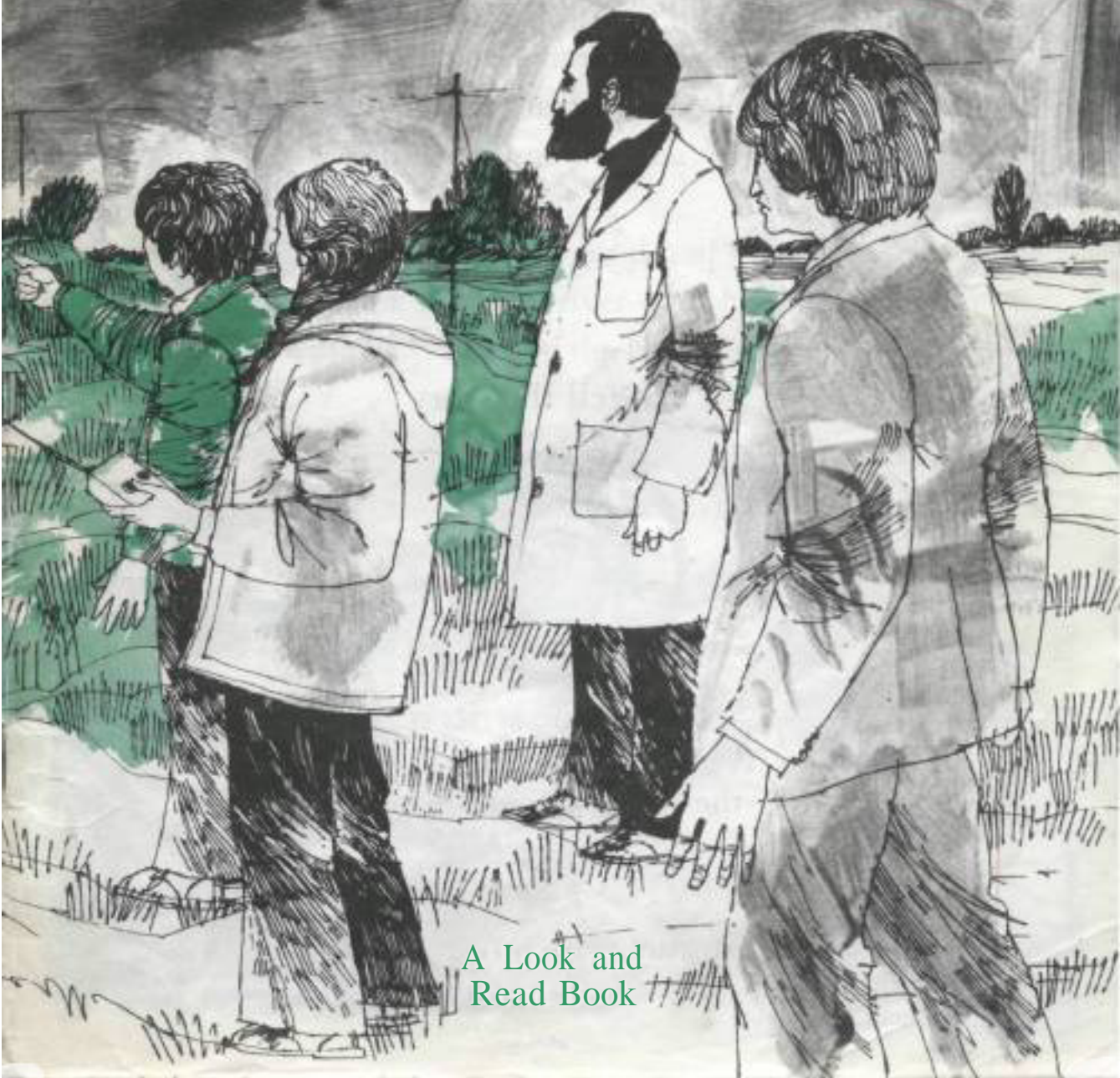


BBC Television for Schools

Cloud Burst

by Richard Carpenter



A Look and
Read Book



This is Jenny



This is Tim



This is Dick Turner



This is Number One

They tell the story



This is the writer
When he tells the story
the words are in **green**

The illustrations are by Trevor Ridley



1 Out of control

This is Jenny telling the story

I am Jenny Barber and Tim is my brother. We live in the Fens. The Fens are very flat. There are lots of farms in the Fens. Things grow well there, because it is very good land.

Long ago, the Fens were under water. Then big drains were made.

The drains got the water off the land and into the rivers.

Dad's job is to look after the river and the land round it. One day, we were with Dad by the big flood gates.



'What is it, Dad?' said Tim.

'I don't know, Tim,' said Dad.

'It's the man on the motor-bike again. He has a map with him.'

'I saw him on Sunday,' said Tim. 'Down by the big drain.'

'Well, it's nothing to do with us,' said Dad.

'I had better get on. Where are you off to?'

'Up to the old air-field,' I said. 'Is it going to rain?'

'I hope not, Jenny,' said Dad.

'Look how high the water level is.'

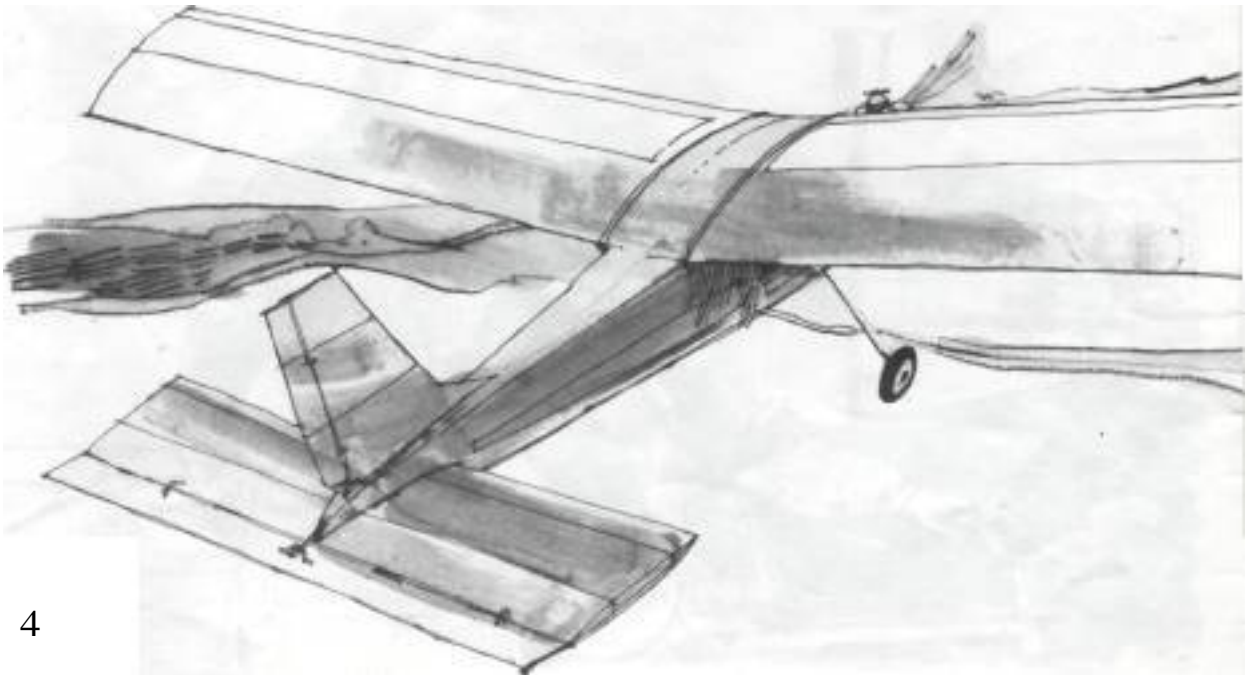
Dad has to control the water level
and the drains with the big flood gates.

We rode our bikes into Downham,
and then up to the old air-field.

There are no planes flying there now.

'How about here, Jenny?' said Tim. 'What is the wind like?'

'Just right,' I said.



I got the box off my bike.
Then I took my new plane from the box. Was it going to fly?

I had made the plane myself. It had a radio control.

'We must start the motor first,' I said.

When the motor was going,
I took the control unit from my pocket.
The control unit sends a signal to the plane.
This makes the rudder turn. Tim let the plane go.



But it did not fly. The control unit did not control the plane.
Down it fell. Tim ran and got it.

'Why won't it work?' said Tim.

'The radio signal isn't getting to the plane,' I said.

I pressed the button again.

Suddenly the rudder began to turn.

We got the motor going again. Tim let the plane go.

At last it was flying. I sent the radio signal
from the control unit. The plane went round and round.



'Let me fly it,' said Tim.

Tim took the control unit. But the plane went on.

'Turn it, Tim! Turn it!' I said.

But it was no good. The plane just went faster and faster.

We ran to the bikes and went after the plane.

It was flying towards the trees.

They did not know that the man with the motor-bike was looking at them.





2 Ram Pandit

This is Jenny telling the story

We began to look for the plane in the trees.

Then we came to a wall round a big house.

'It must be in there,' I said.

Tim got up on his bike and had a look over the wall.

'Get down Tim! Someone may see you!' I said.

'There is no-one living there,' he said. 'Come on Jenny.'



We got over the wall and began to look for the plane again. Tim went one way and I went the other. Suddenly I saw the plane. But where was Tim? He was trying to look inside the house.

'Come on Tim,' I said. 'I have found the plane. Let's go!'

'No,' said Tim. 'There is a light on inside that room.'

Tim was right. There *was* a light in the room.

Someone was living there after all!

We turned from the window. A man was standing behind us!



The man came towards us.

'Can I help you?' he said.

'We didn't know that anyone was living here,' said Tim.

'Then I saw the light in the room.'

'I see,' said the man. 'Well *I* live here, and I don't like anyone getting over my wall and looking in at my windows.'

'We are sorry,' I said.

'I am Ram Pandit,' he said. 'Who are you?'

We told him. Then he smiled at us.

'May I see your plane?' he said.

I gave him the plane and the control unit,
and told him how I had made them myself.

'The control unit isn't working very well,' I said.

He was a long time looking at it.

'How far from here were you?' asked Ram Pandit.



'About a mile,' said Tim.

'A mile. Then I think I know why the control unit
didn't work,' Ram Pandit said. He smiled again.

We were just going to ask him why,
when a lady came towards us from the house.

'I am sorry, Mr Pandit,' she said. 'But I can't get into the laboratory. Mr Turner has gone for his walk and I must get on with the house work!'

Ram Pandit gave her the key and she went into the house.

'Mrs Green looks after me. She comes from Fenham,' said Ram Pandit. 'You see, we are not very good at house work.'

A man came walking towards us.

'This is my friend, Mr Turner. He likes going for long walks,' Ram Pandit said.



'It helps me to think,' said Mr Turner.

'Are you a scientist?' I said to Ram Pandit.

'Yes. I am a scientist. Mr Turner is a scientist too,' said Ram Pandit.

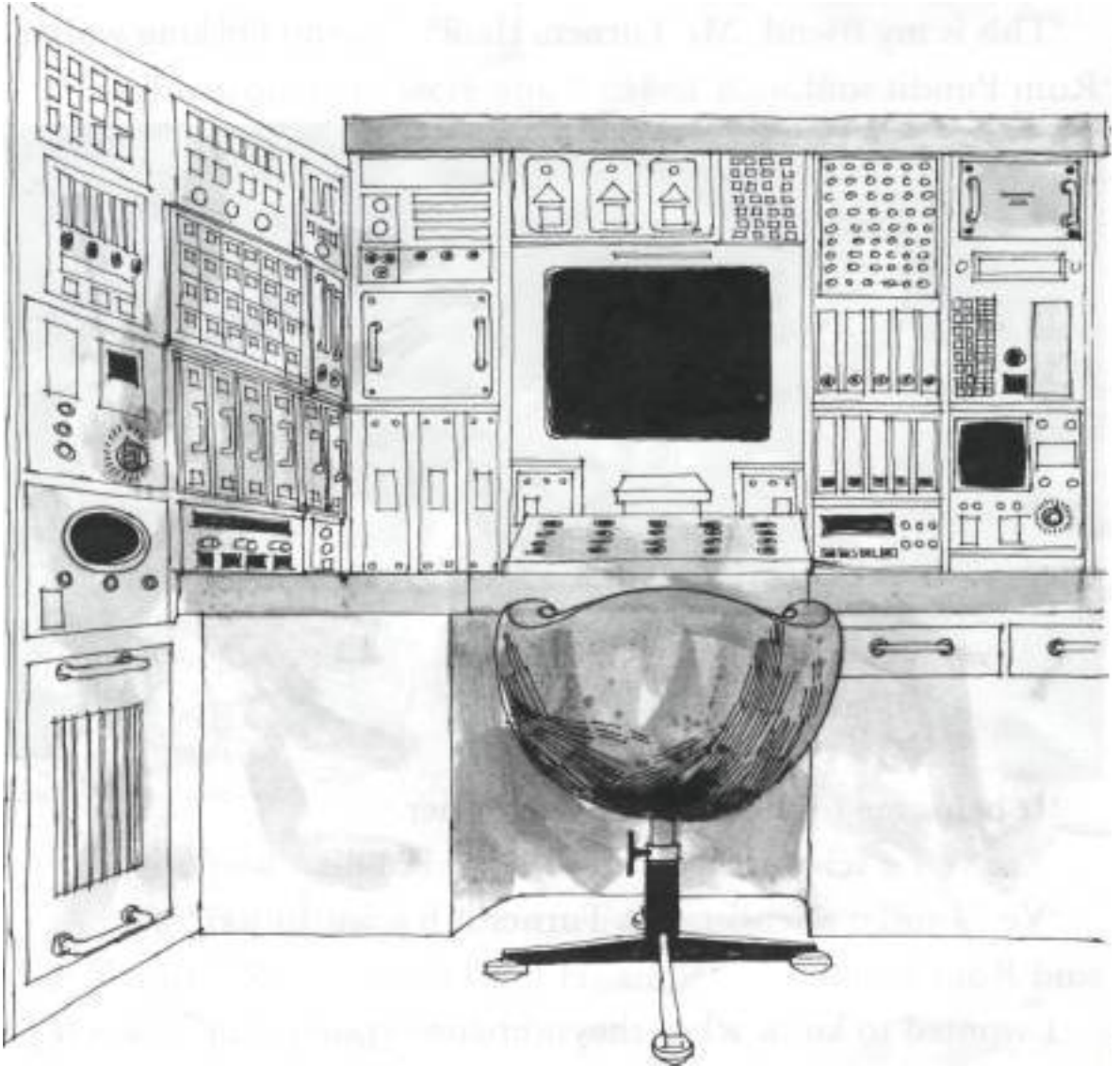
I wanted to know what they were doing, but I did not like to ask them.

'Come and meet the other scientist who helps us,'
said Ram Pandit. 'He is in the laboratory.'

He led us inside the house, and then into the laboratory.

'Here he is,' said Ram Pandit. 'Here is the other scientist!'

It was a computer!





3 RAV 1

This is Jenny telling the story

Ram Pandit and Mr Turner let us work the computer.

'It's very much faster at sums than we are,' said Mr Turner.
'Tim, can you work out this sum?'

On the computer he put

$$12345 \times 12345$$



'It will take me a lot of time to work that one out,'
said Tim.

'Press that button,' said Ram Pandit to me.

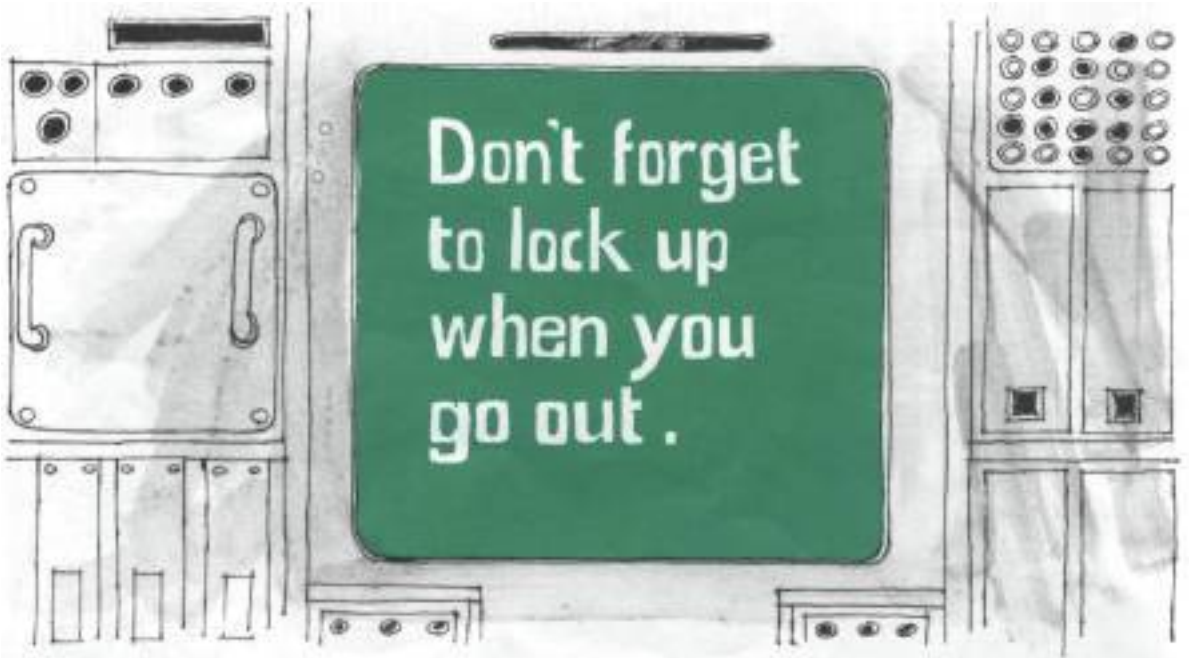
152,399,025, it said on the computer.

'Can you ask it anything ?' said Tim.

'Yes, but it only knows what it has been told,'
said Mr Turner. 'Sometimes we put messages into it.
I think there is still one in there.'

Mr Turner pressed another button.

'Don't forget to lock up when you go out,' said the computer.



Mr Turner turned off the computer.

'Now,' he said, 'if I turn it on again, where is the message?'

'Still in the computer?' I said.

I was right. Mr Turner pressed another button
and there was the message again!

Ram Pandit said he would mend the control unit for us, so we left the plane with him. We went to find our bikes and set off home. Then we saw a man on a motor-bike. Was he the man we had seen before? What was he doing? What did he want?



This is Tim telling the story

Suddenly the man on the motor-bike went by us, and off down the road. When we got home we told Dad about it.

'Someone is living in that big house near the old air-field,' I said.

'I know,' said Dad. 'Some Indians.'

'Just one Indian,' said Jenny. 'Ram Pandit. He is a scientist and his friend.'

'I can't stop now, Jenny,' said Dad.

He went to open the lock gates, and we went home.

Inside our house, Jenny was getting the supper and I was helping her. Mum was still out at work. We talked about Ram Pandit. I wanted to know what kind of scientist he was and what he was doing.

The man with the motor-bike was waiting near a main road. A black car with black windows drove up and stopped. The window began to open. . . .





4 The gas-gun

This is Number One telling the story

Number Three came over from the motor-bike and gave me the stolen computer program. My turn had come at last. Now I could begin Plan A.

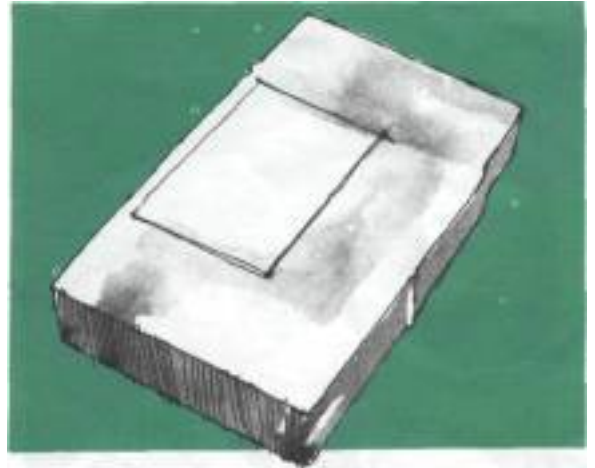
When I got back to the factory, Number Two let me into the control room.

'Well, Number Two,' I said, 'now we have the firing program, we can begin Plan A tomorrow.'

'How do we know it will work?' said Number Two.

'I know *him*,' I said. 'Everything we have stolen from him so far has worked.'

Number Two put the stolen program into the computer and pressed the button.



'This is not the firing program!' said Number Two.

'What!'

'It's a flood control program,' said Number Two.

'Flood control! I want the firing program!' I said.

'Call up Number Three on the radio.'

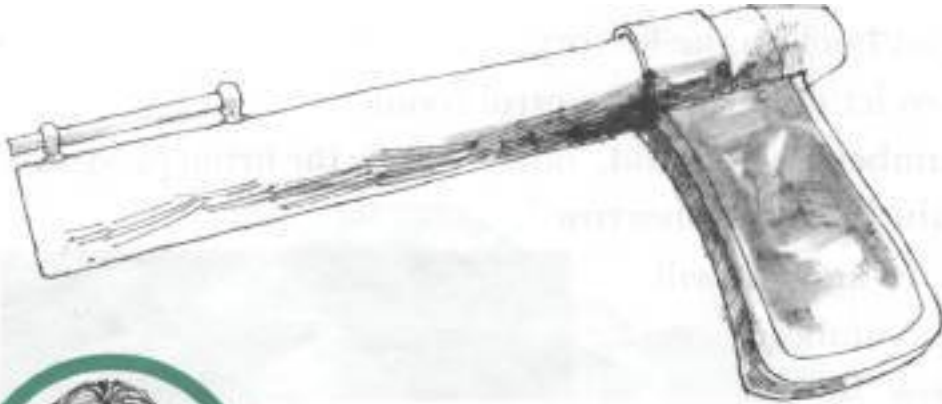
The two of you will have to get it tomorrow.'

'What about Ram Pandit?' said Number Two.

'My dear Number Two,' I said,

'You will find that no-one will stand in your way if you have this. Not even my dear brother Ram.'

I gave Number Two a gas-gun.



This is Jenny telling the story

In the morning, Tim and I set out for Ram Pandit's house.

Dad was working at the flood gates.

'We are going to get Jenny's plane,' Tim told him.

'Those scientists won't want you children getting in the way,' said Dad.

'Mr Pandit is our friend,' I said.

Tim was looking at the river.

'The water level is up again^ Dad,' he said.

'Is it going to rain?'

'Yes,' said Dad.

Dad always knew if it was going to rain.

It was part of his job.

At the factory, Number Two was sitting in the black car.

'If brother Ram gets in your way, you know what to do,' said Number One.

'Don't come back without the firing program.'

Number Two drove away.

At the same time, Ram Pandit went into his laboratory with a computer program.

He put it into the computer.

Then he started to mend Jenny's control unit.

He soon had it working a lot better.

Ram put the control unit into his pocket.

He put the plane where it would be safe and went back to the computer.

He turned it on and pressed another button.

'Firing program,' said the computer.



Number Two stopped the black car just inside the drive.

Number Three, the man with the motor-bike, ran up.

'Keep a good look-out,' said Number Two.

'Call me on the radio if you see anyone coming.'

He went up the drive and stopped outside the house.

Ram went to the window and looked out.

He saw the car's number . . . RAV 1!



'Ravi!' he said to himself, and ran back to the computer.

He began to press buttons as fast as he could.

Number Two burst into the laboratory.

He fired the gas-gun at Ram. Ram fell!

5 In the hut

Number Two was still looking for the firing program when Number Three called him on the radio.

'Those kids are coming.'

Number Two took Ram to the car. He drove off with him



just as Jenny and Tim rode up the drive. The car came at them. They fell off their bikes as it went by.

Number Two stopped the car near Number Three.

'I couldn't find it,' he said. 'Get rid of those kids.' Then he drove away.



Jenny's story

We picked ourselves up and went on to the house.
I pressed the bell but no-one came.



Suddenly Tim turned towards the drive.

'What is it?' I said.

'Someone is coming,' said Tim.

It was Mrs Green, the lady who did the house work.

'We came for the plane,' I said.

'Mr Pandit was going to mend it for us.'

'Where is it?' said Mrs Green.

'I think it's in the laboratory,' I said.

Mrs Green opened the door and we all went to the laboratory.

'I can't see it,' said Mrs Green.

'He may have locked it away. They lock everything up.'

'What are they doing here, Mrs Green?' said Tim.

'I don't know, dear,' she said.

'I don't understand anything to do with science.

You will have to come back tomorrow for your plane.

It could be anywhere.'

'They have left the computer on!' said Tim.

Then she let us out of the house.

Now what were we going to do?

Tim picked up a key.

'Look at this,' he said.

'It can't be Mrs Green's key,'
I said.

'It must be Ram's,' Tim said.

He put it in the letter-box.

We were on the way home
when it began to rain.

There was a hut near the road.

We went into it to get out of
the rain.



'Look!' said Tim.

Was it the man with the motor-bike looking at us from behind a big box?



'What do you want?' said Tim.

Suddenly we could see there was no-one there.

It was just his helmet.

Then we found the motor-bike and some of the man's things.

'But where is the man?' said Tim.

'What are we going to do if he comes back?' I said.

'Let's go,' said Tim.

We opened the door. Mr Turner was standing outside!



6 The secret

Tim's story

'Hello,' said Mr Turner.

'I didn't think I would find you in here.'

'We know who you are!' I said.

'You are the man on the motor-bike!'

'What man? What motor-bike?' said Mr Turner.

We told him all about it.

'I think we had better tell Ram,' said Mr Turner.

He is not at the house ' I said.



Then we told him about the black car.

'We came for Jenny's plane,' I said.

'Yes, but we couldn't find it in the laboratory,' said Jenny.

'Ram had left the computer on,' I said.

'So Mrs Green turned it off,' said Jenny.

We could see that there was something

Mr Turner did not understand.

We got our bikes and set off to the house.

Mr Turner was thinking hard.

As we went in,

I picked up the key I had put in the letter-box.

Mrs Green had gone. We all went to the laboratory.

'You said the computer was on, ' said Mr Turner,
'and that Mrs Green turned it off?'

'Yes,' I said.

'How could she?' said

Mr Turner.

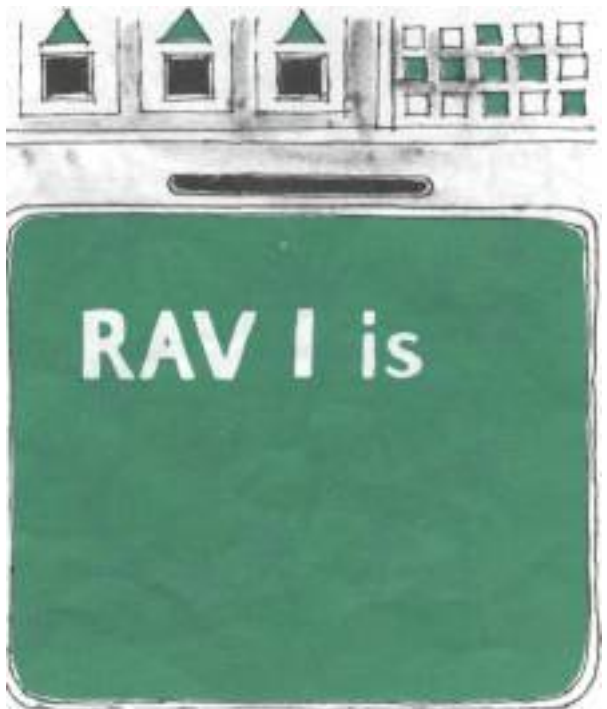
'She knows nothing about
computers.'

Mr Turner turned on
the computer.

'There is a message,' it said.

Mr Turner pressed
another button.

'RAV 1 is' said the
computer.



'Not much of a message is it?' said Jenny. 'RAV 1 is what?'

'RAV I' said Mr Turner. 'Ra-vi is'

'Ravi is?' said Jenny.

We could not understand the message.

They did not know

that Ravi was the name of Ram Pandit's brother.

They did not know that he was Ram's twin

and that he looked just like him. Ravi was Number One!

At Ravi's factory

Ram stood with his hands tied behind his back.

'How did you find me, Ravi?' said Ram.

'I never lost you,' said Ravi. 'When you left India,
so did I. When you came to the Fens, so did I.

I know everything you have been doing here. Everything!'





Tim's story

In the laboratory, Jenny and Mr Turner were still trying hard to work out the message. Then I saw where Ram Pandit had put Jenny's plane and got it down.

'But where is the control unit?' said Jenny.

'Has Ram got it?' I said.

'Yes, but where is Ram?' said Jenny.

'Well, he *must* have gone off in that car,' I said, 'and this key fell from his pocket.'

I gave Mr Turner the key.

Suddenly he left the laboratory.

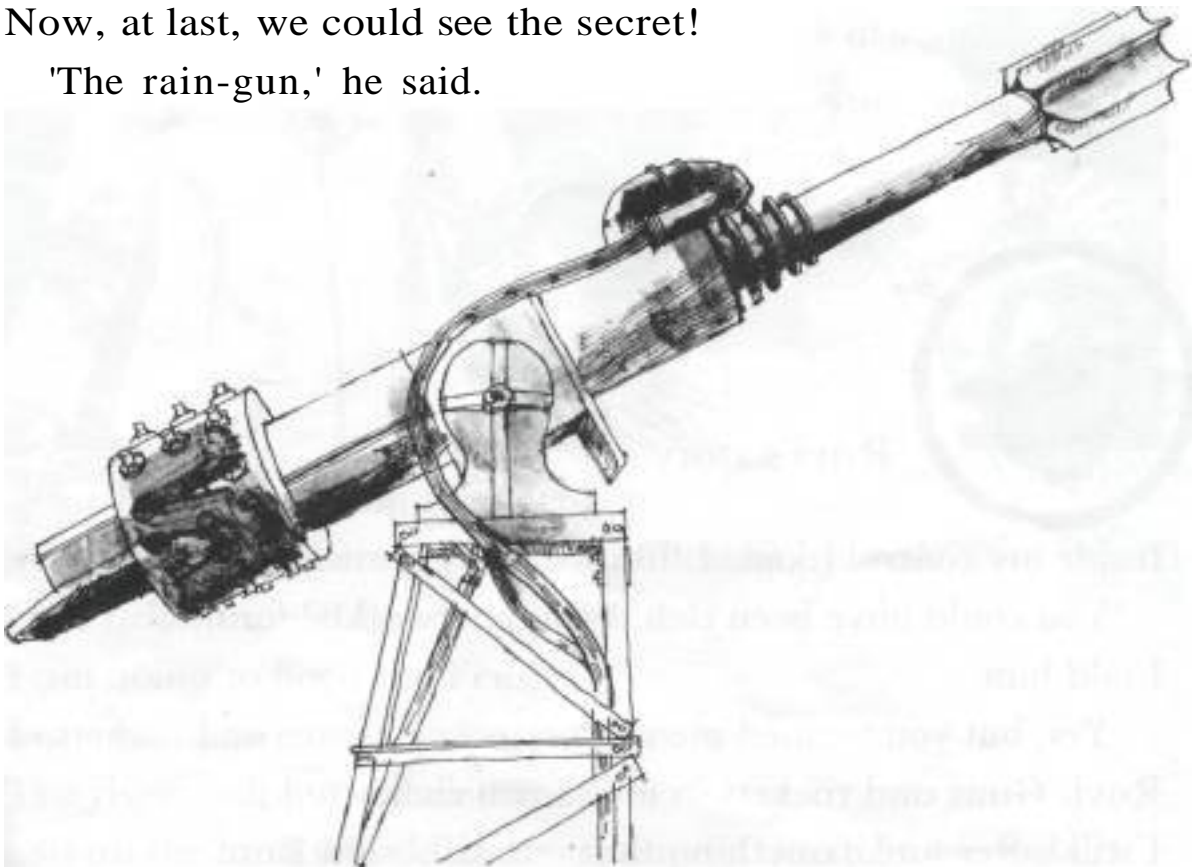


We found him locking the door of the room at the back of the house. It was the room with the light. We made him tell us the secret of the room.

'Ram comes from a very dry part of India,' he said. 'It is so dry that it's hard to grow anything there. There is very little rain. The Indians who live there have very little food. Sometimes they have nothing. Ram is a scientist and he wanted to help them. He worked a long time to find a way to make food grow. I have been helping him. So has the computer. So has the World Food Plan. This is what we have made!'

Mr Turner opened the door of the room. Now, at last, we could see the secret!

'The rain-gun,' he said.



7 To the mill!

Jenny and Tim went into the room and looked at the rain-gun. They had never seen anything like it.

'Why do you call it a rain-gun?' said Tim.

'Because it makes rain,' said Mr Turner.

'It fires rockets into the air.'

'What is in the rockets?' said Tim.

'A very new kind of gas,' said Mr Turner.

'When the rockets burst, the gas makes the water in the air turn into rain clouds. The rain-gun will give the dry land of India rain to grow more food.'



Ravi's story

Inside my control room, I told Ram my plans.

'You could have been rich if you had worked for me,'

I told him.

'Yes, but you wanted me to work on new guns and rockets, Ravi. Guns and rockets to make you rich.

I will never make anything that can kill,' said Ram.

'But that's just what you have done,' I said.

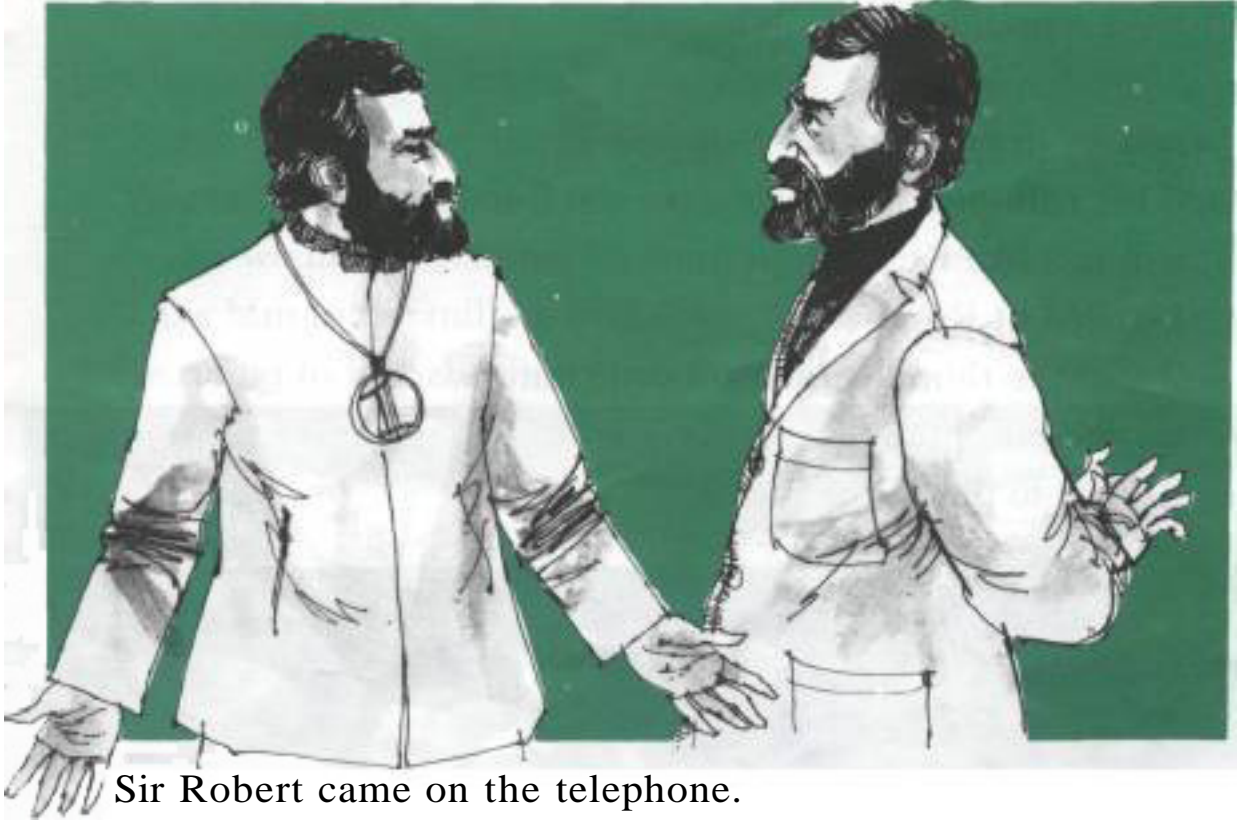
I picked up the telephone.

'Get me Sir Robert Blain at World Food Plan,' I said.

I looked at Ram.

'Oh yes, I know about Sir Robert
and all the help he has given you.'

'What are you going to do, Ravi?' said Ram.



Sir Robert came on the telephone.

'Hello, Sir Robert. This is Ram Pandit,' I said.

'The rain-gun will be tested today.

I am going to flood the Fens.

I am going to make it rain and rain.

The rivers will burst their banks

and all the land will be under water . . . Goodbye Sir Robert.'

I put down the telephone.

'We have stolen your firing program, Ram. When Number Three gets back with it, I will begin to flood the Fens.'

'How can you?' said Ram. 'You may get the firing program, but you will never get the rain-gun.'

'Come with me, my dear brother,' I said, 'I have something for you to see.'

When we got to the van, I gave a signal and my rain-gun began to come out from the top of the van. It was just like Ram's rain-gun.

I smiled at Ram.

'I want to thank you for all your hard work. Your computer told us everything. How to make the rain-gun and what to put in the rockets.'



Soon, my dear Ram, the Fens will be under water.
Farms, houses, everything ! The world will see what I can do!
Everyone will give me what I want.
They will give me anything to stop the floods.
I will grow rich—very rich.'

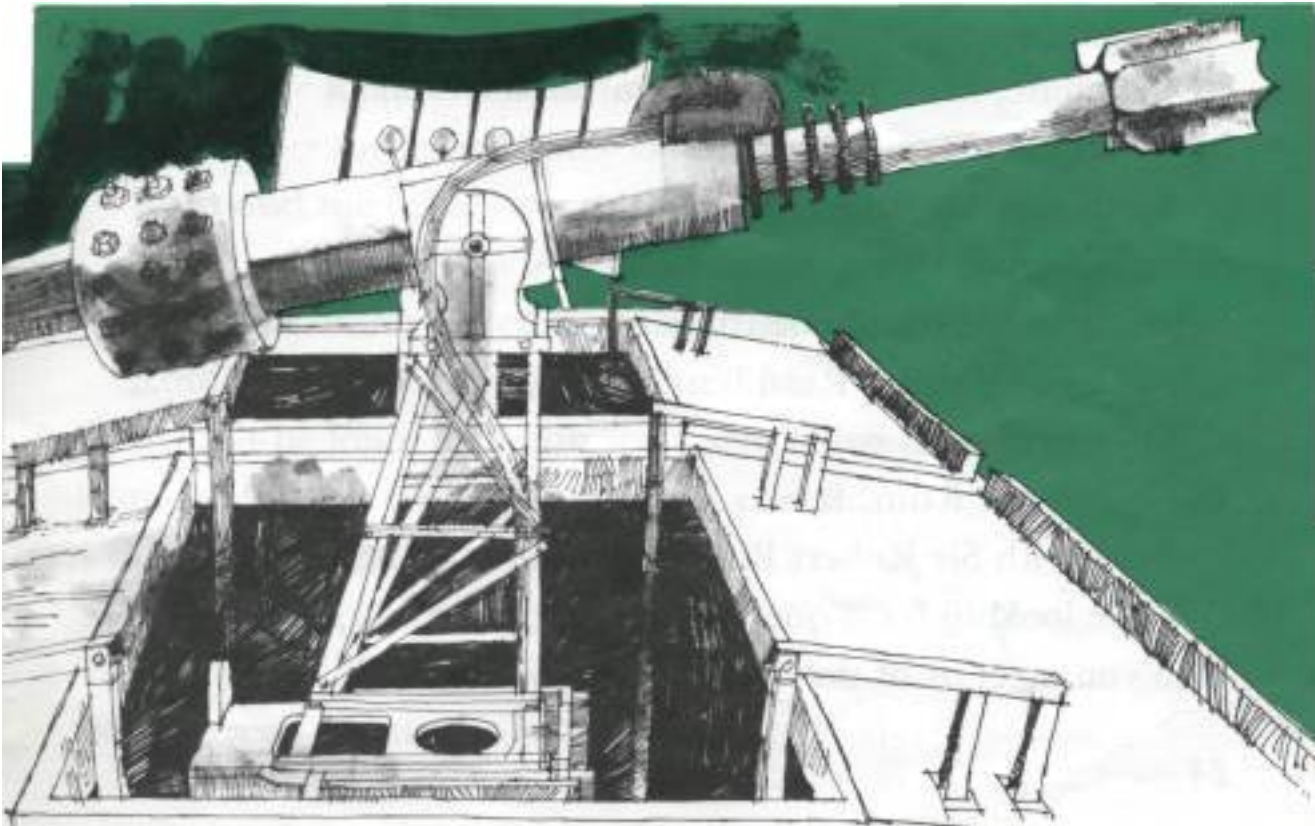
'You will never get away with this,' said Ram.
'Who will stop me?' I said. 'You?'

Just then Number Two came running up.

'Three couldn't find the firing program,' he said.
'Where is it?' I said to Ram. '*Where is it?*'
But he would not tell me.

'Take him to the mill,' I said.

'I am going to find the firing program myself.'





Then Two told me Number Three had seen Turner and the children at the house.

'I will get rid of them,' I said.

At the house, Mr Turner could not understand how Mrs Green could turn off the computer.

'I will ring Sir Robert Blain to see if Ram is there,' he said.

Just then the telephone rang.

'Are you all right, Ram?' said Mr Turner.

'On top of the world!'

But it was not Ram. It was Ravi speaking.

'I am with Sir Robert Blain,' he said.

'We are looking for a good spot to test the rain-gun. Can you meet us at the mill?'



'The mill. Fine!' said Mr Turner.

'But Jenny and Tim are here.'

Ravi cut in.

'You had better send them home.'

It won't take long. Get here as soon as you can.'

Mr Turner turned to Jenny and Tim.

'Ram and the others are at the mill.'

I have to go there,' he said. 'Ram wants you to go home.'

'But what about my control unit?' said Jenny.

'Ram must have it with him,' said Mr Turner.

'We won't be long. You can wait here if you like.'

Ram can give it to you when he gets back.'

Mr Turner left for the mill.

'He fell for it,' Ravi said to Number Three.

'Now we can get the firing program.'

8 The signal

Number Two stopped the rain-gun van at the mill.
He made Ram go inside and locked him in a room at the top.



Dick Turner's story

It was about a mile to the mill.

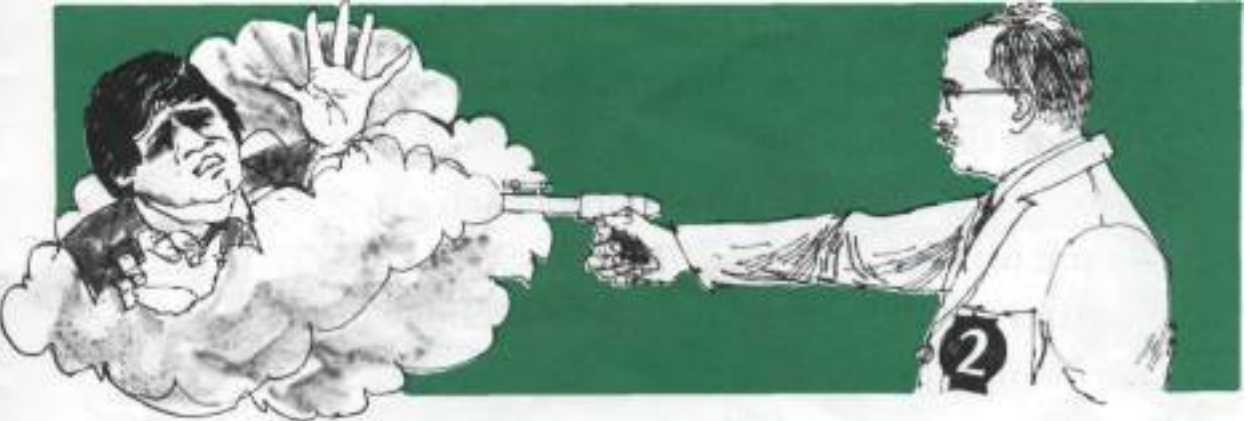
When I got there, I could not see anyone.

There was a van standing outside, but it did not look as if it had anything to do with Sir Robert.

'Sir Robert?' I called.

I went into the mill. Where was everyone?

'Ram!' I called again. Suddenly I turned round. . . .



Number Two fired the gas-gun at Mr Turner and he fell.



Dick Turner's story

I came round to find a man standing over me.

He made me go to the top of the mill.

Ram was there. I was locked in with him.

'This is Ravi's doing,' said Ram.

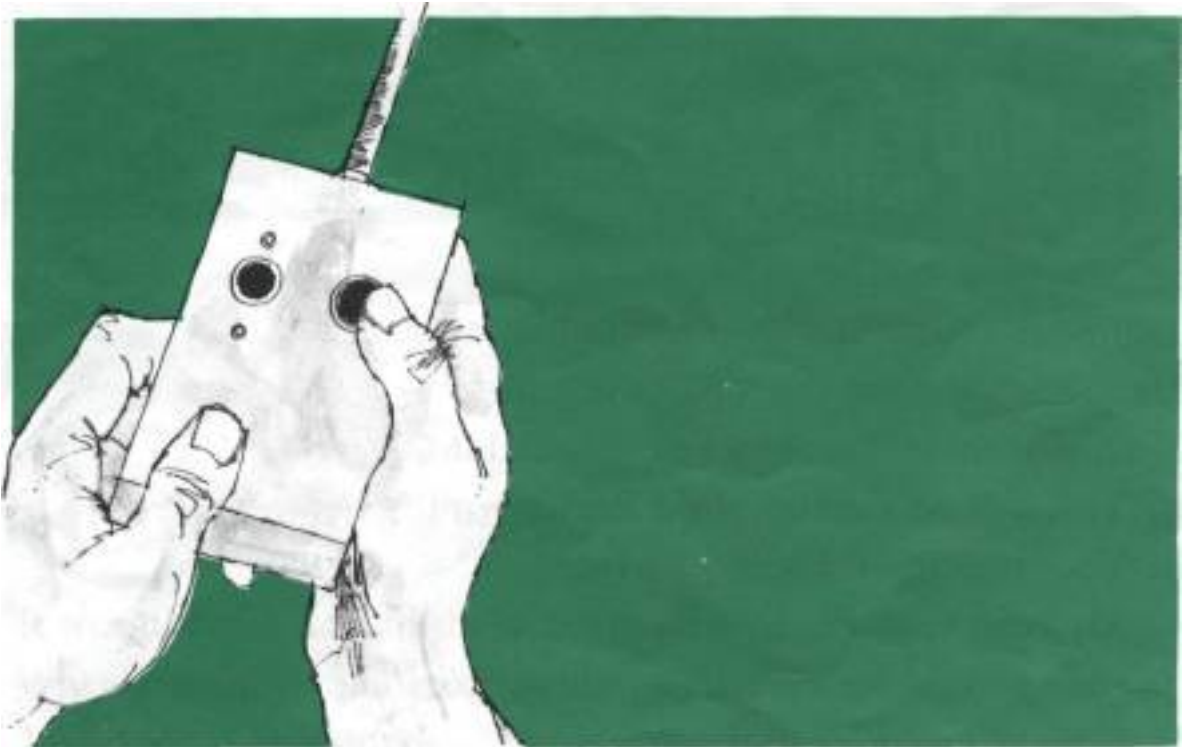
'Your message!' I said. 'Ravi is'

'My twin brother,' said Ram.

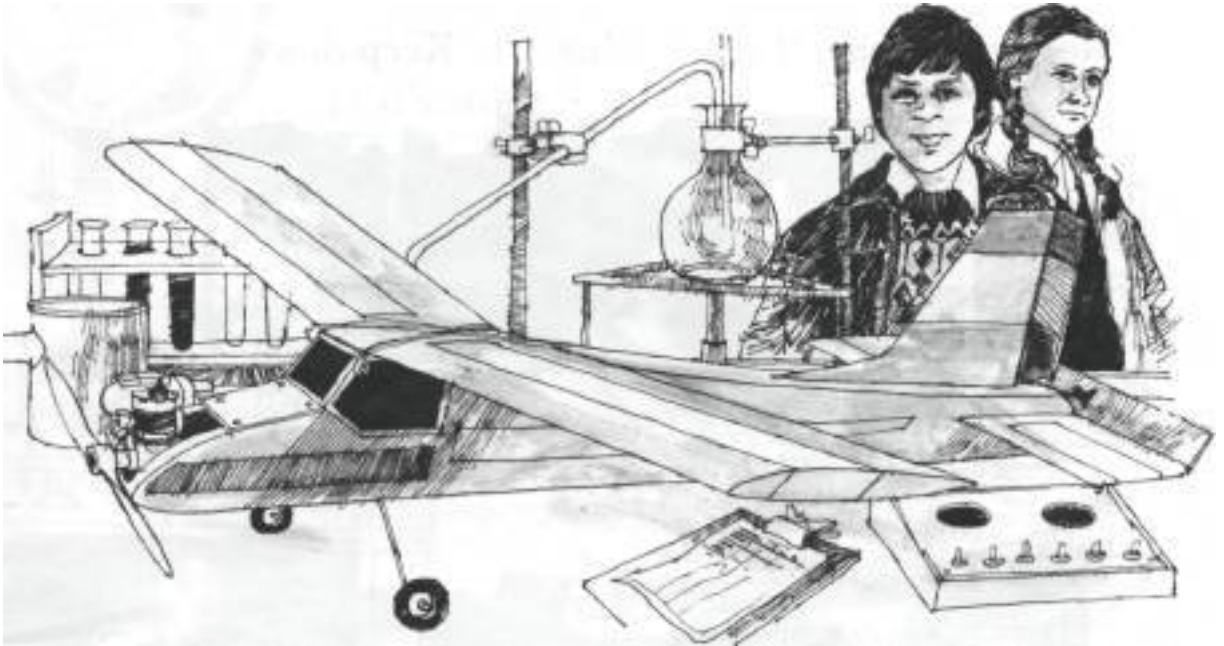
Then he told me everything about Ravi and his plans.

'Now he has gone to the house
to look for the firing program,' Ram said.

'But the children are still there!' I said.
'They have got their plane.
But they couldn't find the control unit.'
'It's in my pocket!' said Ram.
'What if Ravi finds the children?' I said.
Ram was thinking hard.
He took the control unit from his pocket.
'We are about a mile from the house.
The control unit can make the plane's rudder turn.
We can signal the children!'
Ram began to press the button on the control unit.
Would Jenny and Tim understand ?



But in the laboratory,
Jenny and Tim did not see the plane's rudder turning.



Ravi began to drive up to the house.
Would the children think he was Ram?

Suddenly, Tim saw the rudder turning.

'Look!' he said. 'Why is it doing that?'

'It's not doing it by itself,' said Jenny.

'Ram has the control unit. He must be doing it.'

'Why?' said Tim.

'Listen!' said Jenny. 'There is a car outside!'

They ran to the window.

It was the black car! Ravi got out.

'It's Ram!' said Jenny.

Then they saw the car's number was RAV 1.

'Let's hide!' said Jenny. 'Hurry, Tim! Hide!'

They were only just in time! Ravi burst into the laboratory.

'It's Ram!' said Tim.

'No!' said Jenny. 'I don't think it is. Keep down!'



Ravi called up Number Three on the radio.

'Those kids have gone,' he said.

Three came into the laboratory

just as Ravi took the firing program out of the computer.

'You didn't look in here, did you?' said Ravi. 'Now hurry!

Let's get back to the mill!'

Ravi and Three ran out of the laboratory.

'That's not Ram Pandit!' said Jenny. 'Come on!'

'Where are we going?' Tim said.

'To the mill!' said Jenny.



9 Escape

Tim's story

The black car drove away from the house.

'If he isn't Ram Pandit,' I said, 'who is he?'

'That's what we are going to find out,' said Jenny.

When we got to the mill we hid. Three men came out.

The one looking like Ram turned to the man with the motor-bike.



'Number Three,' he said,

'you will stay here to look after my dear brother and Turner.

When the last rocket has been fired we will come back for you.

Ram and Turner will be left here.

The flood waters will put an end to them.

We shall be far away when the cloud burst comes. Hurry!

The two of them got into a van and drove away.

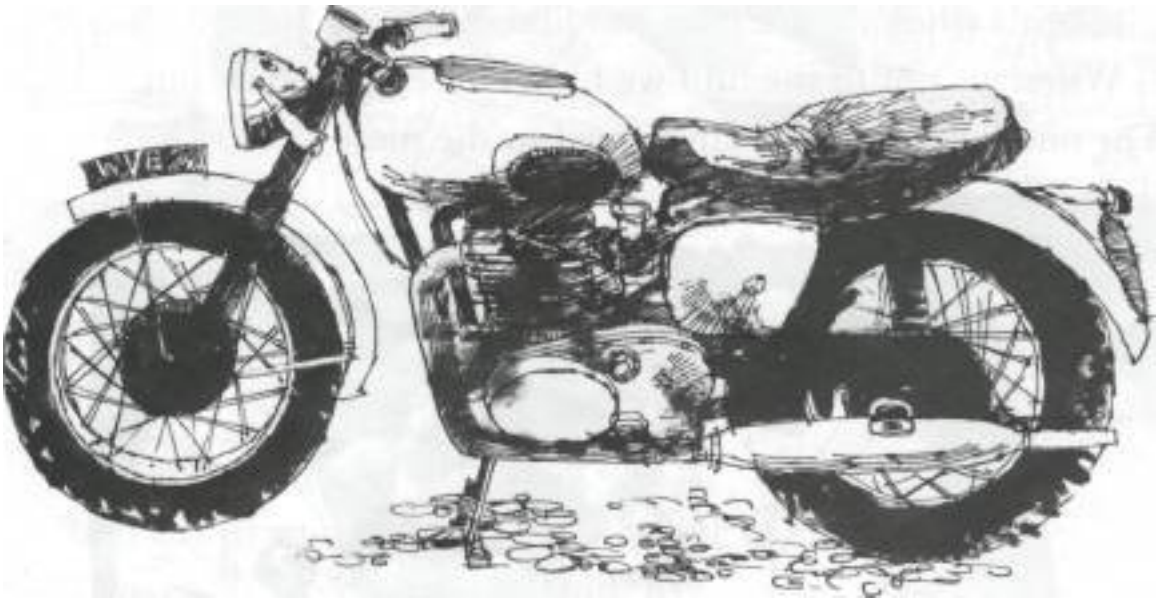
The man with the motor-bike went back into the mill.

'Now what?' I said.

'I don't know,' said Jenny. 'I am thinking.'

'Well, don't be too long about it,' I said.

Jenny was looking at the motor-bike.



'Could you start that?' she said.

'I think so, but I couldn't ride it!' I said.

'You won't have to,' said Jenny. 'Just start it.'

Then, when he comes out, make for the door.'

I went towards the motor-bike. Would the man see me?

I tried to start the motor-bike. Jenny waited.

Suddenly the motor started. The man came out of the mill.

As he ran towards the motor-bike,
we ran into the mill and locked the door.
'Ram! Mr Turner!' we called.



Ram and Mr Turner called to us from the top of the mill.
'They are locked in,' said Jenny. 'Hurry!'
We ran to the top of the mill and let them out.
Outside, the man was driving off on the motor-bike.
We all ran outside.
'Hurry!' said Ram. 'He is going to tell Ravi.'
We got to the car. Jenny ran back and picked up her plane.
We got into the car and drove off after the motor-bike.
Could we stop Ravi firing the rain-gun?

10 Fire the rockets!

From the car, Ram and the others could see
Number Three on the motor-bike.
But could they stop him?
Faster and faster they went. But Three got away.
'We must find Ravi!' said Ram.

At the van, Ravi and Two were about to start firing
the rain-gun. Ravi looked at the controls.

'Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one! Fire!'
Ravi pressed the button. A rocket went up.
'One,' said Ravi.

In the car, Ram said, 'He has
begun firing the rockets.'

'I think the rain-gun
van is over there,'
said Mr Turner.

In the rain-gun van, Number
Two said, 'The computer will
fire the rain-gun at the right time.

We don't have to do anything. Nine more rockets to cloud burst.'
Another rocket went up, and then another.



The car drove on towards the river.

'He has fired three rockets so far,' said Ram.

'We have not much time. Hurry! We must find him.'

The car stopped by the river bank.

Ram and the others got out as another rocket was fired.

'Four!' said Ram.

They looked up.

Clouds were coming up fast.

The rockets from the rain-gun were doing their work.

Ram and the others ran up the river bank.

At the rain-gun van,
Three told Two how Ram
and Mr Turner had made their escape.

'They can do nothing to stop us,' said Ravi.
'I am going to flood the Fens!'

Another rocket was fired.

Ram and the others could see the van
from the top of the river bank.

But how could they stop it firing ?

'Five!' said Ram as another rocket burst.

'Only five more to go!'

Suddenly Jenny said, 'I think I know a way to stop Ravi.'
She ran to the car and got her plane.

'Could we hit the rain-gun with this?' she said.





'It would take more than that to stop it firing,' said Tim. Ram looked towards the rain-gun.

'If we hit the aerial, it would stop it,' he said.

'The aerial?' said Tim.

'That thing turning round on the top,' said Mr Turner.

'It will never hit that,' said Tim.

'The aerial may pull the plane towards it,' said Ram.

'I think that's what *my* aerial did to the plane yesterday.'

'It's the only thing left to try,' said Jenny, as another rocket went up.

'Six,' said Ram. 'Look at the clouds now!'

The clouds looked very black, and time was running out.

The aerial on the van was turning from side to side.

Off went the plane
across the river.

Would the aerial pull
the plane towards it?

'Seven!' said Ram,
as another rocket burst.

Jenny tried to make
the plane hit the aerial.

'The aerial won't stop
turning !' she said.

'Try again,' said Ram.

But again Jenny's plane did not hit the aerial.

Another rocket went up. Jenny turned the plane.

Down it came. This time it hit the aerial. There was a bang.

The rain-gun went out of control and stopped.

Suddenly there was another bang, and Ravi fell out of the van.

Two fell down and lay still, but Ravi ran to the motor-bike.

Three tried to stop him, but Ravi drove off as fast as he could.

Ram and the others ran to the rain-gun van.

They stopped Three getting away. They took off his helmet.

But Number Three was not a man!

Number Three was Mrs Green !

'So *you* gave Ravi the secret of the rain-gun,' said Ram.

It was all over.

No-one knew where Ravi went, and he was never seen again.

But because of Jenny and her plane, there was no cloud burst.

No rain. No floods. The Fens were safe.





LOOK AND READ

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