

## Survivors

The tide rose and fell as the sun set on the horizon. *Clink*. “Here’s to us, for finally being able to take some time away from the office and our new yacht, The Lucky Maiden,” Landon said as he and Jenny raise their wine glasses. The Lucky Maiden was a 42 square foot white yacht with three decks that Landon and Jenny had purchased after they both got job promotions. “She sure is a beauty, isn’t she?” Landon remarks about The Lucky Maiden. The candlelight flickers in the wind as they began to eat their well-done steaks. Moonlight shined bright on the rails on the top deck. Jenny’s red dress flowed in the subtle wind and her curly dark brown hair laid evenly on her shoulders and back. She flashed Landon a smile when she saw him gazing at her. Now Landon had always been a ladies’ man. His hair was short and brown, his teeth were platinum white and perfectly aligned, and there wasn’t a blemish on his suntanned face. His perfect voice made anyone, and everyone for that matter, fall in love with him, which is exactly what Jenny did.

*Beep. Beep. Beep. Beep.* Landon stood from the small table for two and walked over to the captain’s chair and sat down. When he looked at the sonar, he realized that they were headed right for something out in the middle of the ocean. He looked out over the bow of the boat, but all he could see was what he thought was an island out ahead. Every second, it got a few feet closer. When Landon tried to turn the wheel, it locked into place! Landon pulled on it with all of his might so that he could steer away from the island, but he couldn’t. It wouldn’t even budge. As a last resort, he and Jenny put on their life jackets, just in case, and buckled up in the two front seats. Before they could brace themselves for the impact, the boat struck land.

When the boat hit the shore, Landon and Jenny got off of the boat, they saw that there was major damage to the bow of the boat, and seaweed and branches were tangled around it. “Now what are we going to do, Landon? We’re stuck!” Jenny was getting frantic. “Where are we anyway? I don’t remember seeing this island on the map,” Jenny said, half crying.

“Hun, it’s going to be okay. Let’s get back on the boat to finish eating and get some rest, and I’ll fix it in the morning. Okay?” By this time, Landon was trying to make himself believe what he was telling Jenny because he was worried as well. After debating about it for a moment, Jenny walked back toward the boat and Landon followed. When they were finished eating their dinner, they went below deck to their cabin and went to sleep. Around dawn, just when the sun was beginning to rise, Jenny woke up to find that Landon was already awake. She changed from her pink flowery pajamas into a pair of navy blue cargo shorts and a t-shirt. As soon as she tied her hair back into a ponytail, she left the cabin and went up on deck. When she got up on deck, she realized that there was a jungle at the beach’s edge. *Bang. Ding. Bong. Ding.* Jenny looked over the rail, and saw Landon with an ax chopping at the seaweed and branches closest to the sandy shore. His brown hair was slightly moving in the wind, even though it was slightly spiked in the front. His black V-neck shirt clung to his chest, and his khaki colored cargo shorts were baggy.

“Hey, you!” Jenny called to Landon, smiling. “What are you doing? Do you need my help?” Landon looked up, half surprised to see her awake this early in the morning.

“If you’re up to it,” Landon winked at Jenny. “I am trying to get through all of this brush and seaweed, so that I can see what needs to be fixed.” Landon shrugged and continued cutting through the debris. Jenny climbed down the ladder and jumped onto the ground from the end of

the ladder. Landon reached her a hand, but she didn't see it until her feet had already sunk into the sand. Since there was only one ax, Landon cut the debris and Jenny picked it up and tossed it aside into the tide.

"Hey Jen," Landon began pointing at the sand directly beside of the boat. "Look at that," Landon's face went pale as he gazed at what looked like bones lying on the shore. "Is that what I think it is?" With that, Jenny bent down beside of it and picked it up. As soon as she picked it up, she threw it back down with a scream.

"Landon! I could be wrong, but I think that is a human arm." Jenny's face dropped as she backed away from it. On that note, Landon and Jenny walked around the edges of the boat. They found more human remains. The remains were *everywhere*. "Hey Landon," Jenny began as her bottom lip quivered. "Where are we? And even better, how are we going to get off of here..." Jenny trailed off. She lowered her eyebrows and locked her jaw.

"I wish I knew..." Landon trailed off as well. He furrowed his eyebrows, and creases formed on his forehead. He had tried to stay optimistic, but his nerve was growing thinner and thinner by the minute. He didn't want to admit it to Jenny, but he was just as scared as she was. When the sun had reached its peak in the sky, Landon assumed that it was around noon, Jenny went further inland to look for food, while he stayed and tried to get the seaweed and branches off of and away from the boat. Though, he made little progress.

When Jenny returned about an hour later, she had a coconut tucked tightly between her elbow and her side, and she cupped the bottom of her shirt and had it full of mixed berries and nuts. "This is all I could find. Over there," she said pointing, "it looks like there has been a fire or something because everything is black and singed. But over there," she pointed off to the left,

“there’s some more where this came from,” she said as she showed him her findings. Landon didn’t hesitate. He laid down his ax and sprinted over to Jenny’s side. When he got to her, he got the coconut from under her elbow, and helped her get back onto the boat without dropping the berries and nuts. She noticed that his face, arms, and legs were all red. Her manicured nails brushed his arm, and he bit his lip but said nothing. A few minutes later, they finished eating and cleaned up their mess, and began to work again.

Around dusk, they finally got all of the branches, seaweed, and remains away from the boat. Since it was getting dark, they went and got more food and went to bed. When the sun rose the next morning, it was the same routine. Only this time, they were actually able to begin working on their boat. *Thump. Thump thump. Thump thump. Thump. Thump thump. Thump thump.* “Do you hear that, Jen?” Landon looked up from the boat and looked over to Jenny.

“Yeah. It sounds like a drum or something,” Jenny said calmly.

“But wait a minute. I didn’t think there was anyone else on this island?” Fear pulsed through Landon’s veins and showed in his eyes.

*Thump. Thump thump. Thump thump. Thump. Thump thump. Thump thump. THUMP. THUMP THUMP. THUMP THUMP. THUMP. THUMP THUMP. THUMP. THUMP THUMP. THUMP. THUMP THUMP.* The sounds moved closer and closer to Jenny and Landon. By this time, fear pulsed throughout both of them. They were stuck here, and something or *someone* was moving in on them. The thumps echoed in the still, unmoving air until finally, someone appeared at the edge of the shore about half a mile away. One appeared and then another. Then another. Finally, they marched down the shore towards Jenny and Landon in multiple lines. They were dressed in bear hide and wore paint on their dark tanned faces. With them, they carried hand-made bows and

arrows. They were *savages*. When the first one appeared from the jungle's edge, Jenny turned and hurried up the ladder and hopped onto the boat, and Landon followed close behind.

When the savages were about twenty feet from Landon and Jenny, they all came to an abrupt stop. Their leader, the first to appear from the jungle's edge, marched ahead of the rest and approached Jenny and Landon. Jenny had a tight grip on Landon's left hand, and Landon held her tightly. When the savage was just in front of their boat, he stopped and looked up at them. "Who may you be? And why are you on our sacred land?" The leader spoke in a deep, rough, manly voice.

Landon stuttered, "Uh. My name is Landon and hers is Jenny. We've wrecked our yacht and have been working to get it untangled and running again." The leader continued to stare sternly at them. For a split second, nobody moved an inch.

Then finally, the leader spoke up, "Well, Landon and Jenny. I see that you've gathered food from our land." At first, they thought it was rhetorical, but they soon found out that it wasn't. "Powatarks. Charge!" All of a sudden, the crowd of savages came charging at Landon and Jenny.

"Landon! Do something!" Jenny shouted. At the same time, Landon got the key to the boat and put it in the ignition. Even though he knew it wasn't completely ready to be back out on the ocean, he wasn't going to let them die here. Not like this. He was turning the key as he sat in his chair. The engine roared to life and caused the yacht to slowly slide off of the shore. *Sceeeeeeeeach*. The bottom of the boat scraped the branches and bones around and beneath it.

*Ting. Ting. Ting. Ting.* The savages shot their arrows at the fleeing boat. Arrows almost completely covered the deck floor. When Landon turned around, the savages had begun to retreat

back into their jungle, and Landon and Jenny were thankful to be off of the island... Until they realized that they were still lost.