

Jungle Story by C Classes

As the warm, welcoming sun rises, its rays peek through the lush, emerald-green canopy. Like a wakeup call, a cacophony of sound suddenly fills the air. Beautiful birds of every hue circle each other in a whirling dance of daily ritual within the expanse of clear, blue sky. Below in the undergrowth of moss and tangled vines, exotic plants rear up seeking the early morning light. In the distance, a gorgeous diamond waterfall cascades creating soft, delicate ripples in the glistening pool beneath.

Several miles away in a more built-up area of the diverse continent of South America, a plane full of eager holidaymakers - unaware of the adventure that awaited them - was landing in Manaus National Airport.

“We’re finally here,” exclaimed Hannah, “I can’t wait to explore the jungle!” she continued, nudging Mum who had dozed off on the long flight over from London.

“Get off!” complained Charlie as his animated, younger sister tugged vigorously at his headphones.

“You’re not going to be glued to that stupid thing the whole trip are you?” asked an infuriated Hannah. Charlie just rolled his eyes and turned back to his hand-held games console. As they strolled off the plane together, Hannah turned her attention to her father – who was, as usual, taking a business call.

Bubbly, inquisitive and fiercely independent: Hannah was the life and soul of the Lavender family. She had been ticking the days off her wildlife calendar since the start of the school year in anticipation of this once-in-a-lifetime trip. She had researched the indigenous plants and animals that they could expect to see whilst in South America; her less-than-enthusiastic brother had grown increasingly frustrated with her persistent pestering in the lead up to the family’s summer holiday. Charlie’s life revolved around his mobile phone and

other electronic devices that seemed to be permanently attached to his hands. As with many boys his age, this moody teenager found himself consumed by social media and gaming websites. Although he tried his utmost to disguise it, Hannah knew there was an adventurer hidden somewhere deep inside the cold, disinterested exterior of her older sibling. She was going to make it her mission to bring it out as he would be her best chance of companionship on a trip that would inevitably see her mum focussing on her tan whilst dad took a relentless string of calls 'from the office'.

As Hannah and Charlie's parents were busy unpacking the bags, Hannah and Charlie decided to sneak out to explore the jungle. After a long train journey they get to the Manaus jungle. They were intrigued to go into the jungle after they see a funny looking animal. The animal had the head of a cheetah and the body of an elephant and the tail of a crocodile. "Whoa, Look at that!" exclaimed Charlie. After following this strange animal they realised they were lost.

They were surrounded by unusually tall trees with large ripe sumptuous fruits in a myriad of colours.

"I'm famished!" cried Charlie miserably rubbing his belly. "The ravenous beast within my belly is awakening!"

"We're lost and all you can think about is food!" replied Hannah angrily. Charlie simply ignored Hannah and plucked the nearest ripest fruit off a branch.

"Mmmm! Try it. It's like cotton candy!"

Hannah couldn't resist and was soon tucking into the mouthwatering strawberry like fruit. The sweet sticky juices trickled down her chin.

Just then, a swarm of giant buzzing mad bees descended upon them. Hannah and Charlie started running, weaving through the

rustling trees and deeper into the forest. The bees were now above their heads. “Quick! There must be a cave behind that waterfall !” exclaimed Hannah frantically.

Within moments, they were soaking wet having crossed the cascading glistening waterfall but were now trapped. They couldn’t go back as the bees were hovering on the otherside of the waterfall.

“What shall we do now?” moaned Hannah angrily.

“I’m sorry...I should’ve listened to you” Charlie replied sadly.

Hannah looked down at Charlie. He looked so innocent and sad and she felt sorry for him and wrapped her arms around him. The sound waterfall echoed around the cave and their hearts flipped and dived! They hugged each other wishing they could be reunited with their parents.

Suddenly, they heard a loud scratching noise from the cave, their hearts filled with terror. The scratching got louder and turned into a howling sound. Hannah and Charlie peered into the cave and saw a pair of demonic green eyes staring back at them.

“ARGHHHHH” Hannah and Charlie screamed but there was nowhere to run...

As the eyes got closer they stopped screaming and realised it was the creature they saw as they entered the jungle. Just then it swooped them both up into its colossal paws and placed them on his back. Hannah and Charlie closed their eyes and held on for dear life.

“What is this horrid creature Charlie?” shouted Hannah.

“It must be a Cheledile!” Charlie shouted back.

“A what?” Hannah queried.

“A Cheledile! It’s the most fearsome creature in Mystery Quest... my favourite game” exclaimed Charlie. “I know how to defeat the bees using the Cheledile’s crocodile tail, but we need to work together as a team”.

Shivering with fear and worry, the two children clutched the leathery skin and held on tight. As the Cheledile drifted through the water, it formed a crystal clear doorway where the children could stare into the eyes of the bees. As they glided through the archway, water stopped falling on them and they faced the bees in terror.

“Hannah, on three, shout ‘Tail swish, head roar, body crush’” shouted Charlie.

Together they screamed the words as loud as they could and the Cheledile sprang into action. The bees scattered. The queen’s crown bounced off the elephant skin and into Hannah’s arms.

“A prize for defeating the bees!” Charlie exclaimed.

With that, the Cheledile took the children back into the jungle to the safety of their worried parents, who were searching for them along the riverbank. Charlie and Hannah took turns to explain what had happened. Hugging one another, they pointed towards the Cheledile but it had disappeared. Had their parents seen the extraordinary creature?

Agreeing that they could not have defeated the bees alone, Hannah and Charlie saw that working together was what they would do from now on.

“It felt like we were in a real computer game!” joked Charlie. Hannah showed him the beautiful sparkling crown.

“I wonder what the next level might be?” she laughed.