

A GOOD FIND

"Whop whop whop whop" that was the sound of the chopper I used to get to South Africa. I was flying with my right-hand girl Emma. We were heading to the caves to search for Neolithic artifacts. Neolithic is a time from the stone age about 12,000 years ago. It was during the Neolithic period that people developed agriculture as their primary food source. "Down here looks good," I said. She landed the chopper right where I pointed. I jumped down and took in the great smell of another country. My name is Jen I am an archaeologist, that means I search for ancient artifacts. I love my job. We met up with Jack. Jack was going to give us a special terrain vehicle so we wouldn't have to walk in this heat. We said hello then walked around the building to the garage. In the garage, we found a big yellow vehicle that looked like a truck with bigger wheels.

Jack gave us bottles of water and some sandwiches we thanked him and rode off. We have been on the road for about half an hour now I have seen elephants and one gazelle. We decided to take a break parked the vehicle and sat down under a baobab tree. We drank water and took some bites of our sandwich. After a snack, we got back on track. Emma drove while I did calculations on where caves might be. We were close to the house we rented. I saw lights and the silhouette of a hut. When we got there the hut looked bigger than from farther away. We unpacked the luggage from the truck and went inside. Jack actually owns this house so we got the keys from him earlier. We found some food in the fridge. We had carrots and rice for dinner. After dinner, I was pretty burned out so I hit the hay.

In the morning when I woke up I found a giraffe sticking his head through my window I laughed and gave him a little pet. I pet him because this was no ordinary giraffe this was Jerry. I met Jerry when I first came to see South Africa, he is a kind animal and harmless. When I got out of bed and dressed. Emma had some scrambled eggs ready. We ate fast then hit the road. We have been driving for 3 hours now with a lunch break in between. We saw elephants, giraffes gazelle, and a few lions. Finally, we saw it. A cave.

I went in first then Emma followed. As we entered the cave everything became colder and there was a musky smell that filled the cave. Back home I do a lot of spelunking but exploring a cave you haven't explored yet is a great feeling. It is a great feeling because you never know what you might find. We walked on keeping an eye out for any stalactites or stalagmites. (stalactites and stalagmites are pointy rocks that hang and stand in caves.) We have helmets just in case but getting hit by one can really hurt. As we walk on I began to hear a hissing sound. The sound got louder and louder until we are face to face with a black mamba.

I tried not to panic even though we were two feet away from one of the most deadly snakes ever! We don't know what to do. Emma has a gun but that could be dangerous. However, we are also in danger so shooting the snake is the best bet. I whisper to Emma to shoot the snake she nods like she already thought of that. She pulls out the gun and POW! The snake is down. I feel bad and I will bury the snake tomorrow. After Emma makes sure the snake is dead she picks it up and puts it in her pack. After she picks up the snake we spot something amazing.

I kneel down and grab a brush out of my backpack. After brushing away some dust I can see that we found a Neolithic spear. I am thrilled. The spear is on a long stick with a sharp pointy seashell at the end. Emma kneels down too and by looks of her face, I can see she is thrilled as well. I pick it up and examine it. There is some paint on the sides of it. After looking more closely I can tell that the red paint is not paint, its dried blood.

After picking up the spear Emma and I decide to get out of the cave. We get out of the cave and immediately I am hot again. We hop into our vehicle and head back to the hut. halfway there the spear slips out of my hand and into the dirt. That neolithic spear is lost in the African savanna. I jump out and start looking for it. it couldn't have gotten far I think. I go look over by a baobab tree. I didn't know it at the time but apparently, some lion cub snatched the spear and brought it back to his mom. After I looked by the baobab tree I spotted it. But it wasn't going to be easy to get it back from a lion's jaws.

I can't kill a lion so Emma and I will have to wait for the pack to move which could take hours. We waited and waited and waited and waited some more. finally, at sunset, we heard the sound of hooves stomping. a heard of oryx were stampeding. That's prime food for lions. And just our luck the mother lion motioned for the cubs to hide well she goes hunting. The cubs run to safety and that's our cue we run as fast as we can grab the spear and jump into the vehicle. and drive off. I held tight to the spear all the way back. When we got back I was so tired that I skipped dinner and just had an apple. After that, I crashed on my cot and dozed off in the blink of an eye. Jerry was there to greet me in the morning I petted him again and got up. Emma had celebratory pancakes ready for breakfast. We clanked our orange juice glasses together happy that we completed our mission.

At two pm we went back to Jack to return his vehicle. Once again we thanked him for letting us borrow it and showed him the spear before we left. We jumped into the chopper Emma turned the key. But I stopped her and remembered that we have to bury the snake first.

We hop out and go under a baobab tree and dig a hole. Emma lays the snake in it and fills in the hole. We thank the snake for protecting the spear and for helping us find it. We grab the spear then hop back into the chopper and fly off.