

RED LAGOON 3



After dinner, Marie and I excused ourselves and went to our rooms stating that we were tired from all of the excitement of the last two days. Instead of going to our rooms we snuck out the back way through the jungle and down toward the beach. We stayed off of the beach because we did not want people to see us. We had to climb over fallen trees and other debris from the storm.

The moon was full that night which gave us good light by which to walk. Actually in other circumstances it might have been very romantic, walking down the beach at night with a beautiful young lady, but my mind was on something completely different.

We found the rock that marked where the lagoon was and climbed down to the beach. As we turned the corner into the lagoon, the light of the moon shimmered off the water.

As we approached the back of the lagoon, the only noise was the water falling from above into the water below. The moonlight glistened on the mist of water falling from the rocks above us. It was really quite an amazing sight.

We made our way around the side of the lagoon and went up the rocks leading behind the falling water. We moved the rocks we had placed in front of the entrance and slipped inside. Nothing had been disturbed since we left.

Once inside we turned on our flashlights and moved slowly into the depths of the cave. The smell was still bad, but the rewards were going to be great.

We entered the big room. Nothing had changed. No one had been there since we found this place the day before.

We went to the back of the room and found the boxes exactly where we had left

them. Everything was OK. Now what were we going to do? We sat on the boxes and tried to make a plan.

Just then we heard noises. Someone was in the cave. How did they get here? I suddenly realized. Someone had followed us!

I motioned to Marie to hide. We ducked down behind the boxes and turned off our flashlights.

Just as we hid ourselves, the light from several torches appeared. There were voices coming from the narrow entrance to the cave. I couldn't understand the language. There were at least twenty people entering the cave. They started to search the room. They were coming closer and closer. And then they discovered us.

They grabbed us, and dragged us to the middle of the room. They forced us to kneel. The glow of the torches was in front of us. While we were kneeling some of the people went to the boxes and opened them. There was a lot of conversation going on, but I didn't understand. The men were dressed in strange clothes. They were from a time long ago.

Then someone spoke to us. It was a strangely familiar voice. "Beware the mystery of the Red Lagoon. You will find many things there, but only the strong can survive.

"Do you remember me telling you that?" He asked me looking straight into my eyes.

I looked up at the man who spoke to us. He was standing directly in front of us. He was an ugly man. He looked like he had not taken a bath in a very long time. His hair was dirty and tangled. He had an ugly black beard. Most of his teeth were missing and his breath was bad.

He repeated what he had said. "Beware the mystery of the Red Lagoon. You will find many things there, but only the strong can survive."

He turned to the other men and laughed a haunting laugh. Then he turned back.

He went on to say, "I tried to warn you, but you didn't listen. You were greedy. Now you'll pay for your stupidity. The villagers will not stop looking for this treasure. They'll spend many weeks looking, but in the wrong places. They will not find this place.

"It is because of your foolishness that you have caused this to happen. If you had not been so greedy all of this would have been yours.

“Now when you leave this island, if you try to take the gold, the police will find the coins you took and they’ll arrest you. They’ll pressure you to tell them where you found this treasure. They’ll threaten you and they’ll torture you, but even if you tell them where the treasure is, they will never find it.

“You can choose to leave the coins behind and go home safe, or you can try and take the money. If you choose the later, it’ll be very difficult for you.

“No matter what you choose, you’ll never be allowed to return to this island. You have sacrificed this treasure because of your foolishness, and now you’ll pay an even bigger price,” the ugly man warned us

I was terrified. I didn’t know what to say. Marie was in tears. We were sure that we were going to die at the hands of these men.

Then the man who was talking to us said, “Leave and never come back. In the future there’ll be another who’ll be guided to this place and if they’re not as stupid as you, then they’ll inherit the treasure.”

We got up and ran toward the narrow exit from the cave. The men left us alone. When we got out of the cave we didn’t slow down. I was afraid the men would come, get us once we were out of the cave, and kill us.

It was late when we arrived back at the hotel. I was exhausted, so I went to my room and took a long hot shower. The next day was my day of departure. All of the dreams I had of the treasure now turned to survival. How could I get off of the island with the money? The man had said if we took the money they would discover it and then we would be put into jail.

The next morning I left very early. I had the coins in my pocket as I walked along the beach alone trying to figure out what to do, I decided the best thing to do would be to put my coins back into the cave. That way I would make the man happy and I would be free from suspicion when it came time to leave.

There were still people searching on the beach. There were fewer people because no new coins had been found. Two men were searching the beach with metal detectors. I overheard a story that some famous treasure hunters were coming to the island to search as well. The legend of the Red Lagoon was spreading.

I went to the lagoon. There were several children playing in the water. The waterfall glistened in the morning sun.

I climbed up the rocks to the waterfall. As I went behind the water I was surprised. The entrance we had found was gone. It was solid rock. There was no way in. I hit the rocks to see if they were hollow. They were solid rock. I laid my coins on the ground and left.

When I returned to the hotel I ate alone and then went to my room to prepare my things for the journey home.

What an adventure this had been. I proved to myself that I needed to change my life. The warning had been clear, but I hadn't listened to it. I had put many people in danger by leaving the coins on the beach. We had made a big mistake.

I took a taxi to the airport. I looked for Marie to say goodbye, but I was unable to find her. I was a little concerned about her. I hadn't had a chance to say good-bye. She wasn't in her room and the hotel clerk said she had left very early for the airport.

I got a taxi to the airport. I looked out of the window as we drove along the coast. This was a beautiful place. I was hoping that I could return some day and just enjoy the scenery.

When I got to the airport, I unloaded my bags and paid the driver. Just then two men came up to me. They told me I had to go with them.

They took me to a small office on the third floor of the police station. I waited patiently and looked around. It was a simple office, one desk, two chairs, a picture of the president of the country on the wall and a calendar.

Soon a man in an important looking uniform came into the room.

"Hello Mr. Robinson, I hope you enjoyed your time in our country," He greeted me.

"Yes, I have enjoyed being here. The hurricane was unexpected, but the rest of the trip has been enjoyable," replied.

"We are going to search you and your bags. We have reason to believe that you have something we hold very important to us in this country," the officer ordered me.

I agreed, seeing as I really didn't have a choice. I let them search me and my things. I was glad I didn't have any of the coins.

After they searched me another very important looking man, who looked like a government official sat down behind the desk. He had a very serious look on his face as he began to question me.

“We have detained a young lady named Marie Thomas. We found some important treasures that belong to our country in her things. We were that you know this lady and that you spent a lot of time with her. Is this true?” The officer questioned me.

“Yes, I know Marie. What does this have to do with me?” I asked.

“She says that she found the coins on the beach, but she has so many of them we think that she is not telling the truth. We want to know what you know about this situation.” The official continued.

“I don’t know much. I saw all of the villagers looking for the coins and I heard the stories, but I didn’t find any for myself. Maybe she found some and didn’t tell me.” I tried to explain without getting myself involved.

“We have searched your bags and we have found nothing. We are going to let you go. We’re not sure about your story so we are going to make it impossible for you to return to our country. You may go now.” The officer then pointed to the door.

They led me out of the building and ordered me to go directly to the airport.

I felt a bit guilty about not helping Marie, but the man in the cave had warned us that if we tried to leave the country with the coins that we would be caught. She took the chance and they found many coins in her baggage.

If you should ever get the call from the strange man saying, “Beware the mystery of the Red Lagoon. You will find many things there, but only the strong can survive.” Remember my story and try not to make the same mistakes I did. Being greedy and foolish may cost you a fortune.