

IN THE AMAZON

*ACCOMPANYING
ILLUSTRATIONS*

*WRITTEN BY ART COLLINS
ILLUSTRATED BY KC COLLINS*

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For more information on The Adventures of Archibald & Jockabeb series, visit our website at www.TheAJAdventures.com

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Design and Production: Collin Collins

Publication and Distribution: A&J Publishing, LLC

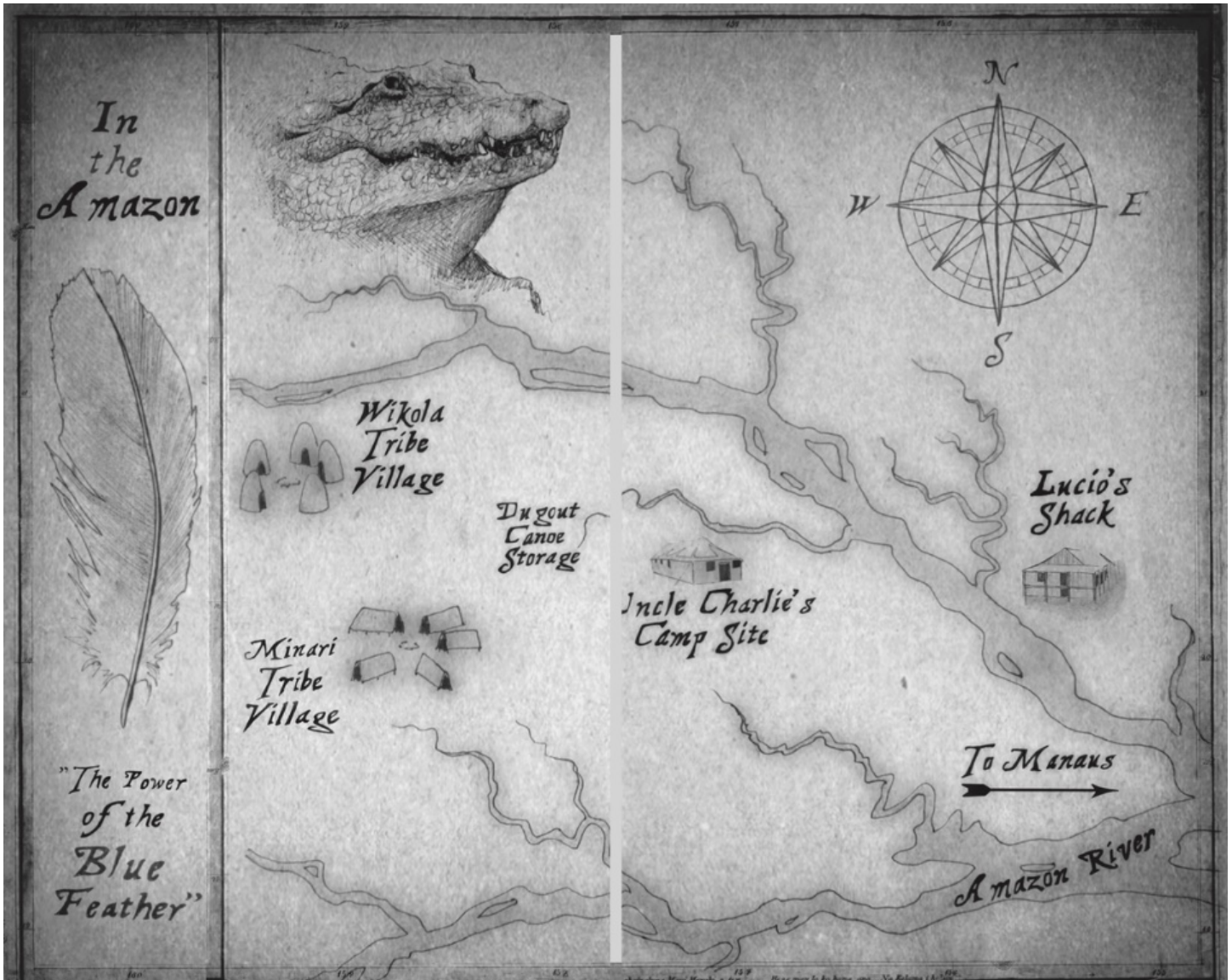
SPOILER NOTE

***THESE PICTURES SHOW SCENES FROM IN THE AMAZON—SO DON'T
PEEK AHEAD!***

***FOLLOW ALONG WITH EACH ILLUSTRATION AS YOU GET TO THAT PART
OF THE STORY.***

PROLOGUE

"AFTER LISTING ALL THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOYS TRAVELING TO BRAZIL, HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE ACTUALLY LEANED TOWARD LETTING THEM GO BECAUSE OF THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME NATURE OF THE EXPERIENCE. LAUGHING AND SHAKING HIS HEAD, HE CONCEDED THAT WHILE UNCLE CHARLIE CERTAINLY HAD HIS FAULTS, THE OLD SAILOR REALLY DID KNOW HIS WAY AROUND THE AMAZON...."



PROLOGUE

"IT HAD ONLY BEEN A WEEK SINCE ARCHIBALD AND JOCKABEB RETURNED HOME FROM CAMP BEAR CLAW.

MEMORIES OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THEIR NARROW ESCAPE FROM THE DEVIL CAT WERE STILL VIVID WHEN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THEIR MOTHER AND POSTED FROM BRAZIL ARRIVED WITH THE MORNING MAIL

AT THE TOP LEFT CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE WAS THEIR UNCLE CHARLIE'S NAME. ALTHOUGH THEY'D NEVER MET HIM, THE BOYS HAD HEARD THEIR MOTHER SAY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT HER OLDER BROTHER HAD LIVED A "BIZARRE LIFE" SINCE LEAVING HOME AS A TEENAGER OVER FORTY YEARS AGO."



CHAPTER 1

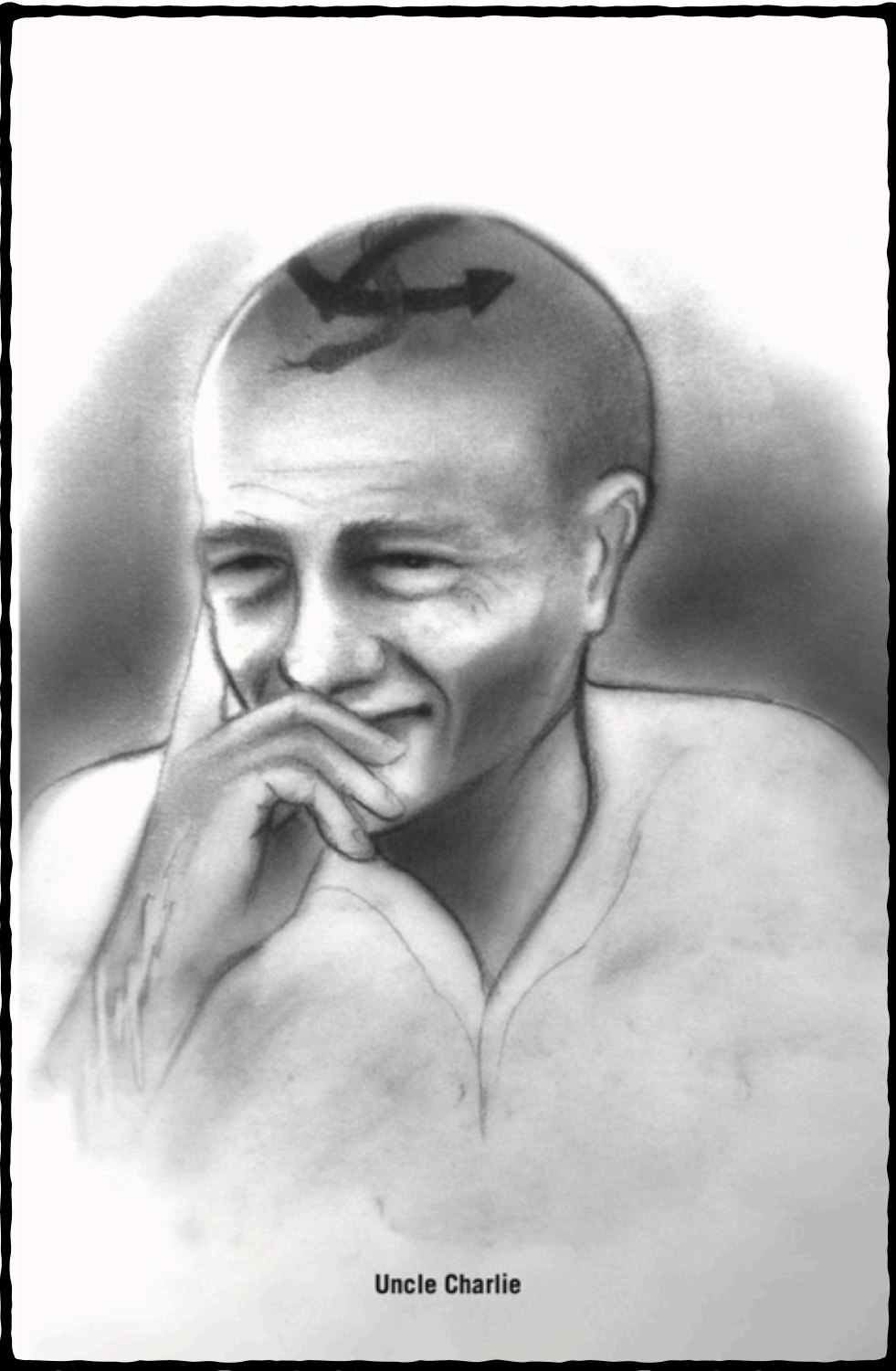
CROSSING THE EQUATOR

"EVEN THOUGH UNCLE CHARLIE WAS IN HIS LATE FIFTIES, HE APPEARED MUCH OLDER,

HIS KHAKI SAFARI SHIRT AND SHORTS SEEMED WAY TOO BIG, HANGING LOOSELY FROM HIS WIRY SIX-FOOT FRAME.

AS HE REACHED UP AND REMOVED HIS FRAYED STRAW HAT, THE BOYS GASPED.

TATTOOED DIRECTLY ON TOP OF HIS BALD, TAN HEAD WAS A LARGE, BLACK SNAKE CURLED AROUND A BRIGHT-BLUE ANCHOR."



Uncle Charlie

CHAPTER 1

ALONG THE AMAZON RIVER

"YEP, I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF ANACONDAS," THE OLD SAILOR RESPONDED WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.

'YOU PROBABLY KNOW THEY'RE THE LARGEST SNAKES IN SOUTH AMERICA. THEY CAN GROW TO OVER THIRTY FEET LONG AND WEIGH UP TO FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS. BELIEVE ME, BOYS, YOU DON'T WANT TO GET ANYWHERE NEAR AN ANACONDA. LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.'

UNCLE CHARLIE EXTENDED HIS BADLY SCARRED FOREARM AND GAVE HIS NEPHEWS A WARNING HE HOPED THEY'D HEED. 'IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE TO ONE, IT'LL GRAB YOU IN ITS TEETH AND GIVE YOU A GREAT BIG WELCOME-TO-THE-AMAZON HUG.'"



Anaconda

CHAPTER 1

A RARE SIGHTING

"JOCKABEB WAS WATCHING THE BOAT'S WAKE WHEN HE SAW SOMETHING PINK POP OUT OF THE WATER NEAR THE STERN.



Amazon river dolphin

WHATEVER IT WAS, THE PINK OBJECT WAS MOVING SLIGHTLY FASTER THAN THE BOAT, AND SOON IT HAD CLOSED TO WITHIN FIVE YARDS OFF THE STARBOARD SIDE OF THE BOAT.

THE MOMENT JOCKABEB YELLED OUT, 'HEY, GUYS!' TO HIS BROTHER AND UNCLE, THE PINK, FIN-SHAPED OBJECT SUDDENLY SUBMERGED BELOW THE DARK WATER."

CHAPTER 1

CAMPO DE VAGA-LUME

"JOCKABEB AND ARCHIBALD COULDN'T BELIEVE ALL OF THE EXOTIC, COLORFUL BIRDS THAT WERE FLYING OVERHEAD, SITTING IN TREES, OR JUST FLOATING ON THE RIVER,

UNCLE CHARLIE COULD NAME NEARLY EVERY ONE, AND HE POINTED OUT MANY SPECIES ALONG THE WAY, SUCH AS THE SCARLET IBIS, THE BLUE-HEADED PARROT, THE YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE, THE TURQUOISE TANAGER, AND THE COLORFUL TOUCAN.

JOCKABEB'S FAVORITE BIRD WAS THE BLUE AND YELLOW MACAW, A COLORFUL PARROT WHOSE LOUD SQUAWKS AND SCREAMS COULD BE HEARD FROM FAR AWAY.

ARCHIBALD PREFERRED THE SCARLET IBIS WITH ITS BRILLIANT RED FEATHERS.."



Colorful toucan, blue-and-yellow macaw,
and scarlet ibis

CHAPTER 1

CAMPO DE VAGA-LUME

"AS THE BOYS CARRIED THEIR DUFFEL BAGS UP THE DIRT PATH THAT LED TO THE CAMP'S ONLY STRUCTURE, THEY BOTH WONDERED WHAT MIGHT BE IN STORE IN THIS

REMOTE SPOT IN THE JUNGLE.

THE OLD WOODEN BUILDING WAS NOT MUCH LARGER THAN THEIR GARAGE BACK HOME, AND THE CLOSER HE CAME TO IT, THE MORE JOCKABEB THOUGHT THE RICKETY SHACK MADE THE MAIN CABIN AT CAMP BEAR CLAW SEEM LIKE THE TAJ MAHAL.

AS THE BOYS CARRIED THEIR DUFFEL BAGS UP THE DIRT PATH THAT LED TO THE CAMP'S ONLY STRUCTURE, THEY BOTH WONDERED WHAT MIGHT BE IN STORE IN THIS REMOTE SPOT IN THE JUNGLE."



Lucio's shack

CHAPTER 1

UNCLE CHARLIE'S CAMPSITE

"As Uncle Charlie cut the motor and the boat glided onto shore, Archibald and Jockabeb were amazed at the size of the large canvas structure spreading out before them.

After the duffel bags and supplies had been unloaded, Uncle Charlie began a brief tour of what he referred to as his 'rainforest mansion.'

During their brief tour, the boys were pleasantly surprised to find that the tent was not only large on the outside, but it was comfortable and airy on the inside as well.

They also learned that their uncle bought the tent at a military-surplus store in Manaus."

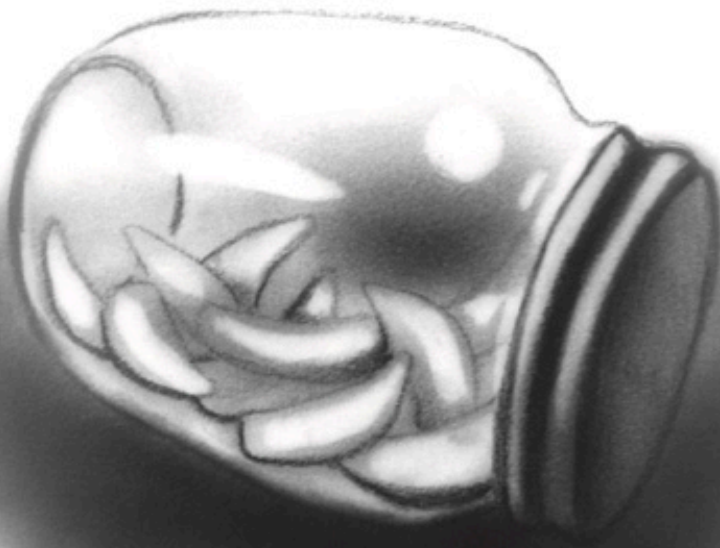


Uncle Charlie's tent

CHAPTER 1

UNCLE CHARLIE'S CAMPSITE

"JOCKABEE, WHO WAS LOOKING AT SOME ITEMS ON THE TABLE, NOTICED A LITTLE GLASS JAR THAT CONTAINED SOME KIND OF TEETH.



Jaguar teeth

'WHERE DID THESE COME FROM?' HE ASKED, POINTING AT THE TEETH.

'OH, THAT'S MY LITTLE COLLECTION OF JAGUAR TEETH,' UNCLE CHARLIE ANSWERED. 'I'VE BEEN FINDING THEM LYING AROUND MY CAMPSITE OFF AND ON FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. IT'S FUNNY I NEVER NOTICED THEM BEFORE, BUT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN AN OLD JAGUAR DEN SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY A LONG TIME AGO. I THOUGHT I MIGHT MAKE A NECKLACE OUT OF THOSE TEETH ONE DAY.

KEEP YOUR EYE OUT AND MAYBE YOU'LL FIND A FEW TEETH FOR YOURSELF.'"

CHAPTER 2

UNCLE CHARLIE'S STORY

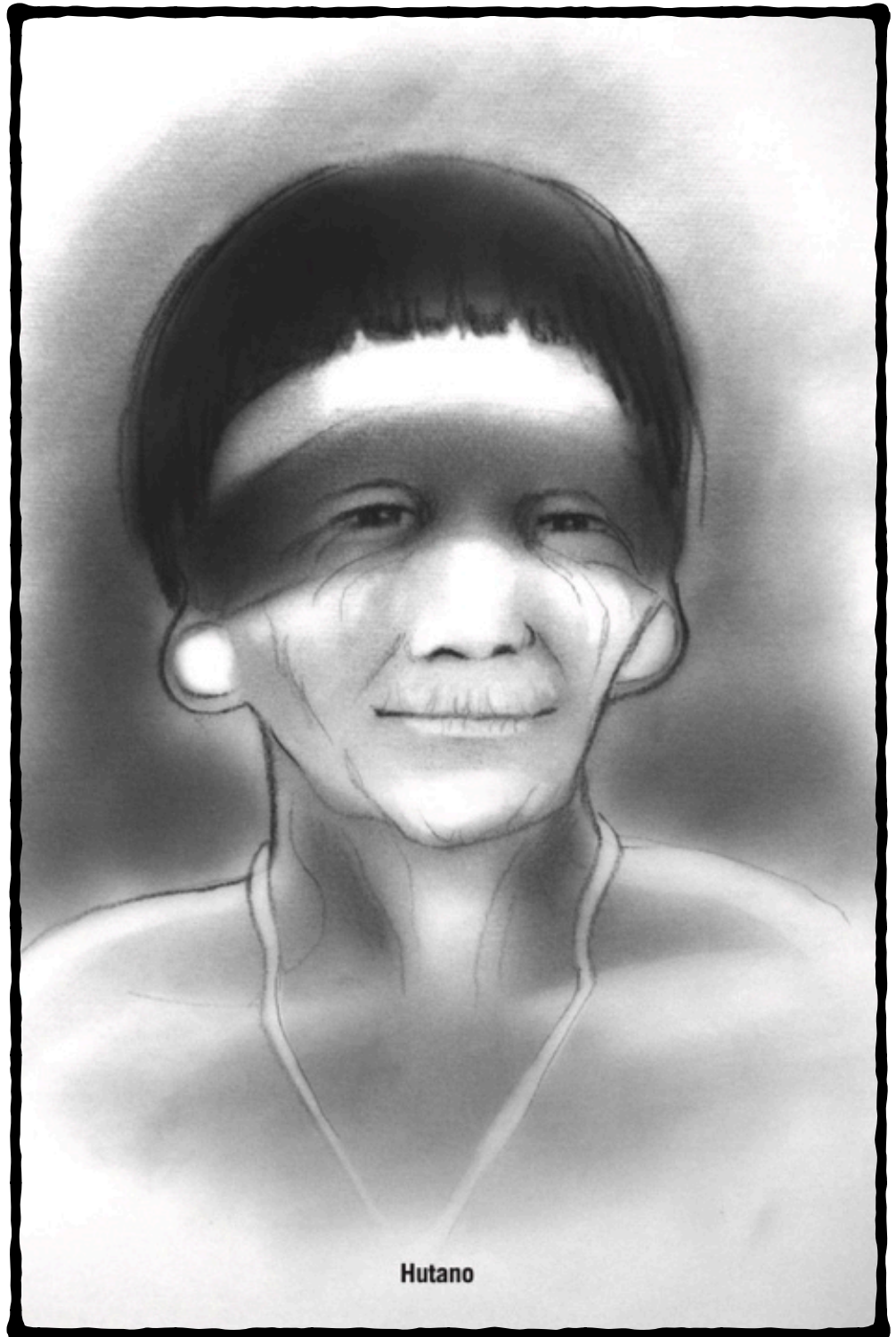
"A LARGE SILVER CHAIN HUNG FROM HIS NECK, AND HE HAD A SILVER DISC EMBEDDED IN EACH EARLOBE.

THE CHAIN HAD SOME ANIMAL FANG DANGLING FROM IT, AND I REMEMBER HOPING THAT IT WASN'T A SIGN OF WHAT WAS COMING NEXT. AS STRANGE AS HE LOOKED TO ME, I'M SURE HE WAS JUST AS TAKEN ABACK BY THE BLOODY WHITE MAN STRETCHED OUT BENEATH HIM!

THE SHAMAN POINTED A FINGER AT HIS OWN CHEST AND SAID, "HUTANO, HUTANO."

I FIGURED THAT WAS HIS NAME, SO I POINTED AT MYSELF AND SAID, "CHARLIE, CHARLIE."

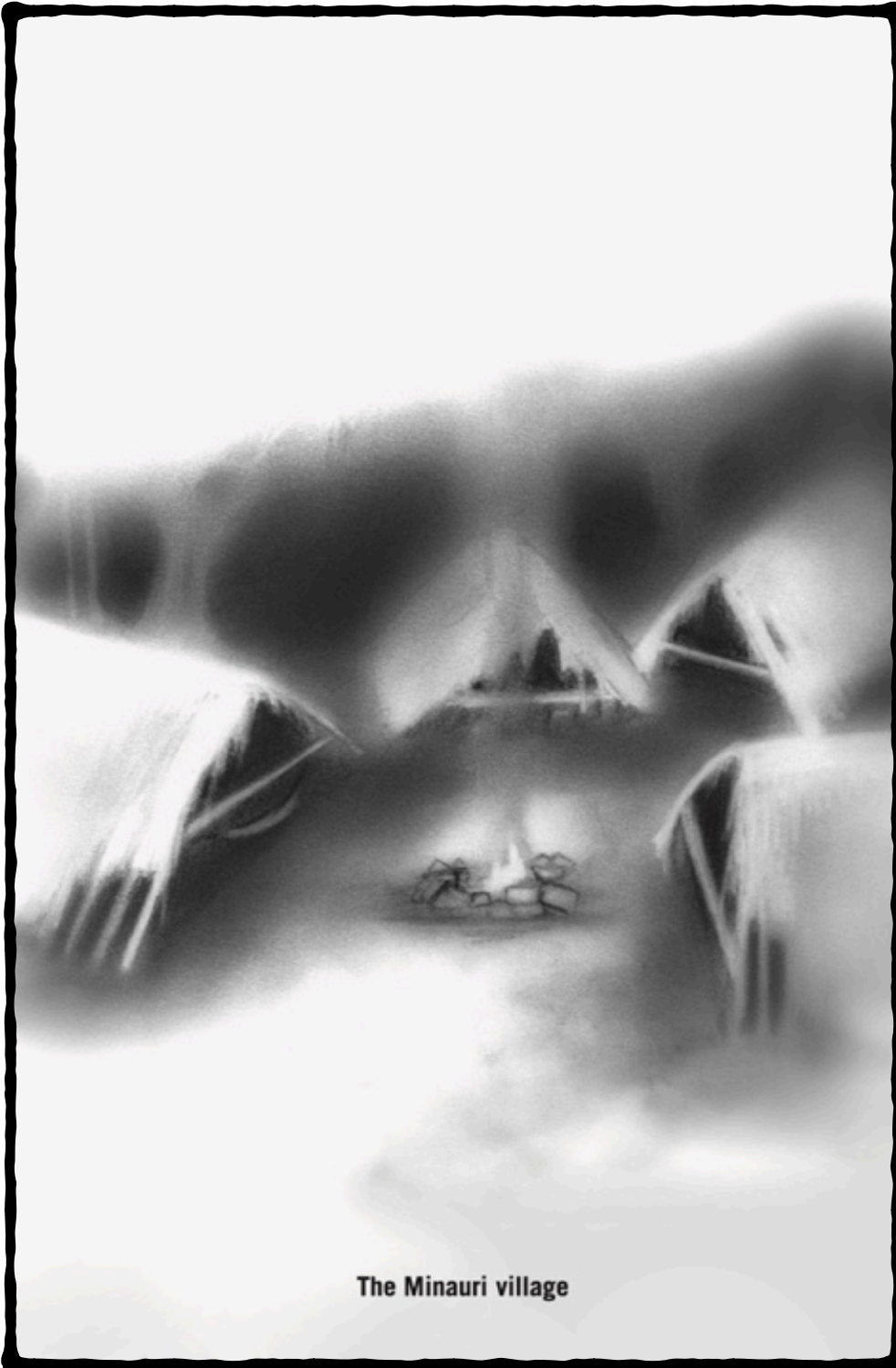
THAT WAS THE START OF OUR FRIENDSHIP."



CHAPTER 2

MEETING THE MINAURI

THEY WALKED A SHORT WAY TO THE MINAURI VILLAGE THAT STOOD IN A CLEARED AREA NEXT TO A WIDER PART OF THE STREAM.



The Minauri village

THE VILLAGE WAS VERY SMALL AND RINGED BY A DOZEN OR SO A-FRAMED HUTS THAT FACED THE WATER.

EACH HUT WAS OPEN IN FRONT. THE ROOFS AND WALLS WERE MADE OUT OF TREE BRANCHES THAT HAD BEEN TIGHTLY BOUND TOGETHER WITH VINES.

ROPE HAMMOCKS HUNG INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE HUTS, AND SEVERAL WERE OCCUPIED BY SLEEPING PEOPLE. A HUGE FIRE PIT HAD BEEN DUG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CLEARING."

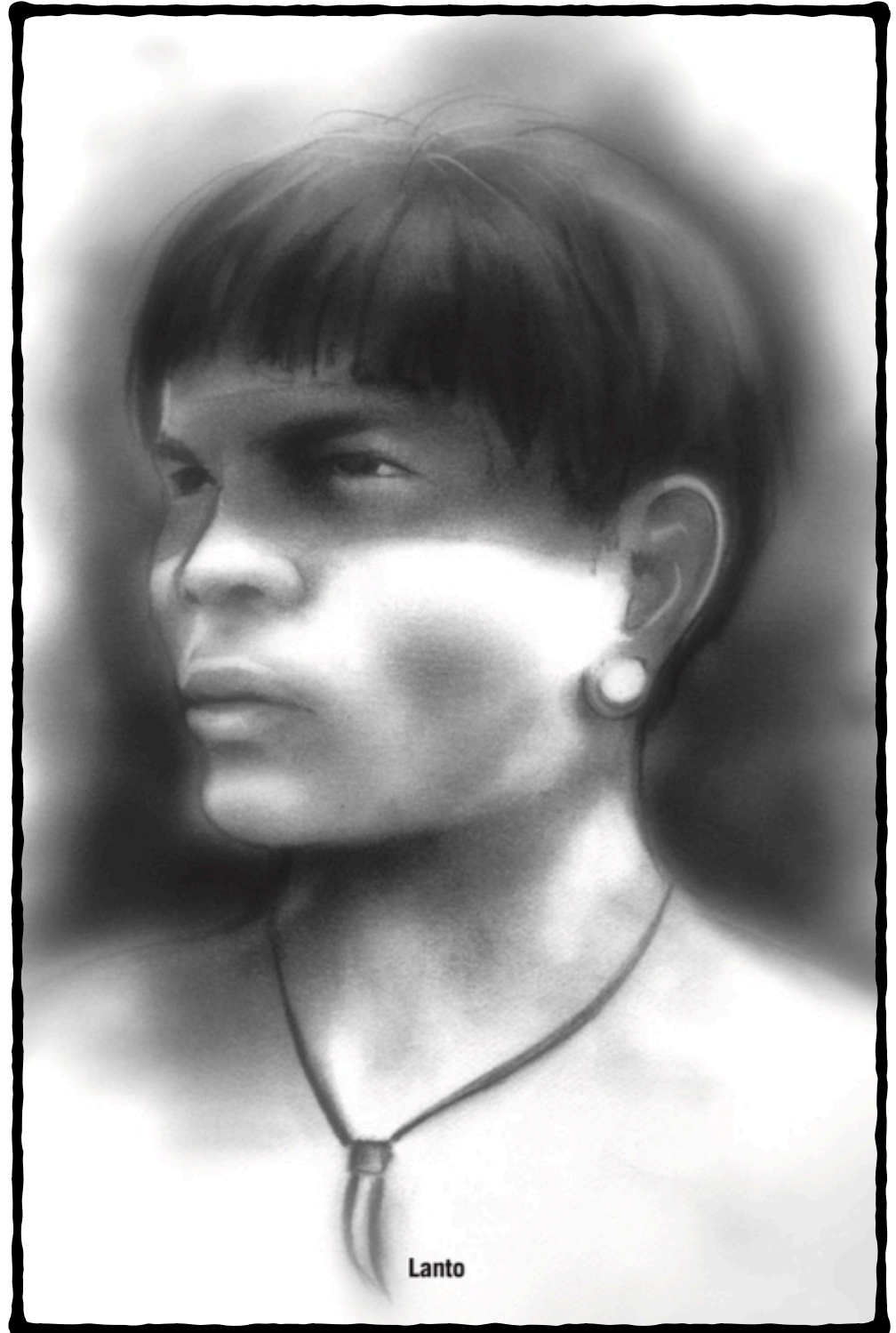
CHAPTER 2

CURSE OF THE BLACK JAGUAR

'THE BOYS MET HUTANO'S ELDEST SON, LANTO, WHO'D JUST RECENTLY BECOME CHIEF OF THE MINAURI TRIBE AFTER THE DEATH OF THE PREVIOUS CHIEF.

LANTO WAS BY FAR THE TALLEST AND STRONGEST MEMBER OF THE TRIBE, WHICH CAME AS A SURPRISE TO THE BOYS, CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF HIS FATHER,

UNCLE CHARLIE SAID LANTO WAS A GREAT HUNTER WHO COULD USE A VARIETY OF WEAPONS TO KILL ANY ANIMAL IN THE RAINFOREST, INCLUDING THE MUCH-FEARED JAGUAR."



Lanto

CHAPTER 3

TAKEN!

"SLOWLY MOVING OUT OF THE DARKNESS, A SMALL, HIDEOUS-LOOKING NATIVE MAN WITH A BLANKET ON HIS BACK SLUNK FORWARD AND RAISED HIS BONY HAND.

IT WAS VENGOLUS!

VENGOLUS MOVED CLOSER AND SNEERED, LOWERING HIS HEAD TO SPIT AT THE GROUND. WHEN HE LOOKED UP, ARCHIBALD AND JOCKABEB SAW PURE HATRED IN HIS MUSTARD-COLORED, CAT-LIKE EYES.

LIKE HUTANO, VENGOLUS WORE SILVER DISCS IN HIS EARLOBES AND A SILVER CHAIN. BOTH BOYS CRINGED IN FEAR AT THE GROTESQUE OBJECT DANGLING FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE CHAIN, A SMALL ANIMAL SKULL COVERED IN DRIED BLOOD."



Vengolus

CHAPTER 3

BLACK MAGIC

"SUDDENLY, VENGOLUS GRABBED THE TORCH OFF THE GROUND AND THREW IT STRAIGHT UP.

AS EVERYONE'S EYES FOLLOWED THE FLAME INTO THE AIR, THE EVIL SHAMAN DROPPED TO HIS KNEES AND CURLED INTO A BALL UNDER THE BLACK BLANKET DRAPED OVER HIS BACK.

WHEN THE TORCH FELL BACK TO EARTH, IT LANDED SQUARELY ON THE BLANKET AND BEGAN TO BURN.

AFTER A MOMENT THE BLANKET BURST INTO FLAMES, AND A GIANT BLACK JAGUAR SPRANG OUT OF THE FIREBALL!"



Vengolus' transformation

CHAPTER 3 THE ATTACK

"BEFORE UNCLE CHARLIE COULD FINISH HIS SENTENCE, A DARK FORM DROPPED FROM THE BRANCHES HIGH ABOVE.

LANDING ON ITS FOUR PAWS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF JOCKABEB, THE SNARLING BLACK BEAST OPENED ITS JAWS AND BARED ITS GLEAMING WHITE TEETH.

...

WHEN THE UNGODLY CREATURE LOOKED UP, ITS MUSTARD-YELLOW EYES—THOSE SAME HATEFUL EYES OF VENGOLUS—STARED DEEP WITHIN JOCKABEB'S SOUL."



Black jaguar

CHAPTER 3

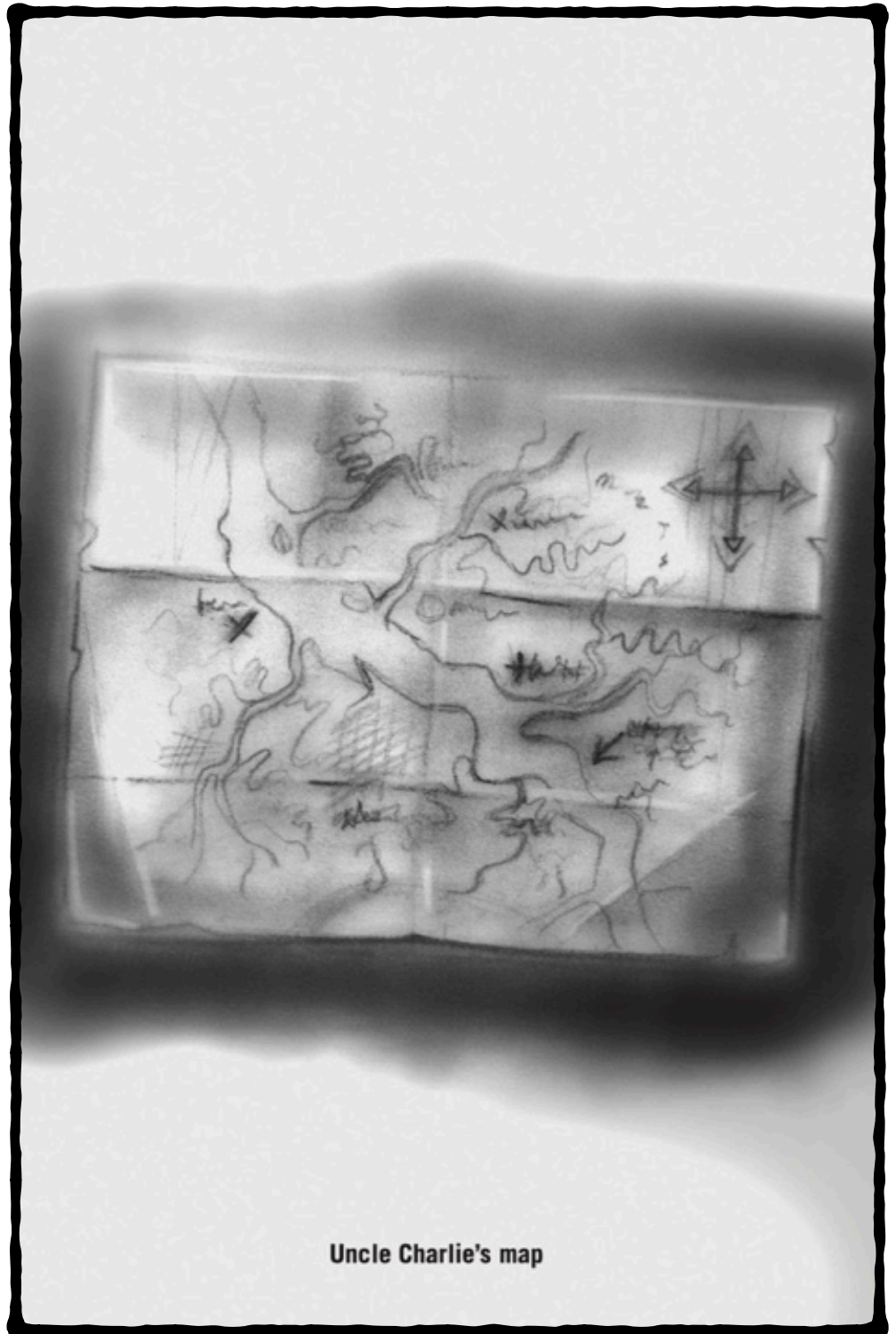
A NOISE IN THE NIGHT

"ARCHIBALD PICKED UP THE MAP OF THE RIVER AND BEGAN TO STUDY THE ROUTE TO CAMPO DE VAGA-LUME.

UNCLE CHARLIE HAD CLEARLY MARKED THE MAP AND LEFT DETAILED NOTES ABOUT LANDMARKS ALONG THE BANKS.

JOCKABEB JOINED HIS BROTHER AT THE TABLE, AND THE TWO BOYS DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS THEY MIGHT ENCOUNTER THE NEXT DAY ON THE RIVER.

'WELL, IT'S A LONG WAY, THAT'S FOR SURE,' SAID ARCHIBALD, FINALLY PUSHING HIS CHAIR BACK FROM THE TABLE, 'BUT WE'VE GOT THIS GREAT MAP, AND IF THE MOTOR KEEPS GOING, WE SHOULD BE OKAY.'



Uncle Charlie's map

CHAPTER 3

A NOISE IN THE NIGHT

'TAKING A DEEP BREATH, HE HOPPED OUT AND RAN BACK TO THE TENT AS FAST AS HE COULD, HURDLING TOOLS AND OTHER OBSTACLES ON THE WAY.

INSIDE, HE FOUND THE MAP RIGHT WHERE HE'D LEFT IT THE NIGHT BEFORE. HE QUICKLY SNATCHED IT OFF THE TABLE AND WAS RUNNING BACK THROUGH THE DOOR WHEN HE HEARD A HALF-SCREAM, HALF-GROWL FROM SOMEWHERE NEARBY.

'OH, NO!' HE SAID OUT LOUD. THE JAGUAR'S BACK!

BREAKING INTO A SPRINT, ARCHIBALD HEADED TOWARD THE BOAT, AND WHEN HE LOOKED BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER, HE SAW NOT ONE, BUT TWO BLACK JAGUARS BOUNDING IN HIS DIRECTION AND CLOSING FAST!"



Black jaguar

CHAPTER 3

FINAL DAYS IN BRAZIL

"LIKE UNCLE CHARLIE, LUCIO WORE KHAKI SAFARI CLOTHES AND HAD A TANNED, WEATHER-BEATEN FACE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS MUCH STOCKIER THAN THEIR UNCLE.

AS THE BOYS STEPPED OUT OF THE BOAT, THEY NOTICED HIS MOST DISTINCTIVE FEATURE—A LARGE, JAGGED SCAR THAT RAN DOWN THE SIDE OF HIS FACE FROM JUST BELOW HIS LEFT EYE TO THE CORNER OF HIS MOUTH.

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS FROM MANAUS, LUCIO SPOKE EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

AFTER QUICKLY GREETING THE BOYS, HIS FIRST QUESTION WAS, 'WHERE'S CHARLIE?'



SECOND EPILOGUE

"AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, I'M SENDING TWO SPECIAL GIFTS FROM HUTANO. WHEN I WAS GETTING READY TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE, THE OLD SHAMAN HANDED ME TWO LEATHER NECKLACES WITH SILVER CHARMS THAT LOOKED LIKE THE TEETH OF RIVER

OTTERS. THEN HE MADE HAND GESTURES THAT TOLD ME HE WANTED YOU TWO TO HAVE THEM,' LUCIO WROTE.

ARCHIBALD REMOVED SOME MORE PACKING MATERIAL TO FIND A FLAT METAL BOX THAT USED TO HOLD FISHING LURES. LIFTING THE LID, HE PICKED UP TWO IDENTICAL NECKLACES THAT WERE INSIDE AND HELD THEM UP. 'HERE, THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, JOCKABEB,' HE SAID, HANDING ONE OF THE NECKLACES TO HIS BROTHER.

'I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!' SHOUTED JOCKABEB EXCITEDLY. 'HOW COOL IS THIS? HUTANO SENT US GOOD-LUCK NECKLACES.'



Hutano's gift

**THE ADVENTURES OF ARCHIBALD AND JOCKABEE
CONTINUE WITH BOOK 4:**

IN THE DESERT

