

## Chapter 4

It happened when I was out on the back of the river boat and Tiago and Dad were navigating from inside the cabin. It was raining and I wanted to feel the rain drops on my face. My eyes were closed and my face was lifted up towards the sky greeting the raindrops one by one. Then suddenly I felt it! Something darted quickly in front of me but before I could open my eyes to see what it was it was gone. I stood for a moment looking around hoping to capture a glimpse of whatever it was. I looked down the side of the boat towards the bow (that's the front of the boat), then I quickly ran to the other side and did the same thing. I climb up to look over the top of the cabin, "Alex!" Dad exclaimed, "Get down before you slip and fall into the river!" "I was just looking for...well...it went by so fast..." I continue, "the same thing happened to me at the airport!" "Slow down," said Dad warmly as he knelt down to look me in my eyes, "What happened at the airport? Why didn't you mention this before?" He put his arms around me. "I thought it might have been my imagination, but it couldn't be because it happened again!" I said still a bit shaken. Dad squeezed me a little tighter, "Alex, there are many strange things in the jungle, some things the world has yet to discover. I'm sorry you had a fright, stay close and remember we are in the animals' home now and we must expect that they will be quite curious as to who we are." Then Dad kissed me on the forehead and gently guided me to the table which was now setup like a desk. "Why don't you write about your experience in your travel log?" "You might remember more about what you might have seen. We will figure out this mystery together." "Thanks Dad", I said, and quickly began writing in my journal.

Look, Dad, Look! I said pointing off the starboard side of the boat (that's the right side of the boat), it looks like a dolphin! Dad grabbed his camera and started snapping off pictures as the river dolphin jumped in and out of the water running right along the side of us. "Wow, that is sooo cool! It's pink!! Do you think that means it is a girl dolphin?" Dad laughed out loud, "No, sweetie that's the color of this specific species of river dolphin found only in the Amazon." Just then Dad pointed on the shore, "Alex, look there on the on the river's edge—two baby giant otters!" I ran over to where



Dad was standing, "How cute! Can we go pet them?" "No, Alex they have a set of very large and protective parents and friends. These otters can grow to be 6 feet long and weight around 75 pounds! They usually live in communities of 5 or 6 adults and are on the endangered list so we are very lucky to have a chance to see an otter community." Dad replied. Just then we saw two adult otters come out of the forest and before we could snap a picture they had slid into the river and were gone.

To be continued...