Caribbean Adventure Series
By Carol Ottley-Mitchell
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M E D I A K I T

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About the Caribbean Adventure Series

The Caribbean Adventure Series (CAS) is a series of books about three children and a monkey who have exciting, magical adventures in the Caribbean.

At the time of this publication, there are three books in the series, Adventure at Brimstone Hill, Pirates at Port Royal and Trapped in Dunston’s Cave. In each of the books, the children are magically transported into another time or place where they have adventures with characters that really existed. They are accompanied and assisted by a vervet monkey, Chee Chee who appears to be the catalyst for the adventures. Chee Chee is mischievous and determined. He has captured the hearts of readers who all clamor for the next book so they can see what he gets up to next.

The Caribbean Adventure Series is written by Carol Mitchell and published by CaribbeanReads Publishing. The first three books are illustrated by Ann-Catherine Loo.
The Books

*Adventures at Brimstone Hill:* Join Mark, Kyle and Ingrid on their very first adventure as they follow a mischievous monkey through a secret passage at the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park in St. Kitts. They find themselves transported to the 18th century, captured as spies and thrown into a fierce battle between the British and the French for this famous fort.

*Pirates at Port Royal:* Port Royal was destroyed by an earthquake in 1692, but that does not stop Mark, Kyle and their pet monkey Chee Chee from having an adventure there during their summer in Jamaica. The children once again find themselves in the past, this time they team up with Henry Morgan, a famous pirate, on an adventure that takes them to Venezuela where they have to destroy a fleet of Spanish ships to save their lives.

*Trapped in Dunstons’ Cave:* Mark, Kyle, Ingrid and Mark's pet monkey Chee Chee set off for a school trip to Trinidad’s Asa Wright Nature Center excited and ready for adventure. However, when Kyle disappears in the rain forest, the trip turns into a dangerous encounter with poachers who are trying to steal rare oilbirds from Dunston’s Cave. Can Chee Chee once again rescue the children from danger?
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chee Chee heads to Trinidad’s Asa Wright Centre in third Caribbean Adventure Series novel by Carol Mitchell

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (September 14th 2011) – It’s been two years since Chee Chee the monkey took children on a Caribbean adventure but he’s back in Carol Mitchell’s third novel Trapped in Dunston’s Cave.

In the new book, now available on Amazon.com, Mark, Kyle, Ingrid and Mark’s pet monkey Chee Chee set off for a school trip to Trinidad’s Asa Wright Nature Centre excited and ready for adventure. However, when Kyle disappears in the rain forest, the trip turns into a dangerous encounter with poachers who are trying to steal rare oilbirds from Dunston’s Cave.

This third installment in the Caribbean Adventure Series takes a new twist as it deals with current issues of nature and animal conservation. True to form, Mitchell presents a colourful representation of the Caribbean island of Trinidad mixed with history and present-day culture through the eyes of primary school children.

"Trinidad is one of the islands in the Caribbean that holds special memories for me. I spent my formative years living there and I loved visiting the Asa Wright Nature Centre. I knew I wanted to take Chee Chee and the children to this park before I even completed the second novel," recounts the author. “I am really happy to provide our children with a new way to learn about the importance of us taking care of our environment, our animals and the flora and fauna for future generations to enjoy.”

The Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge is a nature resort and scientific research station in the Arima Valley of the Northern Range in Trinidad and Tobago. The Centre is one of the top bird watching spots in the Caribbean; with a total of 159 species of birds recorded there. The centre became internationally renowned for its easy access to wildlife, especially the Oilbird (Steatornis caripensis) colonies in the nearby Dunston Cave, and large numbers of hummingbirds.

Trapped in Dunston’s Cave is aimed at children age nine to twelve but the action-packed 100 pages is a good read for adults as well. Readers will get hints of the adventures Mark, Kyle and Ingrid experienced in Book One, Adventure at
“Reading is still the best way to stir the imagination of our children and also to instill a love for learning and for their culture. Putting each book together is a pleasure because I get to delve into the history of each island and remind myself of what makes each nation unique but yet still so Caribbean,” Mitchell says.

Order your copy of *Trapped in Dunston’s Cave* and find out if Chee Chee is able to save his friends from the poachers at the Asa Wright Nature Centre in Trinidad.

Learn more about Carol Mitchell and the Chee Chee novels at www.caribbeanadventureseries.com on Facebook.com.

Find out about the Asa Wright Nature Centre at www.asawright.org.

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PHOTO

words...images...life
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B I O

Born in Nevis, Carol has lived in several Caribbean countries. She spent a large part of her formative years in Trinidad, where one of her favorite pastimes was competing with her father to see who could compose the best humorous lyrics to existing songs. This was just the beginning of her interest in creative writing.

Back in St. Kitts, Carol began a more serious side of her writing career in high school when she wrote public service pieces and participated in several debating competitions. After leaving high school to pursue further studies in Barbados and the United States, Carol focused her efforts on developing her information technology and business management skills, while making every effort possible to write and participate in public speaking.

In 2007, on a visit to Brimstone Hill, Carol was struck by the monument’s beauty and its potential as the setting for a children’s book. The result was Adventure at Brimstone Hill and the birth of the Caribbean Adventure Series.

Currently, Carol lives in Ghana, West Africa. She writes about her experiences as a “trailing spouse” in West Africa on the Obroni section of the website, kittivisianlife.com. She also writes about writing on NovelSpaces.blogspot.com. See all of her musings at caribbeanadventureseries.wordpress.com.
REVIEWS

From the Children

- “Mommy, there is Brimstone Hill. Did you know it was built 300 years ago and it is still here!” 7 years old
- “Auntie, when is the next book coming out, I can’t wait to see what Chee Chee does next.” 12 years old
- “Mommy, please let me finish reading this chapter!” 8 years old
- “I recently visited the Montserrat Public Library and saw one of the two Caribbean Adventures Series. I am a fan of Caribbean books so I picked it up to borrow. I also thought that I would get to learn a bit more about Brimstone Hill. By the first time I opened the book I said to myself, ”This is real Caribbean literature” This book always had some connection with the Caribbean. One example is that the author mentions something about Johnny Cakes and a Mango. In this book a normal school child name Mark lived in St. Kitts goes on a field trip and realizes that his pet monkey followed him on the bus. What makes the story interesting is that at Brimstone Hill absolutely NO PETS ALLOWED. If you read the book you will realize that Mark and one of his friends go back in time .... To find out more you can borrow this book at the Montserrat Public Library or you can have the book for yourself.

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From the Adults and Parents

- “Adventure at Brimstone Hill by Carol Ottley-Mitchell … is well crafted, easy to read and convincingly reflects local school culture and relationships. Apart from its entertainment value, it can be used by teachers as a launching pad to discuss the history of Brimstone Hill and of St. Kitts. It can also be used by guidance counselors to discuss school relationships and it makes children see that they, too, can play a role in the outcome of events in their lives. Lorna Callendar, (Editor)
- “I bought the first two books by Carol Ottley-Mitchell and the reviews from the children who read them have been great. They really enjoyed the stories and are now looking forward to the next one. Every child on my gift list will be receiving copies of the three books. These books will make gift-giving easy.”
- “I found this book at the airport when leaving after a wonderful time on St. Kitts. I immediately read it to my 6 year old daughter in the airport and she wanted me to read it to her Montessori class (1st-4th grade) at home. I did and it got great reviews! I added a bit of a geography lesson before reading the book and once I started reading, they were hooked on the history of it all. American kids get very little Caribbean history and this book made it fun and exciting for them!”

Please also see http://www.caribbeanadventureseries.com and click on In The News for up to date articles about the Caribbean Adventure Series.
BOOK EXCERPT

Trapped in Dunston’s Cave
Caribbean Adventure Series Book 3

Mark cupped his hand around his mouth and called loudly, “KYLE”. He turned to face the opposite direction, cupped his mouth again and shouted, “KYLE”. He began turning around in a circle, shouting “KYLE”. If he spun fast enough when he shouted, he could hear his voice rushing past his ears like a bus speeding by on the highway. He spun faster and faster, enjoying the sound.

“Mark, stop playing the fool,” Ingrid called out.

But Mark ignored her. He kept spinning until, finally he was dizzy and he stopped, disoriented and stumbling around a bit. He took a step to the side to steady himself and suddenly he felt the earth dissolving from underneath him as he fell into a deep hole. He tried to grab on to the vines and brush that had covered the hole, but they fell into the hole with him.

He dropped with a thump at the bottom. He was dazed for a few seconds and then slowly and gingerly he got to his feet. He had not hurt himself although the hole was very deep. He looked up the sides of the hole; they were very steep and he could not climb out.

He heard Ingrid up above. “Mark!” she screamed.

Then her voice sounded much closer as if she were directly above the hole. “Mark, are you okay?”

From his prison beneath the earth, Mark yelled, “Ingrid, run! Get help! Run!”
Q & A with Author Carol Mitchell

Q. Why did you write the Caribbean Adventure Series?
The idea for this series came to me on a trip to St. Kitts to speak at the 2007 YES Symposium. I visited Brimstone Hill, one of my favorite sites, and it occurred to me that it was a great back drop for an adventure story and so I began to write. I am a strong advocate of reading. Reading is important to stimulate our children's imagination and creativity. I believe that our children do not read enough, and that one of the many reasons is a lack of books to which they can really relate. I hope to encourage children in the Caribbean to read more by giving them books that are about children just like them, living in places and circumstances just like theirs.

Q. How would you describe the series?
The books are adventure fantasy. They are about three children and a monkey who find themselves magically transported into the past where they have adventures. In the first two books, the adventures are based on historical facts. The third book has a different approach and emphasizes animal life and conservation. The books are quite light reading, funny and interesting. They teach without seeming like a text book, in fact, my intent is not to teach, but just to provide enjoyable reading. They are geared at children 8 – 12, although both older and younger children have enjoyed them.

Q. Book Three is set at the Asa Wright Nature Center in Trinidad. What inspired you to write about this site?
I must admit that in some way I don’t choose the book locations, they choose me! I spent my formative years in Trinidad and Asa Wright was always a place that I associated with mystery and fun. Mark, the main character in the book, also grew up in Trinidad and moved to St. Kitts but he has longed to return for a visit to his homeland … so off he went!

Q. What can readers look forward to in Trapped in Dunston’s Cave?
In this adventure, the children travel to Trinidad where they encounter poachers at the Asa Wright Center. This story deals with issues of conservation and the environment through a fun adventure. I felt that it was an important theme in a time when we are trying to make children more aware of their surroundings and the need to preserve it. Although the story is based in Trinidad, it has a global appeal as the issues apply everywhere.

Q. What are some of the challenges which you had to overcome in order to complete this project?
Book Three took over two years from the first word to its availability on Amazon. There were many challenges along the way. In the midst of writing the book, I moved from St. Kitts to Ghana. This was a major transition for all of us and I had to place the book on the back burner for a while and focus on settling myself and the children into a completely new life in Africa.
Once I was able to return to my writing, the next challenge was publishing under the new label, CaribbeanReads Publishing. With the previous books I self-published through a middle-man, however, by doing this, I gave up the ability to set my prices and to control other aspects of the publishing. With Trapped, I took back this control by becoming a publisher and going directly to the printing source. I was able to set the book at a lower price and make it more accessible to my readers.
Publishing in this manner, however, brought with it a steep learning curve; I made many mistakes and the process has been time-consuming.

Q. You mention that you have a new publishing label, CaribbeanReads. Will the label only produce books by Carol Mitchell?

Definitely not. One of the reasons that I started CaribbeanReads is to help Caribbean writers who were in similar position that I was; writers without the knowledge to get their books edited and published. We already have two excellent authors lined up to have their books published under the CaribbeanReads label and we are actively searching for more.

Q. What is next for Mark and Chee Chee?

That is a difficult question to answer. I have begun writing Book 4, which should be set in Montserrat. There is a lot of excitement surrounding an active volcano, and definitely potential for adventure. However, I cannot give any details on whether the book will be historically based like Books One and Two or go off on its own tangent like Book Three.
BOOKINGS

Carol Ottley-Mitchell is a talented writer and an outstanding speaker. To book her for conferences, seminars and retreats, please contact:
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