

Chapter 6

Almir had already found his way back home by the time we emerged from the forest trail. He was jabbering while he ran in circles with his arms stretched out like an airplane. The village was no longer quiet but busy with people everywhere. "Where did they all come from Dad?" I said. "When strangers are known to be in the forest they hide and the warriors quietly circle any visitors in the jungle watching to see if they are friendly or enemies." Dad replied. "That is why you found Almir in the forest. Almir was learning how to track like a warrior." "Some warrior," I said. "He was giggling and pulled my hair!" Laughingly Dad said, "Little boys are the same everywhere, he must like you!" I shook my head, "Boys!"

Tiago was talking with the chief and waved Dad over to join the conversation. "See if you can help make dinner" Dad said pointing over to a woman and a girl about my age hunched over what looked like a big rock and a few bowls. "But I don't speak their language!" I complained. Words are only part of language Alex, offer your hands to them and kneel beside the rock; they will know you want to help. Before I could further protest, Dad was across the village talking to the chief and Tiago. I walked over to the rock, knelt down and was quickly put to work.

I was a little uncomfortable at first but they had warm, brown eyes that sparkled with kindness. She began singing...the little girl and then her mother joined in too. It was a simple tune with a happy melody so after listening for a little while I began singing along. The woman gave me a big

smile, reached over and gave my hand a warm gentle squeeze. Just then the little girl ran off just to return a moment later with a necklace, which she carefully put over my head. It was a flower made out of pearl on a long black string. "Alex," said Dad who was now standing beside me, "this gift means that you have been accepted like family; this is a great honor." I looked up at Dad and then at the little girl and felt all warm inside. Instantly I was part of them, yet I didn't even know their names. It's funny how simple it is to care for someone, you don't need to know their names, look the same or even live in the same place...it's all about being kind and willing to help each other. I gave the little girl a big hug and I knew at that moment I would never forget my new family in the Amazon.



I was sad as I looked back at my new friends waving goodbye in the morning light. We were off once more but this time we were on our way back home. I missed Mom and was hoping her fashion



show was everything she hoped it would be. Dad had so much hair on his face now that I was starting to think the monkeys would take him as one of their own! LOL! The trip back to the airport was just as beautiful as the one coming. The pink dolphin played along side our river boat, the baby giant otters were once again on the river bank, monkeys howled like

some rock and roll band while the birds sang their tunes. It was like they all showed up to say goodbye. The only thing missing was solving the mystery of the thing that was following me. Do you remember? First, at the airport and then again on the river boat? What do you think it was?

Write me at Alex@via-e.com and tell me what you think it was. I'll write you back and we will figure it out together.

Well, that was my summer vacation adventure. Don't forget to write me and tell me all about your adventures. I love to read and I can't wait to learn more about you.

Talk to you later!

Your BFF,

Alex

THE END