



**DON
ROO**

**AN AUSTRALIAN
ADVENTURE STORY**

**BY
WILLIAM**

Logline

Don Roo is no stranger to adventure, he spent his youth traveling the world in search of forgotten treasure, however recently was forced to slow down and work a regular job. He is now an ex-miner stuck in a job he hates, when a colleague named Sally Fisher approaches him about a legend of a supernatural stone in Far North Queensland, they both embark on the ultimate Australian treasure hunt that will change their lives forever.

TV Blurb

Tonight on 9Go! Jump into the Australian adventure story you've been waiting for. With equal inspiration and stolen ideas from Indiana Jones and Uncharted, Don Roo is the ultimate Australian Adventure/Action flick you never knew you needed until now. Unfortunately there are no kangaroos even though the title has "Roo" in it. I guess nothing is perfect.

AUTHOR NOTES

I'm William and I started going to Chill Brisbane in April 2022. It's been just over a year and I have cherished and enjoyed every single day and I'm always excited to see fellow Chillies and Mentors and their passion to get to know each other and help them become better every day. As a person who was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at the age of 3, I lived my entire childhood under the delusion that I was fundamentally different from everyone else I knew, but over 2 decades later, I realize that's not the case.

With the constant pressures from society telling us to live normal lives, people thrive to go beyond what is considered normal and live extraordinary lives, which is what inspired the story. I have never been great at drawing and visual art, since I don't have much experience, but since graduating from JMC Academy in 2018, I learned that I loved to write when I was taught how to write film screenplays. Over the past few years I have written a few film scripts that I've kept privately and haven't really gone anywhere, but one day I dream of creating and directing a film of my own.

I know I won't be able to achieve this dream on my own, and it won't happen overnight, but I hope that if I work and enjoy life along with the friends I know from Chill, take one step after another and dare to be creative and be myself every day, it will become a reality.

CHAPTER 1

Don is deep in the jungle, where he is he does not know. He doesn't know why he is running except he is running from something unknown that he fears beyond measure, but also because he is running toward something. He reaches a clearing and feels whatever he is running from is far behind him. He stops to catch his breath. He is wearing a scruffy white shirt and is with a backpack, a shotgun and a grappling hook. He also has a machete strapped to a holster on the side of his right leg.

He hears something in the distance, running water. It sounds like a waterfall. He walks into the ferns and pushes them aside to see a running stream. He takes an almost empty water bottle out of his backpack and fills it up. He sees the waterfall ahead of him is about 30 meters tall. He notices some shining light behind the cascading water crashing right in front of him and walks through the water. It's pitch black inside and he pulls out his torch. He walks through a tunnel with water dripping around, he walks further down the tunnel and the tunnel slopes downward. He walks a bit further until he slips. He continues to slide downward and go around a corner where the slope turns into more of some type of waterslide. He gets faster and faster until he is launched over another mini waterfall where he falls into the dark pool below. He reaches the surface and he can't find his torch. It is pitch black once again. He then sees it come over the waterfall and it lands on his head. It bounces off into the water in front of him and he grabs it and swims toward the ground where he pulls himself out.

He wonders where that shining light went and sees it again. It is just ahead of him. He sees some clear white gemstone on a pedestal and reaches for it but he hears a loud horn sound that makes him jump.

Next thing he knows he's awake on a train. His train to work. It was a dream, stranger and longer than usual. He sighs and wipes his face and hears the train's PA say that Melbourne Central station is coming up. He puts his work backpack over his shoulders and grabs his briefcase and heads for the doors.

A few minutes later he makes his way across a few blocks of the city and to the center where most of the city's business skyscrapers are. He works at a building for an Australian mining company called BHP. He has always had an interest in mining gemstones and archaeology so he thought that working at a mining company would be pretty exciting. Instead, they make him design blueprints for deep mining machines and oil rigs. He also has to run and approve safety tests for the machinery and file copious amounts of paperwork on them. More recently though, He has been tasked to come up with a new advertising campaign. He has been working there for just over 5 years and has become very tired of it. The only reason he stays is that they pay

him 100k a year for it. He comes face to face with the 50 storey building once again at the start of another work week with a glum look on his face. He enters the lobby and a security guard greets him.

"Oh good morning Don! You look a bit sleepy under the eyes today"

"Yeah, I was up until 1 in the morning last night doing all my paperwork" Don Replied

"Oh well, be sure to take it easy today. We're not understaffed anymore, so there's no need to overwork yourself"

Don thanks him and makes his way to the elevator. He receives a text on his phone that he's been summoned for a meeting on floor 43, only 10 levels from the top. He pushes the button and the doors close. He makes his way to the meeting room. His boss and a bunch of board members are there before him

"You're late Roo. Sit down" Commands his boss, Mr Jeddard.

He sits down and listens to what Mr Jeddard has to say.

"Our company is falling apart Don, we have had our worst year in revenue since 2009 at the peak of the GFC. People around the country just doesn't believe in mining anymore and no one wants to work for us"

"Your point is?"

"The point is Don is that you are our creative head of advertising and YOU should be the one coming up with ideas of how to make BHP more appealing and exciting to our general audience! I want a creative marketing campaign, and you're not giving me it" Jeddard replies back at him in a scathing manner

"I'm sorry boss, I've been trying. It just has been hard for me to really think of anything at all that is exciting about quarries and mining. I mean the job is literally called 'Boring'"

"I beg your pardon."

"Well it's true. The reason that no one wants to work for us is that there is nothing exciting or appealing about it at all, and with the average pay for miners in this country is getting lower and lower, it's no wonder that people don't give a shit"

"I simply asked for something!"

“And I GAVE YOU SOMETHING! I gave you my brief of making a mining commercial about our workers going on a adventure digging up precious and valuable treasure, and you threw it back at me and then proceeded to throw my idea straight in the bin”

“It wasn’t realistic.”

“Realistic?! You asked me for a creative idea for Christ sake! Of course It’s not going to be realistic for mining. The realistic part is that it’s dangerous, bad for the environment and people sometimes die. Do you want me to put THAT into my next brief”

“No. I think not.”

“I thought not. Now take the idea I’ve given you or not. It’s your choice. Because it’s going to take a hell of a long time for me to come up with another one.” Argues Don back at Jeddard

There is an awkward silence in the boardroom. A woman next to Don is tapping on her laptop awkwardly. Jeddard takes a breath and begins talking again.

“*sighs* I guess it is an acceptable start. You can return to your desk.” Says Jeddard

Don quietly exits the room.

CHAPTER 2

Don is tapping away at his computer on his desk and the same woman from before approaches him. Don looks away from his computer and at her.

“Oh hi! What was your name again? Shelly?”

“Sally”

“Oh yes, that’s right. What’s up”

“Oh I just wanted to say you did real good in there. It’s been a while since I’ve seen someone stand up to Jeddard. He’s a real prick when it comes to getting what he wants from his employees. I’ve worked here longer than you and I know he can be pretty crappy on his bad days.”

“Yeah, I can see that”

"I really liked your pitch last week. It sounded like exactly the type of ad this company needs. It seems that Australia as a whole is just becoming less and less adventurous as time goes on. It just seems like all company CEO's here now are focussed on greed and finances. It was refreshing to me. I've reinforced Jeddard to use it after you left. I have a good feeling he's going to greenlight it."

"Well, thanks!"

"Don't mention it. You deserve a raise."

"I was actually thinking of quitting really, pretty much had enough of this"

"Well it's funny you say that, because I actually heard this rumor from a miner who was sent to a quarry near Tully up north. He heard from one of the locals there once that he was wandering through the Daintree Rainforest near Cairns and said he found a cave with a treasure inside. He said he knew about an ancient village that lived there that looked after a treasure called 'The Cassowary's Stone', and said it had enchanted powers and a luminous purple glow"

"Sounds interesting, you think it's real though, or just a story?"

"I don't know. But I know you are a bit of an adventurer from some of your travel stories you've told me. You've done a bit of forest exploring before, some spelunking."

"You want me to go find it."

"Well I mean. You've got nothing to lose"

She walks away and leaves Don alone. Pondering about what she just said. He gets up and tells her to come back

"Do you want to come back to my place tonight?"

CHAPTER 3

The train pulls into Don's station and they both step off the train and walk through the suburb toward his house.

"You're really considering this aren't you" Says Sally

"Seriously, anything is better than working that shit job. You have given me a mystery to unfold, and I think I can find out more about it" Replies Don

Don opens his front door and Sally notices several treasures in his house from unknown locations

“You travel a lot, Don?”

“The GFC hit me pretty hard back in ‘09. So I decided I would fly to some exotic locations with the money I had left in hope that I could find some treasures that I could sell. I thought I could sell some to get enough money to start a business of my own”

“Did it work?”

“No. Not really”

Don goes into his bedroom and puts his work bag down. There are posters of Indiana Jones and Uncharted on his wall.

“Not really anyone wanted to buy them. They just thought these were worthless knick-knacks that wouldn’t do anything for them. I did meet this one guy in 2012 though that brought about half of it for about 80 grand”

“That’s not bad”

“Yeah it was definitely really good for me. But it’s nothing like the movies where you think these things are worth millions. Turns out people these days are much more interested in new technology than old treasures”

“That kind of sucks in way”

“Yeah”

Don sits down on his bed.

“So, you’re single huh.” Sally asks

“Yep, never even had a girlfriend. I moved out of home 8 years ago. This is pretty much where I’ve been living for all this time” Replies Don

“You still see your family often?”

“Yeah. Every now and then. Though they all live in Adelaide so I usually fly over. I have driven a couple of times though”

“That’s quite a fair way just to see your parents” Sally replies pensively

“Yeah. It’s been hard for my parents since my mother’s sister passed away from cancer in 2019. I flew over and stayed with them for a few months just to support them and get them through that time.”

“I’m so sorry”

“Nah, it’s okay. I spent a lot of time with my Aunt. Even when she got sick. And when things got worse, I was with her. During that time, she shared stories with me. She was an adventurer too. She found a bunch of gemstones in The Blue Mountains in 2008 and gave them to me, so I could sell them to start a business for myself, and it helped me during the GFC”

“I never knew your Aunt was an explorer” Sally replied

“Oh yes. She is what inspired me to do it myself. And during those final weeks with her where all my family was around. She revealed to us that she found an ancient temple in the middle of The Simpson Desert, which was her final adventure before she fell ill.” Said Don

“What was it?”

“It was an ancient treasure which belonged to The Aboriginal tribe of The Dreamtime. She knew if she sold it, she would be a millionaire overnight. But instead, she gave it back to the Aboriginal people where it belonged. It now sits in the museum of Alice Springs. They even dedicated a small memorial to her, and she never told anybody about it. Not until her final weeks.”

“It sounds like you two were really close”

“We were. She was only 51 when she died”

There was a short, solemn pause in the room as Sally took in everything that Don told her. Then the mood suddenly lightened up when Don decided to ask Sally something.

“Do you think that story you told me about that stone in The Daintree. Do you think it’s true?”

“Do you wanna find out?”

A grin of excitement lights up Don’s face which then spreads infectiously to Sally’s

CHAPTER 4

Sally and Don arrive at Melbourne Airport and step out of their taxi.

“Okay, so once we touch down in Cairns, we’ll need to hire a 4WD for ourselves and head into the rainforest” Don says

They head through the entrance and book their Qantas flight directly to Cairns. Flight time is 4h 30min. They head through security and make their way to their gate. They look at the Qantas 737 before them as it’s loaded with fuel and luggage

“If we have any chance of finding this thing, we will have to ask some of the locals” Said Sally

The both of them are now walking down the gate bridge to the door of the plane

“You mean the locals of Cairns?” Said Don

“It’s a start. I think if we find the right people, they could point us to some small towns closer to the rainforest which might give us some more information of where to look.”

“Yeah you’re right. There are a few people who have houses inside the rainforest.”

“I have a feeling they might know plenty.”

They board the plane and show the steward their tickets. They make their way to their seats toward the back of the plane. They sit down and strap in.

“Are you ready for an adventure Don?” Sally asks excitedly

“Hell yeah!” Don replies enthusiastically

The plane comes to life and makes its way down the taxiway as the flight stewardesses mime out the safety briefing that Dom has already seen 100 times. The engines roar up and the plane powers down the runway and takes off into the Victorian sky.

Don looks out his window and Sally looks out next to him. The look out on the plains of Northern Queensland as the plane banks out toward the beautiful and pristine looking Pacific Ocean. They can even make out some of The Great Barrier reef and a few small islands below. They hear the seatbelt sign ping on and the captain says on the PA that the plane has begun its descent into Cairns airport. Sally finishes her red wine and gives it to the flight attendant with his trolley.

The plane smoothly gets lower and lower and touches down hard on the runway. And just like that, their flight is over. The plane makes its way toward the terminal. The seatbelt sign pings off and the turbines power down.

Sally and Don put their suitcases in the boot of their hired out Nissan 4WD. They drive toward the center of the town.

“Do you think we should book a hotel?” Sally asked

“I think we should get right to it. We should ask some of the locals about some possible whereabouts. Then we should find our accommodation closer to the rainforest. There has to be a few Bnbs. If not, we will have to sleep in the Jeep.”

“You’re kidding right!”

Sally looks at the Nissan logo on the steering wheel

“You do realize this is a Nissan, right!”

They drive their way to the Cairns Esplanade and park their Nissan. They begin to ask some people if they know anything about the treasure they seek.

Sally holds out a drawing that she drew as well of a description of the artifact to a bearded bloke by the beach drinking a beer.

“Could you take a look at this for a second?” Asks Sally

The man takes a look at the picture, he looks confused.

“What is this shit?!” the man asks

“We’re looking for a fabled treasure in The Daintree called The Cassowary’s Stone. Would you know anything about it?” Don asks further.

The man pushes the piece of paper back on Sally’s chest

“Yeah, you can keep your rubbish to yourselves”

The bearded man cackles and sits back down on his chair with his stubby

“Okay, bad example.” Don says. They both walk away.

“Is this a joke?!”

“You guys must be crazy!!!”

“Yeah, you’ll sure find Cassowaries in the forest, and Crocs. Stay away from them.”

They keep on showing the picture to more people and they get no helpful responses

“Jesus, can we get one helpful person in this place?” Sally asks

Don sees a shop in the distance. It’s a tourist shop called ‘Cathy’s Crystals’

“Maybe this shop will help,” Says Don.

They enter the shop and there are many exotic looking crystals and stones inside, as well as some exploration gear and tourist souvenirs. An older looking woman is standing behind the counter.

“Oh hey there, fancy anything my lovelies?” Cathay asks

“No we’re not buying anything, we just want to ask you a few questions” Sally replies

“About what exactly?”

Don brings the picture into Cathy’s view

“About this!”

“Oh my word.” Cathay replies

She takes a closer look at it and looks deep in thought.

“You’re the first in quite a while to enquire about this” Cathay says back to them

“So you’re not saying we’re the first ones?” Sally asks.

“No, you’re not. There we’re a group of explorers that were asking the same thing, right here in this shop. That was about two months ago”

“So it wasn’t that long?” Don asks curiously.”

“You didn’t tell anyone?” Don asks further.

“Oh I did. They sent out a search party for them which lasted a week. Not a single one was found. They have now been presumed dead. But only this region knows about the disappearance since they didn’t want to cause a national panic, since they didn’t believe the story I told them about the stone.”

“That’s horrible” Says Sally

“They have to still be out there” Adds Don

“Oh I think they are, but to be honest, I was too afraid to go out and look for them. I know, it’s very cowardly of me to know so much about this legend and do nothing.” Cathay says back to them

“That’s okay” Says Sally

“Just one more thing, how did you know what we wanted but no one out there did?” Don asks

“Everyone in and around Cairns knows of the news story now. They don’t like to talk about the disappearance, and they tell you the legend is bullshit, don’t bother with them. I do still believe however”

Sally looks at the picture and to Cathy

“But why, you?”

“There is one man who lives on the outskirts of this town who dreams of exploring too. His name is Gareth Drafter and he used to live in Tully.” Cathy replies

“Yes, I have heard of him. He was a miner” Sally adds

“That’s right. He was the one that was told the legend from an Aboriginal elder that lived there at the time. This was about 15 years ago and the elder is very old and frail now, but she still lives with him. He went searching for it and, let’s say, found something more interesting than I did. He claims he found a temple. But he never found any treasures. It’s what inspired me to follow his footsteps all those years later.”

“So what did YOU find?” asks Don

“Nothing, no treasure, not even that temple he talked about. I really wanted to find something, but I didn’t. I told Gareth about my frustration and he seemed confused. He told me that I just wasn’t looking in the right area or in the right direction. I wanted to try and find it again, but I didn’t. I also advised those people that came into my shop not to look for it either, but they still went, and now they’re gone.” Cathy added

“You’re going to tell us not to go looking for them, aren’t you” Don asks smugly

“I would’ve.”

Sally smiles

“But not today!”

CHAPTER 5

The three of them leave the shop. Cathy turns her sign on the door from Open to Closed and they head for the Nissan 4WD. Don starts the ignition and they start driving out of Cairns.

“Okay, I am going to join you on this adventure, I have to see Gareth first and the elder. Her name is Sharan. She is 78 so I can’t guarantee that she would come along, or even Gareth for that matter.” Cathy says

“You said that Sharan is old and frail” Don says

“I was exaggerating a bit, she is very bright for her age and can manage herself, but she still has her days. We’ll just have to wait and see”

The 4WD gets closer to their destination. The foliage around them starts to get more lush and dense as they move out from the town. Don sees the green mountains roll in front of the windscreen in the distance and makes out the Daintree from afar. A few minutes later they arrive at a house by a running river.

“Okay this is it, let’s see what they’re up to now” Said Cathy

They enter the house and see Gareth watching the TV and Sharan on her iPad, she is also smoking a joint. They both turn around to see them.

“Oh hey Cathy how are you tod-”

He notices Don and Sally behind them. Sharan looks up from her iPad and looks over at them

“Who is this lot? And what the bloody hell are they doing in my house?!” Demands Sharan

“Oh, these two are Don and Sally” Answers Cathy

“The dude looks like a cheap knock off Indiana Jones.” Sharan spits back at them

Don walks forward to her

“Oh yeah, about that. I was thinking you could help with a little something” Don says to her

“Like what?” She asks

Sally puts the picture down on the table

“We think you know something about the whereabouts of this treasure”

“Bloody hell!”

CHAPTER 6

They are all in the Nissan 4WD again driving towards the rainforest. Don is driving, Shelly is sitting in the passenger seat while Sharan and Gareth are both sitting in the back. They stop at the ferry station that will take them across the river. Gareth hasn't said a word up until this point. He then opens his mouth and starts to speak.

“I think I should introduce myself.” This makes Sharan and Don jump in the back

“GAH! Don't startle me like that! Sharan Shouts

“So yes. I was that ex-miner you guys wanted to see. Here I am. And Sharan here used to be my boss”

“Used to be” says Sharan

“So I like you, tried to find the stone. We searched for over two week for it” Said Gareth

“We didn't find it. But we found quite a lot that was obviously pointing to it” Added Sharan

“Like what exactly? Caves? Clues?” added Don

“We found a temple.It was massive. Huge. Complex. Full of Aboriginal architecture and craftwork in it. It felt familiar to me yet so strange and distant at the same time. It was like whoever this tribe were, they were attuned to something so obvious to them that the rest of them just couldn't see.” Sharan explained.

“We searched and searched this temple for days on end. We burnt through countless torches we found in there just to know where we were or what we explored. We got lost on several occasions.” Gareth added

The ferry stops in front of them. They drive on and the ferry slowly moves forward to the other side.

“We found several small crystals and gemstones, but these were just common regular old crystals that you would find in my shop. The three of us found nothing that could come close to being classed as “The Cassowary's Stone.” Cathy added

“We did find some clues though. We knew that we weren’t seeing the full picture, that there was some overarching puzzle to that entire complex. We noticed some tiles on the floor that opened up some secret rooms. There were some art and symbols on the walls that symbolized a Cassowary and its chick, but we couldn’t get much further” Sharan explained

“But the three of us tried. Truly tried” Gareth further explained

“We gave up in about an afternoon pretty much” Cathy added

The ferry makes it to the other side and the 4WD moves onward. The road becomes muddier and bumpier. The dense rainforest foliage is really starting to creep in now. The jungle get even more dense and they are quickly surrounded by green and exotic looking plants. The sun shines through the canopy and the brown and dirty road continues to wind through the rainforest.

“Do you remember where you began searching last time?” Don asks

“There is a small town up and around the corner from here. That’s where we started last time.” Replies Sharan.

But before she could say anything else, they saw something up ahead blocking the road.

“Stop the car!” Sally yelled

The 4WD ground to a halt, to see two Cassowaries and its chick blocking the road.

“What do we do?!” Gareth asked

“I guess we just wait until they get out of the way” Said Don

They wait for about 30 seconds, but they don’t move. Don honks his horn but that doesn’t work either. The Cassowaries begin to walk toward the car door and everyone in the 4WD begins to look intimidated. One of the Cassowaries taps their beak against Don’s window and it opens its mouth.

“Could you wind down the window please?”

Don just stares at the bird in disbelief

“What?... What the.”

“Wind down that fuckin’ window”

He winds down the window. The Cassowary continues to talk

“What are you doing here?” it asks

“Uh... what do you mean?” Asks Don

“Can’t you see you’re in OUR territory guys” the cassowary replies

“But, we’re on the main road”

“No you’re not, you strayed off the main road 10 minutes ago. This is a dirt bike track. It’s quite rude of you, hey, would you mind opening that door?” She replies

Don opens the door and accidentally hits something. He hit her chick.

“Hey! Watch it!” yells the chick

“Stay away from car doors you goose!” She says to it’s chick

“I am NOT a Goose!” it yells back at her.

“Just step to the side so the poor man can get out”

“Okay Mum”

The chick steps to the side and Don gets out

“I assure you you’re not insane” The Mother Cassowary adds

“See big man. It’s a dirt track, it’s all grotty and yucky” The Chick says

“Yeah, I can see that. You’re actually kind of cute.” Says Don

“Thanks”

The other Cassowary on the left side of the car begins to speak to the rest of the group

“Feel free to come on out guys. We don’t bite *chuckles*” Says the other cassowary

They all step out of the car. Gareth looks at their sharp dagger like feet

“It’s not the beaks that I’m worried about” Says Gareth

They all walk down to the right side of the track next to the car

“Crusty, is that you over there?” Says the female Cassowary

“Yes I’m over here Delilah, I’m coming hun!” Says the father Cassowary

The family of three Cassowaries meet up and introduce themselves in front of them.

“So I’m Crusty, and this is my wife Delilah”

“And I’m Lilly” says the chick

“Great! Now show us the way back please!” Gareth demands

The Cassowaries look surprised

“Wait, why not hang with us for a little bit. Since you’re here and all”

Delilah notices something in Don’s pocket. She looks over and pulls it out with her beak. It drops on the ground and she looks at it. She sees a picture of The Cassowary’s Stone on the piece of paper.

“Where did you find this?..” Delilah asks

“Why can you talk?...” Don Asks

They all stand there in silence for a little bit.

“Come. It seems we have some explaining to do”

They all walk forward. Sally is recording them with her phone but the birds don’t seem to mind.

CHAPTER 7

They all walk deeper into the forest and the 4WD has completely disappeared from view. They follow the cassowaries for what feels like half an hour when they start to notice things hanging from the canopy. There are several jewels and pieces of art to what looks like cassowaries. Culturally it looks like ancient aboriginal from several thousands of years ago

“Hey uh Delilah” Asks Don

“Yea?” Delilah replies

“How old are those pieces of art hanging from up there?”

“They are about 2500 years old” Delilah answers

“No way!” Sally says

“That’s impossible!” Adds Gareth

“How have they been preserved for so long in the air, and the rain?” Sharan asks

“Well you see, they are under the blessing of the great one” Crusty explains

“The who?” Gareth asks

“The Great Cassowary! The root of our lineage, she was the first, and the wisest. She’s our deity” Explains Lilly

“Oh” all four of the gang say in unison

They are so deep in the rainforest that sounds are coming from all around. They can hear running water, bird songs from all angles, and chirping insects. Don starts to see ancient paintings on trees and rocks in exotic colors.

“How old are these” Don asks

“How could they be fresh like this for so-”

“Were here” Delilah says

They all look in front of themselves so see a massive temple towering above them. It is around 20 meters high but it extends much wider than that. It has markings on it from an old Aboriginal language that no one can decipher and a massive door at the front that is sealed shut.

“Wow, look at the size of that thing!” Gareth explains

“How are we supposed to open it, is there some kind of riddle?” Cathy asks

“Oh not now, the riddles come later. In the depths. Crusty, you can do the honors” Delilah says

Crusty walks up to the door and rubs his beak against it. An enchanted light envelops the door and it rolls open. They all walk inside and realize they have no torches. Before they can say anything, the cassowary's bone helmets light up into glowing crystal torches. The rest of the gang follow suit and light up their own battery powered torches..

“No way!” Says Sally

“Keep close to me darling” Delilah says to Lilly

“Yes Mummy.”

They get deeper into the temple and get to a large open room with markings on the ground of cassowaries. There is a magnifying glass in the center of the room. Don takes a look around surveying the space but it's too dark.

“Hey Crusty, could you light up the ceiling for a second?” Don Asks

“Sure!”

Crusty extends his neck up a little bit and they notice some ancient piece of glassware up in the corner

“It looks like some kind of sensor” Don adds

“It looks like we have to direct light up there somehow” Sharan adds

They see the ancient magnifying glass in the middle of the room. Delilah puts her helmet next to it and it shines through. Don grabs the central glass and realizes it's on a pole that can twist from left to right. It moves the light beam around in a circle horizontally but not vertically. Don looks stumped.

“Bummer” Don says

He notices that there are some tiles on the floor that are slightly poking out compared to others. He sees them faintly on the ground as the light bounces off of it slightly from the beam.

“Hey Sharan, you see this?!” Don asks

“What is it?”

“There are pressure tiles on the floor. Step on one and see if it does anything”

“But what if it triggers some booby trap that kills us?!”

“It won't” Lilly Says

“Don't tell them that, this is as far as we've got” Says Crusty

“Yeah, but we've been to this room a few times before. I've never noticed it before. Give it a try Don!” Says Lilly

Don steps on the panel and a door to the left opens up. They all walk towards it and there is an old mirror.

“A mirror. I know just what to do with this!” Says Sally

She moves to the center of the room and tells Don to move the beam to the left, underneath the sensor. He turns it and she reflects the light to it. It sizzles for a second and hears a popping sound. The floor begins to shift. Eight sections of the floor begin to descend in an ordered fashion, forming a downward staircase. They all walk down the staircase to the floor below. They hear a few people yelping in the distance.

“Hello?! Hello?! Is anyone there?!”

They shine their torches down on the people and realize it is a group. There are six of them.

“Oh my God” Don Says

“It’s THEM!” Cathay shouts

The malnourished group waddle toward the gang.

“I can’t believe it. You are all still alive! What a relief!” Says Sharan

“There is running water down here. And fish!” Says the first one

“Oh God! What is that SMELL?!!” Gareth asks

“There are also plenty of dead rats too.”

“Ohhh. YUCK.” Says Gareth, he gags a little too.

“Sick.” Adds Sharan

They all walk towards each other, Sally give them all some of her snacks and water

“So what’s your names?” Ask’s Don

There are three men and three women. The three men’s names are Ronald, Bailey and Josh. The three women’s names are Maddy, Angeline and Wendy. They all refresh themselves and they trek deeper into the temple. They go down some more stairs and it get’s much more musty. They now have the group that went missing two months ago but now they see skeletons and rotted corpses that have obviously been there for hundreds of years longer, it smells awful.

“Ugh, i’m going to throw up again” Gareth says again

They make their way through the basement of the temple and realize there is nothing down here. Then they all slip and fall down a long slide. The slide winds and turns and ends as the gang are launched over a large waterfall into a murky pool below. They all splutter and clamber to find the edge. There are some stairs over the side so the cassowaries can climb out as well (since they have no arms or hands). They all get out of the dark pool as they look around with their torches. Then something captures their attention. It’s large, shining, crystal clear and purple.

“The Great Cassowary’s Stone” Don says, filled with wonder.

They all carefully walk towards it, with awe and childlike wonder as they take in its radiant glow which light up the dark room. Delilah, Crusty and Lilly walk in front of them all.

“We found it, the last relic left behind by the gods who created us. This is their only evidence of ever existing at all. What mysteries could it hold?” Says Delilah

“I want to touch it” Don Says

Don looks around waiting for anyone else to say anything

“No warnings, anybody” He says

“No mate, go for it” Says Ronald

He grabs it and immediately the ground begins to rumble. Don gets a sinking feeling

“What’s happening” Maddy Says

“I think this temple is sinking into the earth, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!!!!!!”

“Look, there are stairs at the back of the room!” Says Lilly

“Let’s move” Says Sally

CHAPTER 8

They all run up the steps toward the top floor. The top floor is open air. There is a ceiling with pillars at the edges, but you can easily jump over the edge. It was usually 20 meters high, but now it’s only 10. They all look at the edge and they’re all too scared to jump. It continues to sink.

Eight meters, seven, six. Don decides to make the jump and makes it, landing hard on the ground. He's okay, the rest soon follow.

They are all on the ground. They turn around to see the temple continue to sink to ground level until it finally stops, completely level with the ground. There is now a big rectangular, golden slab in the middle of the rainforest soil. They all see an aural light form in the center and a massive figure walks out of it. They try to make out what it is, until they finally realize it for themselves. It's The Great Queen Cassowary.

"I see you have found what you've been looking for. You have searched well." The Queen said

The three Cassowaries bow down to their lord.

"Oh please, no need for that. I haven't told you why I'm here yet"

"And what would that be exactly?" Asked Don.

"I'm going to need that back" Answered The Queen

"But why, you haven't used it in years. It was just laying down there waiting to be found." Don shouts

"I don't like the dark, and I have a fear of rats" The Queen answers.

"Unbelievable" Wendy says

"Oh NOW she says it" Says Angeline

"What does it do?" Sally asks

"It makes Cassowaries fly, as well as bring infinite riches and fortune. Fortunately I already have all of that from my realm" Queen Cassowary adds. The Three Cassowaries look impressed and very excited

"So what use does it have to you?!"

"Absolutely nothing. I just think it looks shiny, and I want it."

"Hey, we SEARCHED for that thing, and we FOUND it! We DESERVE TO HAVE IT" Sharan yells

"No!"

"WE HAVE IT NOW YOU GREEDY CHOOK!" Yells Gareth.

“No. I will not let you get away. Now you shall face my horde of Zombi-Waries”

She dematerializes and undead violent cassowaries rise up from the ground

“Oh shit.” Says bailey

They all run screaming in different directions

Don and Sally are still together, hiding behind a tree trunk

“What are we going to do?” Sally says

“Don’t worry, I brought a pistol and shotgun with me remember”

Don puts a Desert Eagle in Sally’s hands as Don pulls out his shotgun. They begin to fight back against the Zombi-Waries. Don shoots one of them, gore splatters everywhere and the Zombi-Wary is launched back into a tree and falls to the ground. They all run back towards the van.

“How are we all going to get in the car now?” Sally Demands

“I have no idea!” Shouts Don

“I think we should leave you guys here” Says Crusty

“What are you insane, you’ll die out here with all those monsters around” Says Don

“Come back to town with us. You’ll become famous overnight” Says Sally.

“We shouldn’t do it, your kind will surely kill us or dissect us for sick experiments” Delilah says

“I will not let that happen. Not in my town” Sharan Says

Sharan opens the back compartment of the 4WD

“Okay, you three. You get in here” Sharan says

The three cassowaries get in

Sharan looks at the 6 others that they rescued. She looks confused and frustrated of how they are going to get in, and then she looks up at the roof of the car

“Can you guys hold on?”

“Oh you’ve got to be kidding me!” Says Josh

They all get in the car with the 3 missing men and women hanging on at the front and back of the car roof for their lives. The car races through the rainforest with Zombi-Warries closing in on their tail. Sally winds down the window and shoots at them, a few fall over but many of them are still running from behind. The 4WD gets faster as it heads toward the wide river. They realise they have to slow down to get on the ferry.

“What are we going to do to escape this Don?!” Asks Sally

Don then notices a very big dirt hill on the left side of the road right on the river bank.

“Everybody hold on!” Yells Don

The people on the top of the 4WD look at the hill ahead of them and look in disbelief

“You’ve got to be shitting me” Says Bailey

“No No nononon nonNONONONO!!!” Yells Wendy

The 4WD flies off the jump and arcs across the river. The ferry driver looks up from his iPhone and gawks at the 4WD flying across the river with a vacant look on his face

“Tourists.”

The 4WD falls and speeds toward the ground. It lands extremely hard but everyone on the top holds on and everyone looks like they’re fine. But then the engine catches fire and Don looks extremely concerned. He stops the car immediately and everyone, including the Cassowaries, runs away from the flaming vehicle. Don keeps The Great Cassowary's stone close to him in his backpack. They all run far away to the ferry station on the other side as the 4WD explodes. The ferry driver comes toward their side and runs off his ferry toward them.

“Holy shit guys! You alright?” He asks

“Yeah I think we're okay” Says Lilly

“What, did you just”

“Talk? Yeah, does that bother you?” Asks Delilah

The man just stands there for a little bit until he says something

“I’ve got a truck just round the corner. I’ll drive you lot back to Carins if you-”

He notices the 6 missing persons with them

“Is that... is that what I think it is?” He asks

“Yes, they found us! We couldn’t be more grateful, we would have died if we were out there for any longer.” Says Maddy

“We have had quite the adventure today” Says Bailey

“Okay, hang tight. I’ll get you back to shelter right away!” Says the ferry driver

CHAPTER 9

The truck drives back from the rainforest toward Cairns while the whole gang, the rescued and the three enchanted Cassowaries are sitting in the truck container eating some snacks that the driver had. The truck arrives at Cairns where the families of the missing persons wait to reunite with them as well as the news, as the driver called the council about the whole ordeal.

They all get out of the truck as the families swarm in to lovingly reunite with their members that they thought were dead. They all lovingly hug each other. The news team swiftly come in to Don and Sally, as well as Sharan and Gareth, heralding them as heroes. They ask them question after question until they notice he has something in his backpack.

“Hey, what’s that you have in your backpack” Asks the reporter

“Take a look. I’ll show you.”

He opens the backpack and a purple glow radiates from inside. He pulls out the stone and they look upon it with awe

“It can’t be. The Great Cassowary’s Stone! I thought that was just a legend!” Says the news reporter

Crusty the Cassowary walks into the shot

“Oh no it’s real. And good thing we got it off her too. She was a real nasty chook!”

The news reporter has no words to describe what he just witnessed. He turns off his camera and runs back to his van.

"I better get a raise for this!" He yells

"You better put that stone back in your bag before anyone grabs it off you!" Says Sharan

"What are you going to do with it? You're not going to sell it are you?" Says Gareth

"I would have to know how much it's worth first before I think of doing that, but I don't know, I think I'll keep it" Says Don.

"You can all crash back at my place tonight if you like, before you decide to get going" Sharan says

"And what about us?" Says Delilah

"I don't know, you could be my pets" Sharan Says

They arrive back at Sharan's house. The cassowaries check out the stone when it lights up extremely luminously and the three Cassowaries become consumed by a magic spell. It is then that they realise that they can fly. Even Lilly. They go outside and begin to fly into the sky.

"I'm flying! I'm flying" Exclaims Lilly

"This is amazing!" Says Delilah

"This is awesome!" Says Crusty

They all fly and swoop around as Don and Sally have a glass of wine on the back patio

"What an adventure it's been" Says Sally

"Thank you for this" Says Don

"For what?"

"For giving me that push, I was wasting away with my job. I'm happy I met you. This is the adventure I've waited my entire life for!"

"Well I have always found your obsession for adventure intriguing." She says with a smile on her face

They begin to hold hands. The sun sets on the mountains in the distance.

CHAPTER 10

1 Year Later...

Don and Sally are clinking their glasses sitting in their beachside hut in Fiji. Don is drinking an exotic cocktail with a piece of pineapple in it with colors of yellow, green and purple. Sally is drinking a glass of Chardonnay looking at the waves.

"This is the life, isn't it" Sally says

"Yeah, it sure is. Good thing I didn't sell that stone. It's in the Queensland Museum where it belongs. And besides, those talking flying cassowaries have become the #1 new tourist attraction for Cairns, the public can't get enough of them!" Says Don

"I'm glad you gave the credit to Sharan and Gareth for rescuing those people, very noble." Says Sally

They both stare at the sunset and they kiss.

"It was quite the adventure." Says Sally

"Yep it sure was." Says Don