

CHARLES COIRO

KEYHOLE ISLAND



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KEYHOLE ISLAND

It was listed as an endurance trip for only the most experienced and physically fit young men and women between the ages of 21 and 28 who had experience in endurance sports such as mountain climbing, caving, racing, survival living, skiing and motor cycling. Its itinerary included a learning cruise for those who never sailed on a two-masted, square topsail schooner from San Francisco to Australia and then an endurance hike across the Outback to the western coast. The journey would include the Anyang, Poitjantdatura and Yankunyryatjara lands where the Aboriginal tribes still live and the mountainous area of New Zealand. All room, board and travel expenses would be paid except that the selected adventurers would have to travel under their own expense to the dock where the schooner was moored in San Francisco. The trip would be for 12 months and those accepted would have to be interviewed by persons of the three organizations sponsoring the journey. There would be a very rigorous medical examination. The applicants would be the 12 men and women most fitted for the adventure.

The purpose of the trip was linked to an important and a politically influential Environmental organization; an energy or power food bar company and a very well known foot ware manufacturer. Each of the sponsors naturally wanted their products used and there was to be an agreement to use all interviews, photos, reports at the discretion of the sponsors.

When the announcement was posted in the various Environmentalist magazines, it attracted the attention of a great many young sportsmen and women all over the world. What could be better than an 12 month adventure with all expenses paid. For most, if not all, the cost of such a trip would be prohibitive. With the idea of testing your own skills and endurance, the trip would answer your doubts about your degree of fitness and expertise. There was something for everyone and the learning experience of the other trials was a challenge in itself. The trip was to take place in one year's time. The response was very large from the athletes but many applied for the application to see if they could get past the preliminary requirements. Being a year off most applied just to see what happens. The trip was given wide publicity and the winners were anxiously awaited. None of the people to be selected were required to excel in any particular event or challenge; the only prerequisite being that they be of sound body physically and that they have the adventurous spirit to face any physical challenge that they might encounter; also, the contestants had to have an excellent command of English.

When the day finally arrived to set sail, none of the ten winners knew each other since each came from different parts of the world. Each introduced themselves to each other while trying to select faces that appeared friendly. Once inside the meeting hall, they were further informed of principal rules. The taboos were no drugs of any kind and no smoking and no liquor. They were informed that most of the world's youth looked up to them as being outstanding men and women; icons whose courage and fitness was to be a guide for all youth. They would be given a vast and extensive publicity and perhaps the challenge would lead to unexpected goals in life. Each was given 12 sets of denim jeans and shirts and 4 pairs of sneakers. Only wrist watches or a simple ring (no earrings or body piercing). Hair was to be kept short (crew cuts for the men and short bobs for the women). The spokesman ended with "Did I leave anything out?" The long laugh was as good a way to break the ice for any of the group and they soon got down to business.

The schooner, was the type of ship developed in the 16th and 17th centuries. They were swift ships with a windward ability for trade, slaving, privateering and blockade running.

The "Recourance" was a steel hulled schooner, built and christened in 1993. It had a length of 138 feet, a beam of 21 feet and a mainmast with a height of 92 feet. She was two masted with a square topsail for additional speed. She carried a crew of six, the Captain, his Mate, a crew 3 and a cook. She had the capacity to carry 30 persons including the crew. Sleeping quarters for the passengers were on deck with 2 passengers per room. Quarters were understandably small and a "head" bathroom was shared by three of the passengers quarters.

"Since we are sailing with only 12 of you, you will enjoy the luxury of having a room for each of you," they were told when they had a chance to look over the schooner. "That was a relief to hear whispered Binna, Did you see the size of our quarters? I don't think two people can turn around without bumping into each other."

I'm going to pass around a mimeographed sheet showing our daily schedule and duties. And also the names we give to the various parts of the ship so you can familiarize yourself when you are resting (he smiled viciously). Remember to get a good night's sleep because reveille is at 0500 with everyone expected in the mess hall at 0600 sharp. You might as well get used to the way we keep time. The day is divided into 24 hours so starting 1:00 am is 0100, 7:00 pm is 1900 (7 + 12) and we know if its morning or night so no am or pm is needed. On this cruise (which is not a pleasure cruise) you're going to be busy almost all the time and when it's your turn you will be standing watch day and night. You will learn everything you need to know about sailing and while you are all in

good shape, physically, you will be in better shape after our sail. The sheet I am distributing has a glossary of Naval terms that you should memorize.

On a fresh Spring morning, the air was fragrant with the smell of sea air and the cooking of breakfast on the other ships moored close to the schooner. The crew had spent its first night on board and the gentle rocking as the small waves lifted the hull were more like feelings of being rocked to sleep rather than the harbinger of shouts to get out of your bunks and line up on deck for your first roll call. The dawn light was just coming from the East and the sky was tangerine and light green. There was just the slightest fragrance of the sea or of seaweed, not overwhelming but enough to make you excited and anticipating whatever the days adventure would be. Even on your lips, a slight taste of salt was like and astringent that was clean tasting. It was beautiful. And then it started. Showers as cold as you could imagine with salt water and soap that simply had no suds. In and out of the shower quickly; the men had to shave with cold water and the women were without any makeup what-so-ever. A far cry from the anticipated sail on the open seas.

After roll call to see if anyone had tried to slip away, chow. At standup tables that were steady at anchor you had to anticipate every slight roll of the ship while keeping your coffee cup in one place and your dish in another. And this was while the schooner was anchored! Mercifully, they ate eggs, which were fresh. There was also baked beans and Vienna sausage with fresh baked corn bread, oat meal with brown sugar, coffee and rolls. However, when they were at sea, the fresh eggs would revert to powdered eggs that no more resembled eggs than a greenish mass.

Back on deck after head calls and the brushing of teeth, the day started or rather never ended so it seems. There were so many tasks to learn, how to furl and reef sails, how to climb the mainmast to get to the square sail on top, and mostly, how to clean the teak decks with buckets of salt water and stiff brooms. All the new tasks for our travelers seemed unnecessary until they learned that the tight discipline would be a factor in saving their lives for the sea is an unpredictable mistress. Calm and benign at one point and without hardly a notice, a raging, uncompromising enemy the next moment. One felt like a timid lover with a volatile, mysterious entity that could caress in one moment and destroy without warning in the next. They were drilled daily at the importance of discipline. If the Captain decided to reef sail or furl sails, he was relying on his years of experience to get the schooner from one place to another.

The distance they would be travelling in nautical miles was 6,575. With the average speed of 20 knots per hour, they would be reaching Canberra, their port of call in some 20 days giving some time to provisioning the schooner with food and water. They had not

anticipated any kind of hazardous weather from their weather reports and there were no predictions for foul weather or storms.

When they were about 3000 miles from San Francisco, the Captain informed them that they would start sailing in a west/northwesterly direction to moor at Kiritimati Island also known as Christmas Island. There, they would provision the schooner with fresh fruits and vegetables and water. They would be able to spend a day visiting the island and were given particulars about the history of Kiritimati; its use as a atom bomb test site, its wildlife and its fauna, and its active conservation..

The island was discovered by Captain James Cook in 1777 on Christmas Eve and claimed by the United States. It has a growing population of about 5600 people and relies on coconut palms and fishing and tourism.

Within the two days, the schooner set its course for Australia. They still had more than half the journey ahead of them. Sea life, while still not simple, took on more of a challenge and they saw how the need for following orders and the tasks set before them were really a part of how the schooner functioned. They, this green crew were now experienced enough to understand that their duties were not just duties but the ship's means of staying afloat and reaching a given destination. They were the driving force of the schooner; the blood and guts that maneuvered this metal and wooden hulk so that this inanimate object took on the grace and daring of Man's invention. This understanding erased some of the hostile feelings that they were just a work force for the ship's moving through the sea.

THE STORM

Early on a Thursday morning, the sky seemed a brooding blackish grey. The Captain had felt uneasy about the "smell" of the weather. He had the Mate check with the weather service to see if there were any anticipated weather systems that might turn into foul weather. Told that everything seemed to be normal, the Captain resumed his run to Australia but he still felt with his experienced seaman's bones that something was amiss. This time, he contacted the weather information to ask about any new indications of unusual cloud formations or fronts that had not been seen before. Again, he was told that

everything looked normal; that barometric pressures did not indicate any problems. Somehow, he felt that he would follow his instincts and lighten the sail exposure. After a short time, he felt an unusually cold wind. Guided by those uneasy feelings he had been feeling, he asked the Mate to have the square topsail reefed along with the Mainsail. He would rely on the Foresail to give the ship the needed maneuverability. He might lose some sailing time but the safety of the green crewmen and the ship were foremost in his mind. In any case, he felt it better to be conservative and rely on his own judgment rather than on someone's telling him that all looked normal.

It was so sudden, that no one anticipated a change so volatile. The sky darkened and a flat "table like" cloud formed. The winds increased to over 90 knots and the ensuing waves became higher and higher. The Captain ordered that the Foresail to be reefed and the new crewmen to be confined to their quarters with life vests until he gave word that they could come out. Again, he radioed his position and described the storm which had overtaken them so quickly. The Captain gave the number of members on board and said that 12 of them had never been to sea before. He asked that rescue ships be sent immediately since he could no longer guarantee that the schooner would remain afloat.

As the schooner tried to ride out the waves, the waves seemed to be more menacing than before and the Captain judged that the waves were now reaching 100 feet in height. There was no longer any control of the vessel and finally the schooner was caught in the swale between two waves. As the schooner rolled at the bottom of the two waves, an enormous wave slammed down on the helpless vessel and a loud crack of metal sounded as though the hull was being ripped apart. This first wave was immediately followed by another huge wave and the schooner developed a tear in its hull at one of the seams where it had been welded. The Captain immediately advised the members that their ship had started to take on water and that they must of necessity abandon ship. He suggested that they break into groups of six persons, hold hands so the each group was a small floating unit. He told them that he had radioed for help so that they should be on the lookout for any rescue ships or helicopters. He reminded them that they should stay as relaxed as they could and that panic was sometimes more fatal than being in the open sea.

Two groups of six new seamen and one group of the six crewmen jumped into the raging sea with the hope that the rescue service would be able to locate them. The waves became higher and higher and the freezing rain was pushed horizontally by the fierce wind. The group consisting of Gerhardt, Binna, Pierce, Bandi and Belana, all practiced athletes and in perfect shape physically, rode out the waves without too much trouble for about 4 hours. Where was the sixth member? No one seemed to remember how one of

them missed being part of the group. "Perhaps", Belana said "the other person joined the original crew. After 4 hours, some of the group began complaining that they found it difficult to hold hands since their hands were frozen and without feeling from the icy cold water. Bandi suggested that they grasp each other's wrists the way high wire and trapeze performers do so that they could hold on and be held onto at the same time. While the water was cold, it felt colder because of the rain and the wind. Pierce complained that he could no longer feel his legs and that they seemed detached from the rest of his body. It was Bandi Clough, the caver and swimmer who told him to pump his legs up and down so that he could force some blood into his muscles. It had now been 6 hours since they had abandoned ship and there seemed to be no lessening of the waves or the rain and wind. The small circle of survivors started to imagine that sharks were present and that their legs would be dangling and moving in such a way that they might present themselves as wounded fish and that the sharks would attack. It was Pierce who reminded them that sharks would not expose themselves to such high waves and would have dived to levels where there was much less turbulence.

Just then, Belana screamed out that she thought a shark had attacked her legs. What Belana had felt was her foot dragging across the sandy bottom of the shore. Relieved that it was not a shark, she shouted that her foot had touched bottom. Gerhardt, ever open to any advantage suggested that they break the circle and try to swim and walk in a straight or chorus line, kicking toward shore so that however little effect it might have they would at least be moving in a direction. The push of the waves and the returning roll of the tide returning to the sea made walking and swimming almost impossible and some of the group moved forward on their knees. Now, as they moved slowly toward land, they could make out a huge dark land mass in front of them. With spirits lifted in hope and praise, they renewed their efforts. Some wanted to stop a while to catch their breaths but Gerhardt urged the group on until they were at least out of the water. Once on the black sandy shore, they cautiously made their way towards the entrance of the pyramidal, black Colossus that loomed high above the sea's surface. As they inched forward, all eyes were focused on this long, vertical entrance with the circular opening on top of the slit.

"It's like walking into a giant vagina quipped a usually soft spoken Balena Noviskaya."

"To me" Bandi Clough said, "It looks like a big keyhole in the mountain; Keyhole Island." Everyone agreed that they would call their port of safety, "Keyhole Island".

Visibility within the opening was virtually impossible. Creeping carefully, they were able to penetrate just where the rain could no longer enter. There, all five sought the

refuge of the entry ways walls and collapsed with exhaustion and slept for more than 12 hours. They were awakened by the twittering of hundreds of cliff swallows. The noise was deafening. Birds in the middle of the ocean? And then, looking towards the entrance formed by this high, vertical slit, the smell of the sea and warm winds. There was no sign of rain or fierce winds and the sky was as blue as blue can be. Out there, all was calm and beautiful and the five survivors looked on with complete surprise when they saw that the enormous space, a grotto almost, seemingly hollowed out the pyramid and was filled with sunlight. While the weather was warm and the winds down to a warming, gentle touch against the face, the waves were still abnormally high. It seemed as though the anger and ferocity simply disappeared.

EXPLORING THE CAVE "GROTTO"

It was difficult to decide where to start; explore the cave, explore outside, or what. The organizational skills of Pierce "Johann" Fist were finally decided upon. The middle name "Johann" was the name his family had called him when at the age of 6, he begged his parents to let him study with the promise that when he was 31 years old,(24 years from now), they would be able to live without want or need. His father jokingly accused him of making a pact with the devil as did Faust in the Goethe story. Nevertheless, they always called him Pierce "Johann". When his Father asked him if he had read Faust, Pierce looked at him unknowingly and wondered what his father was referring to.

"First" Pierce said", " we have to logically look at where we stand and what our priorities should be. I would love to explore our new habitat but, I think there are other options which are more important." As he moved to the slit opening of the cavern, he innocently stepped in somebody's shit. There were gales of laughter at the "little professor" until Pierce, after carefully wiping his soiled sneakers, held up hand and said. "We must all remember, that the cavern or grotto we are in appears to be an environmentally balanced space in which all its living creatures, flora and fauna seem to be able to create an ideal and balanced life. If we were to just take into account, what our waste products would be, I think we would be better understand our responsibilities in keeping that environment as friendly as possible. Just think, and this is no time to be anything but frank and open, our combined waste would be at least (let's say 9) or more

deposits of feces/day. That would amount to 63 per week. If we multiply that by 4 we would be depositing over 292 unneeded foreign materials per month, and 3025, deposits per year. Aside from the unsanitary and odiferous legacy we leave, we are forcing the cavern to find ways to incorporate this unknown material into its environmental balance.”

“Now”, he continued, I have read of many south Pacific tribes with much larger populations than our own five persons who resolved this problem plus added to their way of living and an additional method of keeping themselves clean. I am talking about the tribes who have allocated a part of their oceanfront to defecate and at the same time to bathe their bodies on a daily basis. Finding a current that passed their island, they chose the current moving away from their island to perform their morning ablutions and to then bathe completely. Anyone just bathing, would go up current and be free from all health problems. As an environmentalist, I of course disagree with anything that contaminates the oceans but with only five of us and considering the size of the ocean, I would opt for the five of us adopting the Pacific tribes system and that would retain the balance that has perhaps existed for perhaps hundreds of thousands of years.”

“Where should we start?” asked Binna. Some suggested one thing and others, other things. Finally, Pierce raised his hand for permission to speak. He said, “I am not trying to take command or anything because I believe we all have to decide on what we do, but I have made a list that we can perhaps use as a starting point. The list does not include only my ideas but other suggestions as well. All I am trying to do is have an agreed upon plan so that we will be more efficient.”

“Now let me give my reasons for the priorities as I see them. Some of the following suggestions were made by others in our group but I have tried to consolidate them so that we have a plan to follow.”

Our primary concern must be our ability to survive with water and food. We have all seen and used the deliciously cold, pure water that seems to be coming from some artesian system. From just a preliminary look, I have counted a number of plants, roots and berries that could keep us alive until we were able to devise some way to provide ourselves with protein. Of course, there are the birds but we must be careful not to deplete the number of birds so that they would not become extinct. And lastly, a way of catching fish without lines, or hooks.

Since we do not know what creatures inhabit the cavern, we must find a way of defending ourselves and/or perhaps using these weapons to hunt with. Remember, we only have one machete, which Binna Walagong miraculously was able to carry. Perhaps the easiest weapon would be a spear with a fire hardened

point. I will teach you all how to make a fire from materials found on the forest floor.

We must search the beach for any other survivors or debris from our sloop, the “Recourance.”

We must consider a way or ways of attracting any ship or aircraft that may be searching for us.

We must do a thorough search of our island in the sea. I am hoping that Gerhardt or Binna might suggest something using their experiences of mountain climbing.

I myself with the help of Bandi Clough might explore what seems to be a series of caves to assure that we do not overlook anything that we don't know about. After a serious discussion, the group of five agreed that living conditions would be much more pleasant and most liked the idea of being able to bathe and keep themselves socially acceptable to the others. They also agreed that the order of needs was as Pierce had outlined them.

Since they had all wondered what had happened to the rest of their group of 12, they expressed concern as to the outcome of the remaining group plus the Captain and the crew. There was a general agreement to listen to the list Pierce made and thus began the discussion.

PIERCE FIST'S EXPLANATION OF KEYHOLE ISLAND'S FORMATION

It was Biologist, Pierce “Johann” Fist who gave his opinions and ideas as to how the island was formed. In his pristine British, clearly enunciated voice, he explained that the island was an ancient volcanic outflow that stopped just about 5000 feet above the ocean level. The island, never discovered or investigated was a triangular pyramid which when including its base was a tetrahedron in shape with three sides above the water, it's fourth side being the base of the cave. From the inside, you could see from the inside that the cave had three sides. On the eastern, western and southern sides, the huge rock was solid. On the northern side however where the line of the eastern and western sides met, a narrow opening from the sea to about 300 feet above sea level was formed with a large round opening at the top. This round opening above the slit gave the island its name as the keyhole island. According to Pierce, it is the simple application of Bernoulli's principal

which explains why the inside of the stone pyramid was excavated so that a vast spherical space remained within the triangular stone island. "It probably took hundreds of thousands of years for the extreme force of the rip tides that cross the apex or the large slit. The large "keyhole" on top of the slit was where the water returned to the sea. As the waters rushed into the slit, it eventually wore out the inner rock surface until the floor level in the spherical space was no longer affected by the sea. At the same time, winds carried pollen and seeds, migrating birds, and insects into the giant spherical space where after a long time, they made up the foundation for soil to form. The giant opening in the top of the large sphere was probably erosion since the top of the pyramid has the smallest volume of stone. I am sure you all are aware of the oculus in the Pantheon in Rome. Well, we have our own oculus. As to the water coming from the top of our dome, It is not uncommon to have an artesian water outpouring. in Ecuador, they have a huge source of water that pours out of the top of the mountain and which supplies a great deal of the water to the city. In more than one sense, we have a small" Eden", protected from the outside."

"I agree", said Belana Noviskaya, a Russian long distance swimmer. She was tall, with very severe high cheek bones. Her thin face was made to look even longer with her bony pointed chin. Her hair, cut short for the voyage, was a mousy color and made her look even more different. She was not unattractive and perhaps one could call her "different or interesting. When she spoke, she had an accent. Normally, Belana was a loner and perhaps felt at ease, away from the criticisms she suspected were being said about her. The long times she spent alone while swimming were the happiest. At high school, she was often shunned by the other girls who thought her off-standish attitude was the result of not wanting to mix with the other students. She shunned the men most of the time and felt certain that they thought her too unattractive to include in their groups. The girls saw her as no competition as far as the boys were concerned and in general ignored her as well. Perhaps due to her "different" physiognomy, she avoided boys and her attention and attraction was towards women. She recognized her lesbian tendencies and accepted herself for what she was.

Belana continued, "I agree we were lucky to find this shelter but I think that we have to talk about not only survival but about what we can do to be rescued. I guess that everyone is thinking about building a big fire at the top of "Keyhole" but even with our two mountain climbers and their experience, they would never have enough time to climb up the mountain and light a fire. I don't know what to suggest but I think it's important that we make some sort of plan".

Gerhardt Krinke, Austrian champion mountaineer and slalom racer broke in, "The very first thing we must do is survey the island we are on and to make sure that there are not any other survivors or other islands that might be inhabited". Gerhardt had an authoritative demeanor that made people always look up when he spoke and turned to him as a natural leader. He was a handsome man with masculine features, blond hair and whose bright, blue eyes never wavered when he looked at you and spoke. He was full of assurance and somehow, was always looked upon by the others as the final opinion when any subject was being discussed. Gerhardt was about 5'-10" tall which gave him a compact form as he raced downhill on his slalom runs. His height was also good for his other proficiency, which was mountain climbing. His body was muscular and lithe at the same time. He was not talkative but weighed his opinions as though they had been thought through before he spoke. So when Gerhardt spoke and said that the group would have to explore first to make sure that we knew what they had to contend with, everybody agreed. Just in case, we should make some spears with fire hardened tips to protect ourselves if there are any dangerous animals. Or if we come across any edible animals (they probably never developed a fear of man) we could have food. As it stands, we have one machete, which Binna somehow brought along. We have no tools except what we can fashion out of the bamboo. Gerhardt continued, we have been many hours at sea and I remember the Captain saying that we are headed for Kiritimati Island (Christmas Island) for we would need to put in for supplies and water. He also said that we were almost over half of our sailing time to Canberra. Unfortunately, my knowledge of geography is lacking. At that point, a small part of his leadership abilities was being undermined by Pierce's intelligence and the faintest resentment toward Pierce was felt by Gerhardt.

Pierce broke in by stating that "Christmas island had a series of islands south west but that he also recalled that the islands were uninhabited and that the nearest inhabited land mass would be Papua, New Guinea. Since we know we were blown off course from Christmas Island, we must have passed the small atolls. But of course, we are all guessing."

Gerhardt indicated that he would free climb the island and try to evaluate where the group stood in terms of what the other sides of the island were like; whether there were other islands nearby and in general bring back any information that would help the group to decide what action should be taken. He would start early while his energy level was still high and estimated that including the time spent above, he should be back in late afternoon. When the others said that he should not endanger his life without lines, he answered, "I would be glad to take the precautions of climbing with lines but unfortunately, we have none".

No sooner had Gerhardt made his announcement that he intended to climb, Binna Walagong the Australian woman whose forebears were aborigines, got to her feet and declared that "one person cannot be expected to make a free climb without someone accompanying him. It was too much of a risk and especially so, if we needed everybody in the group to survive." Binna, who was a second generation aborigine was dark skinned and solidly built. Her face had a slight resemblance to the Aboriginal mixed with her Dutch fathers blood. She was considered extremely attractive. You could see she was powerful and her sturdy legs and longish arms gave her a decided advantage in climbing. Her mother and her mother's brother had signed on to be part of the staff and interpreters for the Dutch mining company and the aboriginals whose land was being explored. The loneliness, and the general propinquity eventually led to a friendship and the birth of Binna. She had started climbing as a young girl when she accompanied her Uncle Toby who was a guide and a scout for a mining company. Their climbs were relatively easy but when Binna became 16 years old, she found that climbing was her number one enjoyable sport. She went out weekly with small groups on low mountains but where the conditions presented complex solutions if the climb was to be considered a success.

Earning money was the big problem for there were really few groups of climbers who wanted to take the time and expense to learn maneuvers. So when she noticed the call for people to compete in a 1 year long endurance adventure, she said, Why not, stranger things have happened. When it was discovered that she would have to travel to San Francisco in order to sail to Australia, the sponsors relented and offered her air passage to travel San Francisco so that she could sail with the group.

THE ASCENT OF GERHARDT AND BINNA

The meeting broke up and Gerhardt and Binna met to talk about the climb. Gerhardt thanked Binna for he knew that climbing alone presented big problems especially in a free climb. They then took their experience and determined where they should start from, etc. Both agreed that this would be a barefoot climb and that they would climb side by side rather than a tandem climb of one following the other. This fact proved to be what perhaps was the saving of Binna's life. When they were about $\frac{3}{4}$ way

up the mountain, Binna suddenly stopped. Looking over to her with a concerned look he asked "Is everything alright?"

"Not really", she replied. My handhold just crumbled and I have no way of either going up or down". Gerhardt studying the situation saw that it would be virtually impossible to move in such a situation. "Hang on until I can get a better position to reach you. When I say" GO", grab my leg and secure your position. First though, look at where you are going to catch a seam or an outcropping for a handhold. I am going to swing my left leg over to you. Wait until I can get my body as close to the mountain as possible so that I have a tighter pattern. When he was ready he asked if she was ready."

"Yes", she said and Gerhardt yelled, "GO". Swingin his free leg in her direction, he was able to get close enough so that she could use her strong legs to swing toward him. Gerhardt held tight against the mountain while Binna grabbed onto the rock outcropping and solidified her hold on the rock. When she was again able to climb on her own, they moved up the mountain and sank down on the narrow top and heaved a sigh of relief.

With her back resting against a ledge, she turned to Gerhardt, squeezed his upper arm and said, "Thank you Gerhardt, I don't think I would have been able to make it without you." Her eyes, wide and black, the thanks she gave Gerhardt was not just a word, it was her whole being who thanked him for saving her life. The two had bonded.

Gerhardt felt a tightening of his chest knowing that he was able to be of help. Under ordinary circumstances, it would have not been such a problem since the climb was not vertical. But normally, they would have nylon lines tied down so that if one should fall, the nylon line was always there to sustain you.

After sitting for a few minutes, Gerhardt and Binna rose and started to discuss what, if anything they could report back to the group who were anxiously awaiting news of what their situation was and were there signs of other islands and also, what was on the other side of the place the sea carried them. The two scoured the horizons and there was not an island or landmass in sight. The other sobering thing was the discovery that their rock was just that, a huge pyramidal stone mountain that rose out of the sea. The only entrance to their rock was where the storm had washed them ashore.

"Pierce was right when he said this was a pyramidal stone. He was also right, so it seems about the large waterfall coming from the top of the mountain. It must be an artesian well, pushing its water until it crashed down into the inside of the island. Gerhardt suggested that the top of the mountain was truncated and that the edges of the triangular oculus could be dangerous and felt that one of the first things they would have

to do was mark off on the flat surface of the space where the triangular oculus could present a danger of falling stones. "Be careful" he said. Looking at the ceiling just under the oculus, there was a bee hive that seemed very active. Too bad we will not be able to reach it with a bamboo pole. I don't think I would ever be able to climb to reach it since it would mean we would have to be climbing upside down."

Looking down, he estimated that they should mark the outline of the oculus with stones and then mark off some 30 feet on each side so that that area could be avoided. The one other important find was that they both witnessed whales in the water. This area was either a breeding ground or a calving area where the females gave birth to their young. Whales select some place in the ocean and come back to those places to fulfill their traditional and inborn instincts. If, of course, this was a traditional area in the ocean, the whale hunters would probably know about them and if this was so, there were chances that they would be in view of the island. But how to attract the ships if indeed the ships came?

"Belana Naviskaya was right about the fire on top of the mountain. It would take too long and just bringing up piles of wood would be impossible. But on the way up, Gerhardt noted, the "keyhole" over the slit entrance might just work out. It is an easy climb even for someone not experienced to climb to. We could build a large circular grillwork out of bamboo; fill it with the dead limbs on the cave floor and then create a flap of thin reeds to keep the wood dry. Since we always have a small fire burning, it would be an easy task to light the fire in the keyhole entrance if a ship passed by. Of course it is only conjecture on my part. First the whales would have to be visiting some spot in the ocean that they instinctively visited and then whaling ships would have to know about it and finally, the whalers would have to get past the environmentalists who are out in force against the hunting of whales. But, it would give us some semblance of hope and we would be involved in building the grillwork and preparing the wood for a fire to signal a ship which might never come."

Binna spoke up, "Did you notice that there is a lot of what looked like steam on the far end of the space. Do you think it might be thermal springs? And one other thing looked interesting. Did you notice that patch of straw colored plants. It must have been almost an acre in size. What do you suppose that was? We will have a lot of exploring to do before we understand our little volcanic island.

"Yes", Gerhardt replied, "it could just be that. After all, didn't Pierce say that the mountain was volcanic lava from some rupture in the earth some hundreds of thousands

of years ago? At the moment, I can't think of anything we could do with hot water except a hot bath but I have my limited ideas as far as science goes."

In the meantime, Pierce and the two girls were wandering and searching out what trees or plants would be either edible or medicinal. When the two climbers returned from their search from above, the others had not returned from their exploration. While waiting for the other three to return, Gerhardt estimated how long the climb would be to the "Keyhole" above the narrow slit where they were first washed into the mountain. Both thought that 20 minutes at the most is the time it would take to reach the "keyhole", remove the mat covering the bamboo frame and light the fire. With two people involved, the time could be reduced to 15 minutes. Binna said, "Let's take a rest and go over the things we have to report from our climb. We could also talk about the place where the whales were spotted. It was about 280 degrees from the slit wasn't it? Wouldn't it be great if that happened". Gerhardt and Binna looked at the rocks that tumbled from the pyramidal oculus to try to determine whether the stones just below the oculus looked like stones that recently fell or did the stones look like they had fallen a long time ago. Newly fallen stone would probably not have anything like moss or stain marks. We must not forget the rainstorm we spotted coming from the East and that the current looked like a cross current coming from the North East and the North West. I can't think of anything else that might be worth mentioning, can you?"

"There also seem to be some sort of rip tide. If you look out to sea, the sun seems to shine differently on the water. But let's include the information in our report."

Both expressed that they were hungry and hoped that their biologist shipwreck partner had found something that could quell their hunger.

They also brought up the subject of the rest of the crew. There was Captain Wode, his mate Jim Patterson, the three crewmen Bud, Jack and Neil and the cook, "Frenchy". And that's just the crew, there are 7 missing from our mission. I was hoping that our climb would have shown us access from the other sides of the mountain but we saw that only the north side where we were thrown ashore could have given any shelter to any other survivors. We can't even search for survivors and that makes me feel even worse. I would hate to think that everyone drowned in the sea. When I think of that cute Japanese girl, Yoshio Kobe and the rodeo rider, Cody Perkins, and Bijuali Gbronga who felt that her being selected was such an honor for her village and Jim O'Leary the rugby player and Anabel Perez, the Peruvian girl whose lungs were so extraordinary that she could hold her breath for more than 4 minutes. And Bjorn, the boy from Finland who talked so much about his beautiful frozen land, and of course Gertrudis Zandarides, whose family lived

high in the mountains. I still remember her telling us that when her father was 80 years old, his only regret was that he had never touched or felt the ocean."

What a loss it would be for the world if those people were drowned. Their recollections were interrupted by the sound of Pierce's voice saying "They're already back - let's hope they brought some interesting news."

That afternoon, the two groups told of all they discovered. At least there were some bamboo shoots to chew, some breadfruit, and some coconuts that they had to figure out how to cut the outer shell away. But of course, they had forgotten Binna's machete. Being so hungry and realizing that they had beautiful cold water to drink and some fruits and nuts that could sustain them made them all feel positive.

After the group had satisfied its basic hunger, the interest turned toward Gerhardt and Binna. Everyone wanted to know what the other parts of the island were like; was there a jungle or a desert; was there any sign of human life? A grim Gerhardt gave a dark description that said, that the island was this pyramidal black stone that rose from the sea. There were no beaches or land on the other two sides and the miracle was that we were washed ashore at the only possible place where life could be sustained. Gerhardt described the huge oculus that seemed to have worn away with the millennia and that now provided the light of day to reach down to the floor of the island. "In all directions, there is only ocean with no islands or large land masses in sight. The look on the three other survivors faces were very dark and worried. However, Binna brought the lighter side of their discoveries of the whales cavorting in the sea ; their approximate direction from the cave opening and a very approximate number of miles from their stone island. Gerhardt mentioned that if the whales come to that area when they are mating or calving, whale hunters would know of it also and come to that area in the hopes of killing some whales. We also saw a thunderstorm with dark clouds and lightening coming from the east and it seemed to be moving at a great speed. So if we get some rain, it would be from the thunder storm in the east. Also, from our high point, you could make out two currents like a rip tide coming from the north-east and the other coming from the north-west.

"You both did a remarkable job of giving us the overall picture. I can now picture in my mind the large, black, pyramidal stone in the middle of the ocean with its pyramidal oculus and the one side where we were shipwrecked. I also saw unfortunately, that the rest of our shipmates and the schooner's crew would have had little chance to survive as we had. I can only hope that somehow, they were as fortunate as we were and are someplace safe or were picked up. Did you see any search planes looking for us?" an anxious Pierce asked , I'm sure Captain Wode gave the authorities our position".

“We shouldn’t be too worried since it has only been since yesterday that we were shipwrecked”, said Bandi Clough. Bandi was the only American in the group and had been an outstanding swimmer and caver. She and Pierce immediately related to each other because of their mutual love for caving. Bandi was smallish girl which was ideal for a caver. She had red hair, which she inherited from her Irish mother, white skin and freckles. Her face was oval and her nose short and pugged. She was virtually without fear and her compact, strong figure permitted her to go where many experienced cavers would be reluctant to go for fear of not being able to return. In caves, one had to always figure that if you could not move forward, you could at least retrace your crawl and back out. She also was excited about an opening she found underground with and a lake that she could swim in and investigate. Bandi had been initiated to caving when she visited a Mexican girl who was roommate at the University of Mexico City and whose brother introduced her to caving in the Yucatan Peninsula where there were an abundance of caves and cenotes. They caved mostly in the Nohoch Nan Chich system. The cenote was a deep body of water in which the Aztecs and Maya Indians performed religious rites. Using her experience as a swimmer and as a diver, (Bandi could stay under water for almost 3 minutes) she spent her vacations at the home of her roommate, Carla Sancho in Yucatan, caving and swimming with her Carla’s brother Simon.

PIERCE, BANDI AND BELANA REPORT THEIR FINDINGS

After listening to the report from Gerhardt and Binna, the group turned towards Pierce and the two women, Bandi and Belana. Mostly they looked towards Pierce since he was the biologist and seemed to be conversant on many subjects. With a wide smile, Pierce started by saying that with that most important discovery of the pure, cold drinking water and with the number of foods we can survive a stay as long as we are forced to. Here he alluded to the many edible plants and fruits which could make up their diet. Before I start though, perhaps everyone will be able to breathe easier was that we found no evidence of snakes although they would have been a good source of protein. But, we found manioc plants whose roots we can grind into a pulp and cook on hot, flat stones over our fire. There is also wild yam, breadfruit, bamboo which you ate today, arrowroot, ferns, and Batoko Plum. Also, as we have all noticed, there are cliff swallows. Since their numbers are governed by the food available to them, their population is stable.

We should decide not to try to solve our protein needs by over hunting the birds. During nesting and the raising of their young, hunting should be taboo.”

Bandi then said, “The one thing we have not mentioned is fishing . Since it would be impossible for us to fish in the open sea without boats, perhaps we can build fishing baskets to trap any fish that come near the shore. It is a project that we can all work on since we found many reed-like plants that we could weave into baskets.”

Pierce resumed, “As far as medicinal plants and trees, we found papaya trees whose leaves help ease stomach aches and kidney infection. The papaya tree also bears a luscious, tasty fruit. There were also Nin plants which are used as a blood coagulant, fever reducer, antiseptic and as an analgesic. To top it all off, we found a number of termite nests. Termites, you know yield a high amount of protein so those of you who are used to plastic covered rib steaks that have no resemblance to a mooing cow will have to alter your concepts of food to include the little white termites . For those of you who have had a beer in a nice Mexican bar, didn’t you find the fried and toasted crickets and grasshoppers delicious? And have you tried the fried scorpions? There are other bugs too, but let’s leave it for now that there are sources of food which will keep us healthy. Perhaps, when we can really explore our new home, we can come up with other alternatives. But we still have to solve the problem of not having tools. With only Binna’s machete though, we are pretty well limited.”

“I think we have had a long but hopeful day. I for one would like to try to get a good night’s sleep and wake up anxious to start on the spears and the bamboo framework for our signal fire when a boat or a plane is in sight or hearing.”

There was a general approval that the first days discoveries were all positive with the exception of the termites, they bedded down close to the fire which Pierce made by rubbing sticks together until he was able to create enough frictional heat to kindle a very welcome fire.

The next morning, the five survivors started with their early morning ablutions. At first, there was a great reluctance to defecating and urinating, especially if you were not to willing to find a place in the cave that was private. The resolving of the problem was when Pierce going off to find a private place stepped in someone’s feces. The unpleasant odor quickly permeated the area where the group was gathered and a general mumble and air of disagreeable remarks were made. Pierce, the loser in this case, said, “I think we shall have to make up some rules if we are going to live in harmony. First,” he said,“ our cave is not so large that our discharges cannot affect the cave’s conditions. While we are only five people, we can change the sensitive ecology by adding a new and different

element. While we are all aware of our needs, I am going to suggest that we find a way to tend to our needs without damaging the ecology of the cave. I certainly am not in favor of dumping into the ocean but in our case, we are so few and the ocean is so large that our polluting would go unnoticed as far as pollution is concerned. There are tribes living on tropical islands who select a place where the current is going out to sea. They do their business in the ocean, and at the same time bathe. Does anyone disagree with me and do you have another suggestion?"

All agreed that in a short time, they would find disposing of their wastes intolerable and the thing they wanted was a way to get rid of their sewage and they did need to find a way to keep clean. Using the fresh drinking water or being too close to its source could contaminate the water supply and with no medical help other than what they found in the cave would be risky for all. It was their first move in the right direction, At the same time, they could wash out their clothes and at least be clean.

There was also a discussion on duties. Who was to do what and who was to do something else. Since we are only five, I feel that each person should be responsible for any and all tasks. There shouldn't be women's work and/or man's work unless that work is highly specialized and cannot be done by any of the others. This last discussion was led by Belana but agreed to by all. Since the group had not found any dangerous animals requiring extra strength, the ancient and traditional ways of hunter and gatherers would not apply. Everyone completely equal and suited to any task. Also, no person would be in charge or the leader. When we decide on an idea or a task, each should be able to voice an opinion and an action."

Having satisfactorily set up its Democracy of Five, their first task was to be able to signal to any ship or plane that might be searching for them by preparing the "keyhole" to hold the wood necessary for their signal fire. With only one machete to cut the bamboo needed, the machete was used by all five giving each a break and a rest from the arduous job of cutting the bamboo. Old stalks of bamboo could be broken at the root and these were carried back to the "keyhole". Very young saplings provided the bark with which the bamboo could be tied together.

Gerhardt's and Binna's plan was changed so that only half the circle need be built. Resting on the approximate 4 foot thick ledge, the half circle was built and filled with wood found on the forest floor. "Just because I said we didn't find snakes, make sure the piece of wood you grab does not move", said Pierce in his strange sense of humor.

The work of cutting the bamboo, lugging the cut bamboo back to the "keyhole", assembling the basic structure on the ground; attaching the other pieces to give it

structural stability and then filling the bamboo cage with wood and dry grasses took almost two weeks of steady work. But when their basic signal was finished, the entire group felt a pride in their achievement and in taking the steps to seek rescue.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY

The daily trips to the sea to relieve, bathe and wash their clothes brought something special. One was the discovery of coconut trees that had been devastated by the high winds. Those who arrived first, saw the broken and uprooted trees and also were able to retrieve several coconuts. All rejoiced that they might be able to grow coconuts. But it was Belana, who after trying to determine how they could build a fish trap to attempt to catch fish; what size it should be to be manageable by the people fishing and where they could launch the trap and keep it stable who made the important discovery. As Belana was studying the possibilities, her attention was held by a black fragment in the sand. Actually, there were many bits and pieces of this same material but the one she bent to pick up was miraculously whole. Picking it up, she noticed that she cut her finger and upon examining her sliver of stone she observed that it had an edge that was sharper than a knife. She did not know it at the time but she had found a sliver of Obsidian. Upon her return, she asked Pierce what this stone was - could it be slate or something? Looking at the sliver, Pierce gave a whoop and said, you found Obsidian. Slapping his head he said, "Of course, I should have suspected that our island/cave being volcanic and rising in the middle of the sea could have been the ideal condition for the forming of Obsidian. When the hot lava finally reaches the surface, if it is in contact with cold water, it could form Obsidian. Do you know what this means Belana? It means we can each of us have a knife or scraper or whatever. Your discovery could also mean that our home might still be active and be part of an active volcano. I shall have to tell Binna since she wanted to investigate some caves and a cenote. Perhaps we can also locate the source of our thermal spring."

With the possibilities of investigating new discoveries, life on "keyhole Island" became less frightening and more challenging. It was Belana who brought up the idea of trying to catch fish. It wasn't that she was not keen on eating termites but she felt with all this sea surrounding us, a nice fish would give more protein than hundreds of termites. Belana, on some of her close by excursions had seen flat reeds that reminded her of he

primitive baskets that most cultures seemed to create. Experimenting, she Was able to weave a simple mat that she thought could be the starting point of making a fish trap. She remembered pictures of Indian tribes making baskets that they left in a stream and later harvested the fish that had been trapped. Before describing her project to the others, she fashioned a small trap that could be placed in the ocean and how big it should be and how they would manage to secure the trap to the shore. The project was received with enthusiasm by all and the familiarity of eating fish would be a pleasant change to their diet. At first it was to Gerhardt that Belana sought advice but it seems that while Gerhardt was a great mountain climber and a terrific slalom racer, he was not imaginative as to how the fishing basket should be constructed. Belana turned to Pierce who had seen the baskets in photos and who in turn was able to solve some of the problems. It was imperceptible at first but there was the beginning of a jealousy taking place in Gerhardt's mind. A slight resentment that most of the problems that arose, the group seemed to turn towards Pierce who had the advantage of being more learned in things like survival, and how to resolve complex problems with simple solutions. With Pierce's suggestions, the fish trap basket was built. It was constructed by using young shoots of bamboo tied together with strips of bark. The varying diameters were held together by horizontal bamboo canes and an ingenious design of placing the bamboo at the front opening to bend easily if a fish went through the opening but snapping back so that leaving the trap was almost impossible. After a few days of altering problems, it served its purpose and they were able to catch some fish. The problem of bait was solved by the plentiful supply of earthworm which Pierce reminded them was another rich source of proteins . They knew that if they caught too many fish, they could sun dry those that were left over for another time in the future. This was their first discovery for preserving food caught beforehand.

TWO DISCOVERIES IN THE SEA THAT LEAD TO A THIRD

With their daily visits to the sea to eliminate and bathe, the five survivors discovered that if they bathed further east in the sea, the temperatures seemed to be several degrees warmer. Everyone recalled Pierce's mentioning that the island was originally a volcanic eruption that pushed the lava up to the surface of the sea as so many

other islands were formed. They also recalled that Binna and Gerhardt had talked about steam clouds in one part of the inner island that seemed disconnected to the rest of the cavity. It was always a thought that there would be an investigation to that part of the cave to see what existed. Now, however, the warm current emitting from the eastern part of their pyramidal island seemed that perhaps there might be a logical explanation of the warm current and that was that there was thermal vent discharging into the ocean and causing the increased temperature. It was in this eastern section where there were sometimes found mussel shells. Pierce had been brought the shells on various occasions with the idea that the mussels might also be a source of food. Pierce could only say that they appeared to be some species of either Green Lip Mussels or perhaps a species of Asian Green Mussels. Bandi Clough, who was the swimmer and diver offered to dive in the area to see if she could discover the source of the hot water or the thermal vent. As she dove, (the woman had the phenomenal ability to stay submerged for more than three minutes) there was anxiety since no one knew what she might confront. Several times, Bandi surfaced and said that the water was definitely warmer but that she could make out large areas of some kind of mollusk clinging to the surface of the island. On her next dive, she asked if she could use Binna's machete so that she could hack a piece of this mass of mollusks so that they could investigate them further.

Bandi's discovery of the warm to hot temperatures in the ocean convinced Pierce and Bandi that they would have to make a caving investigation on the east side of the cave as soon as possible to try to solve the riddle.

Meanwhile, the discovery of the warmer water came as a great gift to the group who had to withstand the much cooler ocean currents where they had heretofore bathed. The third discovery was the discovery of a large sea turtle which Pierce described as a Hawksbill sea turtle. The turtle was captured as it swam near the sandy shore and it took the five survivors to finally land it and push it on its back. This would be an unforgettable bonanza for the group. Using their obsidian knives, the turtle was cut into pieces and brought back to where they kept their ever burning fire. There seemed to be no squeamishness since the meat was in chunks, similar to large pieces of beef or pork. The group feasted for two days on the turtle and found that they could heat rocks and place them in the shell which was now scraped clean. Adding hot stones, kept the water almost at boiling and a great soup was made with the all important shell being used as the recipient in which they made their soup. Using cups made of coconut shells, the rich, hearty soup was a remembered feast.

With less and less concern about where their next meal would come from, other aspects of their life together came more and more into focus. Gerhardt and Binna seemed

to be disappearing more often together and upon their return, they always spoke of explorations to see if anything of interest could be discovered. Actually, they had discovered each other and with their common interest in climbing and Binna's remembered near fatality, they soon formed a bond that was uniquely theirs. Often now, they would carry their food to some remote area where they could be alone.

With Pierce and Bandi, the same exchanges of confidence, the preferring to be together was noticeable. Only Belana was in that sense isolated. She was not left out of the shared tasks they had to perform but she was not romantically involved. With her admission of her preference of women over men, she would find it difficult. It was the perceptive Pierce who noticed that Belana was often looking at Bandi. Bandi at first acknowledged Belana's glances with a friendly smile which Pierce also acknowledged. He and Bandi liked each other and preferred each other's company but they were not really in love the way Gerhardt and Binna were. Pierce, being open minded and astute to the needs of others also noticed that Bandi accepted Belana's glances and in fact, returned the silent exchanges with Belana more openly than before. The ironic part was that Pierce had some hidden feelings for Belana. The triangle was so strange. Pierce was attracted to Belana while Belana was attracted to Bandi and Bandi was attracted to Pierce. With Pierce, a problem was always interesting. His nature of being open to everything, his feelings of being liberal in his thinking; Pierce had been attracted to Belana and the fact that she was gay made her a very special problem he wanted to solve. He felt that her reasons for being a lesbian were connected to her early life or her home life; what he didn't know but somehow he thought he would be able to reverse those reasons and gain Belana's confidence, respect and finally her love. He also knew that the line to reach Belana would need a third party to whom Belana was not opposed. Bandi was the line he would use.

Realizing that affection and friendship was needed by all people, he took Bandi aside and revealed his observations. He also admitted that he was pained to see Belana's feelings of rejection and isolation and told Bandi that he felt a real affection for Belana even though she avoided any any type of closeness with him. Actually, Belana's attitude was one of protection. She did not want to feel that she was being rejected and so as a means of preserving her own sense of protection, she was not cool but distant with Pierce. Pierce had asked whether Bandi had ever had any emotional ties with a woman before and Bandi admitted that when she attended the University, there was a strong vogue among the females to assert their feelings for each other as part of the women's movement and that she had participated in a gay affair with one of the other girls. It was, she said, only a brief interlude but was glad that she felt open enough to take another view of her personal relations. Pierce then said, "I feel as you do and I also had a brief encounter

with another fellow student who happened to be my roommate." After that initial experience, he felt comfortable with the idea that he could enjoy both men and women but that he was basically heterosexual. Pierce went on to explain that he would not be opposed if Bandi felt the need or the desire to be closer to Belana. In fact, he encouraged Bandi to offer friendship to Belana. "I will not be offended and in fact, I would like to be able to have Belana consider me a trusted friend. It may be difficult at first for Belana to feel at ease with me but I am a patient person. You know, even though we have all looked for any sign of rescue, we may be forced to consider our stay on "Keyhole Island" as something permanent. Usually after a search has gone on for a few weeks, the search will eventually be given up and our deaths confirmed by reason of our not being able to exist in the open sea. I am not saying this to anyone else, or to frighten you but we shall have to be realistic at some point and realize that the rescuers will never pay attention to our volcanic island. We are like a grain of sand on the beach."

Time passed, from days to weeks to months and it had now been three years since they were ship wrecked on their island. As they learned to adjust to the primitive conditions, they developed more confidence utilizing the little they had to live and survive. The turtle shell became the soup pot and by placing red hot stones in the water, they could cook their food by boiling. They could not chance placing the turtle shell directly on the fire for fear that the shell would eventually burn. Someone remarked that the Mexican tribes before Cortez always boiled their food and it was only when the Conquistadores came that they started frying their food as was the Spanish custom.

When they thought about it, they had everything they needed, not only to survive but to lead a healthy life. Of course, any illness might be fatal but for the time being, with the healing herbs they were able to find, their existence was more than comfortable.

They had fresh, cold water, and thanks to the caving efforts of Bandi and Pierce, they found a source of hot water that they were able to pipe to their living area by the use of large, bamboo tubes. They had experimented, not too successfully to form clay fired dishes and storage jars from some soil that seemed to be clay but turned to be a soft, powdery substance unsuitable for making storage vessels. Gerhardt patiently carved wooden picks for food so that they could fork the hot food. The plentiful fish, and mussels provided protein. There were roots and the straw colored patch that Gerhardt and Binna had reported in their first climb to investigate the more difficult to part of the cave, turned out to be sorghum. With the difficult but successful harvesting of the sorghum, they were able to bake something similar to biscuits. Together with the cassava bread which they were able to make from Yucca, they had almost all they needed to live on in a comfortable way. What was sorely lacking was intellectual stimulus. With no books to read, or paper

and pencils to write with, they had to rely on whatever recollections they had of stories and books that were read in past times.

It was one sunny morning that the group, after performing ablutions, were relaxing and planning their activities of the day, when Gerhardt announced that he and Binna had decided to make one more ascent to the top of their island. Everyone looked surprised since there was no immediate need to re-survey their position in the sea. Awaiting some reason for the unexpected announcement, they were soon told that Gerhardt wanted to make a new survey of the areas surrounding them. He needed to know if there was any possible atoll or island that had been overlooked on their first climb. If there was something that that looked positive, Gerhardt said he wanted to think of building a raft. As an aside, he also mentioned that Binna was pregnant and that if there was a chance to find themselves rescued, it would have to be their searching for he was convinced that after three years, and constant diligence in searching the seas and the skies that they knew that they would never be rescued. Gerhardt said that when they discovered that Binna was pregnant, they decided that they had to make a last effort so that their child would be able to lead a normal life, with an education, friends and all the other benefits a normal life provided.

Pierce ,Bandi and Belana were stunned. The realization of their situation sunk in; that unless they were rescued, there would be an end to their life of before and they would have to settle, away from the world they knew and the people they cherished. And what of their own lives? Would they be denied the children they would have wanted or would they simply be lost to the world, five people, unable to be released from Fate's prison?

ANOTHER SEARCH OF THE SEA

That very morning, Gerhardt and Binna waved farewell to their fellow survivors and started the climb to the top of "Keyhole Island". They would look as carefully as they could in all directions and if the sun was in their eyes, they would investigate everything that appeared in the sea and wait until the sun passed to see and scour the ocean.

This time, in ascending the mountain, Gerhardt followed directly behind Binna to make sure there were no difficult features to navigate. Actually, both were very experienced climbers and both loved the adrenaline charges they received when making a difficult pass. As they both noted, the climb was not difficult and they were able to ascend without difficulties nor were they overly tired. They wanted very desperately to find something to maintain their hopes of rescue. Gerhardt had carried some dried fish and some sorghum patties along with two coconut shells of cold water. When the two finally reached the top, they both embraced and wished each other luck. The search then began. First they concentrated together in a direction away from the sun. Anything, anything unusual was to be investigated no matter how small or insignificant. To their complete dismay, they found nothing, not even another lava uprising similar to their own. It was the first time that Binna, turned away from Gerhardt and wept softly. They both wanted the child but they also wanted their child to be part of the world. Gerhardt, trying not to make Binna aware that he knew she was crying said, "If you would like, we can spend the night on the mountain and then in the morning when the sun is low on the horizon, perhaps we will be able to spot something."

"Gerhardt, thank you for being so caring and sweet but we have both looked and a night on the mountain is not going to lead to anything, besides, our friends will be worried about us if we don't return today. We shall have to do our best, utilizing our learning from the University to impart what we know as best as we can. Besides, we have Pierce who is so knowledgeable to help. We will do our best and always have the hope that someday things will be better for us."

After an hour's rest and the partaking of food, they started their descent with Gerhardt going down first. Anxious eyes below waited to see if there was any sign of joy or laughter but to no avail. A grim looking Gerhardt and Binna indicated that they had no luck. Their only discovery was that there were more whales than they saw before.

All concern now changed in awaiting the birth of Gerhardt's and Binna's child. There was renewed concern as to how the group could provide a comfortable, safe and rich environment for their new citizen. Even though the child belonged to Gerhardt and Binna, all felt some form of kinship with the new child. Much of their efforts and thoughts were directed as to how to give Binna the means and help she would need. How were they going to provide diapers; what about creating safety so the baby did not wander off when it could walk; what about a crib or a cradle or would Binna strap the child to herself and fulfill her other duties? There were African mothers who carried their children with them until they could walk. As to foods, Binna would provide the babe with her breast milk for at least a little more than a year but then, what forms of calcium could they

provide for the child so that its growth would include foods that were complete. All eyes turned to Pierce since he was the person most knowledgeable in the group.

"I can give you an answer right now he said. Seaweed, fish, Yucca, sorghum and coconut milk plus some of our found vegetables are all good sources of calcium." Somehow, they placed their confidence in Pierce that he would be able to come up with a solution. Thankfully, they had never encountered any dangerous animals or snakes or insects that could threaten the child but there were many mysterious holes and openings that appeared to lead to caves which they would have to contend with and even perhaps would have to close off with bamboo screens.

When it was getting close to the time when Binna would be delivering her child, she announced that it was her wish to have the birth of the baby in water. The idea of birthing in water was not unheard of since many obstetrician studies felt that birthing in water was less of an emotional stress on the newborn. Immediately, the remaining four thought that the ideal place would be on the eastern part of the beach where the water was ideal in temperature and calmness of the sea. As the time came closer, their were tasks to do such as sterilizing the obsidian knife that would be use to cut the ombbligo, the gathering of seaweed to dry and use to wash the child and the use of twisted seaweed into a small cord to seal the ombbligo . A cradle of soft rushes would make the crib- the rest was left to the gods.

A SIXTH MEMBER JOINS THE GROUP

The child, was born with the great help of Belana who took over the duties as midwife. The child, a beautiful girl with the blond hair of her father and perhaps the blue of his eyes coupled with the dark aborigene skin of its mother. She literally floated out and was a gift from the sea. She was named Calypso, for the goddess of the sea. At first, Calypso refused her mother's teat but the wise Belana recalled that they had found 3 combs of honey on the floor that must have been broken off from the original hive when a part of the oculus fell. They had preserved the honey in some coconut shell which they later sealed with the wax from the comb. Taking some honey from one of the shells, she gently rubbed Binna's teat and her areola with the honey. Then Belana placed her finger in the Calypso's mouth. The child immediately started to suckle the finger. Placing the

babe against her mother's breast, Calypso started sucking the honey together with the flow of milk. The problem was solved.

Calypso was a great joy to all. The focus on survival turned toward the presence of this remarkably delightful child. Everyone considered her as their own and she was fondled, petted, played with until even the child considered all to be her parents. Belana spoke to her in Russian, her father, Gerhardt spoke to her in German, Binna in Tiwi, one of the aboriginal languages, and English with Pierce and Bandi. Calypso's parents encouraged the others to use their languages and feeling that the child would grow up speaking several idioms. Only one problem, Calypso only answered in English.

She had now turned 3, and since she grew up in the cave, felt at home and was without fear. Gerhardt, her father sometimes strapped Calypso on his back and made small ascents so she would grow up without fear of heights. She giggled as the people got smaller and smaller. At other times, she would try to climb herself on the small outcroppings with Gerhardt encouraging her to try again on another side when she could climb no higher. Calypso grew by leaps and bounds and with the love everywhere she turned: a happy girl. There were no hang-ups in her life, To Calypso, life was running, jumping, swimming and climbing and after that, hugs and kisses from whomever she passed by.

So full of energy, she awakened earlier than everyone else, did her duty in the sea, washed and returned to the cave generally hungry and thirsty. Even at her early age, Belana had taught her to swim and she was always warned to respect the ocean and not to go too deep. Belana had pounded bamboo stakes into the water which was the boundary for Calypso. With her blond curly hair, dripping wet from the sea, she ambled back to the cave sing-songing two words repeatedly.

HOPE, DESPERATION, DESPAIR AND A RENEWED HOPE

Bezerk - okrug, bezerk-okrug, berserk-okrug. In her mind, however she was going back to the cave to shake her wet hair on Pierce. She loved molesting him. After she shook her wet hair on Pierce's face, he would grab her and while on his back, would lift her over his head and tickle her until she screamed for him to stop .

“Do you promise you won’t do that again? if not I am going to tickle you all day.”

“ I promise, I really do,” she said and when he let her down she giggled and said “until next time, that is.” Then she walked aimlessly as children do and continued her little sing-song, bezerk - okrug, bezerk - okrug, bezerk- okrug. All of a sudden, a sleepy Gerhardt heard the words clearly; she was saying boat in German and Russian. Gerhardt jumped up with a start and started running as fast as he could to the beach area. Moving away from their island, he was able to see a whaling vessel that flew a Norwegian flag. He quickly called Binna and for the others to place some hot coals in a green leaf covering so that he and Binna could light the signal fire. The fire roared into life with its dry as tinder wood but it was to no avail. The whaler sped off , its stern directly in line with the island and with a bright sun illuminating the sea, their signal fire was undetected.

There was great disappointment but there was still hope. If a whaling vessel was coming to the area, the odds were that it would be doing so again . Perhaps not this year but possibly in the next. The idea of rescue revived again in their thoughts and they decided to maintain a nightly watch, just as they had on board the schooner.

With the coming and the going of the Norwegian whaler, there was a renewed vigor and hope. True, they had missed this opportunity but the renewed hope that this same whaler would come back or perhaps even another gave the group another hope that all was not lost. They had to build the signal fire again but the work was done with a renewed vigor. They also knew that they had to be patient. That hope had to be based on patience and had to be an alive feeling and not just some hollow words that you could just say without basis.

Life continued, new discoveries, that helped ease their adjusting to a life without conveniences became more routine and conveniences became less inconvenient as they used their imaginations and sources of reasoning. Even trips to the sea shore became less irritating and tiresome especially as they knew it also included bathing. Being clean is an important part of how one’s sense of esteem for the self reflects the attitude. The child, Calypso was a real joy and many of the hardships became less as they watched the child romp and play in the only environment she knew.

Gerhardt and Binna became more attached and while they participated in the work that had to be done, they also had times when they shared with each other exclusively.

Pierce, Bandi and Belana continued as the other group in that they tended to stay together after work was done. The emotional feelings broadened as Bandi, following Pierce’s advice and her own inclinations, spent more time with Belana. The two felt really

close and while Bandi still felt an emotional tie to Pierce, she enjoyed her time with both. She had explained to Pierce that while she enjoyed sex with him, she also knew that a man's sex was somehow more driven, and less gentle. It was beautiful to have the male version of sex with its driving force but to be able to contrast that with the gentle caresses, kisses and pleasures of a woman were equally exciting. In one sense, the foreplay of the man which brought the woman to the point of receiving him was sometimes lost in impatience and the knowledge that he did not have to spend that important preparation for the woman's body to accept him. With the woman however, it was almost all foreplay and one could luxuriate in the pleasure, the emotion and the leisure to enjoy it. At first, the women, at Belana's request, would try to find places that were hidden from Pierce but Bandi, knowing of Pierce's wishes to be open with each other tried to coax her to stay where Pierce was. Little by little, the strangeness of being with Bandi in front of Pierce lessened to the degree that Belana no longer felt uneasy. She knew of Bandi's feelings for Pierce and she also knew that Pierce wanted to be intimate with her. For the sake of Bandi, she said she would try to keep an open mind but that it would require patience and kindness. Belana had been hurt so deeply that the resentment she felt for men would take time to change.

At first, Belana participated in her relations with Bandi in front of Pierce, afterwards, she participated with Bandi and Pierce and while she was the third party and finally, Belana and Bandi would make love with Pierce paying his attention to Bandi. It was rather complicated but each got used to the others. In one threesome, Bandi squatted over Pierce's face while Belana and she kissed. To kiss each other, Belana squatted over Pierce's waist. Wanting to try to please Bandi and wanting to be free with Pierce, she permitted Pierce to penetrate her. Pierce was so astounded and excited that he climaxed just as he entered Belana. The exposure was so fast that neither realized that he climaxed inside her.

TWO MORE JOIN THE GROUP

For Belana, it was an attempt to be at ease with Pierce but no sooner did she feel him inside her, she immediately withdrew. She found out later after she reported to Bandi that she missed her period. "What worries me is that I am always so exact as to when it starts and finishes. I don't know if I should be happy or sad. I have always wanted to have a child and I thought that the only way that would happen was if I was impregnated

artificially. If I am pregnant, I am glad it was with someone who is as thoughtful and understanding as Pierce. Do you think I should mention it to him?"

"I would wait until you are definitely sure. In the meantime though, try to get closer to him. You know that he feels very strongly about you and if you are carrying his child, I am sure there will be a great deal that you will both want to teach the baby. We both know Pierce and about how intelligent he is. I know he would be a great help in his education." With the knowledge that Belana might be pregnant, the girls became not only lovers but great friends as well. They enjoyed each other's company and it was soon afterwards that Bandi let it be known that she would like to have a child as well. They could raise their children together and they would both grow up as family. They never discussed the "what about if we are never rescued" theme which ran in their minds even though they never talked about it, the idea was never far away.

One year later, both Bandi and Belana bore two beautiful daughters. Both alert and "smart as whips", they continually surprised their parents with their abilities at understanding and their sense of logic even at that early age. They were able to diagnose simple things that required some sense of reasoning. These traits they both felt were Pierce's contribution to their intelligence. The family had now grown to seven. Diane and Penelope, were almost like twins what with their being only months apart in their age. They followed Calypso around as their older sister and heeded her admonitions first before listening to their parents. Calypso was very intolerant of their wandering away or getting into situations that might have been dangerous and so the two families felt secure when the younger girls were in her care. They lived in relative peace and harmony as do most families.

THE RESCUE -SEVEN FULL YEARS LATER

One evening, after all had been fed and the children put to bed. Belana had terrible stomach cramps. She had eaten some left over fish that had not been cooked well. Feeling a need to relieve herself, she went to the beach to try to get some relief. It was almost 1:00 AM as she quickly walked to the water's edge. The sky was bright with stars

as only a night away from civilization can be. As she scanned the black sky she marveled at the brightness of the stars. Growing up in a city, you never could appreciate the millions of stars because the lights from the town faded the heavens. A light on the black sea seemed to be a reflection – perhaps of the moon she thought and she looked in vain for the moon. Suddenly, the light flickered twice, then again three times more. Looking carefully, she was able to make out the blurred outlines of a solid body on the sea. Squinting, she could make out the lines of a ship at anchor with the dancing lights moving with the roll of the sea. Without waiting to relieve herself, she rushed back to the entrance and shouted: “There’s a ship in view and it looks like it is anchored. “Quick, wake Gerhardt and Binna so they can light the fire.”

Everyone ran toward the beach and sure enough it appeared to be the same Norwegian whaler they had spotted three years ago. The fire boomed into existence and group shouted and screamed to be heard. A short time later, a spotlight from the whaler scanned the sea and eventually, the dark outline of “Keyhole Island” made itself known. Communicating with sea signals which not even Pierce could interpret, they managed to send the SOS which everyone knew. While they could not directly understand, they perceived that the whaler wanted to wait until morning.

As soon as it was light enough to see, a rowboat was making its way to the beach. As it approached the island, the sailors were astounded to see five naked men and women waving their arms and shouting for help. Shouting in the dawn light as to whether there were other submerged peaks which would damage or sink a ship, the rowboat made it to the shore. Luckily, the Captain spoke English and their story was related to him. The Captain had seen the pyramidal island many times before but felt that he would be endangering his ship if he got too close. “Besides”, he said, “we could only see that it was some sort of volcanic outcropping from some underwater volcano and that there might be many such dangers nearby as well.”

The Captain radioed the ship to gather some clothes for the survivors and told the survivors that he would wait until the tide was high before landing. Since there were no belongings except Binna’s machete and the obsidian knives which each would have as a keepsake and the picks made of bamboo, they had nothing of value.

That night, sitting before what would be their last bonfire, some were thinking of the adjustment they would have to make upon their return to “normal” life. It was then that Belana said in a low voice, “I’m not convinced that I want to leave. All of you came from circumstances that were pretty much normal. But with my different way of life, I don’t wish to involve Penelope in any kind of conflicting circumstances. I only know how

people can hurt and destroy others and then simply go home to watch a TV show leaving their hateful ways without an iota of regret for the damage and pain they cause.”, said

“That’s exactly the thing you must overcome”, said Pierce. I certainly want to continue as we were, our own special kind of family and to hell with what society thinks. What makes public opinion so important especially when it comes from a majority of unthinking, selfish people and who then, after shooting off their mouths, return home like you said and watch a movie. To base our lives and our thoughts on fools makes us fools also. I should like to her what the others feel.”

“I am all for going”, Gerhardt spoke up. It of course involves my daughter Calypso who I feel must have the chance to study and do as she pleases. I want to see her marry and have her own children and selfishly, I want explore what my life will be. I can’t climb mountains forever and I want Binna to have the same opportunities to do what she wants to do. While I am content with our life here, I am too young to simply exist.”

“I agree with Gerhardt, in that I want to do something meaningful for my people.” Said Binna, “ I feel very strongly about the injustice we have suffered through; how they have given up on life’s promise; how the treatment we received and are still receiving has crippled our future and how our pride of being has been ripped from our lives.”

“For me” said Bandi, “I feel we have been given the opportunity to really bring an awareness to the world about how important our short stay on this island and how, thanks to Pierce, we have all learned to respect something as sacred as a tiny, untouched part of the world. A world we must all strive to save before our billions of people unthinkingly destroy this rich Paradise we call Earth. We cannot wait for business to stop creating wealth and riches for the few. If, with all their access to knowledge they thought of survival instead of increased profits perhaps we could do something. And we, the little people, who have been taught to think less of our pleasures and for procuring every new gadget they make for us need to be awakened. I am going to devote my studies and my time with that end in sight. I don’t expect that I will make an impact but there will be one more person striving for sanity.”

FIGHTING THE PROFITEERING SHARKS WITH THEIR OWN METHODS

“I am in agreement with you all”, said Pierce. “We have here something real, something tangible to bring to the attention of the world. What I feel must be our first prerogative is that the business people of the world do not utilize “Keyhole Island” as another toy to exploit it with tours, hotels, visits by people – even scientists who will bring staff, toilets and communications system to report to us the state of the island. We would photograph hundreds, perhaps thousands of photographs with text so that all the world knows what it is like to see something still pristine. I am glad that we had no tools to alter the cavern and that no debris was left by us. We can be the example, a group of five people, without prejudice or preconceived notions of what life is or even what it is supposed to be, living in peace and harmony and raising children to be the same. We have been overlooked by those who sponsored us and it will now be the time to pay for abandoning us.. We were all heavily insured by our sponsors and while we are still obligated under our agreement to grant them exclusive rights to photographs and stories, we can insist that they make use of all publicity in the promotion of helping the environment. Our writings of books, articles should receive worldwide distribution and all in the name of environmental conservancy. Also, I am sure that each of us can make our time spent on “ Keyhole Island” profitable by being sponsors of truly conservation measures. Let us play their game but using our marbles.”

“And now, it is time for us to play our game using their methods. I know this will sound a bit difficult but we must use our understanding of people in general and of those who are willing to overlook anything that stands in the way of their profit.

First for the Norwegian sea captain who saved us. Of course we are all grateful but if he discloses the position of our island, we shall be forced to disclose his illegal capturing of whales. We can simply not say anything to the authorities and prevent him and his country from paying enormous fines plus facing the world as a rogue government. Tit for tat , as they say.

Secondly, the three sponsors that enabled us to make the trip. The Environmental institution which is sponsored by countless by very wealthy men and women and companies who enjoy the highest prestige for their environmental help. Well, we shall have to make them understand that we will tell the world that they were not careful enough in selecting a schooner, a Captain and a crew that did not provide the maximum security measures. We can also tell the world that we were abandoned in the search they

made for us. And of course that we were paid nothing with the exception of paying our expenses in which we did not profit. Our sponsors could use our trip in their advertising for a considerable value for years but in which we would have no profit. They would be using “poor, unpaid students” to obtain their image as “environmentalists”.

Thirdly, we must prevent the island from becoming a tourist Mecca. There should be no scientific studies or caretaking staff with their required housing and sanitary systems plus their need for electricity, support dock, and communications systems. To do this, we would need these sponsors to place a monitoring satellite in space which would record all attempts to gain access to “Keyhole Island”. I must admit that I do not know if this can even be done, but the idea is worth investigating. And, since the island is not under any particular country’s jurisdiction, it should belong to a worldwide Environmental organization under the United Nations rather than any particular country.

Under our original agreement, we would be responsible to turn over all information and be used for all publicity for our trip. However, any monies accrued from books, articles, pictures etc. should revert to a special fund to keep the island pristine and without human interference. Therefore, the sponsors could continue make their claims for conserving the island and would reap the benefits without putting up one cent for as long as the number of years a contract can be in conformance with the law.

I know this sounds extreme but unless we pull every trick out of the bag, the profiteering sharks will destroy everything.”

The five survivors sat up all night discussing the reality of Pierce’s arguments and at last, had to admit he was right. When morning came with the rescuer’s rowboat, they were prepared to carry through with their intended action.

THE DEMANDS OF THE SURVIVORS

The final determinations of the demands of the Survivors would be based on “You give us these requests and we withdraw our lawsuit that seeks not only payment for the badly planned proposal to select a group of young people to participate in a project designed to give publicity to the sponsors which was very moderate in costs tom them

but did not ensure the safety of the untrained contestants to operate and assure the safe docking of the schooner if anything had befallen the Captain and his crew. Aside from the negligent planning, the schooner, caught in the storm caused the loss of life to seven members who were part of the original contestants and the 6 members of the crew. To date, these men and women are declared dead and lost at sea.

Also, the suit against the sponsors would demand just compensation for the seven years that they were isolated from family, friends and from gaining access to the education needed for gainful employment. Our demands, subject to revision are as follows""

We would need a law firm, well documented and experienced in matters relating to the Environment and who are also experienced in International Law. This firm cannot be part of the three sponsors and must be able to negotiate with the United Nations to establish:

Legitimacy of "Keyhole Island" and be recognized by all nations under the guidance of the United Nations. It must serve as an official territory to legitimize the birth of the three youngsters born on the Island.

The Island must have a surrounding limit of 20 miles of open sea which cannot be entered or trespassed for any reason by governments or agency's seeking experimental data, fishing vessels, caretakers, scientific study and educational groups or any armed force used as a protection.

The island must not be supplied with any power source, electrical, solar or wind nor shall it have any type of communication system. The Island shall be marked on all charts and maps and officially named "Keyhole Island".

The island shall not be developed for any type of tourist or scientific, educational or experimental or data gathering source. The Island shall have no docking service or landing facilities for sea craft or aircraft.

There shall be a U.N. system of satellite observation not leased from any service or using another country's equipment.

As an initiating start, the island and its cave shall be photographed in color with a minimum of one thousand photos suitable for publishing in book form. All flora, fauna, and insects shall be catalogued with their corresponding Latin nomenclature. This information shall be published in a full color guide under the auspices of the U.N. with all monies collected to establish a "Keyhole Island" fund to expand searches for other pristine, untouched sites.

All gatherers of information, photographers, and specialists shall be accommodated in tents, outside of the cave and all systems of sewage shall utilize portable units. After each group completes its work, there shall not be any debris of any type left in the caves. Only footprints left in the sand will be tolerated.

Every 20 years, the above investigations shall be made and announcing any changes that have taken place.

This list of demands shall be clarified and/or added to when a Law firm has been chosen.

All of the above shall be paid for by the three original sponsors. In return, the five survivors will withdraw their lawsuit against the three sponsors.

THE RETURN OF THE HEROES

The news of the return of the original five and the now added three broke into the world's news in an astounding way. It was not just a single country bringing out the news but the nationalities of the five that created the sensation. At first, all focused on the eight people and at the same time, brought forth efforts to search further for the remaining seven plus the crew of six. If five were able to escape the clutches of the sea, perhaps the others also found a way of surviving. There were pro's and con's since each country wanted the world to know that their people should not be overlooked or forgotten. There were questions as to how well prepared the sponsors were in designating the dangers of the trip especially since there was no compensation for them. There were articles of joy and sadness, of the pointing of guilty fingers and accusations of those who would profit - in other words, a typical reaction to a story that had passed out of time, seven years ago, and which could now be resuscitated for additional profit. The return of the "hero's" was given many forms. Some had ticker-tape parades, speeches on the environment and special homecoming celebrations. They were all given wide publicity as they visited their local communities and their families. The newspapers and other media milked every last drop to publish accounts of the adventure and in the countries where the original members came from and who were not part of the rescued five; flags were flown at half

mast. The aims of the journey were again published and there were bitter recriminations against the sponsors and their lack of diligence, which resulted in the deaths 13 people.

Heads flew in the sponsoring companies as the criticisms mounted. No one wanted to be connected to the original idea. In the meantime, professional writers merged with some of the five to write books on the modern day Robinson Crusoe's; the difficulty of giving birth, how they fed their babies; the remarkable health that the children had and of course, for the voyeurs, how they decided to manage their lives without clothing; whether it led to open sex. The TV smut programs titillated audiences with interviews with Sexologists, Psychologists, and the effects the open living would have on the lives of the children and they pounced on the idea of Pierce, Bandy and Belana living as a triad with babies from each of the women.

Belana speaking to Pierce said, "I knew we should have remained on the island and refused rescue. If Penelope has not had the age or understanding of our way of living, she will when she is older because the public never forgets."

Gradually, the turmoil spent itself as new events arose to be exploited. After visits with their families, Gerhardt and Binna remained in Austria. Binna felt that returning to Australia would subject her daughter Calypso to an onslaught of prejudice and would limit her potential as a young woman. In Austria, they would find themselves in circumstances that would not cause conflict. And her outstanding beauty would work in her favor.

Pierce, Bandi and Belana moved to England where Pierce was offered the position on the teaching staff at Oxford. There he continued his writing and teaching. Bandi, true to her desires, worked as an editor for an environmental organization whose duties carried her all over the world. She and Pierce and Belana kept in daily touch and before long, Belana reported that she was pregnant and was told that preliminary tests indicated that she would be giving birth to a boy, She would name him after her father Igor. Mentioning her upcoming birth of the boy, she pleased her father by telling him that her son would carry the name, Igor Naviskaya.

The effect on the survivors was indelible. It would be the major event in their lives. Of that there is no doubt.

End.

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