

## *RED LAGOON 2*



I stopped Marie, grabbed her shoulders and looked her in the eye.

“We have to be careful. The omen we got on the phone said only the strong will survive. I think what that meant that they knew that we would find this treasure. The voice warned us to be careful,” I was thinking out loud to her.

“Here is my plan. Let’s take out just enough gold to be able to say we found it on the beach near the café. They’ll think the storm had something to do with it. They might hunt on the beach, but they won’t come here.” I tried to explain to her the plan I had created in my mind.

“We can come back a later when we can take out more of this treasure. If we aren’t strong and disciplined we will lose it all.” I continued.

Marie at first didn’t agree. She wanted it all. She kept running her hands through the gold. She finally calmed down enough for me to talk some sense into her. I explained again about the plan.

She finally agreed. We filled our pockets. We put the covers back onto the boxes.

We covered our tracks as best as we could as we left the cave. When we came out of the cave it was getting dark. We moved some rocks in front of the opening to try and hide it.

On the way back we dropped a few coins along the way into the sand. With one of the shovels we had taken from the cave we chose a spot not too far from the hotel and buried a few of the coins. If we were asked later where we found the coins, we could show them. We dropped a few coins into the hole and covered it up with sand. We still had enough gold in our pockets to pay for this trip, make a return trip in the future and still

have money left over.

We discussed our story down so we would not make any mistakes if we were asked about the gold. We wanted to make sure we told the same story.

When we got back to the hotel many new guests had arrived. The storm had passed so the hotel was beginning to fill up with patrons.

We saw the hotel manager, and he asked us where we had been all day.

We told him we went for a leisurely walk down the beach and got lost because of all of the debris from the storm. We found our way back when we saw the lights of the hotel.

“Dinner will be ready at 8:00,” he said, and then he went back to his other guests.

We went to our rooms and got ready for dinner. When I met Marie for dinner she could not stop smiling. She was so excited about what we had found. She even wanted to go back to get more of the gold. I reminded her that it would be too dangerous to do that now. We needed to wait until we could get the gold off the island easily. We had dinner and tried to avoid the other guests. We must have seemed rude to them because we did not speak to anyone at all.

I was exhausted from the day’s events so I told Marie that I was going to go to bed. I lay on my bed and watched the fan on the ceiling turn round and round. I imagined what that gold would do for me. I had always wanted to travel around the world and now was my chance. I drifted off to sleep with a big smile on my face.

The next morning I got up and showered. It was a beautiful sunny day with a gentle breeze coming off of the ocean. It was a great day to be alive.

I knocked on Marie’s door, but there was no answer. I went down to the lobby of the hotel to have breakfast. I didn’t see Marie anywhere.

I asked the hotel manager, “Have you seen Ms. Thomas this morning?”

He said, “Yes, she went out very early in the morning. I believe she said she was going for a run on the beach.”

“Oh my God!” I thought to myself.

She has gone after the rest of the treasure. I began to panic. I took off running down the beach toward the lagoon even though I was not dressed to go out. I ran down the beach with many thoughts going through my mind. What if she got all of the gold? What if

others discovered our secret? What if she was trying to steal my portion? I began to get angry with her.

It was hard running in the sand, and I got tired very quickly. I stopped to catch my breath. My hands were on my knees as I tried to catch my breath.

When I looked up I saw Marie. She was jogging along the shore of the beach. Her hair was blowing in the wind. She looked very relaxed.

Marie spotted me and ran toward me.

“What are you doing out here? I thought you were still sleeping.” She asked.

“I ... was about... to ask you... the same thing.” I replied panting from being out of breath.

“What do you mean?” She asked.

“Nothing, I just got worried when I didn’t see you at the hotel this morning.” I continued while trying to get some air.

Marie laughed at me. “You thought I was going to get the treasure, didn’t you?”

“Well the thought crossed my mind.” I said apologetically.

We walked back to the hotel. We had breakfast together, but we didn’t say a word. Just as we were finishing our breakfast both of our cell phones rang. I looked at the caller ID but it was blank. I answered the phone.

“Is this Mike?” the now familiar voice asked.

“Yes, this is Mike.” I replied.

Once again the voice with the strange accent spoke to me, “Beware the mystery of the Red Lagoon. You will find many things there, but only the strong can survive.” Then the call ended.

Marie ended her call and told me she had gotten the same call as me. “What does this warning mean?” She asked me.

“I don’t know. I think we need to be very careful. We can’t let anyone know what we found in the cave or there’ll be a rush of people to find the money.” I reasoned with her.

After breakfast we decided to go to town. It was a short ride in a taxi, but we decided to walk instead. It was such a warm sunny day.

When we got to the town, there were many people gathered in the market. They were yelling and arguing about something. I asked one of the local people what was going on.

She told us, "One of the boys found some gold coins on the beach this morning. They appeared to be very old. The other people are trying to force them to tell where the boys found the coins. They don't want to tell."

Marie and I just looked at each other. What had we done? These boys were being beaten to make them tell where they had found the coins on the beach. Now the beach was going to be full of treasure hunters seeking to find more gold. What if they made it to the lagoon and found the cave in the waterfall? We hadn't expected anyone to find the coins so fast.

"I think we need to leave, NOW!" I said to Marie. "We need to get back to the hotel and make a plan."

We found a taxi to take us back to the hotel. When we arrived we discovered that the story of the found coins had already reached the hotel and the workers were preparing to go out to search for gold themselves. Even the guests were excited about this news and they were making plans to go on a treasure hunt. There was a lot of activity and excitement in and around the hotel.

We watched as the group ran down the beach in excitement. They had shovels and buckets. Soon there were more people arriving from the town. We just sat on the porch and watched. I realized that we looked a bit out of place.

"Maybe we should join the search for the gold so we won't be noticed. I think we look odd sitting here and not looking for the gold," I said to Marie.

She agreed so we walked down the beach to where the others had gone. We didn't run. We just took our time.

When we came around the bend past the big rock we couldn't believe our eyes. People were running back and forth. A couple of them were holding coins they had found and it made the others even more excited.

Marie and I walked slowly past the people down the beach toward the lagoon. We didn't want people to follow us, but they did. They thought we might know something.

As we got closer to the lagoon we noticed some boys playing in the water. It was obvious that the lagoon was a popular place for the locals to come and swim. The day after the storm we were lucky to be the only ones on the beach, but now we realized it was going to be very difficult to retrieve the gold from the cave unnoticed in the future.

The day went by and the people began to lose their excitement, because they only found a few coins. By night time everyone had left. We were relieved. As of now, our secret was safe.

Back at the hotel the conversation over dinner was about the gold coins. Everyone was excited, but no one talked about going back.

However, the local people seemed more intent on continuing the search for the treasure. They had heard stories that long ago pirates had left treasure on this island. They were making plans to go inland the next day to try and find where the coins had come from. They surmised that if there were a few coins on the beach, there had to be more somewhere else.

Marie and I each had about fifty of the coins in our rooms hidden in our baggage. I knew that if anyone saw one of these coins we would be in big trouble. We might end up like the boys back at the market place.

I began to realize that we had made a big mistake putting the coins on the beach. It seemed like a good idea at the time.

“Maybe we should go back at night and try to get some more of the gold before it is discovered.” Marie suggested.

I agreed. I knew that the local people were superstitious about being out of their villages at night so it should be safe.

We returned to the hotel and rested before our night journey.