

When we arrived at the Zoological Institute Hall, we found it full of professors, medical students and members of the public who were eager to hear Professor Challenger speak.

Shortly before eight o'clock, the chairman of the Zoological Institute, the Duke of Durham, introduced Professor Challenger and invited him to the stage.

'Ladies and gentlemen,' said Challenger, 'I know you have come here today to hear about my journey to South America, so I will get right to the point: during my travels through the Amazon, I discovered a forgotten world where dinosaurs still exist.'

'Liar!' shouted someone from the audience.

'Prove it!' shouted another.

Challenger's face turned red. 'Liar?' he repeated. 'You dare call me that?'

Some members of the audience began to boo.

'All right then,' said the Professor, 'there's only one way I can prove to you that I am telling the truth: someone in this room must travel to South America with me to confirm my story.'

The audience was silent. Mr Summerlee, a professor of anatomy, stood up. 'I will volunteer for this mission,' he said.

The audience gasped.

'Any other volunteers?' asked Professor Challenger.

I immediately thought of Gladys – this was exactly the kind of adventure she would want me to go on. Without any hesitation, I jumped to my feet. 'My name is Edward Malone and I am a journalist at the *Daily Gazette* – I, too, will volunteer to go on this trip.'

Then another man stood up. 'My name is Lord John Roxton,' he said. 'I have already travelled to the Amazon and I know the area well – I also want to go on this trip.'

The chairman rose to his feet. 'Thank you, gentlemen,' he said. He turned to Professor Challenger: 'Professor, these three men will go with you to South America to investigate your claims.'

Professor Challenger nodded, the audience cheered and the meeting ended.

'It was very brave of you to volunteer for the mission,' said McArdle, as we stepped out into the cool night air. 'I look forward to reading your article when you return.'

