



# THE MONSTROUS CASE AT THE SEASIDE INN

BY BARBARA LANE

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM JACK PACHUTA

## A Monster at Sea!

The seaside village of Cranberry Cove has become a must-visit spot for "monster lovers" from around the world. For hundreds of years, there have been tales told of a legendary sea monster living in the ocean near the quiet little village. But in recent years, the strange green monster has actually been seen on the ocean near an old inn called The Captain's Mast. The inn is set on a cliff overlooking the water and now attracts a host of tourists anxious to spot the legendary creature.

Dixie and Danny deLusion were excited when their parents told them that they'd be staying at the inn. They're out to take first prize at the annual school science fair, and it would be a real prize winner if they could find out what's happening on the ocean near the The Captain's Mast. Since the deLusion family arrived in Cranberry Cove about a week ago, Dixie and Danny, who are twins, have been out on the beach and exploring the nearby caves and dunes.

Everything appeared calm until dusk last night, when they reported to everyone that it finally happened. They said they saw movement out on the water, and when they stepped closer to get a better look, there it was - the sea monster! When Dixie and Danny told their story, old Captain Stubing who runs the inn, chuckled. "I could tell you stories about that monster that would turn your hair green!"

This latest sighting has caused a lot of commotion in Cranberry Cove and a team of investigators has been called in to find out what Dixie and Danny really saw - or if they saw anything at all.

Since the sighting, they've been back out on the beach, watching for the monster and collecting bits and pieces of "evidence". They say they've found some interesting clues that the investigators can use to try to figure out what's going on. Now, it's up to the group of expert sleuths to solve the mystery of the sea monster.



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### Rules of the Game

Is the sea monster real or not? The monster is either real or someone has been staging the monstrous appearances! One of the suspects knows the truth, but no one knows who that one suspect is—not even the guilty person! Each suspect is able to answer the following questions:

1. Who are you and what do you do in Cranberry Cove?
2. What did you do before you came to Cranberry Cove?
3. What do you know about the sea monster?

Plus each suspect has the answer to one or two additional questions that could be important in solving the case. The additional questions can be found on the suspect note cards. Figure out a way to talk to all of the suspects. It's up to you to determine if you want to share what you find out with the other investigators!

To solve the case, you must be able to answer these questions:

#### First: Is the monster real?

If the monster is *real*...

1. How long has it actually lived offshore?
2. What kind of creature *is it*?
3. What keeps it near Cranberry Cove?

If the monster *is not real*...

1. Who is responsible?
2. About how long has it been going on?
3. How was the truth hidden?

Investigators who solve the case become super sleuths!

Keep your ears *and eyes open*, take good notes, and help Dixie and Danny learn the truth! Good luck!



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**Be sure to ask:**

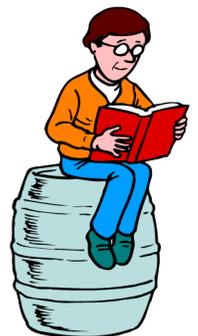
- Who are you and what do you do in Cranberry Cove?
- What did you do before you came to Cranberry Cove?
- What do you know about the sea monster?

### Notes about Captain Stubing



**Additional Question:** *What is your interest in sea cows?*

### Notes about David deLusion



**Additional Question:** *Did anything unusual happen last night?*



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### Captain Stubing

You are a suspect. Always tell the truth when people ask you questions.

#### Who are you and what do you do in Cranberry Cove?

I'm Captain Stubing. I own The Captain's Mast, the only inn anywhere close enough to the water to watch for Cranberry Cove's famous sea monster. Oh, I could tell you a story about that, but you're busy finding clues. I'll tell you some other time. Stories are my specialty! Since we have so many guests at the inn during the summer, there's always plenty of time to tell *lots of* stories

#### What did you do before you came to Cranberry Cove?

I've been in Cranberry Cove about ten years and started running the inn as soon as I came here. If you don't mind, I'll tell you the story behind that and I'll make it short. My aunt and uncle owned The Captain's Mast for the longest time, but they always wanted to go to sea. So they bought a houseboat, and one day they disappeared - boat and all. They left a note — a will that said The Captain's Mast and all the money and belongings were to be given to me. So I moved here and took over managing the inn. I wasn't very crazy about the idea, but it's better than living in a big city.

Before I came here? We'll make a long story short. I spent some time in college, but all that book-learning didn't seem to do a lot of good. So I signed up to join the crew on a boat that took scientists out to study "deep sea animals." After I learned enough, I got a boat of my own. What an adventure! I learned a lot, too, being around all those scientists for so many years. In fact, old TJ was one of the scientists I worked for. It was sure good to see him when he moved here — though I can't say I was surprised.

#### What do you know about the sea monster?

Well, I know she's pretty big. I've seen her plenty of times, just never clearly enough to tell exactly what she looks like. See, she usually comes up just before a storm moves in — when the clouds are thick and there's a mist over the water. Now, there have been stories about this monster for hundreds of years. I guess she's kind of a legend around these parts. But she's only been comin' up out of the water like that for about the past eight or nine years. These days, folks come from far and wide just to get a look at her. The Monstrous Beach BBQ is probably the biggest event of the year. Just about everyone in town goes because the monster always comes up to see what's going on! It gives me a great chance to tell stories, too.

Oh, the stories I could tell you about that monster! *Most folks around here are too busy for my stories. I guess that's why I like having guests at the inn. They love my stories! But, no one's loved them as much as Danny and Dixie have. I don't think I've ever met anyone so determined to find out about that monster!*

#### What is your interest in sea cows?

*Ahhh....sea cows. I learned a lot about them during all those years at sea — and even befriended a few! Some years before I retired, I found one that had been hurt. I nursed her back to health, but when I tried to release her, she wouldn't go! She followed me for months. I like those creatures a lot. TJ must like them, too, since he's so determined to find one here in the Cove. The only problem with that idea is that there's not enough kelp washing up onto the beach to prove that there's a huge sea cow offshore. Poor TJ. He sure is determined.*



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