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S. N. WEARE, Medical Hall, Bridgetown



Her inquiring glance fell. He was breathless from agitation rather than from running. He was perturbed on her account. For an instant she had looked into his soul. "I will go back," she said quietly, "though I would rather accompany you. What are you doing?" "Seeking a place to lay our heads," he answered, with gruff carelessness. "You really must rest, Miss Deane. Otherwise you will be broken up by fatigue and become ill."

So Iris again sought her couch of sand, and the sailor returned to the skeleton. They separated unwillingly, each thinking only of the other's safety and comfort.

CHAPTER IV
ACROSS the parched bones lay the stick discarded by Jenks in his alarm. He picked it up and resumed his progress along the pathway. So slowly did he now examine the ground that he hardly noted its direction. The track led straight toward the wall of rock. The distance was not great—about forty yards. At first the brushwood impeded him, but soon even this hindrance disappeared, and a well defined passage meandered through a belt of trees, some strong and lofty, others quite immature.

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"Islands," he cried, "and big ones too."

"How odd!" whispered Iris, more concerned in the scrutiny of her immediate surroundings. Jenks glanced at her sharply. She was not looking at the islands, but at a curious hollow, a quarry-like depression beneath them to the right, distant about 300 yards and not far removed from the small plateau containing the well, though located by the south angle of the main cliff.

Here, in a great circle, there was not a vestige of grass, shrub or tree, nothing save brown rock and sand. At first the sailor deemed it to be the dried up bed of a small lake. This hypothesis would not serve, else it would be choked with debris. The pit started up at them like an ominous eye, though neither paid further attention to it, for the glorious prospect swept aside all other considerations.

"What a beautiful place!" murmured Iris. "I wonder what it is called."

"Suppose we christen it Rainbow Island?"

"Why Rainbow?"

"That is the English meaning of 'Iris' in a plain, you know."

"So it is. How clever of you to think of it! Tell me, what is the meaning of 'Robert' in Greek?"

He turned to survey the northwest side of the island. "I do not know," he answered. "It might not be farfetched to translate it as 'a ship's steward,' a man."

Miss Iris had meant her playful remark as a mere light-hearted quibble. It annoyed her, a young person of much consequence, to have her kindly condescension peeped.

"I suppose so," she agreed, "but I have gone through so much in a few hours that I am bewildered, apt to forget these nice distinctions."

Jenks was closely examining the reef on which the Sidiar straggled. Some square objects were visible near the palm tree. The sun, glinting on the waves, rendered it difficult to discern their significance.

"What do you make of those?" he inquired, handing the glasses and blandly ignoring Miss Deane's pertinence. "The rain was busy with other things while she twisted the binoculars to suit her vision. Rainbow Island—Iris!"

"I've been thinking about that name," he struck a discordant note. This man was no mental in appearance or speech. Why was he so deliberately rude?

"I think they are boxes or packing cases," she announced.

"Ah, that was my own idea! I must visit that locality."

"How? Will you swim?"

"No," he said, his stern lips relaxing in a smile; "I will not swim, and by the way, Miss Deane, be careful when you are near the water. The lagoon is swarming with sharks at present. It is tolerably assured that at low tide when the remnants of the gale land contains! I should not have imagined that sharks and seals could live together!"

He looked at her wistfully. This collapse must not happen again for her sake. These two said more with eyes than lips. She withdrew her arm. Her face and neck crimsoned.

"Good gracious!" she cried. "The ham is ruined!"

It was burnt black. She prepared a fresh supply. When it was ready Jenks was himself again. They ate in silence and shared the remains of the bottle. A smile illumined his tired face.

Iris was watchful. She had never in her life cooked even a potato or boiled an egg. The ham was her first attempt.

"My cooking amuses you?" she demanded suspiciously.

"It gives every sense," he murmured. "There is but one thing needed to complete my happiness."

"And that is?"

"Pyramigion to smoke."

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"Shoreward?"

He produced a steel box tightly closed and a pipe.

"Your pockets are absolute shops," said the girl, delighted that his temper had improved. "What other stores do you carry about with you?"

He lit his pipe and solemnly gave an inventory of his worldly goods. Beyond the pipe she had previously seen he could only enumerate a silver dollar, a very soiled and crumpled handkerchief and a bit of tin. A box of Norwegian matches he threw away as useless, but Iris recovered them.

"You never know what purpose they may serve," she said. In after days a word significance was attached to this simple phrase.

"Why do you carry about a bit of tin?" she went on.

"I found it here, Miss Deane," he answered.

Luckily she interpreted "here" as applying to the cave.

"Let me see it, May I?"

He handed it to her. She could make nothing of it, so together they puzzled over it. The sailor rubbed it with a mixture of kerosene and sand. Then figures and letters and a sort of diagram were revealed. At last they became decipherable. By exercising patient ingenuity some one had indicated the metal with a sharp pencil until the marks assumed this aspect:

Iris was quick-witted. "It is a plan of the island," she cried.

"Also the latitude and the longitude."

"What does 'J. S.' mean?"

"Probably the initials of a man's name. Let us say John Smith, for instance."

"And the figures on the island, with the 'X' and the dot?"

"I cannot tell you at present," he said. "I take it that the line across the island signifies this gap or canyon, and the small intersecting line the cave. But 32 divided by 1 and an 'X' surmounted by a dot are callistic. They would cause even Sherlock Holmes to smoke at least two pipes. I have barely started on it."

"It looks quite mysterious, like the things you read of in stories of pirates and buried treasure."

"Yes," he admitted. "It is unquestionably a plan, a guidance, given to a person not previously acquainted with the island, but cognizant of some fact connected with it. Unfortunately none of the buccaniers I can bring to mind frequented these seas. The poor beggar who left it here must have had some other motive than searching for a cache."

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