

# Martha's lazy day



*In the passage below, ten year old Martha is on holiday with her parents and her younger brother Ned.*

The family were having a lazy day. It was the third day of their stay in a villa on the Spanish coast. On day one, Monday, they had been to the beach; the next day they had driven up into the hills; and this, the third day had been declared a lazy day around the villa and its grounds. Martha was looking forward to a day enjoying the pool that was in the garden of their holiday home.

To add to the holiday fun, the family had bought a large inflatable gorilla that was now floating sedately around the swimming pool wearing a smug grin. Ned was shooting at it with a large water gun. To begin with he had aimed the super soaker at Martha and her parents but had been soundly told off and told to aim at nothing living.

In the middle of the afternoon, having climbed from the pool and smothered herself in sun cream, Martha chose a sun bed in a warm shady spot with the intention of reading her book. Though she was thoroughly enjoying the story about a well-known wizard, Martha soon found she was feeling drowsy in the warmth. She closed her eyes and enjoyed the sound of the water lapping against the tiled walls of the pool; the quiet chattering of the palm fronds as the gentle breeze moved them and the crickets making their maraca like sounds in the nearby pines. The world with its soothing sounds and comforting warmth lulled her into sleep.

The next thing Martha knew she was suddenly awake. For a moment she didn't know where she was and what had woken her. The world had gone cold dark and damp and something seemed to be resting on her.

For a split second pictures of her home and family dashed before her eyes where was she, why was she cold and how was she going to get out of here? She could feel herself panicking but then...

She leapt up to see the rest of the family all laughing at the result of Dad's dropping the very wet gorilla on top of her. At first Martha felt quite cross about her shock but soon saw the funny side of it.

The whole family enjoyed another dip in the pool before drying off in the warmth and dressing ready to go out for dinner. Martha had enjoyed her lazy day, or at least, she had enjoyed most of it.