

CHAPTER 1

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN, IN MY EARLY TWENTIES, I FELL in love with a girl named Gladys Hungerton. Gladys was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen – she had dark hair, large brown eyes, and delicate ivory skin. Unfortunately, Gladys was not in love with me; though we spent many hours together talking and laughing, she regarded me as a friend and nothing more. Despite this, I made the decision to propose to Gladys. I knew there was a chance she would reject my proposal, but I had to try. And so, one cold October evening, I visited Gladys at her house and asked her to marry me.

‘Oh, Edward,’ said Gladys after a long pause, ‘we have such a beautiful friendship, why can’t we simply remain friends?’

‘Because I love you, Gladys!’ I exclaimed. ‘I want to spend the rest of my life with you!’

Gladys gave me a look of pity. ‘But I don’t love you, Edward, and I have never loved you.’

‘Why can’t you love me, Gladys?’ I cried. ‘Is it my appearance?’

Gladys squeezed my hand gently. ‘No, of course not,’ she said.

‘Is it my character?’ I asked. ‘Tell me what you want me to change!’

Gladys sighed. ‘Edward, let me explain to you what kind of man I want: I want a man who has no fear of death; a man who has travelled the world and who has had many exciting adventures. I want to marry a man who’s brave, heroic and famous!’

‘All right,’ I said. ‘If you want a brave and heroic man, I will do something that will make you proud.’

Gladys laughed at my enthusiasm. ‘What are you going to do?’ she asked.

‘I don’t know,’ I replied. ‘But if I do something great, will you marry me then?’

‘We’ll see,’ said Gladys with a smile. ‘Now, you’re working the night shift at the paper and you’re running late.’

I said goodnight to Gladys and walked briskly to the offices of the *Daily Gazette*, where I worked as a journalist. When I arrived, I immediately made my way to the News Editor’s office.



'Good evening, Mr McArdle,' I said, knocking on the door.

'Hello, Mr Malone,' replied McArdle. 'I must say, I really enjoyed your latest article; you've done some excellent work for us.'

'Why, thank you,' I said.

'What did you want to see me about?'

'I'd like you to send me on a mission for the paper.'

'What sort of mission did you have in mind, Mr Malone?'

'An adventure,' I replied. 'A dangerous adventure!'

McArdle raised an eyebrow. 'You seem very eager to lose your life,' he said.

'I need to do something heroic,' I explained, 'My future depends on it.'

McArdle looked at me curiously. 'I'm afraid we only send very experienced journalists on important missions,' he said. 'Wait a minute, I have an idea – would you be interested in interviewing Professor George Challenger?'

'Professor Challenger?' I repeated. 'The famous zoologist? Didn't he punch a journalist from *The Telegraph* the other day?'

McArdle nodded. 'Two years ago, Professor Challenger went on an expedition to South America. When he came back last year, he told everyone that he'd seen dinosaurs and other strange beasts. Most people think he's lying about what he saw. The journalist from *The Telegraph* called him a liar too – that's why he punched him. After that encounter, Challenger stopped doing interviews. Perhaps you can convince him to do one last interview; I'm sure our readers would be interested to find out more about his adventures.'

McArdle handed me a thick file. 'Here's some information on the professor; you might need it.'

I took the file and looked through the notes. 'Do you think he's telling the truth?' I asked.

McArdle shook his head. 'I doubt it very much,' he said.

'All right,' I said. 'I'll pay professor Challenger a visit.'

I returned to my office and wrote a letter to the Professor asking him to meet me the following Wednesday. Then, I spent the rest of my shift reading through McArdle's notes. I had no idea then that my interview with Professor Challenger was about to change my life forever.



CHAPTER 1

Reading Comprehension

1 Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Edward visit Gladys one cold October evening?

2. What kind of man does Gladys want to marry?

3. Where does Edward go when he leaves Gladys' home?

4. Who does Mr McArdle suggest that Edward interview?

5. Why did Professor Challenger punch a journalist from *The Telegraph*?

6. When does Edward want to meet the professor?

2 Read the sentences and decide if they are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Gladys just wanted to stay friends with Edward. ☐
2. Mr McArdle wanted to send Mr Malone on a mission. ☐
3. Edward works for *The Telegraph*. ☐
4. Professor Challenger went on an expedition to North America. ☐
5. Many people think that the professor is a liar. ☐
6. Edward spent the rest of the night reading about Professor Challenger. ☐

Vocabulary

3 Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

information change immediately proud latest
explain knocked

1. Last night Laura spent many hours looking for _____ about dinosaurs for her school project.
2. Susan is very _____ of her sons; they are both doing very well at school and want to become doctors.

3. Our new maths teacher is very good and can _____ difficult maths problems very well to us.
4. The children came home from school and _____ went to wash their hands for lunch.
5. She _____ on the door and then waited a few moments before she entered the office.
6. My father reads the _____ news in the newspaper every morning.
7. I need to go to the shoe shop on Saturday and _____ these shoes, because they are too small.

4 Match the two columns to make expressions.

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| 1. pay | a. my life |
| 2. lose | b. the truth |
| 3. tell | c. an eyebrow |
| 4. shake | d. someone a visit |
| 5. raise | e. in mind |
| 6. have | f. my head |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. Do you think that it was a good idea for Gladys to ask Edward to change? Do you think that Edward will change? Why / Why not?
2. Edward works for a newspaper. Do you think that he has an easy job? Would you like to do this kind of job? Why / Why not?
3. Do you think it is a good idea for Edward to go on a dangerous adventure? Where do you think he will go? What kind of adventures would you like to go on?
4. Professor Challenger is a zoologist. What do zoologists do? What qualities would a good zoologist need? Would you like to become one?
5. Do you think that the professor will agree to meet Edward? What do you think Edward will ask him if they meet? What questions would you ask Professor Challenger if you were interviewing him?

6 Imagine you are Edward. Write a short letter to Professor Challenger. Tell him who you are and ask him politely to meet with you next Wednesday. (100-120 words)

CHAPTER 2

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, I ARRIVED AT MY OFFICE AND found a letter from Professor Challenger on my desk. He had agreed to be interviewed at his house at ten o'clock. I quickly gathered my notes and took a cab to the professor's house in Enmore Park. When I arrived, I knocked on the door and the professor's butler answered it.

'Do you have an appointment?' he asked.

'I have a letter,' I said, as I handed it to him.

The butler nodded and showed me in. I followed him to the end of a passage; he tapped lightly on a door and I heard the professor shout from inside. The butler pushed open the door and there was Professor Challenger, sitting behind a large table covered with books, maps and diagrams. His appearance made me gasp: he had a red face and a black beard, and his blue-grey eyes were framed by thick black eyebrows. He was a large man with broad shoulders and a wide chest, and his enormous hands were covered in long black hairs.

'Well?' he said. 'What is it?'

I cleared my throat nervously. 'Good morning, Professor Challenger, I'm Edward Malone from the *Daily Gazette*.'

Challenger nodded. 'Yes, yes... Sit down.'

I did as I was told. 'Thank you for agreeing to see me today,' I said.

Challenger put on his spectacles. 'I presume you want to talk about my trip to South America?'

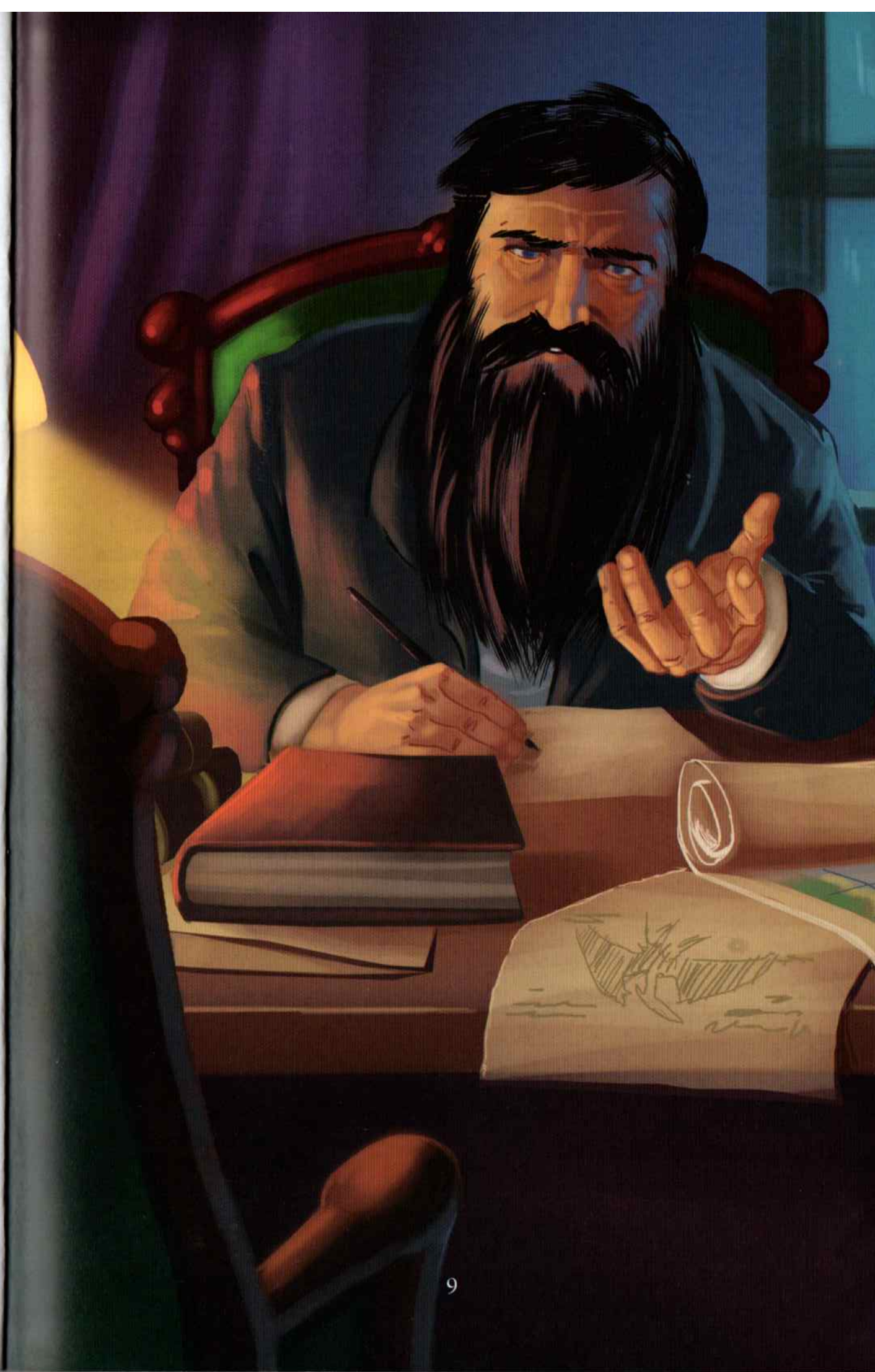
I nodded.

'First, let me say this: the only reason I agreed to do this interview is because I like your newspaper. If you dare call me a liar, I'll punch you like I did the other fellow – am I making myself clear?'

I nodded. 'Yes, sir.'

I removed a notepad and a pencil from my pocket, and began my interview with Professor Challenger. 'Why did you travel to South America?' I asked.

'I went to South America to study the animals of the Amazon. After many months of research, I made my way back down the river, and spent a night at a small Indian village inhabited by Cucama



“The man’s knapsack was lying on the bed and I opened it and looked inside. There was a name written on the tab: Maple White, Lake Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. The knapsack contained pictures of a river, chalk, paint, paintbrushes, a bone, a gun and a few cartridges. The bag also contained this...” Professor Challenger removed a sketchbook from his desk drawer and placed it on the table.

I opened the sketchbook: on the first page was a picture of a fat man in a green jacket – the name 'Jimmy Colver' was written underneath it. The book contained drawings of Indians, turtles and

Challenger shook his head. 'This bone belongs to a dinosaur.'



'I'm afraid I'm going to need more proof, Professor,' I said.

'All right,' said Challenger, 'then I'll continue with my story. Once I'd seen Maple White's dinosaur sketch, I decided to explore the area further. I asked two of the Indians to guide me to the red cliffs that Maple White had drawn in his book. They were reluctant at first; the Indians believe that evil spirits called *Curupuri* haunt the cliffs, but I persuaded them to help me. After a long and difficult journey up the river and through the forest, we finally arrived at the red cliffs.'

Challenger removed a photograph from his desk drawer and placed it on the desk. The photograph was badly damaged, but I could still see the outline of the red cliffs.

'Unfortunately, our boat overturned on the return journey, and my camera and film were ruined so I don't have much proof of what I saw,' he explained. 'I only have a couple of damaged photos, but everyone thinks they're fake.'

Challenger showed me another photo, this one of a strange bird in an enormous tree.

'What is that?' I asked. 'A bird?'

The professor shook his head. 'No, it isn't a bird. I shot it so that I would have proof of my experiences.'

'You have it here then?' I asked.

'I had it,' said Challenger. 'Unfortunately it was lost in the same boat accident that ruined my photos... All I have left is part of its wing...'

Challenger reached into a leather bag and pulled out the upper part of what looked like the wing of a large bat.

'That's a bat wing!' I exclaimed.

The professor looked at me squarely. 'This wing belongs to a pterodactyl, a flying reptile of the Jurassic period.'

Challenger opened a book and showed me an illustration of a pterodactyl. The wing looked exactly like the wing that was on the desk.

Suddenly, there was no doubt in my mind that the professor was telling the truth about what he'd seen. I told him that I believed him and he leaned back in his chair and smiled warmly.

'But where did Maple White see the dinosaur?' I asked.

'I think he managed to climb to the top of the cliffs... I didn't



have time to do that,' said Challenger.

'But Professor, this wing is proof of your encounter – why won't anyone believe you?' I asked.

Challenger shrugged. 'I don't know,' he said. 'People are either stupid or jealous. Tonight, I'm going to the Zoological Institute to give a talk about my experiences in the Amazon. The talk starts at eight o'clock – you're very welcome to come.'

'Thank you, Professor,' I said. 'I will.'

With that, the interview ended and I quickly made my way back to the office.



CHAPTER 3

WHEN I RETURNED TO THE OFFICE, McARDLE WAS AT HIS desk. 'Well,' he asked, 'how did it go?' 'Better than I expected,' I said.

McArdle leaned back in his chair. 'So, do you believe the professor's nonsense about discovering dinosaurs?'

'Actually,' I said, 'I think Challenger might be telling the truth about what he saw in South America.'

McArdle's jaw dropped open. 'You can't be serious?' he said. 'Does he have any proof?'

I shook my head. 'His camera and most of his films were destroyed, so he doesn't have much proof. He did, however, show me a wing which he says belonged to a pterodactyl.'

McArdle twisted his moustache thoughtfully. 'Malone, people don't make enormous discoveries and then lose the evidence. I'm convinced he's lying.'

'Well, the professor is going to discuss his findings at the Zoological Institute tonight,' I said. 'He's invited me to go. Perhaps you should come too?'

'All right,' said McArdle, 'I will.'



CHAPTER 2

Reading Comprehension

1 Match the two halves of the sentences.

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|--|--|
| 1. Professor Challenger was a large man | a. on the last page of Maple White's sketchbook. |
| 2. The professor went to South America | b. at the village in a state of exhaustion. |
| 3. Maple White had arrived | c. give a talk at eight o'clock that night. |
| 4. A sketch of a very strange animal was | d. the professor is telling the truth. |
| 5. The professor showed Edward | e. the wing of a flying reptile of the Jurassic period. |
| 6. Edward believes that | f. with enormous hands which were covered in long black hairs. |
| 7. Professor Challenger was going to | g. to study the animals of the Amazon. |

2 Complete the following sentences with the names in the box.

Professor Challenger	Edward Malone	Maple White
The Indians	The Indian chief	The professor's butler

- _____ found a letter from the professor on his desk.
- _____ took the professor to a hut to help a sick man.
- _____ opened the door at the professor's house to let Edward in.
- _____ was dressed in rags when he died.
- _____ guided the professor to the red cliffs.
- _____ showed Edward a photo of a strange bird in an enormous tree.

Vocabulary

3 Choose a, b or c to complete the sentences below.

- Her new shoes were quite expensive, but they were made of the finest _____.
a. chalk b. leather c. paint
- The zoologists are _____ the birds' eggs that they found in the forest.
a. inhabiting b. exploring c. examining
- You can borrow my paintbrushes, but please do not _____ them.
a. damage b. identify c. persuade

- I _____ with you, Mum; I must study harder next year if I want to get into medical school.

a. gather b. continue c. agree

- I really love chocolate cake, but the piece she gave me was _____; I couldn't eat it all.

a. wide b. enormous c. broad

- My father is a big man with broad _____ and large hands and feet.

a. chest b. collarbones c. shoulders

- I found this mobile phone in the gym. Does it _____ to you, Shelly?

a. belong b. cover c. remove

4 Find words in Chapter 2 which mean the same as:

- Moved the head up and down as a sign of understanding _____ (page 8)
- Another word for glasses _____ (page 8)
- Pieces of old and/or torn cloth _____ (page 10)
- A bag that you carry on your back _____ (page 10)
- A person _____ (page 11)
- Evidence to support the truth of a statement, theory, etc. _____ (page 12)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- How do you think Edward felt on his way to the professor's house? How would you feel? Why?
- What do you think about Professor Challenger's appearance? Would you be as surprised as Edward if you met him?
- Do you think that Maple White really did see a dinosaur? Do you think that it is possible for dinosaurs to exist? Why / Why not?
- The Indians believed there were evil spirits haunting the cliffs. Do you believe in the supernatural? Why / Why not?
- Why do you think that people did not believe Professor Challenger? Are you surprised that Edward believed him? What do you think about the proof he has to support his claim? Is it enough or not?

6 Imagine that you are Edward and you are keeping a diary. Write a page about your interview with Professor Challenger. (100-120 words)