

THE MIGHTY JUNGLE

by Dr. Roy Smith



THE CAMPFIRE GANG



BOOK #8



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*Dedicated to those who have great value
and God-given potential. (This means you!)*
*As you enjoy this series, may you discover
your greatness.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Poy' in a cursive, stylized script.

*I am honored to be part of the journey of the following
young men. May you grow strong, have courage,
act wisely and change the world.*

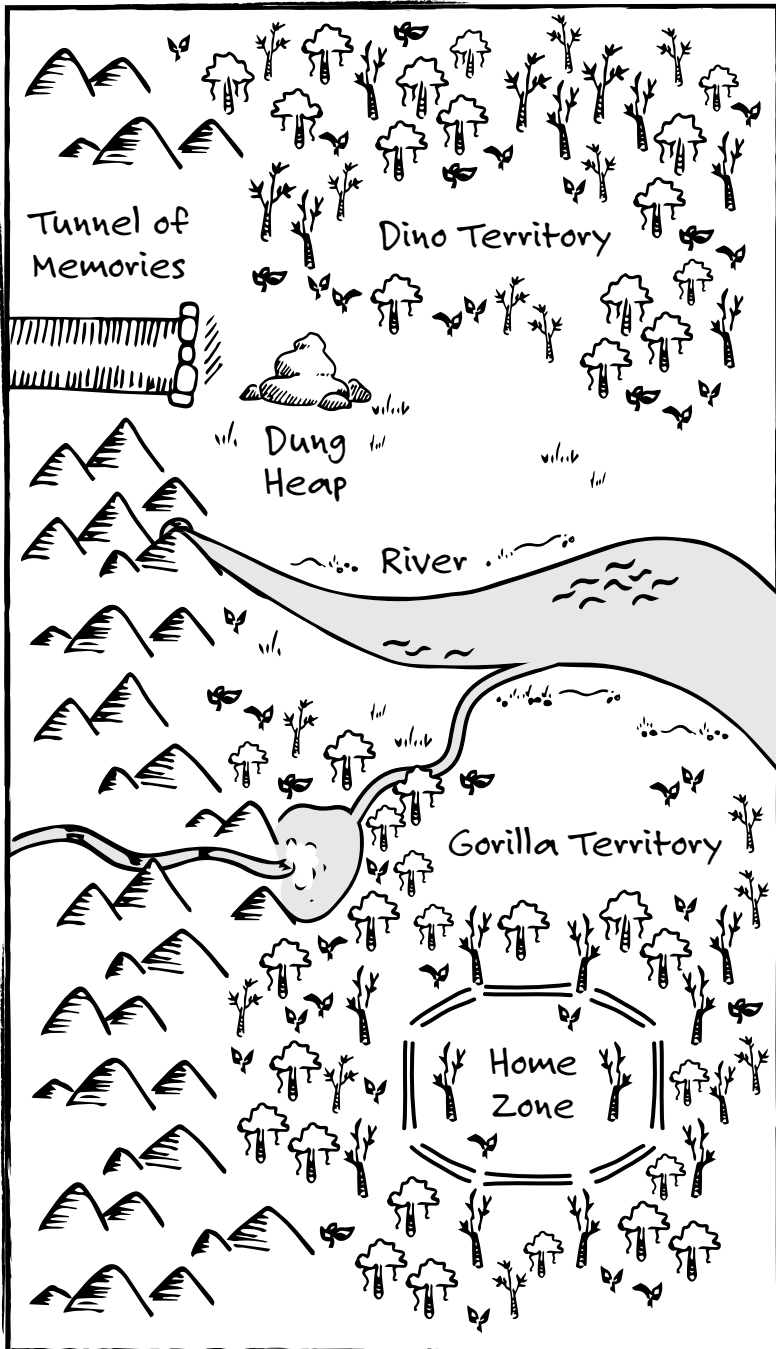
*Silas, Jorah, Alexander, Nathan, Mason, William,
Lucas, Cody, Elijah, Kent, Colt, Ian, AJ, CJ, JJ, Gavin,
Ryder, Braxton*

*It is my privilege to be part of the lives of the following
amazingly gifted and powerful young women.*

May you make a difference in the world.

Remi, Reese, Alycea, Joy

The Jungle





CHAPTER 1

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

Sammy sat up and groaned. Being launched out of the Tunnel of Memories had caught him completely off guard. At least there'd been a big pile of mud to break his fall.

He looked around at his surroundings, searching for clues about the new world he'd landed in. Everything just looked brown and mushy.

"I thought Joshua said this world would be green and beautiful," he said to himself.

Sammy wrinkled his nose. To make things worse, something smelled bad. *Really* bad. He

sunk his hands down into the mud, trying to push himself up out of it. But that just made the horrible smell even worse.

“Yuck!” Sammy yelled. “I don’t think this is mud after all!”

Unfortunately, the tunnel had thrown Sammy into a huge pile of dung. Before he had a chance to freak out, he heard a low growl coming from somewhere below him. He scrambled to the top of the dung heap and looked down. What he saw made him gasp out loud and his eyes widen in terror.

A sharp-toothed, big-horned, four-legged monster had backed up to the base of the dung heap. Its entire body was covered in hard scales that looked like armor. And it was huge!

Luckily, the creature wasn’t looking Sammy’s way. And thanks to the advice Joshua had given him back in the tunnel, he knew exactly what to do.



Just keep still like Joshua said, Sammy thought. Then that monster won't be able to see me.

Suddenly, the creature swung its huge head around and stared straight up at Sammy. But his strategy worked. Since the monster saw everything in black and white, it couldn't tell the difference between Sammy and the dung he was sitting in.

Sammy held his breath and kept as still as possible. He looked nervously at the creature's huge teeth.

This thing looks like a dinosaur, but worse, he thought. Like it was made to be a killer. Like a Killer... a Killerosaurus!

The Killerosaurus stared at Sammy for a few more seconds. When it was sure there was nothing interesting on the dung heap, it sniffed the ground and walked away.

Sammy slowly got up and slid down the side of the dung heap. The first thing he noticed

was a clear, blue river to his right. It seemed to disappear into the thick jungle surrounding it.

“That must be where Joshua told me to wait for his friend Obadiah,” said Sammy. “I’m glad I get a chance to wash off first. I don’t want to scare Obadiah away with my stink!”

He headed straight for the river and dove in. He swam around until he felt like he’d washed all the dung off his body.

Sammy was almost clean when he saw another creature pass by, walking upright on its back legs. At first, he didn’t think it looked nearly as scary as the Killerosaurus. It had a long tail and thick fur all over its body, almost like a regular bear. But then Sammy saw the huge, razor-sharp claws at the ends of its two front paws.

Sammy gulped. *Those claws look like they could tear me apart in seconds, he thought. I’d better stay away from that Butcher Bear.*

For several minutes, the Butcher Bear just paced back and forth along the riverbank. It was like it knew Sammy was there but didn't want to get in the water. And although it drank from the river, it was careful never to put a single paw in it.

Eventually, the Butcher Bear climbed up onto the dung heap. After adding to it in a couple of spots, it lumbered back down. Sammy watched it walk farther down the river before suddenly darting off into the thick jungle.

Shortly after the Butcher Bear disappeared, another creature came wandering out of the trees. Sammy understood now why the Butcher Bear had made a beeline for the jungle. This creature was twice the size of the other two. It had four legs, a massive tail and a long, long neck. Two spiral-shaped horns sprouted out of the sides of its head.

Sammy's heart began thumping hard at the sight of the gigantic creature.

Boy, is that thing big, he thought.

Then the creature opened its mouth and let out a long, loud, terrifying roar. Sammy flinched and ducked lower in the water.

Big and mean! he thought.

He was really scared now. He was even starting to wish he was back fighting Bat Birds.

After visiting the dung heap, the Bigmean roamed around the area surrounding the river, periodically sniffing the air. Thankfully, it seemed to be ignoring Sammy completely.

While Sammy tried to learn more about this new world—and keep a wary eye on the Bigmean—the rest of the gang was sitting at the entrance to the Tunnel of Memories. They were waiting for Toby to make it all the way through so Cliff could go in next.

John and Kerry were sprawled on the ground next to each other, snoring gently as they slept off the food they'd eaten in the Life Maze.

Pete and Spencer tossed around some rocks they'd found to keep busy. And BB and Cliff talked quietly together, trying not to worry about their friends and what they'd soon face in the tunnel.

"We haven't heard anything since Sammy and Toby went in," Cliff said nervously. "Do you think that's a bad sign?"

"Maybe not," BB said. "It could just mean they made it through with no problems."

"Or it could mean something ate them and we'll never see them again!" Cliff exclaimed, dropping his head into his hands. "I'm scared."

BB put a hand on Cliff's shoulder. "Hey, Wind told us Pops would take care of Sammy. I know he's taking care of Toby too. Besides, remember what it says above the tunnel entrance?"

Cliff nodded. "All who enter here will remember."

"Exactly," BB said. "This tunnel's going to test us on the inside, not the outside."

“That’s what I’m afraid of,” Cliff replied, looking down. “I have a lot of bad memories. And I don’t want to have to think about any of them.”

“I have some bad memories I don’t want to think about either,” BB said. “But if Pops wants us to face them, he must have a good reason. I know you’re strong enough to do this.”

BB leaned over and rummaged through his pack of supplies. He pulled out the flat, smooth rock and set it on the ground in front of Cliff.

“Standing on the rock always helps me feel better,” he said. “Want to try it?”

“Okay,” Cliff agreed.

When he stepped onto the rock, it groaned, vibrated and began to speak. The voice coming out of it said,

*“Surely, LORD, you bless those who do what is right.
Like a shield, your loving care keeps them safe.” **

* Psalm 5:12

“See?” BB said softly. “None of us will be alone in there. Pops’ll be with us. And Sammy and Toby will be waiting for you on the other side!”

“Thanks BB,” Cliff said with a smile. “That does help. I just hope Toby’s doing okay.”

Cliff looked down the tunnel entrance into the darkness, where Toby was still cautiously making his way through the Tunnel of Memories.

Just like Sammy, Toby held up his glowing toothpicks so he could see in the complete darkness of the tunnel. The light did help him feel a little better, but Toby couldn’t seem to shake off that nervous feeling.

It didn’t help that he had no idea what had happened to Sammy. They’d all agreed to hoot when they made it safely to the other side—but instead of a hoot, he’d heard Sammy let out a loud scream. Toby figured that meant he could go into the tunnel. But it didn’t exactly give him confidence about what he’d find in there.

THIS IS A SAMPLE. SOME PAGES HAVE BEEN OMITTED.

LET'S THINK ABOUT IT

Good questions help us learn.

. . .

1. At the beginning of Chapter 1, Sammy finds himself in a giant pile of stinky dung. What's the worst smell you've ever experienced?
2. Toby remembers his dad saying some really mean things to him (page 14). Has your dad ever said something hurtful, either on purpose or by accident? How did that make you feel? How did you react?
3. Have you ever bullied someone or seen someone get bullied? How could you help someone who's being bullied?
4. Sammy has to distract the Bigmean so Toby can get to the river (page 16-17). What would you have done to get its attention?
5. In Chapter 2, the Tunnel of Memories reminds Cliff of all the times he wondered who his father is. Is your father part of your life? How would things be different if he was or wasn't?
6. Have you ever been afraid to go to school? Who or what were you afraid of?
7. Do you know anyone who gave their life to protect our country like Cliff's cousin Steven? How would you describe that person?

8. Cliff asks God to be the father he always needed (page 24). Who is God to you? In what ways is He like a father to all of us?
9. Spencer used to hate being so small, but he's grown to like it because it makes him good at wrestling and climbing trees (page 36). Is there anything you don't like about your body? What's something good that could come out of what you don't like?
10. Has anyone like Mr. Tusker ever touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable? Did you tell someone about it? If not, who could you tell?
11. Spencer learns to forgive Mr. Tusker so those bad memories don't control how he feels about himself (page 45-46). Who do you need to forgive? How can God help you do that?
12. Have you ever seen a gorilla in person? What do you know about them?
13. Every Gorilla the campfire gang meets shares a name with someone in the Bible. Who were Caleb, Jonah and Obadiah in the Bible? What adventures did they have?
14. The Gorillas greet each other by pounding their fists on their chests (page 56-57). How loudly can you pound on your chest? Do you have a special way to greet your friends?

15. How easy or difficult is school for you? What subjects are the hardest?
16. Pete lost his mom to cancer when he was five (page 61-63). What is cancer? Do you know anyone who's struggled with it?
17. Have you ever been on a trampoline like the Gorillas built in the jungle? What was it like? How high did you get?
18. In Chapter 6, Kerry remembers how sad he felt when his parents got divorced. Has your family ever been broken up because of divorce, death, work or some other reason? How did it make you feel? How did you have to adjust?
19. Do you feel like your family is rich, poor or in the middle? Do you wish you were richer? How would that make your life different?
20. Do you know anyone who has Down syndrome or autism? What are some ways you could help them?
21. In Chapter 7, Kerry gets trapped on a vine and Toby comes up with a plan to rescue him. Have you ever had to help a friend get out of a bad situation? What plan did you create? How did it go?
22. John and BB believe different things about God, but they don't let it affect their friendship (page 111). Do you have any friends who believe something

different from you? How can you talk with them about God?

23. Have you or anyone you know been adopted? How could being adopted affect how loved someone feels?
24. Do you know anyone who chose to end their life like BB's cousin Donna (page 128)? Why do you think they would make that decision? If they were still here, what would you say to them?
25. Do you have any allergies or asthma? How does it affect your everyday life?
26. At the end of this book, BB has to learn to forgive himself. How easy or difficult is it for you to forgive yourself? How can you ask God to help you do that?
27. What's one verse the rock said that you want to remember? Write it down here:

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

. . .



After becoming a grandfather, Dr. Roy Smith was inspired to write a book series for his grandsons and for boys and men of all ages—so he embarked on a journey to creatively teach character development. Being a psychologist and counselor for more than 35 years, Roy understands how important it is for young men to develop and use their

full potential. Roy's goal is to help young men become mentally strong, address their emotions and develop social skills so they can have a powerful impact on the world. They need to meet God and integrate who He is and His Word into their daily decision-making. To further contribute to the overarching goal of positively changing our culture, Roy developed LiveUp Resources (LiveUpResources.com), a ministry that produces books and DVD series for men, women and youth. Roy has written and cowritten several books in the area of men's issues (K21.men), including *Bull*, *Being God's Man*, *Basic Warrior Training*, *Manhood Journey* (Volumes 1-5), *Why Not Try to Hit the Real Target—Men* and *You're Not Dead Yet*. He has also consulted on and written several women's DVD series (RealWomen21.com).

OUT OF THE TUNNEL AND INTO THE LIGHT

On the other side of the Tunnel of Memories lies a mysterious new world. Between hungry monsters and intimidating strangers, the gang has plenty of new challenges to worry about. Luckily, a helping hand never seems to be too far away!

Through it all, the boys learn lessons about life and about God. They never stop fighting for each other—and sometimes for their own lives!

FIND ALL OF THE CAMPFIRE GANG ADVENTURES AT
www.TheCampfireGang.com