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Flip & Loopy

Note from the author/

If you have not read my book Flip & Loopy, it is best to read it before reading this one. Thank You Kindly

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It has been said that, in early times when humanity was young, that all the people of the earth were gathered in one place.

The leader of these people was a man named Nimrod. It is said that Nimrod's bow and arrows were carved from the tusk of a mammoth, and laced with gold and Jules.

It is also said that there was a magic spell on it and the bowstring could only be pulled by Nimrod or a direct descendent.

Nimrod said to his people, let us build a tower that will reach God that I may go up and sit with Him and talk to Him. So the people worked to build the tower to God.

God looked down and saw that the people were all of one accord. God said, let us confuse their language and scatter them about the earth that they may prosper.

FLIP AND LOOPY Five thousand years later. In search of THE BOW OF NIMROD

Chapter ONE THE Arrival OF SPRING

Jim Fields sat in the swing on his back porch. He was watching the canoes and paddleboats filled with tourist as they moved up and down the Amazon River.

He had a little novelty shop in his house. He thought to himself, as he looked up the river. here comes that damn Indian now. I have been waiting on him for a month.

When the Indian got to the dock, Jim left his swing. He said," I'll go help him unload his dugout."

The Indian always brought lots of good things to trade. They took everything He brought into the house. Jim went through it to see what he had.

There were lots of things made of animal teeth and bones. There were some things made of the skin of the anaconda . And best of all there was some shrunken heads. That was always his best seller.

Some things he sent to Paris to his friend Frank DeBaun. After he settled with the Indian. MOSTLY SALT TOBACO, matches AND CANDY. The Indian saw a large knife hanging on the wall. he pointed at it and grunted. Jim shook his head no, picked up a two-dollar flashlight. put some batteries in it and turned it on. The Indian waved it around and watched the light.

He shook his head yes and put it in his bag. Then Jim helped him load his dugout. Before he left he said he would come back in six months. As Jim watched the Indian head up stream, he laughed a little. He said," Them damn batteries will be dead before the night is over. Then he will just toss it in the river. "

Jim sorted out the things he would send to Paris. Among these things was a little bag made of snake skin. The Indians put them around their neck to keep away evil spirits. Jim had seen lots of them in the past. They always had trinkets of bone and anamal teath in them Without looking in it, Jim tossed it into the box to send to Paris.

He had no way of knowing. what was in that little bag would change his life forever.

CHAPTER TWO

A special gift

Four months later. Frank DeBaun opened the box that his friend had sent him from South America. As He was going through it, He picked up a little bag and opened it up. He pulled out what looked like a braded chain of hair. On the chain was an arrowhead with Jules on it and it was engraved with gold. He hung it on a rack at the counter and continued his work.

Little did He know that little arrowhead would soon change his life forever?

It had been a long winter in the valley where Flip and Loopy lived. However, that was all behind them now and spring was beginning to show itself in all things.

The trees were budding and beginning to bring forth leaves. 'Flowers of all shapes and colors covered the floor of the valley.

The Bee's and butterflies were dancing about the bally floor, going from one flower to another, and pollinating them for the summer.

Lip thought, this is just about the most beautiful place I have ever seen. I don't think I ever want to leave here again.

Then his mind wondered back to the previous year when he and Loopy had left home to see the world.

He thought about the men he had met on the Sea Witch that had become his friends. They are all dead now, he thought. Sometimes things happen that just doesn't make any since. The only thing good that came out of it all was that he had met Beth Ann and fell in love with her.

Of corpse the money will come in handy. He wished that she were here to enjoy this view with him. They had been corresponding with each other by phone and letters for about ten months now, every since he and Loopy got home.

That has been almost a year now, it seamed like a lifetime to Flip.

And soon she will be here with me and I am going to ask her to marry me.

He looked to his left, He thought; I will build her a house right on top of that hill so we can look out over the whole valley and the river Shannon. This was Ireland's major river and there was always some kind of activity on it.

There were always canoes and houseboats going up and down the river.

He looked over at the big tree by the river where he and Loopy always sat and fished. He saw Loopy sitting on the ground throwing rocks into the river. He thought, how perfect life would be if Loopy could also find someone to love, just as he has with Beth Ann.

Right now we will just have to leave Flip to his dreams.

CHAPTER Two A GRATE DISCOVERY

: However: At this time we will venture over to Paris France where we find Beth Ann going to visit her Uncle Frank DeBaun.

He has a little gift shop near down town Paris. As she opened the door, the little bell rang and she heard her Uncle say,

"Hello Beth Ann how is my favorite niece in the whole world?

Frank was her father's younger brother. He was 33 years old, very handsome and had been like a father to Beth Ann in her fathers absents.

She said" Uncle Frank, You know I am the only Niece you have, and you are my only uncle.

Anyway I am just fine, and glad to see that you are well.

Her Uncle said, "What brings you down town today? Are you looking for something, or did you just come to see me? "

She said, "I came to see you, but I am also looking for a gift for a very special friend.

He said, "Well look around, anything you see is yours for the asking."

She looked all around the little shop. She did not know what she was looking for, but she knew it had to be special.

After a time of vigorous searching, from across the room, her eyes fell upon a beautiful

Arrowhead necklace, it was hanging on a rack at the counter. It seamed as if something was drawing her to it. It had blood red rubies on either side of it and was trimmed with gold. She had never seen anything like it. It looked like it could have been a real aero head and made into a necklace. It had a strange mark on it that was inlaid in gold; and it had a braded rope that looks like it was made of jet-black hair. As she touched it, it gave her a strange sensation. She did not know why, but she knew she had to have it for Flip. She said. "This is what I want." "Are you sure "? Said her Uncle. She said, "Yes, I am sure. " He said, "I just got that in today, but if that's what you want, it is yours, is this special friend someone I know? " She said, yes you know him; he is the young man that came to the house last year and told me about my father. "

Frank said, "Oh yes I remember him well, he seams like a nice young man. Strange name though what was it now? Oh yes Elin wasn't

Strange name though, what was it now? Oh yes, Flip, wasn't it? " "Yes, "said Beth Ann.

"And what was the other one's name? "Said Uncle Frank. "Loopy" Said Beth Ann. Uncle Frank said, "Very strange, these Irish lads, " Beth ann. said, "Oh Uncle Frank. Uncle Frank said, "Is there anything you may want to tell me? "

Beth Ann said, "Well not yet but I hope there will be when I get to Ireland, I am going to visit his family for the summer.

Uncle Frank said, "Well whatever you decide to do, you know you have my blessing, I just want you to be happy because I love you. "

Beth Ann said, "Thank you Uncle Frank, and I love you to. Well I must go now I have to go see Professor LaMere at the museum. "

CHAPTER Three

STRANGE SINSATION

Beth Ann put the necklace around her neck and went out the door.

As soon as she placed it around her neck, she begins to experience the same sensations as when she first picked it up. Only now they were stronger than before. She could not explain it but it was a wonderful feeling.

She went to her car and drove to the museum where she had to meet professor LaMere. He was a professor of archeology. She had been on two expeditions with him. One in Egypt when she was sixteen, and one to Mexico last year. She had just returned when Flip came to see her. She was glad she came home when she did, otherwise she would have mist Flip all together and she wouldn't be in love now.

She went to the professor's office and entered the door. The professor greeted her and said, "It's good to see you Beth Ann, How are you? " She said, "I am fine professor, how are you? "

He said, "I am well thank you."

The professor was a small man in his early sixties, with gray hair and dark eyes. What are you working on? Asked Beth Ann. The Professor said "Just some of the artifacts that we brought back from our last diggings in Mexico, a very interesting people, the Aztecs. "At that time His eyes fell on the necklace that Beth Ann had just got from her Uncle's shop. He said, "Where did you get that necklace my dear? " She replied, "It's a gift from my uncle Frank; I found it in his shop. It is berry strange, when I put it on I get the strangest sensations, and I can't explain it. "He said, "May I look at it

please? "

She took the necklace off and handed it to him. He examined the arrowhead and said "Yes, I see what you mean about the strange sensations, I feel them too. It has an inscription of some kind on it, I feel like I have seen it before. He looked at it again and said, Yes, I have seen it before; I think it's the mark of Nimrod. " Beth ann. asked, "Do vou mean the Nimrod in the bible?" The professor said, "the same, I do wonder what causes these strange sensations? " Beth Ann remarked, "I thought the same thing when I first picked it up. " He laid the necklace down on the table, and then went over to a big bookshelf, ran his finger across some books until he came to the one he wanted. He pulled the book from the shelf and walked back to the table. Laying the book on the table, he looked through the pages until he found the one he was looking for.

Then he said, pointing at the book. "There it is, I knew I had seen it before. "

Beth Ann looked at the book and saw a picture of the arrowhead, below it was the inscription just like on the arrowhead.

The Professor picked up the arrowhead and showed Beth Ann the inscription on it then raked his finger over the picture in the book.

As his finger touched the picture of the inscription there was a flash of multi colored light that encircled his hand. Beth Ann let out a scream and the Professor jumped back like

he was shot. "What was that? "Asked Beth Ann. "I have no idea. The professor said. " This is very interesting may I keep this for a few days and run some test on it, I think it may be of very important archeological value, but I want to be sure before I say anything. " "Ok, "replied Beth Ann.

He said> "In the meantime you try to find out where your Uncle got this, find out all you can about it. I will call you and let you know what I discover about it."

Beth Ann left the necklace with the Professor and went home. It was a gift for Flip, but if the professor thought it was important, she didn't mind leaving it with him for a while. Then she thought about Flip. She thought about his wavy reddish blond hair and those beautiful green eyes. She had fallen for him almost the moment she met him. She was about to go to see him in two weeks and could hardly wait. She had never been to Ireland before, and she was looking forward to

seeing his farm and meeting his mother and farther. That night she talked to Uncle Frank on the phone. He told her that the necklace was in with some things that a friend had

sent him from South America. But he did not know where his friend had got it.

CHAPTER FOUR A GRATE DISCOVERY

The next evening Beth Ann received a phone call from the professor asking her to please come to his office first thing in the morning.

The next morning when she arrived at the professor's office, he was so excited that he could hardly talk. He said," We may have made the greatest discovery ever. She asked, "What are you talking about?" He said, "You know about the tower of babble and Nimrod. " "Yes I have read the story in the bible; do you think its true she asked? He said, Yes, I believe it to be true. This Aero head, I think it may be from the Tower of babble era. This inscription here is the mark of Nimrod; it may even have belonged to Nimrod himself. Who knows, this could even be Nimrod's hair.

If so, legend says it has a spell on it, which would explain the strange sensation we get when we hold it, not to mention the reaction I got yesterday when I touched the arrowhead and the picture of the inscription. "

She asked, "How can you tell that it's from that era?" He replied, "This arrow head is made from ivory, but not just any ivory. "

"What do you mean? "She asked. He replied, "I tested it, this arrow head was made from the tusk of a mammoth. There are writings that tell about the bow of nimrod. They say that his bow was carved from the ivory of the elephant with hair, and trimmed in gold, and Jules.

They say that Nimrod's arrow would fly farther than any other.

It is said, that only Nimrod or a direct descendent could pull the bow.

They say that when Nimrod shot the arrow into the sky from the tower of babble it formed a rainbow in its track. "

He showed her a drawing and said, "This is what Nimrod's Bow is supposed to look like.

"Do you believe that?" asked Beth Ann. He said, "I keep an open mind about such things. Did you find out where your uncle got this arrowhead? " She replied, He said a friend sent it to him from South America.

"

He said, "Ask your Uncle to contact his friend and try to find out where this came from. "

"Yes I will,"

Said Beth Ann.

That night she called Uncle Frank again and told him all that the professor had told her.

Then she asks him to contact his friend and see what he could find out about the arrowhead.

The next day Uncle Frank called her back. He said that his friend had told him he didn't know anything about an arrowhead but if it was in that little bag, he got it from a native Indian trader that lived in the jungle far up the Amazon River.

He also said that the Indian Was supposed to be back month after next.

CHAPTER FIVE

Tree pairing for an expedition Beth Ann asked Uncle Frank to go with her to see the Professor.

He said he would be glad to.

When they got there, the professor told them, "I have researched all the archives about the tower of babble. As far as we know, only Nimrod used ivory to make his arrowheads.

In 1909 there was one other arrowhead like this found in Turkey in a petrified tree. It had to have been there for thousands of years, it has no inscription on it as this one does. It's supposed to be in a museum there in Turkey. Frank said, "So, what do you think we should do? Do you think it's possible to find the bow? And how the hell could it have gotten to the jungles of South America? "

The professor said, someone could have taken it there, or, when God scattered the people of that time, he could have sent Nimrod to South America. Nimrod and the people with him could be the beginning of the Aztecs Indians. We know they had been in Mexico for many thousand's of years. But we don't know where they were before that.

It has always been my assumption that they came from South America.

Let me show you what I mean. "The professor went to a shelf and picked up part of a vase. He brought it back to the table and showed them a design on the bottom of it. "This is a piece that I got from a Aztec digging in Mexico. I have found a lot of things with this mark on them. You see the mark on the vase and the one on the arrowhead is almost the same. And now we are told that this arrowhead has come from deep in the jungle of South America. At any rate I think we should be there to talk to that Indian and see where he got this arrowhead.

Then maybe even take an expedition up the Amazon. " Frank said, "That means we need someone with a boat. "

CHAPTER SIX Flip and Loopy go to Parris

Beth Ann said, I know someone with a boat and I think he will go with us if I ask him. "

I was supposed to go see him in two weeks, but I will call him tonight and ask him to come here. "

The professor said, "OK let's get busy; we have a lot to do in a short time. "

That night Beth Ann called flip on the phone. When he answered she said, "Hello Flip, how are you? "

Flip said, "Hello, I am fine, it's so good to hear your voice, is everything all right with you? " She replied, "Yes I am fine, but I wanted to tell you that I wouldn't be coming to Ireland.

And I wanted to see if you would come to Paris. Something has come up and I will be going to South America, and I would so much like you to go with me.

If you will come here I will explain it all to you.

He said, "I could be there in less than two weeks." She asked, "Can you bring your boat?

He replied, "Yes, if you wish. " When Flip hung up the phone, he told his mother and Father what Beth Ann had said. That's too bad", said his mother, "I was so looking forward to meeting her.

Flip said, "I will try to bring her back when I come home ". He went out to the Beth Ann; He had not even put her in the water yet.

He had made a ramp and pulled her up on land for the winter.

Loopy saw him and said, "What are you going to do?" Flip said, I am going to put the Beth Ann in the water, I have to go to Paris to see Beth Ann. "

Loopy said, "I thought she was coming here to see you. " Flip replied, "She called and said she couldn't make it. But she said that she wanted us to come to see her and take her to South America.

Loopy said, "When are we leaving? " Flip said, "I thought you didn't want to leave here again? " Loopy said, "I always go with you, that is unless you don't want me to go. " Flip looked at Loopy and smiled, and then said, of cores I want you to go, after all we are pals aren't we. " Yes, said Loopy, We are pals. Flip painted over the name Beth Ann. After it dried he painted the name Leprechaun Princess. Loopy said, why did you change the name? Flip said, "We will have to stop in America a couple of times to refuel and we don't know if we will run into the gun runners or not.

They spent the next week getting the Leprechaun Princess cleaned up and ready to go, and stocking her with food, water and fuel. When all was done, they once again said good by to their Mother and Father and begin their trip to Paris.

As flip started the Leprechaun Princes and the engine came alive, he realized how much he had missed sailing her. He turned her about and headed her down the river Shannon toward the sea.

As they went along the people along the shore and in the canoes and houseboats were waving at them. They were so glad to get back to sea that they didn't even notice the boat in the harbor next to the mouth of the river.

CHAPTER SEVEN The long awaited reunion

The weather was grate and all went well for them. Flip had called Beth Ann on his cell phone just before arriving in Parris to let her know what time he would be there.

Beth Ann told him that she would meet them at the dock and pick them up. As they pulled up to the dock, they could see Beth Ann waving at them.

When Flip stepped onto the dock, Beth Ann came up to him, threw her arms around him and gave him the long awaited kiss that he had been dreaming about. Afterwards she turned and gave Loopy a hug and a kiss on the forehead.

She said, "Why did you change the name on your boat to the Leprechaun Princess? " Flip said, "I will explain that later". She said, I am so glad to see you both. So much has happened in the past few weeks. I will tell you all about it on the way home.

After Beth Ann finished telling them all that she knew about the bow and arrowhead. Flip said, "That is a hard story to believe, do you believe it's possible?

Beth Ann said, "I think that the Professor believes it, and he is a very smart man. " Beth Ann said, "Will you take us to South America to talk to the Indian.

After we talk to him, if you don't want to go any farther then I will understand. "

Flip said, I will take you anywhere in the world that you want to go, and then I will take you home to Ireland. "

Beth Ann smiled and said," In the morning I will introduce you to the Professor.

CHAPTER EIGHT OFF to TURKEY

The next day, after introducing Flip and Loopy to the Professor,

The professor said, "First thing we must do is go to Turkey. I must see the other arrowhead and compare it to this one.

I have already talked to my counterpart there and he will be expecting us.

They talked everything over and decided they would leave in three days. Beth Ann got the necklace from the professor and put it around Flip's neck.

She said, "This is yours no matter what the outcome of this trip. "

She asked Flip, "Do you feel a strange sensation? Flip said, "Yes, but I always feel strange sensations when I get close to you." They both laughed. The Time passed quickly, and soon they were heading out to sea and on their way to Turkey. On the way Flip taught Beth Ann how to navigate and drive the boat.

It was smooth sailing all the way and they made good time. And they didn't even notice the other boat far back on the horizon.

After they docked the boat, they made their way to the .Museum.

An old man greeted them; he looked to be close to eighty years old.

The professor introduced them all to him. After which he took them all into a room and showed them what looked to be a piece of a tree, but it felt like a rock and it had an arrowhead in it just like the one Flip had around his neck. The only difference was the one in the tree didn't have the

The only difference was the one in the tree didn't have the inscription on it.

Beth Ann reached over and touched the arrowhead. She said, "I don't get the same sensation with this one as I do when I touch the other one.

At that time Flip put out his hand and touched the other arrowhead.

As he did they both begin to glow as if they were on fire and surrounded Flip with all the colors of the rainbow.

When He pulled his hand away they went back to normal. Beth Ann said, "My God what caused them to do that? " The professor said, "I have no idea. " The two professors compared the two arrowheads and found them to be identical other than the inscription and about the same age.

When they started to leave, the Professor's counterpart said to him, "Please Wait here I have something I want you to see. " He then turned and walked out of the room.

Frank decided to follow him to see where he was going. Soon Frank came back into where the rest were and said, "Lets get the hell out of here, he went to use the phone. "

The Professor said, "Yes he wanted to buy the arrow head from us. "

They all left the museum and got into a cab and gave the driver fifty dollars and said get us to the dock, and hurry it up. The driver wasted no time getting them there.

As they boarded the Leprechaun Princess they could hear the sirens a short distant away.

Flip started the engine and backed the boat out and turned it around and headed out of the harbor.

Before they got to open sea, they saw two boats coming up behind them, but still a long way off.

Flip opened up the leprechaun Princess and said, "We may be able to outrun them long enough to get out of their waters.

Flip was surprised at just how fast she would go. As the Leprechaun Princess skipped across the top of the water. The boats behind kept getting smaller and smaller until they disappeared all together.

CHAPTER EIGHT NEXT STOP NEW YORK

Flip then slowed down to a good cruising speed and they continued on their way.

night out the water was smooth and calm like a vast blanket of blue and green.

Loopy was driving the boat and Flip and Beth Ann were standing at the bow.

The sea acted as a great mirror for the stars. It seamed that you could just reach down to the water and picks them up.

Flip's mind wondered back to the night on the Sea Witch when he had talked to Captain Jack, it seamed so long ago, but it had only been a year.

He thought about Starkey who had been the best friend he had ever had besides Loopy. He wished that he could have done something to save him.

He pulled Beth Ann close to him and kissed her. Then they stood there embracing each other looking at the stars for a long time.

Every so often one would streak across the sky. When it did Beth Ann would close her eyes and make a wish. This was a moment; He wished that it could last forever.

The next morning Loopy woke Flip and told him that there was a boat far back on the horizon behind them. He also told him he had seen the same boat last night.

Flip got up and took the telescope from Loopy and went to the back of the boat. Looking at the horizon he could se the boat that Loopy had told him about. "Who do you think it is? Said Loopy. "I don't know but we will want to keep an eye on them, "Said Flip.

Two days passed. The weather was beginning to change and the boat was still behind them.

It was starting to get dark again and Flip was driving the boat.

He told Loopy, that boat is still back there; I think I will try to lose them tonight.

It had started to cloud up and soon it was very dark. Flip put the boat on silent running; he then turned off all of the running lights and veered to his left.

He slowed the boat to about half speed for about two hours. Then he got back on his original cores and speed.

The next morning Loopy said to Flip" That boat is no longer behind us, I think we lost them". Flip told Loopy to go and look from the front of the boat. Loopy took his telescope and looked and there was the other boat. It had passed them during the night.

> Loopy was laughing and jumping up and down. He yelled, now we will follow them for a while.

In three days they entered into New York harbor. They all marveled as they passed the Statue of Liberty with her arm up and holding the torch of freedom.

They found a service dock and told the attendant to fill the boat and the spare cans with gas.

The boat they were following was at the dock. Loopy said, "Flip, there's that boat we were following, who do you think they are? "

Flip said, "I don't know, they may just be coming here also.

If we see them after we leave here we will find out who they are.

Flip said, we have time to spare, let's do a little site seeing while we are here.

They all agreed and went into the city.

They liked New York so much and there was so much to see that they stayed for almost a week.

Flip, Beth Ann and Frank took in a few shows on Broadway while the professor, Frank and Loopy went to the museum.

Then before they left they all went to the top of the Statue of Liberty, and of cores they all had to ride on the subway.

They were having so much fun that they almost forgot what their mission was. But all good things must come to an end. The Professor said, "We had better get going, we don't want to miss that Indian. "

Then they left New York and continued their journey south headed for Brazil and the Amazon's river. They never saw the other boat again.

When they were still about two days out, Frank called his friend to let him know what time to meet them.

CHAPTER NINE MAKING A DESSISION

When they docked the boat, a man walked up and said, "Hello Frank it's been a long time. "

Frank said, "Hi Jim, it's good to see you again. " Frank said. "Everyone, this is a good friend of mine, his name is Jim Fields. "

Frank said, "Jim and I were roommates in college."

Jim said, "OK, what's this about a little arrowhead. Frank pointed at Flip and said, "There it is, it was in that little bag that you sent the last time.

Jim said, I didn't even look in it.

Frank said, "Let's all go someplace where we can talk. Jim said, we can go to my house; you can all stay with me while you are here.

We have to go up the river a ways to where I live. They went up river for about thirty minutes when Jim said, "Pull in to that dock over there, "As he pointed to a dock on their right.

He said, "That's where I live. "

After they arrived at Jim's house, they told him all about their discovery.

man I can't believe I didn't even look in that little bag.

Most of the time they keep bones and crazy things in them, they are supposed to keep away evil spirits.

As for where he got it, them Indians could have got that necklace from some white man that went up that river and never came back, there have been a lot of them. "

The Professor spoke up and said, "I tested that arrow head myself, it came from the tusk of a mammoth, and it is at least five thousand years old. " Then Jim said, "Anyway, That Indian should be here one day this month. "

The Professor said, "Where does he live? Do you know how far it is? "

Jim said, "I don't know the answer to either question, He comes in once every six months. Most of the time he brings trinkets made of bones and other things. Sometimes even things made of gold and even shrunken heads, I think they are headhunters, but don't know that for sure.

I do know one thing, if you are thinking about going up into that jungle you are putting your life on the line. "

Flip said, "What do you mean? Jim said, I mean that river is almost four thousand miles of living hell. It is the widest river in the world, five or six miles in some places. It has more water than any river in the world; no other river even comes close.

CHAPTER TEN EXPIDITION

There are thousands of tributaries that flow into it. There are crocks up that river big enough to swallow a man, and anacondas snakes big enough to swallow that crock.

The Anaconda has been known to get forty feet long and three feet in diameter. They killed one that had a sixteen-foot crock in it.

The piranhas, a school of them can clean a dear in a matter of minutes and a man in less than that.

Poisonous snakes and spiders that kill, and insects that give you malaria. "

And there are a million other things that can kill you. And if they don't get you, the headhunters will.

He looked at Beth Ann and said, "You would be there a long time before they cut your head off. You would be begging them to do it just to end the suffering.

The Professor said, "But if that bow is up there, it would be the greatest discovery ever. And it would be priceless. A billion dollars with no trouble.

Where is your adventure man, aren't you willing to take a risk for that kind of money? "

Jim said " A billion dollars doesn't do me any good if I lose my head in the process. Ten years ago there was an expedition went up the river, the same place you are talking about. There were fifteen of them, all well armed. They were never heard from again, they never even found their boat.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Into the unknown

Flip walked outside and was looking at the river.
He was deep in his thoughts, when Beth Ann walked up beside him.
"What's the matter, Flip? ", she asked.
Flip looked at Beth Ann and said, "I don't like the idea of taking you into that jungle and such danger. "
Beth Ann said, "I have been on expeditions with the professor before and I can take care of myself. "

Finally after about a week of waiting, they heard Jim say, "Here comes the Indian now."

Jim said, "Let me do the talking, we don't want to chase him away. Jim could speak a little of his language.

Jim looked through the things that the Indian had brought in to trade.

As he did he talked to him about where he got the arrowhead.

Jim said, "He said he lives about ten days up river. The way these Indians move that could be between two hundred and fifty to five hundred miles. "

He said he found the arrowhead in a cave lying beside the bones of a man.

The Professor said, Where is that cave? " Jim asked the Indian where the cave was. The Indian said it was in the valley where no one returns.

Jim said, "What is the valley where no one returns? " The Indian said, "Land of headhunter tribe. "

He said his tribe was called the Wimble. He said that the headhunters were a tribe that lives in a valley Three days from him. And that was where he got the shrunken heads.

He is allowed to go there because of the things he takes to trade to them.

The professor said, "Ask him if he will take us there. Jim asks the Indian what the professor had said. The Indian shook his head no and pulled his finger across his throat.

Jim said, "He said if he took you there, you would all lose your heads, and him to. "

The Professor walked over to the Indian, he unfolded a paper and showed the Indian the paper. The Indian's eyes got big, he said Nimrod then looked from side to side then turned to go back to his dugout but Jim and Frank stopped him.

Jim asked, "What the hell did you show him? " The Professor turned the paper around and showed them a picture of the bow of Nimrod.

Then he said, "Are you going to try to tell me he has never seen that before? You heard what he said, he said Nimrod. "

Jim asked the Indian if he had seen the bow before. The Indian shook his head yes. Jim asked him where he saw it. He told him, it belongs to the chief of the headhunter tribe. That was where he got the shrunken heads. Professor said, Now do you believe me, that bow is up there. "

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Into the unknown

Frank said, "Jim, can you get us a guide to go up river? Jim said, "I don't know anyone who is crazy enough to make a trip like that. "

He looked at Frank and said, "Are you going up that river Frank? "

"Yes. "Said Frank.

Jim shook his head and, hesitated for a moment and then shrugged his shoulders and said, "Well, I guess I will have to go along to watch out for you.

But I will tell you this, "If we are going to go we had better get us some damn good weapons to defend ourselves. "

> Flip said, "Come with me." He went to the boat, the rest followed him.

Flip opened the trap door to the storage compartment and went down into the boat. He came up with a fifty-caliber machine gun, then went back for the other. Then he brought the mounts out for them. He came out and sat up the mounts, then took the machine guns and mounted them.

Frank laughed and said, "Man what have you been using this boat for".

As flip left the boat, Beth Ann followed him off. She asked, "Flip, why do you have all of them guns on your boat?"

Flip took Beth Ann by the hand and led her to a porch swing and sat her down beside him.

Flip said, "I have something to tell you.

Before anything else, I want you to know that I am in love with you.

I have been since the moment I first saw you. And when this is over, if we are still alive, I want to take you back to Ireland with me and make you my wife if you will have

> me. But I will not start our life together on a lie. "

Then Flip told her everything that happened; from the time he and Loopy joined the Sea Witch until they came to see her. Beth Ann said, so my father didn't go down with the Sea Witch.

Flip said, "No, he was killed in the raid on the Island, he was a very brave man and I liked him a lot. "

Beth Ann said, "Why did you keep the guns? " Flip answered, "I don't know if the gun runners are still after me and Loopy or not. But I promise you this, When this is over I will get rid of all of the guns. "

Beth Ann said, "Is that why you changed the name on your boat. " "Yes, "Said Flip.

Chapter twelve Going up river

They spent the next week getting ready for the trip up the river. They brought out all the weapons and cleaned them and making sure that everyone knew how to use all of them. Then they loaded the boat with things to trade with the natives. They also stocked up with food and water for the trip. Jim said, "Well I guess we are as ready as we are ever going to be. We will leave at first light in the morning. " That night, Flip took Beth Ann for a walk along the river. Flip said, it's a beautiful night. Beth Ann answered, "Yes it is. " Flip stopped, took Beth Ann in his arms and kissed her. When it ended he said, "I love you Beth Ann. " Beth Ann said, I love you too Flip. "

Flip said, "Is there no way I can convince you to Waite here for us? "

Beth Ann said, "Don't you understand Flip, if you don't come back then I don't want to go on without you. "

Flip said, "I understand and I won't say anymore about it. "

They walked back to the house and sat on the porch swing for a while. Then they kissed goodnight. Beth Ann went in and went to bed and flip went to the boat.

Loopy was in one bed and Flip lay down on another one. Loopy razed his head and said, "Flip, " Flip said, What Loopy? " Loopy said, "You really like her don't you? " Flip said, "Yes, I love her and I'm going to marry her and take her home to Ireland. " Loopy said, "Goodnight Flips. " Flip said, "Goodnight Pal. "

The next morning they got up, had a good breakfast, then all got on the boat and started their journey up the river.

The first day it was not unusual to see a house along the river or a man in rowboat fishing.

Just before dark they pulled into the bank and sit up a camp. The Professor said, "How far do you think we came today? " Jim said, I don't know, maybe thirty or forty miles. The river winds a lot and we have to go slow, not knowing how deep the river is.

We don't want to get hung up on the bottom. "

They traveled for three more days. Now they were not seeing any houses or people. It was like going into another world.

Every once in awhile they would see a big crock lying up on the bank in the sun.

When night came Jim said, "I think we had better stay on the boat for the rest of the trip.
I also think it would be a good idea to stand guard all night. Frank said, "I will take the first watch. "
Flip said, "Wake me at midnight and I will take over. "

Flip dropped the anchor, the river was deeper than they had thought and moving very slowly.

Things went well that night, so they continued on the next morning.

About noon they came across a village. They pulled in and went ashore to talk to them. They had seen white people many times and were very friendly to them.

They gave the natives a few trinkets and some pots and pans and then went on their way.

The next two days went well, but it rained just about every day. It was just after noon when they saw something floating down

the river towards them.

When it got to them, they saw a small raft with a small girl tied to it.

They stopped it and cut the vines that held her to it and brought her on board.

She had no clothes on, but it was hard to tell how old she was, maybe fourteen to seventeen.

She was very thin and only about three and one half foot tall.

When she spoke, The Professor said, "I know some of that language. "

They are pigmy Indians, "the Professor said. "What is your name? "

She said, "I am Tonka, I belong to the river god. " She looked around and asked, "Are you the river gods? "

"No, "said the professor, "there are no river gods, only crocks and snakes. "

She said, "What are you going to do with me? " The professor said, "We will take you back to your people." She shook her head no and said, "You must put me back on the raft I have been chosen for the river gods, they will be angry and not bless my people.

If you take me back there, my people will kill all my family and me and throw us all in the river. I will be shamed among my people. "

The professor said, "Then we will keep you with us. "

Beth Ann said, "Get me a tub of water and I will clean her up and get some clothes for her. "

The Professor said, "She has never worn any clothes before." Beth Ann said, "Well I don't think she's ever had a bath before either, But she will start doing both now."

Tonka did not like her first bath at all. After it was over Beth Ann took her into the cabin and trimmed her hair and got her some clothes to put on. They didn't fit her just right but they did the job.

She was a very pretty grill after she was cleaned up.

Tonka looked at herself for the first time in her life. She turned and looked at Beth Ann with a big smile on her face, then looked back at the mirror.

When she came out of the cabin, she walked over and sat down next to Loopy.

She said something to Loopy, The professor said, "She wants to know your name. "

Loopy said, "I am Loopy. " She smiled, and said "Loopy". Then took his arm and held on to it. The Professor said, "I think she likes you Loopy. "

Tonka hid in the cabin as they passed her village and continued up river.

Then they saw that the river went in two directions. Flip ask Jim which way to go. Jim said, "Damned if I know. "

Jim told the Professor to bring the girl and come to the front of the boat. Hanging on to Loopy, she came forward. The Professor asks her which way they should go. She pointed to the right fork and shook her head no and said,' Aztec".

Well I guess that says it all, we go to the right. When Tonka saw they were going to the right, She started yelling, "Aztec, Aztec, Aztec".

The professor started talking to her to calm her down.

After awhile he told the others that her tribe and the Aztec were mortal enemies and they would try to kill her if they saw her.

Loopy took her hand and led her into the cabin to settle her down.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN THE RIVER GOD

It was about four in the afternoon, it had not rained all day and the river began to get narrow.

All of a sudden the boat stopped dead still and leaned over on its side. The water was almost coming over the edge of the deck.

> It was all they could do to keep from sliding off. Then the boat straitened up about half way.

Flip said, "We have hit bottom, I will try to back her up. " He tried to back the boat up but it would not move. Flip said, "We are stuck tight".

Beth Ann said, "What can we do Flip? " Flip said, "There is nothing we can do until it rains. "

It was just starting to get dark; there was not a cloud in the sky.

Beth Ann, Tonka and Loopy were in the cabin fixing supper Flip, the Professor and Frank was sitting down at a table; While Jim was standing leaning against the rail.

Jim had just lit a cigarette when a giant anaconda came out of the water behind him, Frank saw it and yelled, "Jim, Look out behind you.

Jim turned his head and saw the snake, he dropped to the deck.

The snake went for him, hitting the rail and bending it, and then went back into the water.

Jim jumped up and ran to where the rest were and said, "My God an anaconda, the biggest I have ever heard tell of. "

Flip and Frank got their A K 47s and told the professor and Jim to go in the cabin.

Frank said, "Don't go near that rail Flip, You watch that side and I will watch this side. Flip said, "Ok but be careful.

Flip had Loopy to start the engine and turn on all the lights.

Two hours had passed and it was very quiet, and then all of a sudden out of the water came the anaconda. His head was at least fifteen feet in the air with his mouth open.

Both men fired their weapons, hitting it in the body and head. It dropped back into the water.

Frank said, "Do you think we got it? " Flip said, "We hit it, but I don't think we killed it. I think it will take more than these guns to kill it."

He told Loopy to bring out two of the rocket launchers. About one hour later the snake came out of the water again, Frank fired and missed. It then grabbed Frank and took him high in the air; only his legs were sticking out of the snake's mouth. Flip fired his weapon; it hit the snake about six feet down from its head. It was blown apart; its body went one way the head went the other way. He saw Frank fly out of the snake's mouth and hit the water. He stepped over the rail and dove into the water.

His luck was with him, his hand landed right on Frank. He grabbed his arm and pulled him to the top of the water and swam back to the boat.

The body of the snake was still moving around and curling. Two times the tail went right over Flip's head.

The others had come out of the cabin and were standing at the rail.

Loopy and Jim reached down and took Franks arm and pulled him up. Flip reached up and grabbed the rail and pulled himself up out of the water and on the boat.

Frank was very lucky, the snake had not tightened down on him yet and he only had a few bruses and scratches, But he was in shock.

They took him into the cabin and lay him on a bunk and covered him with a blanket.

Beth Ann begins to wash his face with a cold washcloth. Tonka said something to the Professor.

"What did she say? "Said Loopy.

The professor said, "She said that was the river God. She said it comes into her village and takes away her people. She said it took two of her brothers and a sister. "

They stood guard the rest of the night just to make sure there were no more snakes.

The next morning it started to rain, The River razed and they continued on their way.

The river begins to bet much wider again but they still kept a slow pace for they didn't know how deep it was.

Chapter fourteen A new surprise

They continued up river and things went well for the next three days except that it rained every day.

Flip said, "I understand now why they call it a rain forest."

At that moment they heard someone yelling at them from the bank of the river.

They looked and saw a man waving his hands and jumping up and down.

They took the lifeboat from the top of the cabin and put it in the water.

Jim and Loopy got in the boat and went to pick him up.

When they got to the bank, the man said, "I sure am glad to see you folks. I thought I would die in this damn jungle. " Jim said, "You may have if you tried to walk out of here. " They helped him into the boat and took him back to the Leprechaun Princess.

As Flip helped the man aboard he said, "What the hell are you doing out here in the middle of nowhere.

The man said, "I am Doctor Earnhardt Ramsey from New York City. " The Professor said, "Yes I have heard of you. You are one of the world's leading anthropologists. " Ramsey said, "Thank you very much, and who might you be." The Professor said, "I am a Professor of archaeology, my name is Lamear. I am from Parris France."

Ramsey said, "I have heard of you also. I read your feces on the migration of the attach Indian into Mexico. "

Flip broke in and said, "But what are you doing out here all alone? "

Ramsey said, "I came with an expedition, my wife and myself and four others, I am the only one left alive. "

Flip said what happen to the others. " Ramsey said, "We were captured by a tribe of headhunters in the hidden valley. "

"You have been to the Valley where no one returns. "Said the Professor. Can you take us back there? Ramsey said, "Hell no, are you crazy I'm not going back in there, "and you will be crazy to go in there to. "

The Professor said, "Why did you go there to start with? " Ramsey said, "My brother disappeared up here ten years ago and I wanted to know what happened to him. " "Did you find out? "Said the Professor.

Ramsey answered, "Yes I saw his head and all that were with him. They were hanging over the chief's head. "

The professor said, "What was your wife's name? " Ramsey said, "Rebecca. "They put the lifeboat back on top of the cabin and continued up the river.

Two days later, it was late afternoon and Jim was driving the boat, the professor, Loopy Beth Ann, Ramsey and Tonka was on deck and Flip was in the cabin lying on a bed. Frank was asleep on the other bed; he was still recovering from shock. Beth Ann went into the cabin and lay down next to Flip. I want to thank you for saving my Uncle Frank that was a very brave thing you did. Flip said, I think Frank would have done the same for me. Flip pulled her close to him and kissed her. Then he said, "I don't know what the hell we are doing up here anyway. Beth Ann said, "This could be a grate discovery." Flip said, "Is it worth a man's life, or maybe all of us for that matter? And what right do we have trying to take something away from these Indians that belongs to them? 66

Beth Ann said, "I don't know the answer to that. "

CHAPTER TWELVE THE ATEACA

As they rounded a bend in the river Jim yelled for Flip and the Professor.

Tonka came running into the cabin and hid in the bathroom, She was yelling Aztec, Aztec. Flip jumped up and ran out of the cabin to see what was going on.

On their right were native huts; there were hundreds of then. There were dugouts, eight or ten deep all the way across the river.

> The professor said, "Stop the boat. " Flip said. "Keep it running just in case. "

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When the boat stopped, one dugout came out of the line and moved up by the boat. Ramsey said to the Professor, "This is the Aztec tribe, they are friendly. "There was one native standing in the front. He looked like he could be the chief or maybe a medicine man. \ As he stopped at the side of the boat he was saying something. Jim understood him and said something back to him. The native was very surprised that Jim understood him. They talked for a few minutes and then Jim said," we are going ashore". They unloaded some of the things that they had for trade. At that time the native saw the aero head necklace on Flip's neck. He turned and shouted to his people in the other dugouts, "NIMROD. "All the natives turned their dugouts around and headed for shore. When they got to shore they all ran into their huts. In a few minutes there was not a native in sight. The professor said, "Did you hear that, he said Nimrod. I wonder what could bring fear to a tribe this size. " Flip said, "I don't know but I'll get the guns. " The professor said, "No guns, we must show them we are friendly. Flip said, to hell with friendly, I will not go into that village without weapons to protect our self with He went and got two backpacks and put four rockets in each of them. Then he got himself and Jim a rocket launcher. He got two a k 47 s and pistil belts with five clips of thirty rounds each. They let the lifeboat down that was mounted on top of the cabin. The Professor, Flip and Jim got into it and headed for shore. The natives were all still in their huts.

They went to a hut that looked like it might belong to the chief.

They were right, they brought him out, and you could see the fear in his face. Jim started talking to him. After they talked for a while Jim said, "He said we had to go through the jungle to the valley where no one returns. He said he would send two men to guide us to the entrance of the valley, but they would go no farther, and would only Waite three days for us. " Flip asked, "How far is it?

Jim said, "He said it would take three days to get to the entrance, but after that, he said, they would find us. "That doesn't sound good. "Said Flip The Professor said, "Its human nature to fear the unknown." When they got back to the boat Flip went to Beth Ann and said, "You, Frank, Doctor Ramsey, Tonka and Loopy will stay with the boat. " Beth Ann said" I'm going with you. " Loopy said, "I'm going to. " Flip said, "We may have to move fast coming out of there, "You all will just slow us down, you must stay here this time." The Professor said, "Flip is right, I think you three should stay on the boat. " Jim said, "Beth Ann, We need someone to take care of Frank and watch the boat anyway. " After much deliberation the others finely agreed to stay with the boat. The professor said, "Now that we have that settled, we will leave at first light. " They all stayed on the boat for the night. It passed quickly, the MORNING CAME TO SOON FOR Flip. After eating breakfast flip took Beth Ann aside and told her to keep someone awake and watching the natives all the time. He said, "If they give you any trouble, use the fifty calibers on them. "And he told her if they were not back in ten days to get the hell out of there. Before leaving flip loaded two a k 47s for them and sit up the two 50 caliber machine guns. Flip went into the cabin; Frank was trying to put his shoes on. He said, "I'll be ready to go in a little bit." Flip said, "You're not going anywhere Frank." Frank said, "What the hell do you mean? I'll be fine now."

Chapter fifteen The valley of no return

Flip said" You don't think I would leave the others here all alone do you. "

Frank said, I didn't think about that. "

Flip said we'll be back in a few days; you take care of things while we are gone. "

Frank fell back on his bed and said, "Flip. " Flip said, "What Frank, "

Frank said, Thanks for what you did, you be careful out there and don't take any chances, you're going to be my nephew you know. "

Flip said, "Frank, if we are not back in two weeks you take this boat and get the hell out of here.

Under no circumstances does anyone try to come after us, will you promise me that? "

Frank said, "Yes I promise, but you get your ass back here safe. "

Flip said, I will, and then He turned and walked out the door. The Professor, Flip and Jim said their goodbyes to Beth Ann, Loopy and Tonka.

Then they got into the lifeboat and went to the shore. Loopy also went with them to bring the lifeboat back.

They unloaded the boat and said goodbye to Loopy.

Loopy said" Flip, I think I should go with you, What if you get into trouble and need me?

Flip answered, "Don't worry Loopy I'll be all right. I want you to stay here with the others, they need you. " "But I always go with you. "Said Loopy. Flip said, "Not this time, now go back to the boat, we'll be back in a few days. I want you to keep the lifeboat ready; if you hear three shots you get that boat to shore for us as soon as you can get here.

We may need you real bad. "

That seamed to make Loopy feel a little better. He did not like letting Flip go without him, but he slowly turned and got into the lifeboat.

Flip said good by and watched him as he headed back to the boat. The professor talked to the chief for a while, and then they picked up their equipment and went into the jungle.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN THE VALLEY WHERE NO ONE RETURNS

The first few miles were easy going. The farther into the jungle they went, the thicker it got. The two natives each had machetes to cut a path through the jungle.

As the went, Flip kept a watch on his compass so he would know how to get out of there if he had to do it without a guide. The first day of the journey was a living hell. It was very hot and they had to fight the insects and the large growth of vegetation.

At night they used netting to protect them from the insects. They were amazed that the natives did not use anything but was not bothered by insects at all. They discovered that it was something they put on their skin. On the third day they came to a large gorge.

It looked like the earth had just cracked open. It was about three hundred yards across but a lot farther down.

It had a bridge across it that was made of stone. It was a natural bridge carved out by the stream at the bottom of the gorge millions of years ago On the other side of the bridge was a ledge about three to four feet wide that led around a high cleft. The two natives told the professor they would go no farther. They said the valley where no one returns was across the bridge and around the cleft and through a cave. They decided they would make camp there tonight and continue on in the morning. When morning came, they got up and packed their gear and proceeded to cross the bridge.

They reached the other side of the bridge and proceeded to walk around the ledge.

After about two thousand yards the ledge made a Sharpe left turn, then ended at the entrance of a cave after about two hundred feet.

Flip took a flashlight from his pack and told the Professor and Jim to wait there while he checked it out.

About five hundred feet into the cave he interred a large room. It had a very high ceiling and there was a big opening that let in a lot of light. He looked it all over, there were several other caves leading out of the room.

He took some rocks and laid them out in the shape of an arrow in front of the entrance where he had just came out of.

At one end of the room was a large statue of a man holding his head in his hands.

In front of the statue there was a stone table about eight feet long.

It had stains on it that looked like dried blood. Flip took the first cave to his right and went a few hundred yards.

It ended at a drop-off into what seamed to be a bottomless pit. He dropped a large rock into it and waited to hear the sound of it hitting the bottom.

The sound never came.

He turned and went back to the big room again and tried the next cave.

It ended in another room and went nowhere. The next cave he took, after about one hundred yards he begins to see light ahead.

He continued until he walked out into the open. It looked like he had just walked into another world. There was a trail leading down into a very large valley. It looked like it may have been a volcano at one time.

From what he could see, there seamed to be no other entrance to the valley. Flip returned to where the others were waiting. The Professor said, we were just getting ready to come and find you. Flip said, you are not going to believe what you see. They picked up their weapons and equipment and went back through the cave. They had only gone about a mile into the bally when they heard something to their left. When they looked, they saw what looked like an elephant, but was much bigger and had long hair all over it. Amazed, The professor said, "That's a mammoth, they were thought to be extinct. Quietly they walked on. Then they saw three men standing as if they were waiting for them. As they got close to them, one of the men held up his hands and said something to them. The professor said, "That sounds like Aztec Maybe I was right, maybe they were here before they moved to Mexico, " Jim said, "Can you talk to them Professor?" The Professor said, "Yes, I will try." He spoke to them in Aztec. They looked at him, and then at each other. One of them looked at Flip, pointed at the arrowhead on his neck and turned and talked to the others. He said something to the professor and turned around and started walking away. The Professor said, "They want us to follow them."

Flip said, "Do you think it's a trap?

The professor said, "I don't know but this is what we came here for, so we might as well follow them. I'm sure that they could have come out in force if they wanted. Jim said, I don't see any more of them anywhere. " They begin to follow the three men. As they walked, they realized that there was some more behind them. Then some showed up on each side of them. By the time they reached the village there must have been at least a thousand of them. They were led through the crowd and up to an old man sitting under a shelter that kept the sun off of him. He had two young girls sitting at his feet. The old man said, "Can you understand me?" The Professor said" I understand your language very well and speak it also. " The old man said" I and Thief of the Nimrod, What do you want here? " The Professor said, "We come as friends." The chief said, "You are not the first to come here and say you are friends. There were others who made that clamed, but they wanted to steel from us. " The professor asked, "What happened to them?" The chief razed his hand and pointed above his head. They looked up and saw fifteen shrunken head. It was easy to tell that they were all white and there were two women among them. The Professor said, we have no intention of steeling from you or winding up like that. The Chief said, "One of you carries the sine of the great God

Nimrod. "

The Professor said, "Yes, He is a messenger of Nimrods and he has strong medicine. "

CHAPTER FIFTEEN FLIP'S MAJIC

The Chief looked at Flip for just a second, and then took his eyes away. He did not say anything for a long time; he just looked out over their heads and turned his head from side to side, as if he were trying to figure out what to do. Flip and Jim both had the k 47s in their hand and fingers on the trigger. The Chief looked over at flip, then at the professor, then he said, "I would see some of your strong medicine. "At that time Flip handed his a k forty-seven to Jim. And then he took of his pack and opened it and put a rocket inside his shirt.

He picked up the rocket launcher and held it up so the chief could see through it.

Then he held it to his face and turned to the other natives so they could see through it also.

He walked out about twenty yards from the chief, slipping a rocket into the launcher.

There was a big tree about fifty yards from him in a clearing that was dead.

He took aim at the tree and pulled the trigger. The rocket hit the tree and it burst into flame and fell to the ground.

The natives began to shout and jump up and down. They had never seen power like that before. He then turned around and walked back to the chief and held up the launcher so he could see through it once again.

At that time the Chief said, "You do have grate magic and We will except you as friends and we will hear Nimrods message for us. But if you are not telling the truth you will all pay with your lives. "They put them in a large hut. They did not take

their weapons from them. Flip walked over and looked out the door, there were no guards there.

He said, "I wonder why they didn't take our weapons? " The professor said, "I don't think they wanted to offend Nimrod. "

In a little while some young girls came in with a lot of food and drink.

That night they were taken out and sat facing the old chief. At that time he made a jester with his hand.

One of the natives ran over to a hut and went inside. When he came out he had a white woman by the wrist and was pulling her with him.

She was blond and probably very pretty when she came there. She was nude and had abrasions all over her body. She had been violated and very abused. The native brought her over and sat her down next to the Professor.

She sat crying with her face in her hands.

The professor said, "Rebecca? "She shook her head yes but did not remove her hands from her face.

The Professor said, "We will get you out of here and back to your husband. "

She said, "Ernie is alive? How?

I saw them take him away, then they gave me to the men of the tribe, they beat me and raped me. I don't even know how long I have been here.

The professor said, "Ernie escaped someway, I don't know how. But he thinks that you are dead.

Rebecca said, "I wish I were dead. "

Then the chief said, "I give this woman to you but if you are not telling the truth you will all lose your heads.

They started playing music and the young women of the tribe started to dance.

They eat more food and the girls danced until morning.

The chief razed his hand over his head and everything stopped as suddenly as it started. He had the Professor, Flip and Jim sit beside him

There was a stone table in front of them.

He made a jester to another native, he turned and went into a hut, and after a moment he returned to the table.

What they saw in his hand almost took their breath away. The Professor said, "The Bow of Nimrod.

It was even more beautiful than the picture, and much more detailed.

It had diamonds and rubies from each tip to the grip and was engraved with gold.

The native laid the bow and a pouch with many arrows on the table.

The chief looked at the professor and told him to go and pick up the bow.

The Professor came to his feet and walked to the table and picked up the bow, and then he picked up an arrow.

The chief told him to put the arrow in the bow and shoot it into the sky.

The professor put the arrow in the bow, aimed it high in the air and tried to pull it back.

But with all his strength he couldn't move the string. The chief stood up and told the professor you said you had strong medicine, but you cannot pull the bow. Why would Nimrod not give you the power to pull the bow? You lied to us; you have come to steel it.

They took the professor and tied him to a stake. Then they had Jim to try the Bow, He couldn't move the string.

They tied him to a stake also. Then it was Flips turn, he got up and walked over to the bow and picked it up.

As soon as he picked it up it begin to glow with all the colors of the rainbow that encircled Flip also. The arrowhead on Flip's necklace also begins to glow as if it was on fire but neither was hot. The professor said, "Flip, hold the bow above your head and turn and show them what it is doing. " Flip did as the professor said. Then he picked up the arrow and it also did the same. The natives begin to chant, Nimrod, Nimrod. He put the arrow into the bow and aimed it high in the air. He looked over at the professor and Jim. The Professor said, go ahead flip, do it. Flip took a deep breath, and then with all his strength he pulled the string. The string stretched the arrow came all the way back to the arrowhead. The natives were still chanting, Nimrod, Nimrod. Flip let it go, it flew high into the sky, over the rim of the valley and out of sight. And in it's path was a beautiful rainbow that started at Flip's feet. All the Natives fell to the ground, even the Chief. Flip said, I see why it worked for me. The professor said, "Why?" Flip said, "Because I am wearing the necklace with the arrowhead on it. It is the power source. That man in the cave where the Indian found the arrowhead was the last one to make it work that was Nimrod himself. They look like they never saw it happen before.

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Flip put down the bow, and went over and untied the rest from the stakes.

The professor said, "They think you are Nimrod returned." Flip said, "I'm not Nimrod, I'm just a man." Jim said, they think you are, and that may be all that saved our life's

CHAPTER FOURTEEN GETTING OUT ALIVE

Flip and Jim went into the hut and got their weapons. When they came out they told the Professor, Lets get the hell out of here while we can. The Professor grabbed the Bow and arrows from the table, then took the woman by the hand and told her to run as fast as she could. They ran into the jungle. The Chief looked up and saw that they were gone. He looked at the table and saw that the bow was gone. He came to his feet and started yelling to the other natives. They all ran into the jungle after them. Flip was in the back; he could hear the natives yelling not far behind him. He turned and aimed his Rocket launcher up in the air and pulled the trigger. The rocket went over the trees and dropped in the jungle with a blast. He reloaded and fired another one. When it landed and went off he could hear the screams of the natives. By the time they got to the entrance of the cave, Flip had used all of his rockets. He threw down his rocket launcher and started firing his k 47. As they went through the big room they could hear the natives coming through the other cave. They came out on the other side and moved along the ledge to where it made a turn. Flip told the others to go on.

As the Nimrods came out of the cave, Flip started firing. The nimrods were dropping off that ledge like flies. Flip put his last clip into his weapon, He thought, "thirty more rounds and a thousand Indians, better get the hell out of here. "Then he turned and started running. When he got close enough to see the bridge he could hear Jim's gunfire, he was giving him cover. When he got to the walk bridge Jim told Flip and the Professor and the woman to go on across. Flip told Jim to give him his pack and rocket launcher. Jim handed them to flip, then they started across the bridge and Jim continued to fire at the Nimrod. And then he started across the bridge. Flip had reached the other side of the crevice, he reloaded the rocket launcher, and Jim was almost across the bridge when the natives started on the other side. Flip aimed at the center of the bridge and fired. The rocket hit the bridge and the center of it crumbled and fell into the crevice. Jim just did make it across before the rest of the bridge fell. The two natives from the Aztec tribe were waiting for them there. They told Jim that it would take the Nimrods about two days to go around the crevice. Flip said, "Do you mean there's another way out of that valley.

One of the natives said, "Yes far to the south." The Professor said, "Well I guess we had better move fast, we need to warn The Aztec. "

The Professor took some clothes out of his pack and gave them to the woman.

They were just a little big for her but they tied a rope around her waist and cut the legs off a little. When they got almost to

the Aztec village, Flip fired three shots in the air as a signal for Loopy to bring the lifeboat to the shore. As they interred the village the two natives that had led them to the Nimrods begin to tell the chief what had happened. The chief came to Jim and told him that the Nimrods would kill everyone in his village. Jim told Flip what the chief had said. Flip told Jim to tell the chief to take all his people across the river. The chief did as he was told and took everyone in his tribe across the river. Rebecca, Flip, loopy, Jim and the professor got into the lifeboat and started for the leprechaun princess. They were almost there when they saw the Nimrods running into the Aztec village. Just as they got to the boat, an arrow hit Jim in the leg. ; He fell forward into the lifeboat. The arrowheads had poison on them. They all got on the boat and put Jim in the cabin on a bed. Tonka went in too Jim and grabbed the arrow and pulled it out of his leg. Then she begins sucking the blood and poison out of the wound. Flip put a rocket into the launcher he had got from Jim and fired it at the shore. It hit at the water's edge with a blast. The Nimrods All ran into the jungle. But a short time later they came back out and started shooting

arrows again

The others got behind the cabin of the boat while Flip started the engine, razed the anchor and moved the boat over towards the other side of the river between the two tribes. There were still about fifty dugouts on the bank near the Aztec village. The

Nimrod got them and started out toward the boat. Flip used one of the fifty calibers and cut them to ribbons. The piranhas did their work. Then Flip fired a mortar round at the bank. The Nimrods took off into the jungle again. They set their rocket launchers high and fired ten more rounds into the jungle. They waited for about two hours but the Nimrod had had enough and did not reappear.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN THE LONG TRIP HOME

They turned the boat around and headed down stream. At that time Ramsey went over to Rebecca and put his arms around her and said, "Darling I'm so glad to see that you are alive. At that time she pulled away from him and hit him across the face as hard as she could. "You Bastard, you left me to dye, don't you ever come near me again. "Then she went into the cabin Ramsey looked at the professor and said, "There was no way I could help her. I was unarmed and she was in the middle of the

village. What was I supposed to do? "If I had not escaped I would be dead right now.

The Professor said, "Man you have to realize that she has been through a very hard time. Most women would have jumped off of that ledge coming out of there. So just let her have time to think about it, I'm sure she will understand after she gets back to civilization. "

After a few hours, Jim had gotten much worse and had gone into a coma. Tonka said something to Loopy, but he didn't understand her. The professor said, "She wants you to stop the boat. "

Flip said, "We can't stop right now." Tonka ran out of the cabin, pulled off her clothes and dove into the water. Just as she did they saw a big crock run into the water, and then they saw two more hit the water. Flip stopped the boat. Loopy ran out of the cabin to see if he could see her. She came to the top of the water right next to the boat. Loopy put his hand down and grabbed her hand and pulled her out of the water, just a split second before the first big crock got there. The professor told her, you little fool; you could have been eaten alive.

She told him that the piranhas were busy upstream. And that the water was moving to fast for them.

They never told her that the crock had almost gotten her. In her other hand was some algae and mud that she had gotten off the bottom of the river. She ran into the cabin and placed it on Jim's leg wound. Then she tore a rag and wrapped it around his leg.

Tonka told the professor, the algae and mud would take out the poison if I got it in time.

Flip said, "O k we are heading back down stream now so everyone pray for rain. We don't want to get stuck in a shallow spot again.

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Flip kept the control, when they got to the spot where they hit bottom before he slowed way down.

He kept to the middle of the river. Still they could hear the boat scrape the bottom every so often.

But luck was with them and they made it back to deep water once again.

As it got dark flip turned all the lights on and went very slowly all night.

When morning came Flip let Loopy take over the control and he went to get some well-needed rest.

Flip was awakened by a kiss from Beth Ann.

He looked up into her beautiful eyes and said, "Now that's the way I want to wake up the rest of my life. "

She smiled and said, "You must have been very tired, you slept for eight hours. I fixed you something to eat. " He sat up in the bed and She gave him a tray of food. Just then they heard Jim say, "Can you spare some of that food for me. " They helped Jim sat up, then Flip sat his tray on Jim's lap and said, "Glad to see you back, we thought we was going to lose you. "

Jim said, "What the hell happened? " Flip said, "You were hit in the leg with a poison arrow. "

Jim said, "I thought that poison was deadly." Flip said, "It would have been, but you have Tonka to thank for saving your life. She jumped into the river and got some algae from the bottom

and put it on your leg to draw out the poising. "

Jim said, "Damn, I wouldn't jump in this river for Jesus." Flip said well, don't forget, her people live on this river, so they know it well. "

Jim said, "Yes, I guess you're right. "

Beth Ann went and got Flip another tray of food. After he finished eating Flip got up and went out on the deck to see where they were.

He took over the controls and told Loopy to go get some rest. Beth Ann was standing beside him.

He turned to her and said, "How is your uncle Frank? I sure like him.

66

Beth Ann said, "I know that Flip, he is doing just fine, He likes you to, he told me so, he said you were a good man and I should hold on to you. "

Flip smiled and said, "You had better do what your Uncle tells you to do, he sounds like a very wise man. "

He kissed her and said, "Do you still have any of that good coffee left? " She smiled and went to get him some more coffee. Just then Jim came limping out of the cabin toward Flip, he was holding on to Frank's arm. Flip looked up and said, "Well I see that you two are doing a lot better. " They both laughed and Jim said, "We'll do just fine if we work

together. "

They continued down river with no more trouble until they got to Jim's house.

They pulled up to the dock and tied the leprechaun princess to it.

Jim said, "Well I think we all need a big stake for a reward, I hear Frank is a hell of a cook. They ate very well that night.

After eating and lots of conversation about what to do with Nimrod's Bow, They all decided to turn in and get some long awaited rest.

Flip and Loopy slept on the boat and the rest slept in the house.

Tonka did not know what to think of civilization, she was amazed at everything she saw.

She was fascinated most with the television set. She kept looking behind it to see how the people got in there. Then she kept turning the light switch on and off.

After Beth Ann finished her bath, she run a tub for Tonka with bubbles in it.

She liked her second bath a lot better than her first. Ramsey and his wife had rented a cabin on the river before they went up river.

They thanked everyone for saving their life, and then they left to get their belongings and go home.

Rebecca still blamed him for leaving her with the headhunters and swore she was getting a divorce as soon as she got back to New York.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THE RETURN OF AN OLD FRIEND

The hour became late and all went to sleep. Flip woke up, he thought he heard something. Just as he sat up the light came on and there was a gun barrel touching his nose. He froze there trying to see who it was. Then he heard a familiar voice that said, "Hello Flip, You've done well for yourself. " In his shock and surprise he shouted' "Sparky, You're alive. " Sparkey said" Yes I'm alive no thanks to you and Loopy, Where is your friend Buck? " Flip said, "Buck is dead, and he wasn't my friend. Where were you? We looked for you Starkey; Buck told me that he killed vou. " Sparky said, "He damn near did, I was in the hospital for eight months, I still have his bullet in my head. " He would have killed me and Loopy to, if Loopy had not got the drop on him. " Sparky said, "Where's the money Flip? " Flip said, "I sent your share to your sister, just like you said in your letter. " Sparky said, "Are you telling me the truth? " "Yes, "said Flip, "Didn't you ask your sister?" Sparkey answered Well no, I haven't talked to her yet, I have

Sparkey answered Well no, I haven't talked to her yet, I have been looking for you, Loopy and Buck every since I got out of the hospital four months ago. " Flip said, Well You can ask Loopy, or just give me a minute and I'll show you the check stubs. They are in the top drawer over there in the corner. . "

Sparky said, "Where is the rest of the money? " Flip said, "Loopy has his share and I have mine, then we split Bucks and Cyclops shares between us, but now that you are here you will get a third of their shares.

I did what all the letters told me to do, all except for Buck, he tried to kill us and take all the money. Sparky said, "Who are these people you are with and what the hell are you doing here? "

Flip said, "We have been on a scientific expedition up the amazons "

They are Professor Lamear and Beth Ann DeBaun and her uncle Frank DeBaun, and this place belongs to Jim Fields, A friend of Franks. "Said Flip.

Sparkey said, "Is that Adam's daughter and Brother?" Flip answered, "Yes, Beth Ann and I are going to be married. " Sparky started laughing and said, "Well I'll be damn, you have been a busy man flip. "

He stepped back laughing, "That story is just crazy enough to be true, and you know, I believe you. "

Flip said, "I'm glad you believe me Sparky, you were the best friend Loopy and I ever had.

We really felt bad when Buck said he killed you. Sparky asked how buck died.

Flip told him the whole story about Buck hiding on the boat and how Loopy surprised him.

Sparky said," I would have loved to have seen that bastard Buck hanging from that rail and begging for his rotten life.

"Then he laughed so hard that he woke Loopy up. He looked up and saw Sparky; He could not control his emotions. He jumped up from the bed and threw his arms around Sparky, Shouting, "Sparky, Sparky, we thought you were dead. "

Flip said, "Was that your boat following us out on the ocean? " "What boat, "said Sparky, "I don't have a boat. "

He continued, "I went to your place in Ireland, your mother said you went to France, then you were coming here to Brazil, so I came here and waited for you to show up.

They sat up and talked until four in the morning telling each other what they had done the last year. Finally Loopy moved onto a top bunk and gave his bed to Sparky and they all went to sleep.

Flip was awaken by a ray of sunlight coming through a window.

He quietly got up and moved out of the cabin and off of the boat. He walked to the house and found the Professor sitting at the table looking at the bow of Nimrod.

After getting himself some coffee, Flip sat down at the table. The Professor said, "I have been trying to make since of these inscriptions on the bow. "

Flip Pointed to the first one and said, "This one means all powerful, this one means maker of rainbows, and this one is servant of the mind and this one means God's chosen one. Then he went on down the line telling the professor the

meaning of every inscription on the bow.

The professor said," How did you know what they all meant? " Flip said, "It was revealed to me when I used the bow. "

The professor ask him, "Flip what did you feel when you had the bow in your hand? "

Flip said, "It was a feeling of absolute power, it was like nothing could hurt me and there was a strange presence about me.

The professor said," that's amazing."

Flip said, "Yes, I don't think any person should ever experience that feeling. " The professor asked, Why not Flip? Flip said," this thing is more powerful than anyone can imagine and I don't think anyone should ever have the chance to use that power. " Just then Beth Ann came into the room and greeted them with a smile, then gave Flip a kiss on the cheek and sat down at the table. Before long everyone was up and moving about. Jim looked out the door and saw Loopy and Sparkey walking towards the house. "Who is that with Loopy". He asked. Flip said, "He is a very good friend of mine and Loopy's." Jim said "how did he know where you were? " Flip said, "My Mother told him. " Loopy and Sparkey came in the door and Flip introduced him to everyone. Flip filled Sparkey in on all that had happened, then he said, "Sparkey will be going to Ireland with me so he will be coming along " The others said if that's what you want; it's all right with us. Beth Ann had Jim to take her into town to buy Tonka some shoes and clothes for her to ware. After she returned she took Tonka into the bedroom and helped her get dressed. When they came out of the bedroom, she looked like a different person, they all looked at her with amazement, she was beautiful. Loopy could not take his eyes off of her. She walked over to him and said, "Loopy, you like. All he could do was shake his head yes. They were all teaching Tonka English. Loopy and her were always together.

They would take walks along the river. After resting up for about a week, they restocked the boat with fuel, water and food and headed for France.

As they left the Amazon River and headed out to sea, Tonka did not know what to think, she didn't know there was so much water in the world.

Loopy came to Flip and said, as he pointed at the boat in the harbor, "Flip, isn't that the boat that was following us before.

Flip said, "I don't know Loopy, but it sure looks like it. "

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN THE POWER OF NIMROD

They were now three days out, it was a bright sunny day, and the water was very calm. They got a radio message to pull up and stop their engine. They could see a boat off the bow on the horizon. They looked the other way and saw another one about the same distance away. Then came the message again. Pull up and stop your engine or you will be sunk. Flip said, "Sparky do you know them?" Sparky said, "I never saw them before now. And that's the truth." Flip ask them, "Who are you? " The voice on the radio said, "You and your team destroyed my Island and killed a lot of my associates and I intend to even the score. " Frank said, "What are we going to do now Flip?" Flip said, "We'll make a run for it. Flip told Sparkey to take the controls and open her up.

Sparkey said, "I know what those boats can do Flip, we can never out run them. " Flip said, "Just try to get them both behind us." Sparky did as he was told and opened it up. It wasn't long before the other two boats were about a mile behind them and about fifty yards apart. They started firing some kind of big guns at them. The shells fell short but exploded when they hit the water. Beth Ann said, "Flip, they are gaining on us." A shell hit right behind them about twenty-five yards short and went off. They could hear the fragments as they flew over their heads. Flip said, "Professor bring me the bow and an arrow." The professor got the bow and an arrow and gave them to flip. As he touched the bow it started to glow as before. He placed the arrow in it, took aimed pulled back the string and let it fly. The arrow went into the sky leaving a rainbow in it's tract, and came down just ahead of the two boats. When it hit the water, it drew the rainbow to it. Then it began to make a circle around the two boats. It lit up the water and the sky around them and was moving very fast. it was as if the sea came alive. the sea around the two boats begins to moved in a circle clockwise motion. It went around and around. The two boats were caught up in it. The water was formed into a grate whirlpool and within a few minutes both boats were taken

down into it.

Then the water started to calmed down, the two boats were gone and it was as if they had never been there.

Sparky had stopped the boat. He said, I have never in my life seen anything like that before. Flip handed the professor the bow, then he pulled the necklace from around his neck and said, "Well you never will see it again. " Before anyone could stop him He drew back his hand and threw the necklace into the sea. They all watched it as it sank out of sight. The Professor said, "Flip do you know what you have done?" Flip said, "Yes, I may have just saved the world." The professor said, I won't let you throw the bow in there. " Flip said, "don't have to, it's harmless without the necklace, it was the power source, the spell was on it. The bow, the necklace, and the arrow, they performed any act that was in your mind, but they worked together. If you separate them they become harmless. " The professor said, "Why did you destroy that? " Flip said, "Can you imagine what could have happened if the people on them boats or someone like them would have gotten hold of it. " The Professor said, "Yes, I see what you mean." Beth Ann. put her arms around Flips neck and said, "I'm so proud of you. " Flip said "Why, I just blew a chance to be King of the world." Beth Ann said, "But I don't want a King. Flip said, "Anyway if you will marry me I will feel like I'm a King. " Beth Ann put her head against his chest and said, "Yes Flip, I'll marry you. " At that time Sparky said, "Where to Flip? "Flip said, "Paris France. "

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN THE BIG WEDDING

They continued on to Paris where the Professor made a deal with the museum where he worked on the Bow of Nimrod for seven hundred million dollars.

They all agreed to give one half of that to charity and split the rest between the seven of them.

They remained in Paris for Three weeks while all that was taken care of.

Then they all boarded the Leprechaun Princess and headed for Ireland for a wedding.

When they were one day out, Flip opened the hatch to the storage compartment and went down into it.

He started handing all the weapons and ammo out to the others to throw them into the ocean.

When it was all done, he told Beth Ann, "I hope we never have any use for a gun again. "As they interred the mouth of the Shannon River Flip said to Beth Ann. "Welcome to your new Country and new home.

They continued up the river until they came to the dock at Flip's house.

As he pulled up to the dock, Flip's Father and Mother came out of the house to greet them.

Flip took Beth Ann by the hand and led her off the dock and up to where his Father and Mother were standing.

He said, "Dad and Mom, I want you to meet Beth Ann, your soon to bee new daughter. "

At that time Loopy walked up holding Tonka by the hand and said, "Dad and Mom, then he hesitated for a few seconds and said," I want you to meet Tonka". Then after a couple of seconds said, "Your other soon to be daughter. " They all laughed and cheered and Flip's Dad shouted, "It looks like we will have a double wedding, what a wonderful surprise.

Early the next morning Flip went out to the Leprechaun Princess and changed the name back to the Beth Ann. When Beth Ann awoke he took her out and showed it to her and said, "Your father named this boat and I wanted it to keep your name."

One week later they had the largest wedding that Part of Ireland has ever seen. Frank gave Beth Ann away, The Professor gave Tonka away, Sparky was Flip's best man and Jim was Loopy's best man.

They invited everyone they knew to the wedding, the reception lasted for two days with all the food and drink you could hold. When it was all over Flip, Beth Ann, Loopy and Tonka boarded the Beth Ann to go to the Virgin Islands on their honeymoon.

As they moved down the river, people waved at them and as they went by they saw the big sine on the back of the Beth Ann that read,

JUST MARRIED

And as we see the Beth Ann and its crew fading out of sight, we know that we have seen the last exciting adventure of Flip and Loopy.

Or have we?

THE END