

## CHAPTER 1

### The Eye of Shangri-La

It was a beautiful spring afternoon in Oxfordshire, England. The year was 1946. The fat fish swam slowly along the river. Rick O'Connell watched it.

'You can run, but you can't hide,' he said.



Rick was in his early forties. He was slim and good-looking. He was also a great adventurer who travelled the world. But he wasn't very good at fishing. When he threw his line into the water, it caught in his hair. 'Oww!' he shouted. He took out his gun and shot the fish.

Rick drove home in his new car to his big house in the country. Rick was very rich. He was also very bored.

'Evy!' he shouted. 'I'm home!' Rick's wife, Evy, was a writer of adventure stories.

'Mrs O'Connell is out,' said the cook.

'Where is she?' asked Rick.

'She's signing books in London. She'll be home for dinner.'

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Later that evening, Rick and Evy were having dinner. It was fish.

'Isn't this nice?' Evy said. 'A quiet dinner at home.'

'Yes, great,' agreed Rick. 'Except that it's a quiet dinner every night. Aren't you bored, Evy?'

'Well, I haven't got any ideas for my new book,' said Evy. 'I always write about our adventures. But we haven't had an adventure for a long time. I've got nothing to write about.'

'Hmm ...' said Rick.

'And I'm a bit worried about Alex,' she said. 'We still haven't had a letter from him.'

'He only writes when he needs money,' said Rick. Rick and his son, Alex, did not always agree about things.

'That's not true, Rick,' said Evy. 'He's probably very busy with his studies.'

'Busy with his studies? Our son?' said Rick. 'You're joking!'

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The next afternoon, a man from the British secret police came to visit them.

'We want to thank you for your work in Egypt,' he said. 'And we have one more job for you ... if you agree.'

Evy looked at Rick.

'What is it?' they asked.

'It's very easy,' the man said. He put a small box on the table. 'We want you to take this to the museum in Shanghai. I believe the boss, Roger Wilson, is an old friend of yours?' He opened the box and took out a blue diamond. Evy knew the diamond at once. It was the most beautiful diamond in the world.

'Oh!' shouted Evy. 'It's the Eye of Shangri-La! If you