

horrors of the lost world, but there was also tremendous beauty. The forests were filled with white and yellow flowers that smelled as sweet as honey. Large, colourful fruit hung from the trees and beautiful birds we'd never seen before flew above or heads. We saw many animals including porcupines, wild cats and deer.

After two days of exploration, we realised that the best way to make a map of the forest was from above.

'Perhaps I could climb to the top of that large tree?' I said, pointing to a nearby ginkgo tree. 'I'm sure it will give me a good view of the surroundings.'

'That's an excellent idea!' said Challenger.

My companions helped me climb up the tree; within minutes I was halfway to the top. As I reached out to grab a branch, I saw a face hidden between the leaves. I was so shocked, I almost fell out of the tree. The face was about two feet away from me; it looked human but was, in fact, a monkey's face. The creature's face was long and white, its nose was flat and there were thick whiskers on its chin. It opened its mouth to growl at me and I saw its sharp, pointy teeth. There was hatred in its evil eyes. Then, the creature dived down into the tree and disappeared.

I took a moment to catch my breath before continuing my climb. When I reached the top, I could see the entire plateau beneath me. There was a lake in the distance; the iguanodon glade was near it and I could also see the pterodactyl pit. Beyond the lake was a series of cliffs which seemed to contain numerous caves. I climbed back down the tree and told my companions what I'd seen; I also described the apeman to them in great detail.

'It looked evil,' I said. 'I've never seen anything like it.'

'Come now,' said Professor Challenger, 'the creature was simply an ape.'

We returned to the camp and drew a map of the lost world. After dinner, my companions went to sleep, but I decided to explore the area surrounding the lake on my own. I made my way through the dark forest and arrived at the iguanodon glade. I crossed the glade and entered the woods on the other side of it. Finally, I arrived at the lake. I took a sip of water, then climbed up on to a rock and gazed at my surroundings. I could see the cliffs that I had observed when

