



Cold Whispers

# TERROR at the GHOST TOWN MINE



HARDSTONE  
MINE



by Michael Teitelbaum

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by Michael Teitelbaum

illustrated by Olga and Aleksey Ivanov

BEARPORT  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

## **Credits**

Cover: © Darryl MONTREUIL/Shutterstock, © Oleksii Zelivianskyi/Shutterstock,  
and © Gert Hochmuth/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Text produced by Scout Books & Media Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data in process at  
time of publication (2016)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015019977

ISBN-13: 978-1-62724-811-2

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc.,  
45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010.

Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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# Way Out West

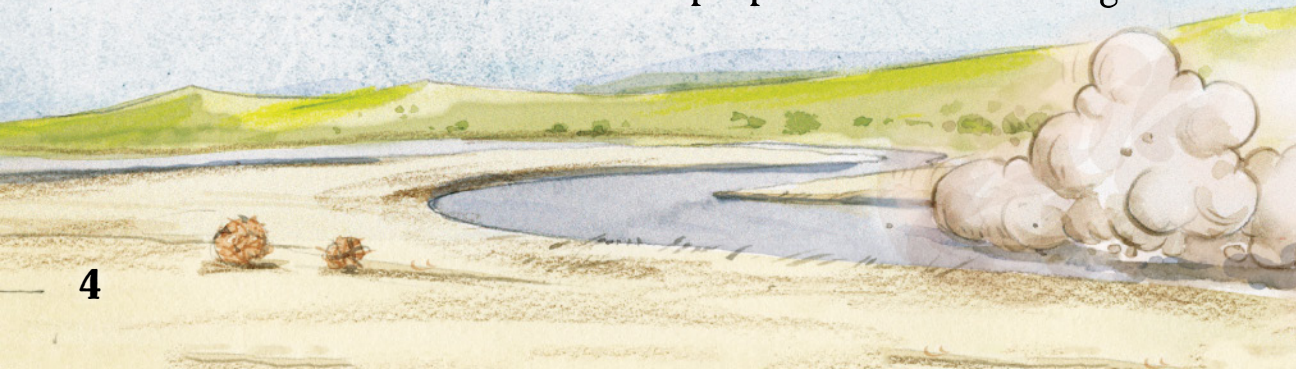
Twelve-year-old Jacob Lockley and his eleven-year-old brother, Rich, stared out the window from the backseat of their parents' car. The Lockley family was taking a road trip through the old mining country of California for their vacation.

"I can't believe miners found gold here," said Rich. "It looks like there's nothing but a desert."

"Look out there," said Rich's dad, pointing out the car's front window.

Rich looked ahead, his blonde hair blowing in the breeze from the car's open window. He saw rolling hills and tall mountains rising from the **barren** land.

"The gold was found in the rivers and in mines, deep inside those mountains," Dad explained. "When the gold was discovered in the 1800s, a lot of people came here looking to





get rich. That time was called the Gold Rush. Our first stop is the Miner's Museum, just up the road."

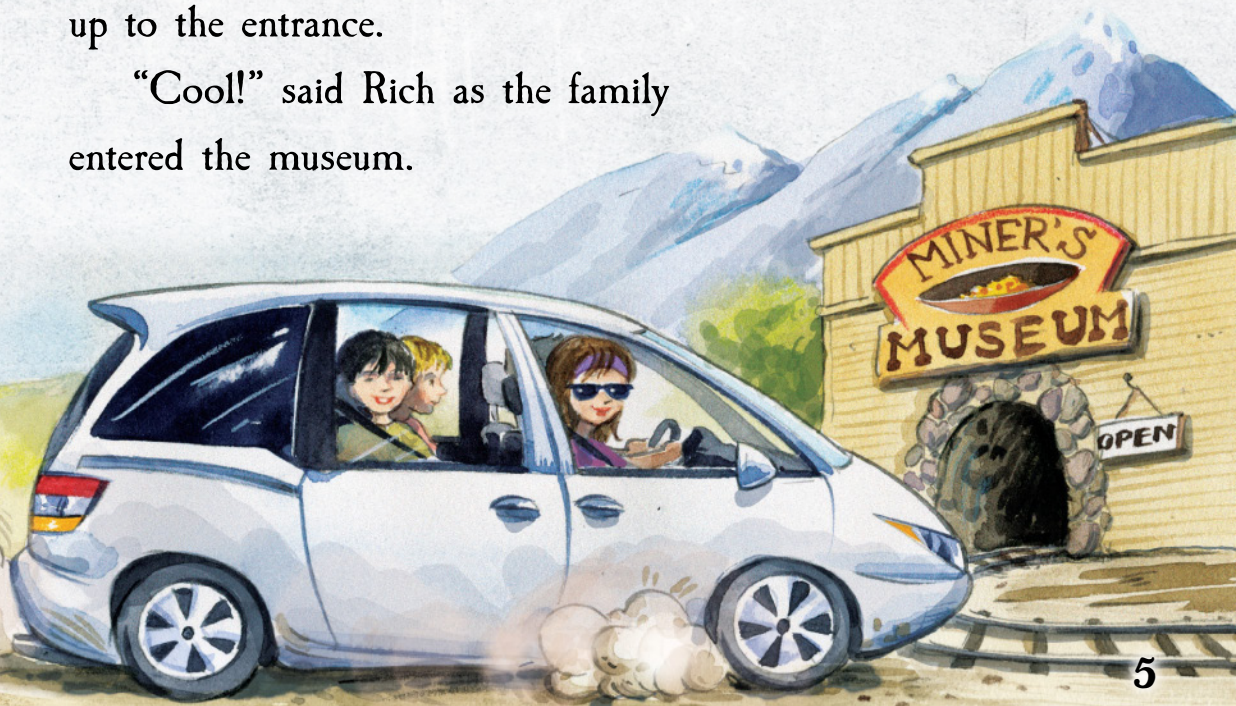
"It would be cool to see a real gold mine," said Jacob. "But only if we can take home any gold we find."

"There probably isn't any gold left in the mountains," said their mom.

"But at least you can see what life was like back then at the museum," said their dad just as they pulled into the parking lot.

The front door of the museum was designed to look like the entrance to a gold mine. An arch of fake rocks surrounded the door, and railroad tracks like the ones used in mines led up to the entrance.

"Cool!" said Rich as the family entered the museum.





During the museum tour, Jacob and Rich learned about the Gold Rush. They saw the tools that miners used, including picks, axes, shovels, and special pans for **sifting** gold out of rivers and streams. The brothers even sat in a real mining handcart, the kind that rolled on tracks deep into the mountains.

"Wow, gold! These are amazing," Jacob said, eyeing some gold nuggets.

"Ah, but they're not real," said a museum guard standing nearby. "They're just painted rocks."

"I wish I could see what it was like when miners were here in the 1800s," Rich said.

"Well, you can," said the museum guard.

"What do you mean?" asked the boys' mom.

"Not far from here is an old mining town called Hardstone," the guard explained. "It still looks exactly as it did during the Gold Rush. It's a ghost town, all right. It's as close as you'll get to going back in time."

"It sounds fascinating," Dad remarked.

"Can we go?" Jacob asked his folks.

"Please?" pleaded Rich. "Please?"









## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Teitelbaum is the author of more than 150 children's books, including young adult and middle-grade novels, tie-in novelizations, and picture books. His most recent books are *The Very Hungry Zombie: A Parody* and its sequel *The Very Thirsty Vampire: A Parody*, both created with illustrator Jon Apple. Michael and his wife, Sheleigah, live with two talkative cats in a farmhouse (as yet unhaunted) in upstate New York.



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS

Olga and Aleksey Ivanov are a family team of children's book illustrators, and they have illustrated more than 70 books. Their most recent project was a "Lassie Come Home" picture book. Olga and Aleksey live and work in their mountain home/studio with a couple of Samoyed dogs in gorgeous Evergreen, Colorado.



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Cold Whispers

# TERROR at the GHOST TOWN MINE

Jacob and Rich were excited about the chance to explore the old, abandoned ghost town. But they'd barely begun to walk the town's streets when they heard a strange voice whisper, "Get out." It was a warning they should have listened to, especially before they went into the dark, abandoned gold mine. . . .

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PUBLISHING

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ISBN-13: 978-1-62724-811-2



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