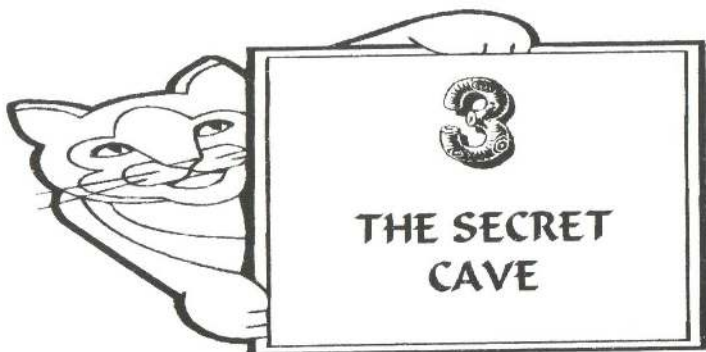
“She also likes to read books and she loves nature.”

“Oh,hello dad” said Anne.

“Hello dear, your mother is calling you and so is yours Caroline. Would you boys like to join us for dinner?” asked Mr Palm.

“That would be very kind of you” expressed the boys and joined in. They all sat down on the grass and ate some sandwiches and drank some orange juice. Then they all played family tag. Mr.Lawrence was ‘it’ he caught Mrs.Lawrence she then caught Mrs Palm and she caught Mr.Palm. Then they all chased Anne, Caroline, Tommy and Jacky. The last person to be caught was Jacky.

Then Mr and Mrs Palm thanked Mr and Mrs Lawrence for inviting them. Tommy and Jacky were getting a lift from Mr and Mrs Palm. Anne, Jacky and Tommy waved good bye to Caroline and her family. They waved back. When Anne got home it was nine o’clock and it was time for bed. She kissed her mother and father and said “Good night” and went to sleep soon.



When Anne was looking around the kitchen for a snack, the telephone rang. Anne went over to pick up the telephone but her mother had picked it up.

“Hello who is this? Oh hello Caroline, yes, Ok, bye.”

Anne’s mother came over to her, and said

“Caroline is in the park she wants to meet you there at five o’clock. You have got ten minutes.”

“Thank you for telling me. I’ll go and get changed as soon as I’ve drank my orange juice” Anne replied.

Anne put the dishes in the sink. She told her mother that she would wash them as soon as she returned. Anne ran up the stairs to her room. She quickly put on her black jeans and her green T-shirt and a white jumper. Anne tied a pony tail in her hair and went back down the stairs put her trainers on and kissed her mother.

“Bye I’ll be back home between six and seven o’clock.”

Anne took her bike and went out through the back way.

Anne saw Caroline waiting for her . She said
“Sorry caroline. I’m late.”

“It’s alright Anne” replied Caroline.

Anne was just about to get off her bike when Caroline suggested that she should sit on her bike for they were going to go quite a long way. Caroline and Anne parked their bikes near a gate. Anne and Caroline walked across to Jacky who was standing on a marked cross.

“Guess what Anne. You know I fell and hit my ankle on something, well, I threw a stone where I had fallen and it made that noise again. The other thing is that we could dig this cross and see what’s in it.”

“But what happens if the caretaker of this park finds out” interrupted Anne.

“Don’t worry Anne the caretaker already knows. Jacky’s uncle is the caretaker of this park” replied Caroline.

Anne stared at Jacky and then at Caroline. She was shocked.

Jacky gave a rope to everyone. He gave a torch to everyone as well. They began to dig. As they dug they made a large hole. They stopped digging and had a rest. Jacky took his bottle of water and drank it. Caroline put her spade down which made a loud noise. It was so loud that Jacky spat out the water in his mouth and began to choke.

“What was that?” shouted Jacky.

“It must have come from here” said Caroline.

All three of them began to sweep the sand. They found a

metal bar. It was so loose that when Jacky pulled it, the metal bar came out. When Jacky took out the metal bar they all saw a large hole that looked like a tunnel.

“Wow! let’s go inside and see what’s in there” said Anne.

They climbed in and switched on their torches. They noticed that it was dusty and spooky.

“It looks like a cave” said Jacky.

“A very old cave” said Caroline.

“Hey, you two look at what I’ve found” whispered Anne.

Caroline and Jacky went over to Anne. They could see a path way made out of rocks and stone.

“Let’s go through” said Jacky.

Caroline led the way because Anne and Jacky were afraid. Caroline pushed her way through some rocks which had fallen. As Caroline pushed a great big stone bats flew out.

“AAAAAHHHHH !” screamed all of them.

Anne went to see if the bats were gone.

“It’s Ok the bats are gone” she said breathlessly.

Caroline continued walking. As they went on walking the path way got darker and darker. They could hear a sort of drumming noise like warriors were making a human sacrifice.

“Can you hear that?” asked Jacky.

“We can” replied Caroline.

As they walked closer the drumming noise got louder. Then to their surprise they could see lots of warriors with drums around a big fire. They had painted themselves in red, yellow, orange, black and other colours.

“It’s a tribe” whispered Caroline.
“SSSHHH...!” said the other two.
As they watched one of them spoke.
“It’s time to bring the white devil”.

With that the drums got louder and two warriors came carrying a white man in a uniform. He looked like an explorer. He was crying for help. Then he was seated on a big leaf. A bowl of hot water that the warriors had carried was placed on his head. One of the warriors then took out a bow and arrow. He was to shoot the arrow to the explorers head to knock down the dish so that the boiling hot water would pour over him. The leader of the tribe spoke.

“Kola..! Rise your weapon and fire at the devil!”

Kola nodded to his master. His eyes stared at the explorer with anger. He was about to fire when a little boy came out and shouted.

“No, leave him alone. If you want to fire, then fire at me, fire at me father! fire! I am your only son. Fire! Fire! Father fire!”

Then the second leader said to the boy,

“Fola, let your father shoot. Go to your mother.”

Fola got more angry. He shouted at him and said

“You are not my father or my mother to tell me what to do. You are just a second leader. I won’t go to my mother and I won’t let you shoot at him father.”

Fola was getting angrier with every word he spoke.

“Kola,shoot! I command you to shoot” shouted Broom.

The dangerous new world

He was the tribe's captain. Kola had to shoot. If he failed, he would be sacrificed too.

"Guards, take Fola to his mother and make sure he doesn't come back" ordered Broom.

As the guards took Fola he kicked and bit them. He was acting like a bull. Fola began to run. The guards were chasing Fola. But as he ran Kola shot the arrow. Fola did not watch where he was going and the arrow instead of stabbing the dish it stabbed Fola instead.

One of the people who had seen this ran to Kala and told her that her son had died. Kala began to cry she could not believe that her husband had killed his own child.

Back where the warriors were Anne was resting her arms on a piece of rock. Anne accidentally pushed the rock and it fell down.

"What was that?" asked Kola.

They all turned around and saw Anne, Jacky and Caroline.

"More white devils cease them!" shouted Broom.

They all ran and chased them. Anne and the other two did not know where to go so they ran to a nearby hut. The hut was Kala's. They told her about the warriors. Kala did not want them to die after her son. She told them to hide inside three barrels. The warriors went past the hut.

"Thank you for helping us" said Jacky kindly.

"You're welcome" replied Kala.

When Kala saw Jacky she began to cry.

“What’s wrong?” asked Caroline.

“Nothing. It’s just that when I saw that boy it made me think about my son who is dead now” said Kala.

“Oh is it Fola?” said Anne.

But Kala began to cry even more.

“Oh Anne” shouted Caroline.

“No it’s Ok . Fola was not my real son” sobbed Kala.

“If it’s Ok with you Kala could you tell us about it?” asked Caroline.

“Yes it all began when my husband and I were going for a walk. I did not feel well so Kola told the medicine man to come. When he came he looked at me and examined me. Four or five weeks later I was going to have a baby. We were so excited but when the medicine man came again we found out that I was not going to have the baby. One day my husband and I were coming back from visiting our friend. Then we found a basket in front of our doorstep and in it was a lovely little baby. We couldn’t do anything to find his parents. So we took the baby. We didn’t want to tell the baby that we had found him in a basket and we were n’t his real parents.”

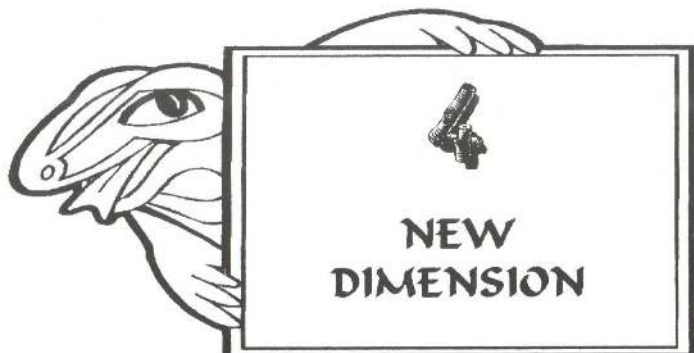
Anne told Kala about the problem of the warriors. Kala told her about the dimension. She told her about how to get there and about the master. Kala told her that the dimension was safer and she and her friends could go there right now. Kala took Anne and her friends to a room. She told them to go through the door and they would be there. Kala gave Anne a bag of gold coins, an armour, a shield, a knife, a bag full of magic and a book

The dangerous new world

of spells. Kala told Anne to say that she had the power of magic. Then Kala gave Caroline some silver coins, an armour, a shield, a knife, a bag full of magic, a book of spells and she had the power of health and wealth. Then Kala gave Jacky some bronze coins, an armour, a shield, a knife, a magic axe, a book of spells and the power of a hundred warriors. Then Kala told everyone that they had a pet.

Kala said “Anne you have a golden eagle, Caroline you have a silver swan, Jacky you have a bronze cheetah.”

Then Kala gave Anne and Caroline a necklace with a golden locket. Inside the locket was a key. Kala gave Jacky a thick golden bangle. Then they all went through the door.



Anne, Jacky and Caroline said “good bye Kala”

It was dark and very quiet. Then there was three lights sparkling. The light in the middle turned into a cheetah. But it wasn't golden brown, with black spots. It was covered in a sort of bronze colour. The cheetah came charging to Jacky. When the cheetah came close to Jacky it kneeled.

“Jacky remember what Kala said. She said that we each have a pet, and your pet is a cheetah.” said Anne.

Then another light turned into a silver swan and came to Caroline.

“This must be my pet” said Caroline.

Then the last light went up and up then it turned into a golden eagle and flew to Anne and kneeled to her. The three creatures rose up. Jacky climbed on to his cheetah and it began to walk. Caroline climbed onto her swan which began to walk. Anne climbed onto her eagle and began to fly. Jacky led the way since his pet was the

The dangerous new world

bravest. The eagle and the swan followed behind. As they walked, the darkness got bright and soon they could see little houses. Camels were walking along looking for some water.

“It must be dawn” said Caroline.

Then a little girl carrying a bucket of water was walking and singing.

“Maybe we could ask that girl if she could tell us where we are?” said Anne.

The girl came over to them.

Anne said “Excuse me, can you tell me what’s the name of this place?”

The girl was frightened. She dropped her bucket of water and ran for help shouting “The three wizards have returned. The three wizards have returned. Help! Help!” Everyone who heard this went into their houses. The camels galloped as fast as they could to find a hiding place. Lots of people were screaming. Then there was a big shadow. Everyone stopped screaming and the place was quiet.

Then a woman shouted “The Pharaoh!”

They could all see six people carrying two logs and on top was a seat made from straw. On top of the seat, was a sort of a small house. And sitting on this was a Pharaoh. The six people put the house down and the Pharaoh came out. He looked at everyone and then he looked at Anne, Jacky and Caroline.

“ You three. You look nothing like my people. Who are you and what are you doing in my land?” he asked in surprise.

Anne flew in front of Jacky and said

“My name is Anne and these are my two friends Jacky and Caroline. You see we come from another dimension. We have a friend there. Her name is Kala.” said Anne.

“Kala, does she live with a warrior named Kola and a son named Fola?” asked the Pharaoh.

“Yes. That’s the one, but Fola is dead now.” Said Caroline.

“I see. Come to my palace immediately.” said the Pharaoh.

The six men picked up the house as soon as the Pharaoh was in. They began to walk to his palace. Jacky and Caroline followed behind. When they arrived at the palace, the Pharaoh called Anne, Caroline and Jacky to come in.

“Did Kala say this land was safe? Well, if she did, she is wrong. You see. We are going to have a war with them . It is not safe for you to be here. You must leave before midnight. It is best if you leave now.” said the Pharaoh.

“Who are you going to have a war with?” asked Jacky.

“The warriors. Now leave.” said the Pharaoh. And with that he went off.

Then Anne, Caroline and Jacky went off to get their pets. They went out of the palace fields. They were stopped by the guard. He said to them

“The Pharaoh has said to leave your pets with him.” and the guard took the pets.

Anne, Caroline and Jacky began to continue walking.

The dangerous new world

They came across a bridge.

“Let’s go through here.” said Jacky.

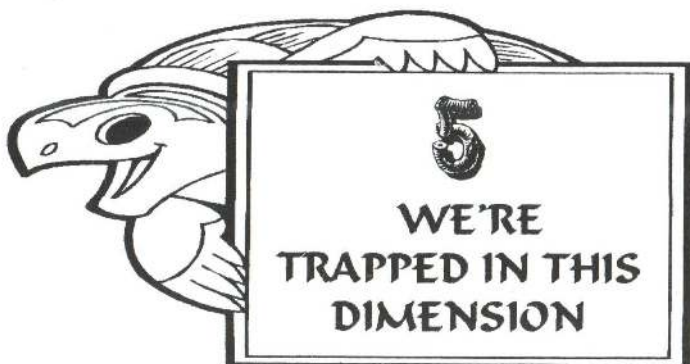
They walked across the bridge. As they walked, it rattled. If they had fallen it would be a long way down. Under the bridge there was a water fall. And on both side there were some big rocks. The bridge was tied to a rope. As they walked the rope got loose. Then when they were in the middle, the rope got too loose the bridge broke in half. They all screamed as they fell. Luckily they fell into the water and didn’t get hurt by the rocks. Anne couldn’t swim so she grabbed on to a log. Soon they could see the end of the waterfall. Anne let go of the log. All of them went through the water fall.

It was all dry and dark. Anne began to climb up to some rocks. She almost fell down and her back had hit on something. It was a little rock. She pulled it out. Inside, was a key. She pulled it out but it was held to a rock. As Anne pulled the key out she moved the rock. Then all of a sudden the rock moved to one side and there was a tunnel. Anne told Caroline and Jacky what she had found. They all went into the tunnel. It was small so they had to crawl. They crawled on and on.

“I don’t think this tunnel is going to end.” said Caroline.

“Nor do I.” said Jacky.

“I think we are heading for a new dimension” said Anne.



They carried on crawling through the tunnel until they came to a stop. There were three ways to go. The middle one was the dead end. They wondered which way to go. Anne suggested that they should go to the one on the right. Jacky suggested that they should go to the one on the left. Caroline wanted that they should go back. They began to argue. They did not listen to each other. "If you two are not coming the way I am going then go away. I don't need you anyway." said Anne crossly.

Then she went off.

"Are you coming with me?," asked Jacky.

"No thank you," replied Caroline.

"Suit yourself then," said Jacky. Off he went.

"I think I should find my way back out of the tunnel!" said Caroline.

As Caroline was crawling along she heard a noise that sounded like Anne. Caroline could hear the noise louder

The dangerous new world

when she popped her head through the tunnel,
“AAAAAAHHHHHH HELPPPPP!” said the voice.

Caroline went through the tunnel. The tunnel was big enough for Caroline to run. When Caroline followed the noise it led her to where Anne was.

“Anne why were you making that noise?” asked Caroline.

“I did not make any noise. I heard someone screaming” replied Anne.

“So did I” said Caroline.

They could hear the sound of warriors marching. Caroline had a strange feeling that they would be in trouble, she quickly grabbed Anne by the hand, and covered her mouth. Then someone tapped Caroline and Anne on the shoulder. Caroline turned around, she was about to scream when she noticed it was only Jacky.

“Who are you two hiding from?” asked Jacky.

“The warriors” replied Caroline.

“What warriors?” asked Jacky.

“It’s a long story” said Caroline.

As they sat down next to a big rock someone tapped on Caroline’s shoulder.

“Oh stop it Jacky” said Caroline crossly.

“But I did not do anything” said Jacky.

Caroline jumped around and there was one of the warriors. He grabbed Caroline in one hand and Jacky and Anne in the other.

The warrior took them to a river where there was a small boat. He threw them into the boat and got in himself. He began to row.

“Who are you?” asked Caroline.

The worrier did not answer.

“Where are you taking us?” asked Caroline.

He still did not answer. The warrior stopped rowing. He looked at an island ahead and then continued rowing. Caroline asked Anne about his strange behaviour. Anne just shook her head. At last the warrior stopped rowing and pulled the boat to the shore. Anne, Caroline and Jacky got out of the boat.

“Where are we?” asked Jacky.

“I’m not sure” replied Anne.

The warrior did not say anything. He went to his house. Anne, Jacky and Caroline did not know where to go or what to do. They decided to explore the island. There were houses and stables. The ground was covered with sand. There was no one around. It was very hot. Caroline, Anne and Jacky got tired so they sat down in the shadow next to some barrels.

When it was night they found it difficult to sleep. They slept on some hay. While they were asleep, a man who was carrying some hay in his cart, thought that he would put his hay with the other hay. He did not notice the three children.

Early next morning the man was seen in the same place again. He began to carry his hay to his cart. Still the man did not see Anne, Jacky or Caroline.

“I think I’ve got enough hay for today” said the man.

When the man was pushing his cart along a lady began to ask him if he had any change for £5.00. The man was so

The dangerous new world

busy talking to the lady that he did not notice his cart running down the hill. The cart crashed into a fence, Jacky, Caroline and Anne went rolling down and landed in a bush.

A lady who was picking some berries from the bush noticed Jacky.

“Poor child” said the lady and took him to her house.

When the lady reached her home she put Jacky on her bed and went to fetch some water. The lady returned with some water in her hand and began dabbing it on Jacky’s face. Jacky woke up quickly.

“Who are you?” asked Jacky.

“I am Atusha I live here. I found you in a bush. I thought you were caught by our warriors. I brought you home” replied the lady.

“Did you find any other children like two girls?” asked Jacky.

“No” replied Atusha.

“But if we go back we might find them.”

When Atusha and Jacky went to the same area they could not find Caroline or Anne. Jacky found some foot prints. It was then that he found out that the foot prints were Anne’s and Caroline’s. He followed the foot prints. He got to a stage where there were many foot prints. He got lost.

“What’s going on?” said Jacky to Atusha.

He had not got a clue.

“I know what’s going on. Your friends have been kidnapped by our warriors.” replied Atusha.

Atusha was about to tell Jacky her story but she was interrupted by two screams.

“That sounds like Anne and Caroline, lets go” said Jacky and began to run.

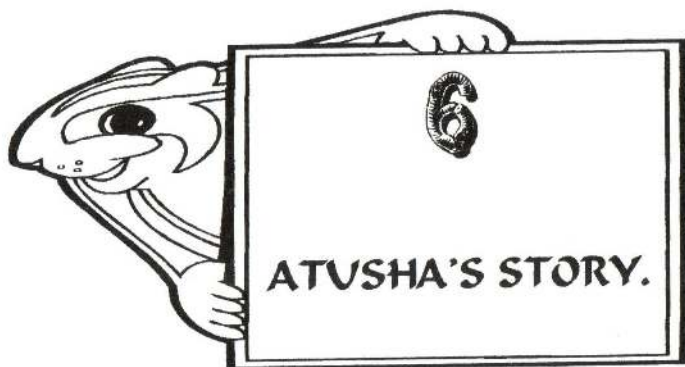
“Wait for me” cried Atusha.

Jacky and Atusha saw Anne and Caroline. Jacky ran to pull Anne's hand. The warriors began shouting at him. Atusha explained to the warriors that Anne, Jacky and Caroline were all her friends. When the warriors heard this they let them go. Atusha brought them all safely back home.

Jacky explained to Caroline and Anne who Atusha was and what had happened while they were gone.

“Atusha, you said that you would tell us your story?” said Jacky.

“I will” replied Atusha,
and she began.....



“When I was born I lived with my mum, dad and my grandma in a small little hut. We lived happily until I was four. My grandma died. Then when I was nine my dad died of a heart attack and my mum also died. She had been bitten by a poisonous snake. I now had no grown ups to look after me. I was put in a little orphanage. Then one day I met my aunty who found me and took me to her house. I lived with her. I was happy there. I lived there most of my life. I enjoyed picking corn and making bread. When I was about eighteen years old a sort of war began. Ships and boats surrounded the Island. White men came out of their ships and boats. One of the men was the leader. He said

“I’m Silis Becker, you shall work for me, why? I hear you say, because there’s gold in this land and I want it so I can be rich.”

Then more of the white people began to give out spades to the people who lived near us.

“Come on,” shouted Silis Becker.

My aunty, all the rest of the people and I began to argue. "Why should we work for you?" shouted one.

"We are the people of this land. Whatever we find from this land is ours. You are from a different country. You have no right to take them away from us" told an old man.

Then they all began to shout.

"Go away let us live in peace. We can n't be your slaves. Silis Becker did not want to hear these. He wanted to get all the gold for himself using the villagers.

"Are you going to work for me or not?" shouted Silis Becker.

Altogether everyone shouted "NNNOOO!"

Silis Becker got angry. He lost his temper. Then he ordered his men to whip all of them. He also got out his whip and started to whip us furiously. Silis Becker and his crew members whipped us until we all agreed to work. At last we began to work. My aunty disagreed to work and she was tied to a pole and was whipped again and again. When they untied her she felled on to one of the guards, s he was unconscious and was close to dying.

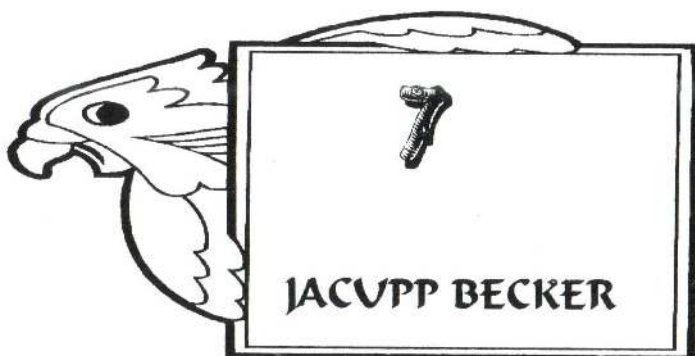
Years went past seeming like centuries. We were locked up in a sort of jail, they gave us a little food and drink. That was all. Everyday we were sent to the fields to work for fifteen hours, we did not get any drink during this time. If we were to be seen drinking some water or doing anything else but working we would be whipped or sent to the leader.

The dangerous new world

It was one warm night when finally I escaped from them. I climbed out of the Iron bars and hid behind a shed.

When it was morning I woke up early. Just around the corner Silis Becker was whipping my Aunty. Silis Becker had found out that I ran away previous night. He whipped my aunty because he thought she knew about this. When he was finished whipping my aunty was dead. I realised that I was not safe in the village so I travelled to a different village by a bike that I took from one of Silis Becker's guards.

The village I travelled to was this one. I have lived here for three years" said Atusha finishing off her story.



It was one warm morning when Anne, Caroline and Jacky were thinking of how to get back home. Atusha was making bread. She came to Anne and gave her a bread and she gave Caroline and Jacky bread too. She sat down next to Jacky, and looked up at the beautiful sky. Suddenly it turned dark.

“Is it going to rain?” asked Anne.

“No, but the sea is soon going to be surrounded by ships” replied Jacky.

“Look!” shouted Caroline, pointing to some giant ships which were heading for the island. As the ships sailed closer Atusha noticed one of the ships. It had a statue of an eagle, and it was the same ship that she had seen when she was little. Atusha was frightened. Soon people came out of the ships. One man was heard to be called Captain Jacupp. He looked very scary. He wore a suit and had a belt around it. A gun was tucked in the belt on one side and on the other there was a sword. Between the gun and the sword there were two whips, one was plain and the

The dangerous new world

other had spikes on it.

He looked around and began to speak.

“People of this island, I am Captain Jacupp Becker!”

Atusha was shocked. It was as though her heart had stopped beating for that moment.

Jacupp Becker continued.

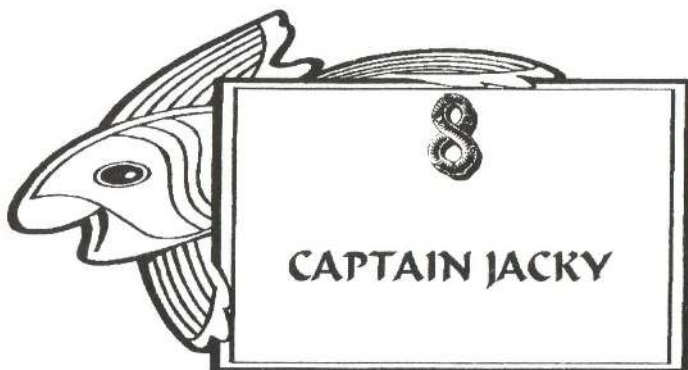
“I have come to this sandy island to search for gold, for my younger brother Silis Becker has told me there is gold in this land. You shall have to dig it up.”

Jacupp told everyone how dangerous he was. He told them how he had killed his youngest brother William for lying to him. With the fright of this everyone took their spades and began to dig. Even the people who were about to disagree began to dig. Soon everyone was tired. They were given a little amount of water.

At night they were allowed to sleep in their own huts. Then when it was dark a girl who was a friend of Atusha tried to get away. But she was unfortunately captured by one of the men. She was screaming and shouting so loudly that she woke everyone up. Atusha was afraid. Captain Jacupp woke up and wanted to go back to sleep so he said to tie her up on a tree. He told everyone else to go back to sleep. They did as they were told.

Early next morning the sun was up and everyone went to see what had happened to the girl. But when they got there she wasn't there. Later everyone saw her near the beach, she was dead. She had been stabbed. Everyone went back to work as soon as they saw the guards.

Days went on and on. Jacky did not realise that Captain Jacupp was watching him. Then one day he was asked to see him. Jacky's legs were shaking like jelly as he walked to the Captain's hut. He was wondering if he would be killed. He was too young to die.



“Knock .. Knock..” tapped Jacky on the door of Captain Jacupp with shaking fingers.

“Come in” said Jacupp loudly.

Jacky went in.

“Ah! Jacky do sit down.” requested Jacupp.

“Thank you sir ” replied Jacky.

Jacky sat down.

“Jacky! I’ve been watching you and I like your type. I’ve noticed that you haven’t got the same skin as everyone else, oh apart from those two girls. Anyway I think I would like you to work with me. Well you could be called Captain Jacky. Besides you could have gold, and what ever you want. You could boss people about. Would you like that?” asked Captain Jacupp.

Jacky thought for a moment. He didn’t think of how he would get home or even how Atusha, Anne and Caroline would think. Oh no, he thought of something completely different. He thought of how he had always

wanted to be a captain, so Jacky said yes.

“Great” cried Jacupp happily.

“Now go and get changed into this.” said Jacupp handing over Jacky a suit.

Then he whispered something into Jacky’s ear.

Then he left Captain Jacupp’s place.

He then went straight to Atusha’s hut and got changed.

He took the special gifts that Kala had given them and brought it back to Jacupp’s hut and gave it to him.

Then Jacky went back to find Anne and Caroline.

“Hi Jacky, what’s with the funny suit?” asked Anne.

“Actually Anne, it’s Captain Jacky to you, and I would like you to give me your necklace” said Jacky.

Anne told Jacky that she wouldn’t give him her necklace but Jacky snatched it from her. He did the same with Caroline. Caroline was speechless. She didn’t know what was wrong with Jacky.

“Why is Jacky acting strange?” asked Caroline.

“I’m not sure” replied Anne.

Then Anne and Caroline stopped talking. They could hear voices of people shouting, they came from Captain Jacupp’s hut. One of the voices sounded like Jacupp’s voice the other was one of the workers. Then the worker came out. He was tired and cross, but he shouted out,

“Listen, listen my dear friends, now that Jacupp man says we shall work twice as much as we work now, twice as fast as we work now and twice as hard as we work now! If you think I’m going to work for 10 hours with one cup

The dangerous new world

of water then you must be joking. I'm already tired and if you think I'm going to work, well you're wrong. I would rather die than work. He's nothing but a man who is lazy and makes people do his jobs for him. This is our land, he has no right to tell us what to do! If he wants us to have a war then it's a war he'll have! He won't forget this war. Who's with me?"shouted the man.

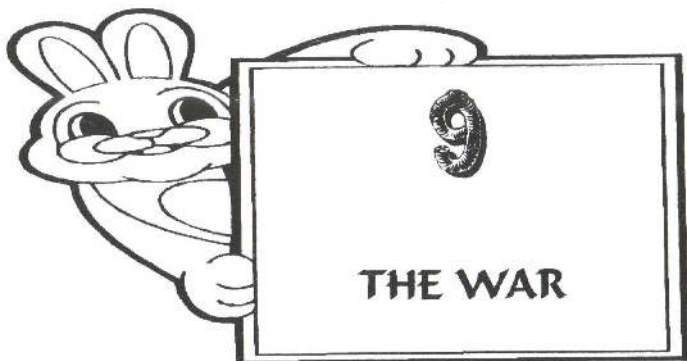
The rest of the people- including Anne, Caroline and Atusha shouted YES!.

Captain Jacupp who had heard everything had nothing to say but one thing. He came out and said

"If you ask for a war than you'll get a war, but if you win I shall leave this Island and kill myself. If I win you shall work as slaves forever."

"Don't worry you won't have to kill your self, we'll kill you"said the worker.

"We'll see"whispered Captain Jacupp.



For about a few weeks neither Captain Jacupp nor the workers talked to each other. They were too busy planning for the war.

The weeks went by quickly and soon the war had arrived. It all started early in the morning when Captain Jacupp had shot a little boy. Then the war had already started, the workers fired their arrows and Captain Jacupp's men shot their guns. Anne almost got shot by one of the men, but luckily she had ducked just in time. It wasn't at all safe for people to go out. They were everywhere, near forests, behind rocks, close to cliffs, close to bridges and pathways, close to rivers and waterfalls and close to fields. The medicine people had a lot of jobs. Every moment they had people coming in. Some were unlucky.

It was soon when there was only four or five of Captain Jacupp's men and five or six of the workers left. Unfortunately Jacky was on Captain Jacupp's side. He gave great ideas that's why most of the workers tried to kill him!

The dangerous new world

Meanwhile Jacky was wandering off when Atusha grabbed him and had covered his mouth before he could cry for help. Atusha had been cut close to the hand. "Look Jacky you have to help us. Look what they have done to my hand." said Atusha breathlessly.

Jacky looked at Atusha's hand it was bleeding very badly.

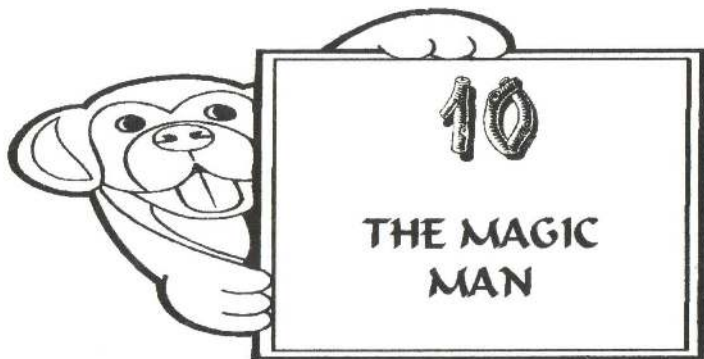
He felt sorry but thought of Captain Jacupp and said, "I am very sorry for this deed but your men are not the only ones who need help, look at mine. Most of my men have been shot in the heart. Really I am sorry Atusha please believe me." said Jacky a bit upset.

"It was my fault on taking you home. I should have left you in the bushes to die. Just think of how your parents would think if you get back home, even if they don't believe you. Just think of how your brother would feel. Right now he is in hospital and you go and tell him what you've done and make him more upset. Don't you know you're in the wrong side?" asked Atusha.

Jacky thought and said, "You're right. I was just selfish. I didn't think of anything but how I always wanted to be a pirate, and here I am wearing this suit. Come on Atusha we have a war to stop." said Jacky.

Meanwhile Jacupp was surrounded by the workers. All his men were dead. All the workers had surrounded him with arrows and spears. Then Atusha and Jacky came. All the workers turned around. Atusha told them that now Jacky was on their side.

Everyone cheered. This gave enough time for Jacupp to free himself and grab Jacky. Jacupp got out his gun, everyone put their weapons down. Jacupp had nothing to say, he shot at Jacky but he was not the only one to shoot. Someone had shot an arrow right in to Jacupp's heart. He was dead. He had enough strength to look at the person. It was a girl. Jacupp remembered in the war he had shot the girl's father and now she had shot him for pay back. Everyone was too shocked to notice Jacky. "Jacky! Are you ok?" asked Caroline. Jacky nodded and closed his eyes.



“Where am I?” said a soft familiar voice.

It was Jacky he was Ok. Caroline came in to check on him and was happy to see that he was awake.

“Jacky! You’re Ok. Don’t worry. You’re in the medicine man’s house. You see when Captain Jacupp shot your arm you were unconscious and you fainted. Luckily we had a medicine man in our group. He took you home. He prepared some herbal medicines and got the bullet out. We left you here to rest. Anne and Atusha went to see a magic man who knew Atusha and asked how to get us back home.” said Caroline doing a quick back flash.

“That’s great” said Jacky.

Then Anne and Atusha came in. They were happy to see Jacky and also had good news.

“I’m glad you’re Ok Jacky. I also have more good news. Well I met the magic man and he says he can do it anytime you want.” said Atusha.

“Could we do it tomorrow? I think I need some rest” asked Jacky.

“Of course, I mean we all need rest after the war ” said Caroline.

They all agreed. Then they all went to bed.

Early next morning the four of them got changed and went to see the magic man. It took them one hour to get there. When they got there the three children said good bye to Atusha. Well this was the end. It was the end of everything, it was the end of slavery, the end of Captain Jacupp.

Then the magic man told them to hold hands and go around the circle. They did as he told them to, and soon the man sprinkled some powder on them and they began to vanish.



Suddenly they stopped vanishing and came back.

“What’s wrong?” asked Jacky in astonishment.

Then the man said, “Does anyone of you want to stay here?” asked the man suspiciously.

The rest of them thought. They thought of how they would miss their family and replied “No”. Inside Caroline, Jacky and Anne a part of their souls wanted to stay with Atusha but they did not tell this. Then when they were all ready they held hands and walked around the circle and the magic man sprinkled the powder and they were vanishing until they came back again.

“This is not working” said Anne disappointedly.

“Patience my dear” said the magic man.

Then they did the same thing again but again they failed.

“I don’t think this is going to work.” said Caroline all depressed.

“Nor do I” replied Jacky.

“I think we’re wasting our time on a man who doesn’t

know any stupid magic” said Anne crossly.

“Don’t give up! All he needs is a bit of time” said Atusha. Then the magic man came in with a different powder than before. They all did the same thing again. Anne whispered to Caroline and Jacky.

“I bet this is not going to work”

They whispered back

“Stop being grumpy.”

They began to vanish starting from the toes and to the hips where they had expected to run out as usual, but then it went past the hips and continued until there wasn’t even a hair left.

“It worked” said an echo.

Atusha was sad now but she was also happy.

The three children were as though floating in the air and soon landed with a big bump.

“OUCH!” shouted everyone.

“Look we’re in the tunnel. Let’s follow this path” said Caroline leading the way.

The other two followed behind. Soon they could see a light and they started running. They carefully climbed up the top and were surprised to see Tommy!

“Tommy! What are you doing here?” asked Jacky.

“Oh me, I just went to the same dimensions as you guys did.” said Tommy coolly.

“You must have been that little boy. I knew I saw you.” said Anne.

The dangerous new world

“Oh no!” said Caroline “Our parents might think we’re lost and they might get worried.”

The four children rode their bikes home and were surprised to hear their parents say

“You’re early.”

It had only taken them 10 minutes for their adventure and they were very surprised in fact they had enough surprises for the rest of the day.

At night Anne dreamt of Atusha, Jacky dreamt of when he was a pirate, Tommy dreamt of the cruelty and Caroline saw Atusha and the rest of her friends on her mirror and when she called her family they said she was dreaming.

From that day on every time they went to the park they would think of the new dimension and their friends.

THE END



About my book

This is my first book published. I am very proud of myself for going this far.

I got the idea of writing this book from my Year Five English teacher, Miss Ridding - when she was reading my class a book called *Who's side are you on?*

In this book, it said that a boy had fallen into a picture. I thought of this, and instead of going into a picture, I imagined to go in to a secret door.

The *Dangerous new world* was based on the modern time. I am very much thankful to my teacher Miss Powell who helped me in correcting the spelling and grammar.

When I was selected to visit the No. 10 Downing street to meet the Prime Minister and his wife I had an opportunity to present few copies of this book to them. I am very much thankful to my headmaster Mr. Pymont for providing this opportunity which I will never forget.

Now that I have finished, I am planning to write another one.

With Love,

Maulia

Appendix 1

News clipping

Herald and Post

Thursday, December 3, 1998: page 20

KIDS TAKING TEA AT NO.10 WITH CHERIE

Three top Luton Children are to be taken to tea with Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife at Downing Street next Tuesday.

Margaret Moran, MP for Luton South, will be taking the trio to town, after Luton schools were asked to nominate three special pupils aged between nine and thirteen.

Maulia Selvarajah from Hart Hill Primary School, Kim Pearce from Five Oaks Middle School, Caddington, and Rosma Kean from Denbigh High School, will also tour the House of Commons.

Miss Moran said : "This really is a trip of a lifetime. That is why we asked local schools to nominate children who have worked hard, or in some way are a credit to their schools."

Kim Pearce is described as an “unsung hero” who has worked very hard to overcome dyspraxia and dyslexia.

Rosma Kean won the citizenship award in her school last year and is involved in a wide range of activities from sponsored swims for asthma sufferers, translation at open evenings and even persuading the television programme fully booked to come to the school to help beautify part of the grounds.

Maulia Selvarajah described by her school as an all-round pupil of achievement extremely helpful to everyone, and a budding author having already written a book.

Appendix 2

News Clipping

TAMIL TIMES

15 January 1999: Page 32

MAULIA INVITED TO 10 DOWNING STREET

Maulia, ten year old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Selvarajah of Hallwicks Road, and pupil of Hart Hill Primary school, Luton was one of the three top Luton children invited to tea with Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife at Downing Street on 8th December 1998.

Margrat Moran, MP for Luton South took the trio after Luton schools nominated the three special pupils aged between nine and thirteen. Maulia is described by her school as an all-round pupil of achievement extremely helpful to everyone and a budding author having already written a book.

After tea, she met the Prime Minister, who congratulated her on her achievements, and to whom she presented a copy of the book, "A Dangerous New World" authored by her. The visit of a lifetime ended with a tour of the House of Commons, live interview with Anglia television on Westminster Green and a VIP dinner at Planet Hollywood.

Maulia's father Mr. N.Selvarajah was the Librarian, Evelyn Rutnam Institute for Inter-cultural Studies, Jaffna, Sri Lanka before arriving in the UK.



About the author....

Maulia Selvarajah is a student of Hart Hill Primary School, Brooms Road, Luton, Bedfordshire.

She was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka in May 1988. She wrote this book in June 1998, when she was studying in Year Five.