

# TALKING ABOUT MOVIES: SOME READING

*Rui Ventura*



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In the 16th century, Spanish conquistadors travel to South America in search of the Tears of the Moon, a mythical tree whose petals can cure any illness, heal any injury, and lift any curse. After most of the men die in the jungle, the survivors are nursed back to health by a local tribe using the tree petals. When they refuse to reveal the location of the tree, the Spanish destroy the village, and as punishment are cursed to never die and never be able to leave sight of the river.

In 1916, scientist Dr. Lily Houghton and her brother MacGregor explain Lily's research on the Tears of the Moon to an association of English explorers, explaining that the petals could revitalize medicine and aid in the war effort. The Houghton's request access to an arrowhead recovered by Dr. Albert Falls that Lily believes is key to locating the tree. When the association denies their request, believing the tree to be a myth and a female scientist unqualified to join their ranks, Lily steals the arrowhead instead. She narrowly avoids Prince Joachim, a German aristocrat who also wants the arrowhead and the tree.

In the Amazon jungle, tour guide Frank Wolff takes tourists on jungle river cruises, which he embellishes with fake dangers and corny jokes. When his boat engine is repossessed by businessman Nilo, he attempts to steal it back. Caught in the act by Lily, Frank pretends to be Nilo and arrogantly tells her that the Tears of the Moon is a myth and that she will not be able to handle the dangers of the jungle, but changes his tone when he notices that Lily is in possession of the arrowhead. Frank's deception is revealed with the real Nilo shows up, but Lily hires Frank anyway after he underbids Nilo and bravely fights off a wild jaguar attack.

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- 1 – What is the name of the tour guide?
- 2 – What does Frank do for a living?
- 3 – What is Lily's occupation?
- 4 – What is the name of the businessman?
- 5 – Who is MacGregor?
- 6 – Where does the scientist live?
- 7 – Where does the tour guide live?
- 8 – Who travels to South America first?
- 9 – What are they searching for?
- 10 – When do the siblings explain about the scientist research?
- 11 – Who hires Frank?
- 12 – Who fights the jaguar?
- 13 – Who plays the role of Nilo?
- 14 – Who plays the role of Lily?
- 15 – Who plays the role of Frank?



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