

I woke up in the morning to Quew, my pet Grey Crow pounding on the palm fronds of the roof of the hut with a large stone in her mouth. I called for her to be quiet, and got out of bed. It was a beautiful day, the sun rising golden over the turquoise ocean water, the Chak-lucks¹ singing, and the Blue Pheasants starting to peck at the ground for worms. Through the trees I could see White Noddies gliding over the water from Tern Island, an island south of Medium. Surrounding the main island of Medium were smaller islets including Pointed Island, where the Green Turtles rest, and Tree Island, where the Macaque monkeys swarm in the trees. Next there was Curved Island, where perfect sand dollars littered the sand. Then there were Hawkeye and Spot Island, where wild cats, undomesticated Blue Pheasants, and Red Wolves live. Also there was Fish Island, which had the best fishing. Finally, there were a few rocks poking up from the sea floor, named Cormorant Rock and Flower Boulder.

My dad had gone out spearfishing at Fish Island at first sun ray². I saw my mom through the window made of a clear shell never found whole. She was selling an assortment of things on the side of the leaf-covered road. On a foldable stand of cherry wood my mother arranged Blue Pheasant eggs, blocks of Palm wood, some fish and lizard fillets, and a beautiful Spotted Eagle feathers for sale. I saw my two friends, Coral and Jarka, walking down the road together, and I rushed to meet them.

Coral said excitedly, "Ora! Ora! I saw one of those gray bird things the crazy people talk about!"

"Where? Maybe it's still there!" I said.

"It's not there anymore. It didn't even perch on a branch!" said Coral.

"Tell her what it looked like," said Jarka, turning towards Coral.

"It looked like it didn't flap its wings, and it looked like it was constantly pooping out clouds!" Coral giggled.

¹ Chak-lucks are a type of bird, similar to a finch.

² First Sun Ray means very early in the morning.