

Gladys looked at me in surprise.

'What do you mean?' she said, drawing back her hands.

'Gladys? What's the matter? It's me, Edward,' I said.

Gladys was quiet for moment. 'Edward, I'm married now, this is my husband.'

A small red-haired man rose from a nearby chair and shook my hand.

'Your husband?' I repeated.

Gladys nodded. 'Yes, this is William Potts.'

I stared at Gladys in shock. 'Didn't you get my letters?'

'No,' said Gladys. 'Anyway, Edward, if you truly loved me, you wouldn't have gone away for a whole year, would you? I've told William all about you... You're not upset that I'm married are you?'

'No, no... not at all,' I stammered. 'I think I'm going to go now...'

But I do have a question for your husband...' I turned to look at Mr Potts. 'How did you persuade Gladys to marry you? Are you an adventurer? A hero?'

Mr Potts looked confused. 'Uh, no... I'm a clerk, I work at a bank,' he said.

'I see,' I said. 'Goodnight, both of you.' With that, I walked out into the moonless night. I was overwhelmed with sadness and anger; I felt as if my heart had been ripped from my chest. How strange life is!

A week later, I had dinner with my travelling companions at Lord John's house. Once we'd eaten, Lord John took an old box out of a cupboard and placed it on a table before us. 'I have something to show you,' he said. 'I found these near the pterodactyl pit...'

Lord John turned over the box and poured out about twenty or thirty diamonds, the size of small chestnuts.

We gasped in shock. 'I took the stones to a jeweller,' said Lord John. 'He says they're worth two hundred thousand pounds. I think it's only fair that we divide the money equally between us.'

'I can't believe my eyes!' said Challenger.

'We're each going to get fifty thousand pounds – what will you do with your money, Challenger?' asked Lord John.

'I'm going to open a museum,' replied Professor Challenger.

'And you, Summerlee?'

'I'm going to retire from teaching and study fossils,' said

