

## The Mysterious Island

Xavier woke up with a throbbing head. It felt as if he had been hit by a great mallet. His heart banged like a cymbal against his delicate ribcage. He couldn't remember anything. Then he saw the wreckage of his beloved cruiser. It hit him so suddenly it was like a mountainous wave had crashed on him. Xavier remembered swimming for shore before blacking out. He racked his brains but it seemed to him that he had been brain-washed by the vast Pacific.

He saw smoke billowing into the titanic sky above him. He scanned the horizon looking for the source of fire. Where there's fire, there are people he suddenly thought! Then he saw a little hut further down the beach. He cautiously entered the small hut. It was quite recently built, he guessed to himself. "Guys," he called. No answer. He tried again but this time a raspy voice cut the air like a knife through butter.

"You will find your friends in the cave of darkness," said a mysterious figure as dark smoke filled the air.

Xavier stumbled towards the cave where he saw his friends tied up. Rose's body was limp. Jill and Steve were writhing around trying to get out of the mess. Their arms were bleeding and faces were scarred. Xavier looked horror-struck!! The treacherous smoke evaporated as if it wasn't there. He screamed to his precious friends, but no answer.

He woke up and he realised that he was drenched in his own sweat. His shirt looked as if he had a dip in the sea. The mysterious hut had disappeared along with the unexplained smoke. When Xavier stood up, he fell down again. Then he realised that he had been tied to the floor by some spikey vines. His jeans were soaked in sweat. He searched for something, anything that might get him out of this prickly situation. The bushes rustled! Xavier's head snapped round and then there were more rustles! He was defenceless. He stared around him looking for something to defend himself with. Out of the bushes a creature jumped out-although it wasn't a creature, but a tribes-boy.

The boy was dressed in an animal skin, old and worn with little holes here and there, he had a shock of chocolate-coloured hair and electric blue eyes that pierced your skull: his crooked smile made Xavier feel uneasy; his bare feet looked as hard as rock and his nose was as bent as twisted wire. He was also holding a sword that was made of pure gold that glittered in the sun; the hilt was covered in exquisite stones. The boy looked as if he was about the same age as Xavier. He raised his sword and... He cut the ferocious vines in half. Xavier did not know why but he was surprised and shocked. The boy offered his hand and they both went to find and free Xavier's friends.