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**Did the ancient Egyptians
really fly airplanes?**

**Are ancient tombs
always booby-trapped?**

Get the facts



Atlantis

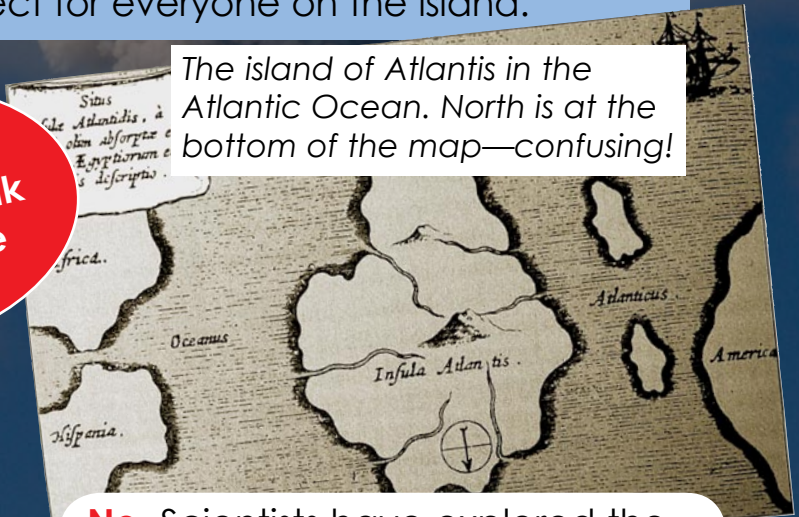
An ancient story says there was an island called **Atlantis**. It was in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Life was perfect for everyone on the island.

Then,
one day, the
island just sank
beneath the
waves.



Could it
be true?

The island of Atlantis in the Atlantic Ocean. North is at the bottom of the map—confusing!



No. Scientists have explored the bed of the Atlantic Ocean. There was **never** a big island there.

So that's that, then?

Well, maybe not. More than 2,500 years ago, a volcano erupted in the Mediterranean Sea. This caused a great wave called a **tsunami**.

Many thousands of people would have been killed. This could have been how the legend started.

The Nazca lines

The Nazca lines are not a legend—they are real and amazing!

Where are they?

In a desert in **Peru, South America**. There are hundreds of figures showing animals such as monkeys, llamas, and spiders. Some of the figures are more than 800 feet long!

How were they made?

The desert is covered with dark stones. Around 2,000 years ago, people started moving them so the light soil underneath would show up.



So what's the mystery?

- 1 Why did they do it?
- 2 You can't really see the figures from the ground. But of course the people who made them didn't have airplanes! Er . . .

A theory

Some people think it is an alien space port. ***But how would pictures of animals help you land a flying saucer?***

The Great Pyramid of Giza

This great pyramid was built more than **four and a half thousand years ago**. It is made of around two and a half million heavy blocks of stone.

Somebody worked out that if you tried to build it today, using modern cranes, it would take at least **twenty-five years** to finish it.

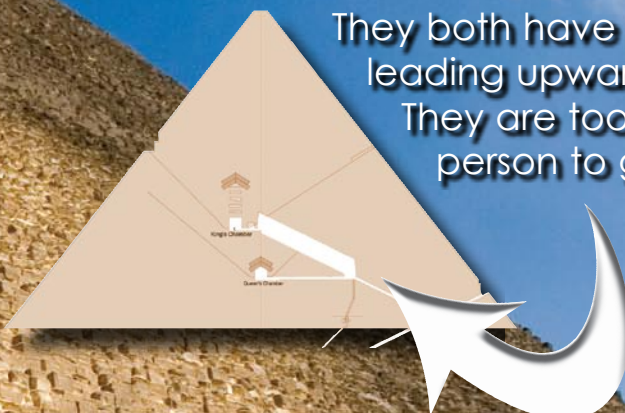
Somehow, the Egyptians managed it in about 23 years!

Are there any more mysteries about the great pyramid?

There is one big mystery left.

There are two rooms in the pyramid, called the **King's Chamber** and the **Queen's Chamber**.

They both have **tiny tunnels** leading upward from them. They are too small for a person to get through.



A **robot** was sent up the tunnel from the Queen's Chamber. It found—a tiny door!

So what's on the other side of the door?
That's the mystery!



Bog men

This guy might look peaceful, but he came to a **nasty end**—around 2,000 years ago!

He is known as **Tollund Man**, and he was found in a bog in Denmark.



Because bogs are very acid, bodies don't rot. The skin is turned into a sort of leather.



More than 1,000 bog bodies have been found. Many of them were **murdered** before they were thrown into the bog. Tollund Man has a rope around his neck.



Why did they do that?

It's another mystery. Maybe he was a criminal—or maybe he was a **human sacrifice!**



Easter Island

Easter Island is a very lonely place in the **Pacific Ocean**.

It was a tough place to live.

Yet around 600 years ago, the islanders found time to carve and set up nearly 900 huge stone statues around the island.

Some of them weigh more than 75 tons!

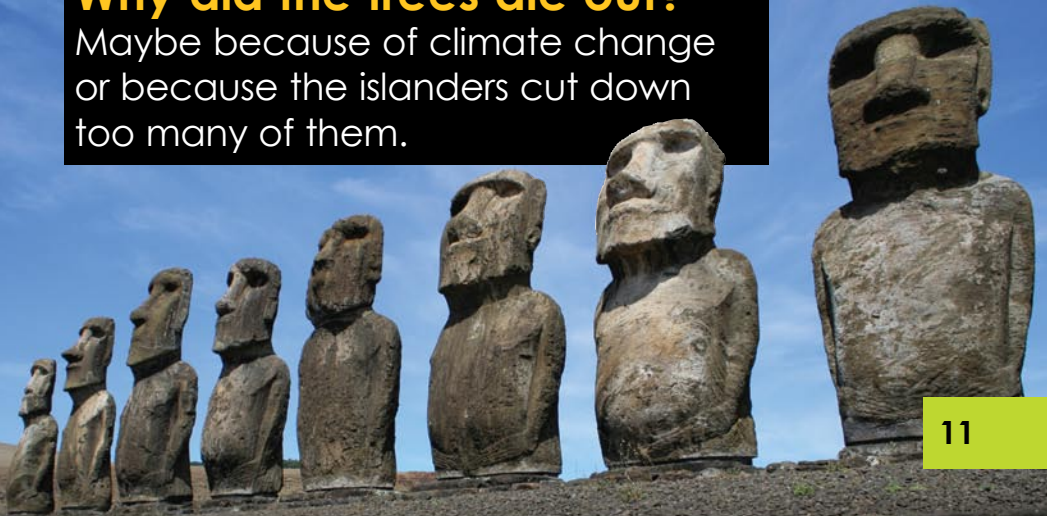


How did they move them?

Probably with ropes and wooden sledges. When the trees on the island disappeared, they stopped building statues.

Why did the trees die out?

Maybe because of climate change or because the islanders cut down too many of them.



Yeti and Big Foot

Yeti The **Yeti** is supposed to be a huge, hairy creature with red fur that lives in the Himalayan mountains of **Nepal** and **Tibet**.



Does
it really
exist?

Well, in 1970 a strange, apelike creature was seen hanging around a climbers' camp.

And here's a picture of a Yeti scalp.

Is it a fake?

PROBABLY.



Big Foot

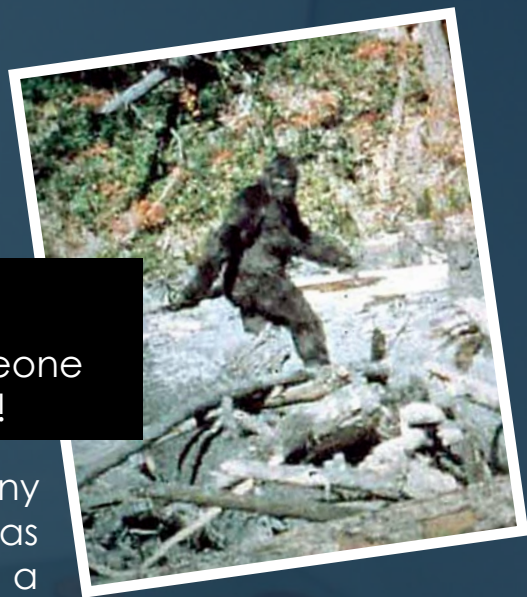


Big Foot is another big, hairy apeman. It is supposed to live in the forests of **North America**.

Well,
does it?



Well, this time, there's a photograph and even a movie!



Hang on!

That looks just like someone wearing a monkey suit!

Well, yes, and here's a funny coincidence. The photo was taken just after they made a movie called

Planet of the Apes.

What do scientists say about the Yeti and Big Foot?

They don't believe in them.
(Well, most of them don't.)

The Shug Monkey

Another mysterious creature is the **Shug Monkey**.

The Shug Monkey runs along roads at night in **Suffolk, England**.

What does **shug** mean? It means **demon**. Where's the evidence that it exists? There isn't any.

So it doesn't really exist then? **NO.**



Ancient maps and airplanes



This map was drawn in **1513** by a mapmaker from Turkey named **Piri Reis**. It was lost for years, then found again in **1929**.

People who studied the map were amazed to see **Antarctica** on it. Antarctica wasn't discovered until **1820!**

Piri said he had made his map partly from copying other very old maps.

Some people think this shows that ancient people explored the world thousands of years ago. They may have even had airplanes!



REALLY?

Probably not. Other people say Piri put a continent on the south of his map because people guessed there was one there—to balance the big continents of the north.

They even had a name for it—**'unknown southern land'**.

But the mystery isn't quite solved. The **coastline** he drew looks very much like—the coast of **Antarctica!**



Er . . . good name!

Speaking of aircraft . . .

This object was found in an ancient tomb in Egypt.

Some **archaeologists** say it is a model of a bird.

Others say it is a toy model of an **aircraft** that is missing a tail fin.



Fly Pharaoh airlines!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Shi Huangdi's tomb

In 1974 a farmer digging a well in China found a strange statue made of **terra-cotta** (baked clay). Archaeologists started to dig, and found more than 8,000 more of them!

The **Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi** wanted to carry on capturing other countries after he was dead! He thought that the figures would become an army in the **afterlife**. They even had **weapons** and **horses**.

Was Shi Huangdi a good emperor?

In many ways he was, but if he didn't like you, he buried you alive!

*Shi Huangdi
—not friendly.*



So what's the mystery?

Not far from the warriors is the **Emperor's tomb**, under a mound **bigger** than the **Great Pyramid**. It has never been opened.



So why don't they dig it up?

The tomb is said to be a complete city, full of **precious jewels**. There is even a complete map of China, with rivers of **flowing mercury**, a liquid metal.

The tomb is said to be **booby-trapped**. Anyone who goes in will be shot by **crossbows**!

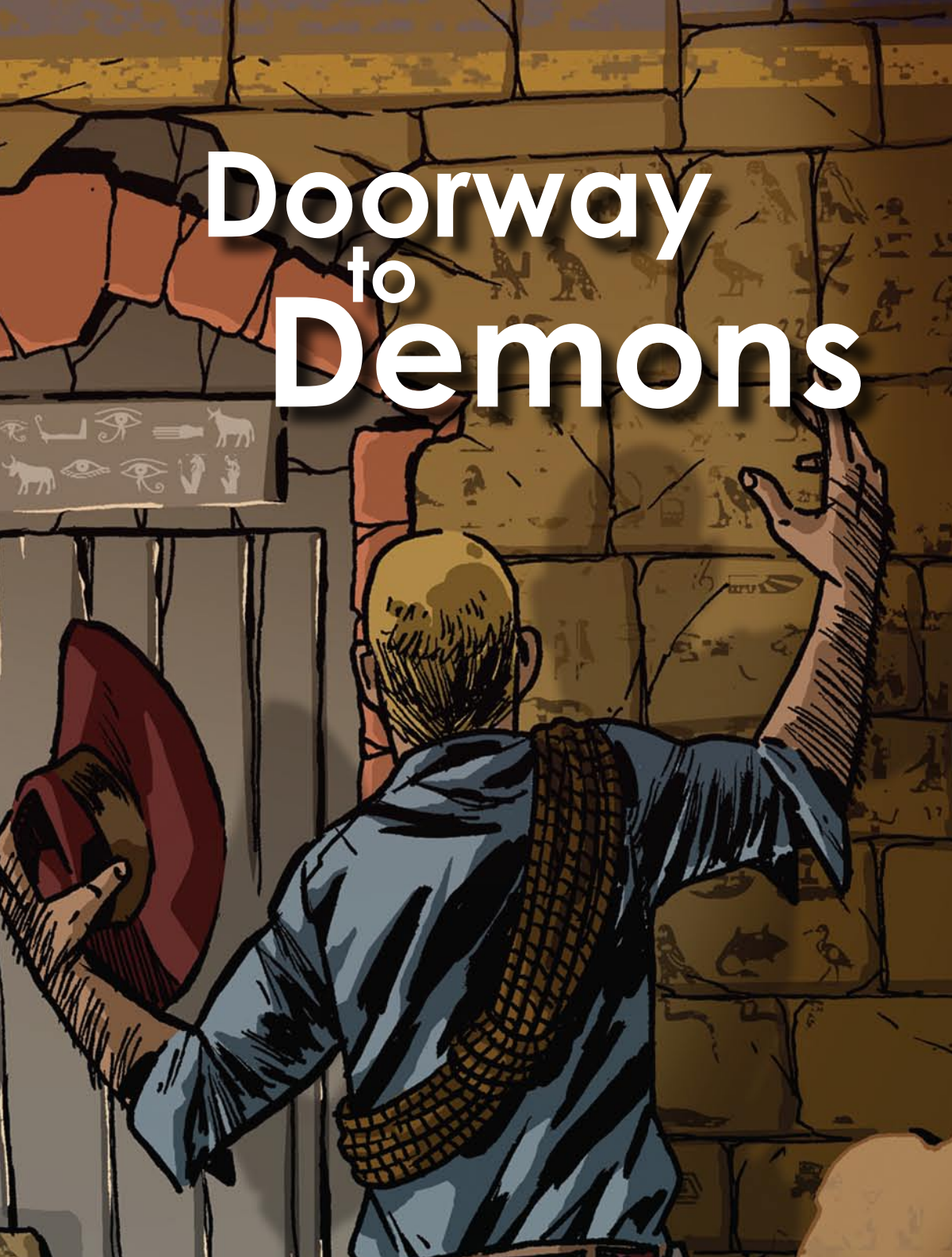


No one knows if it is true, but there is one clue. When they checked the soil of the mound, they found—**mercury**.





Doorway to Demons



Chapter 1

The wall

“I’m sure there is something behind this!”

Sir Giles Topping, the archaeologist, stared at the wall.

“Why do you say that?”

“These stones aren’t part of the wall of this tomb. They’ve been piled up against the wall. There must be something hidden there!”

At first, the new tomb had been a disappointment for Sir Giles and his assistant Peter. It was empty. It didn’t really seem like a tomb at all. But now there was a mystery to solve!

Sir Giles and his assistant Peter are exploring an underground tomb . . .

I'm sure something is hidden behind this!




The blocks of stone were huge. The archaeologists wondered how the builders had gotten them into place without machines to help them.

After a lot of hard work, they shifted some of the stones.

“Sir Giles! You are right! Look, there is a doorway!” shouted Peter.

Sir Giles was thrilled. This could be the discovery that would make him famous!



You're right.
It's a doorway!

This will make
me famous!

Chapter 2

The warning

At last, all the blocks were moved.


But the door was solid stone, and there didn't seem to be any way to open it. How were they going to get through?

Peter was worried about something else. Above the door he found some ancient writing.

“Sir Giles! Look at this! It's a warning!”

A man with short blonde hair, wearing a blue shirt and a patterned tie, is looking at an ancient stone wall. The wall is made of large, irregular yellowish-brown stones. A dark, rectangular door is set into the wall, framed by reddish-brown bricks. The door has a decorative top section with various symbols. The man's right hand is raised, palm facing the wall, as if he is about to touch it or is gesturing towards it.

Then Peter found something . . .

A close-up of a man with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a yellowish-brown garment. He is looking upwards and to the right, towards the door. His right hand is raised, palm facing the door, as if he is about to touch it or is gesturing towards it. The door is made of dark grey stone with a decorative top section featuring symbols.

Sir Giles! This says there is a world of demons on the other side of the door!


“What does it say?”

“Beware! This door must remain sealed! Beyond is another world—the world of demons!”

Sir Giles scratched the long, red scar on his right cheek.

“World of demons? What nonsense! That’s just there to frighten people off—but it doesn’t frighten me! There may be treasure behind that door—and I’m going to find it!”

But getting through the door wasn’t going to be easy.



That
doesn't frighten
me. There may be
treasure through
that door!

Chapter 3

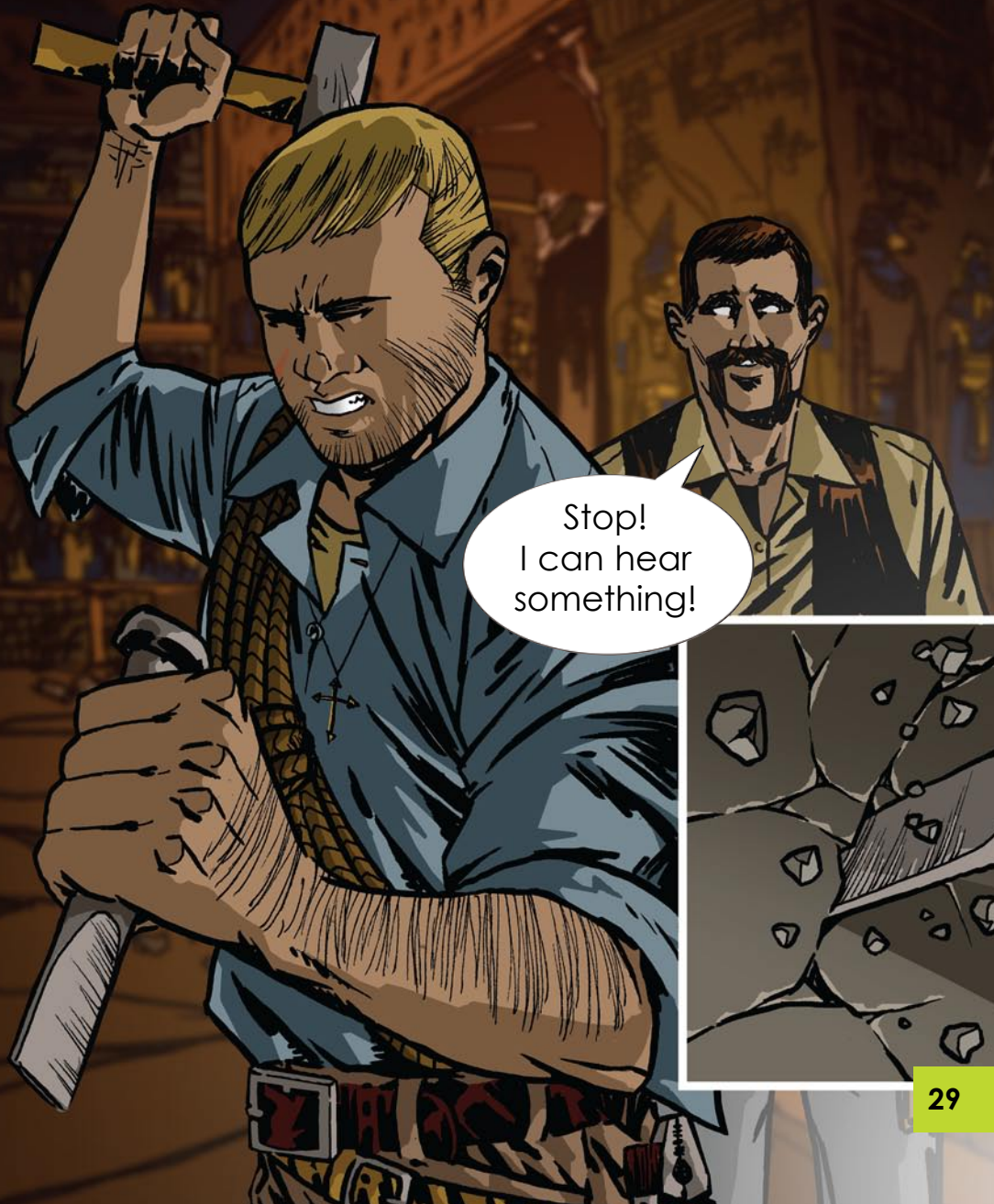
“I can hear something!”

Sir Giles was going to break through the door himself. Only *he* was going to have the glory of finding an amazing treasure.

He got a hammer and chisel and started work.

The stone was very hard, and at first he hardly made a mark on the door. But at last the stone began to fall away in large flakes. The sound of his hammering echoed all around the empty tomb.

“Sir Giles! Stop for a moment! I’m sure I can hear something!”



Stop!
I can hear
something!



Sir Giles turned and glared. He didn't want to stop!

"I can't hear anything. You must be imagining it!"

He picked up his hammer and chisel again, ready to start work on the door. Then he heard the sound himself. A muffled hammering.

It was coming from the other side of the door.



I can't hear anything!

Then Sir Giles heard it too. Hammering—
from the other side of the door!



Chapter 4

The world of the demons

Peter was really frightened now.

“Sir Giles! You must stop! It’s the world of demons!”

“I told you, that’s all nonsense!” roared Sir Giles, and he started hammering even harder.

A great chunk of stone fell away, leaving a hole big enough to climb through. Someone was standing there, looking through at him.

Sir Giles knew that face. It was his.



Stop!
It's the world
of demons!

Nonsense!



Both Sir Gileses fell back in amazement.

“You’re . . . me! From another world! Are you an archaeologist too?”

“That’s right!”

“So . . . I’ve found another world!”

The other Sir Giles climbed through the hole.

“No you haven’t. *I* have.”

Peter gasped when he saw the new Sir Giles stab *his* Sir Giles in the chest.

“You **are** from the world of demons!” he said.

The new Sir Giles turned toward Peter with the knife.

Then Peter noticed something. This Sir Giles’s scar was on his left cheek, not his right.



You're me!
I've found
another world!



No you
haven't. *I* have.



You **are**
from the world of
demons!

Ancient Mysteries word check

afterlife

legend

alien

mercury

Antarctica

Nazca lines

archaeologist

pyramid

Atlantic

sacrifice

Big Foot

Shug Monkey

booby-trap

statue

climate change

terra-cotta

Egyptian

tomb

emperor

tsunami

flying saucer

volcano

Giza

warrior

Himalayan

Yeti

human sacrifice

Fact to Fiction

Get the facts: Who built a space port for aliens? Who lost the lost city of Atlantis? What's a Big Foot? Does the Yeti exist? And what's the secret of the Great Pyramid of Giza?

These are some of the ancient mysteries we still need to solve.

Fiction: Then read *Doorway to Demons*, a story about what happens when you're the good guy *and* the bad guy.

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