

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.'

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.'



Suddenly, I was filled with a feeling of dread. 'I hope I haven't made a terrible mistake,' I muttered to myself.

On a wet and foggy morning, a few weeks later, Professor Summerlee, Lord Roxton and I boarded a ship to South America. We had made arrangements to meet Professor Challenger at a town on the Amazon river called Manaus. I won't bore you with details of our journey, except to say that we arrived safely in Manaus, and met with Professor Challenger at a small hotel in town.

This is probably a good time to tell you a bit more about my travelling companions: Professor Summerlee was tall and thin, in his mid-sixties with the energy of a man half his age. Lord John Roxton was in his forties; he too was a thin man with blue eyes and a gentle voice. Lord John was a famous hunter and explorer, and had travelled to South America many times. He was also fluent in the local languages.

Professor Challenger had employed some men to help us travel through the Amazon: the party included a large African man named Zambo; two local guides named Gomez and Manuel, and three Mojo Indians from Bolivia who were expert fishermen. Their names were Mojo, José and Fernando.

Lord John hired a steamship, the *Esmeralda*, to take us down the river. We travelled for six days, and when the river began to narrow, we filled two canoes with all our possessions and continued our journey into the unknown.



CHAPTER 3

Reading Comprehension

1 Put the following events in the order which they happened. Write 1-6 in the boxes.

- The professor asked the audience for volunteers to go on a mission to South America.
- Members of the audience began to boo Professor Challenger.
- Professor Summerlee, Lord Roxton and Edward Malone arrived in Manaus.
- Edward and Mr McArdle went to the Zoological Institute Hall.
- The men set off on their voyage on a steamship called the *Esmeralda*.
- Edward Malone volunteered to go on the trip.

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

- McArdle was surprised when Edward said he believed Professor Challenger's story.
- Professor Challenger introduced the Duke of Durham and asked him to come on stage.
- Challenger became angry when the chairman of the institute called him a liar.
- Edward Malone was thinking about Gladys when he volunteered to go on the mission.
- Lord John had often travelled to South America, and knew many of the languages spoken in the area.
- A total of eight men boarded The Esmeralda on the first stage of their journey down the river.

Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct word.

- Tom was very ill yesterday so I don't expect / exist that he will be at school today.

- Barbara looked at me **thoughtfully** / **safely** before answering my question.
- The **public** / **chairman** decided to stop the meeting because everybody in the room was shouting instead of talking.
- Please take a seat, Mr Summers, and the doctor will be with you **suddenly** / **shortly**.
- The scientist is convinced that his team will **prove** / **include** their claims about the existence of life on other planets.
- Would you please **volunteer** / **confirm** that my table has been booked for eight o'clock this evening?

4 Match the two columns to make expressions.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. get to | a. the truth |
| 2. jump | b. my head |
| 3. tell | c. eager to |
| 4. shake | d. the point |
| 5. be | e. to my feet |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- Do you think that Edward was right to believe Challenger? Would you? Why / Why not?
- Many people attended the professor's talk at the Zoological Institute. Have you ever been to a talk or a scientific presentation? Would you like to? What would you like to learn more about?
- Edward soon begins to wonder if he has made a mistake in volunteering for the mission. Do you think that he is being brave or foolish? Would you have volunteered if you were Edward? Why / Why not?
- The men began their journey into the unknown by steamship. Do you think it will be easy or difficult? Which means of transport do you prefer, and why?

6 Imagine that you are Edward. Write a letter to Gladys describing your voyage to South America, including information about your travelling companions. (100-120 words)