

Striking Rich

By Matthew



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By Matthew Lastine
Chapter 1

One day I was lying in my very messy bed. I was having very good dreams about adventure and getting as rich as a billionaire. Then my mom had to ruin my dreams.

She shouted, “Wake up Jason it’s May 21st, the last day of school!”

I woke very startled and groaned. I really just wanted it to be summer now so I could sleep in and do pretty much nothing. Then, I went downstairs and ate seven huge pancakes with eggs.

My mom said, “I made a special breakfast for you because it’s the end of the school year.”

I mumbled, “Thanks” and then went out to my junkie car. I started it up turned on the radio and sped off to Maxson City High School. Then, I got my books out of my extremely dirty and stinky locker and I went to my favorite class with my friend.

At the end of the school day I ran out of school building, started jumping up and down, and ran to my car. I knew the behavior was pretty childish, but I did it anyway. While I was running I screamed to my friend, Alex, “See you tomorrow!” I sped home as fast as I could and saw my uncle’s pickup sitting there in the driveway. I thought he

was just there to say hi, but I was way wrong. When I came in, I gave my Uncle Jake a big hug. He was a bigger man and usually he was thinking when his next meal would be. He has thinning brown hair and a small mustache. He wore his typical blue jeans and gray t-shirt. I asked why he was here.

He said, "Nephew, I know you're only fifteen but I need you to come on some exploring with me. I've asked quite a few people but they won't come with me because they say it's too dangerous. I already talked to your mom about it, so it's up to you."

I exclaimed, "Sure! Where would we go? Volcano Boom, the Rocky Mountains?"

He replied, "No, we're going to Meede's diamond and gold mine to try to get rich. It will be very dangerous."

I was quite surprised that he said that, but I didn't think it would be that bad, so I said yes. Also, I was very excited about the getting rich part.

My uncle suggested, "We should probably leave Monday morning."

I packed all weekend. Even though I stuffed all my stuff in my biggest suitcase, it still wouldn't fit, so I had to take some stuff out. We decided to go to Meede Island by boat instead of plane because it was cheaper. I got on the boat with Uncle Jake and waved goodbye to my parents. The next day we went to eat breakfast. What my uncle and I ate was mushy, gray and tasted worse than anything you could imagine. But, we still ate it. Later that day we hit a big storm.

The captain ordered, “Passengers get downstairs.”

The worst thing is that the storm made the boat rock and the mush I had eaten earlier that morning was coming up and out of my stomach.

After a terrible night, shore was finally in sight and the storm stopped. We unloaded our stuff.

My uncle hollered, “What a night!”

We started down the path to the diamond and gold mine that you could hardly see because not very many people go there at all. We trudged along for a long while without stopping. Finally in the evening we stopped. My uncle started to prepare some food while I set up the tents.

My uncle said, “We better get a good night sleep but don’t sleep too soundly. The tree house village is right around this area. At that village there are savages that hate white men. We need to stay alert.”

I mumbled, “Okay” and went to sleep. Early that night I heard a sound. It was a small rustle in the brush and I thought it was nothing. A little later I woke up again. I looked over to my right side and saw a few shadows, and decided to wake up my uncle.

My uncle groaned, “What do you want?”

I replied, “I saw a few shadows that looked like men and some of our supplies are gone!”

That woke my uncle up with a start. We tried to chase down the invaders but they had weapons so we decided to lay off. We had very little supplies so it was easy to get to the mine in the morning. I said, "At least they didn't take our pick axes." But my uncle wasn't in the mood to talk. Later that day we arrived at the mine. We started working right away. After a while my uncle asked if I found anything.

I said, "No" then started working again. Just then I struck pure luck. Right there in front of me I saw a huge gold nugget and a few decent sized diamonds! I started jumping up and down and yelling, "Look what I found uncle, look what I found!!!" But just then five men from the tree house village had guns right up against our backs. I fainted and hit my head hard on a big rock.

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