

A Strange Island

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Around a year ago, I went on an expedition to explore foreign lands. I was enthusiastic and wanted to explore, though I was not expecting anything like what I found. This is the story of my adventures.

I started out on my journey by ship, but a violent storm overtook us and we were blown off course. A few days later, I found myself shipwrecked on an island, but I couldn't see any signs of my ship or crew. Fortunately, I still had my rucksack strapped onto my back, however the food was spoiled. I decided to head into the island to see if there was any inhabitants there. After I had trudged through the forest about a half mile, I began to see a village. As I got closer to investigate, I noticed that the town seemed to be united, but something seemed to be separating select houses from others.

Some of the houses were made of stone, and they resembled dark caves. These houses also each had large metal gates surrounding them. The gates each had at least five stone locks securing them shut, like the inhabitants didn't want any contact with the outside world. The dark houses inside the enclosed area also had numerous locks chained to the door. It must have taken the owners quite a long time to get out of the house, but part of me thought that was intended. I tried to investigate the insides of these peculiar homes, only to find that the only windows were in the tallest parts of the house, and even those had black curtains and shutters enclosing them.

After a while of trying to investigate the house more, I gave up and started walking towards the brighter homes. As I walked closer, I started to hear voices and I saw a group of people around the brightest, loudest, and biggest house. At first I thought they were just normal people, but then I noticed that they were all wearing the same clothes and had their hair in ponytails. They were also all huddled around one girl (we'll call her Queen), who was wearing the same clothes as everyone else, but she seemed to be in charge of them. As I got closer to the strange group, I realized that the other people around Queen were copying everything she did. She tossed her hair, and then a sea of hair tossed like a wave around her. She coughed, and it sounded like the whole earth had a cold. She pointed at someone, and everyone started laughing and jeering at them. After a while of this domino effect going around the driveway, Queen clapped her hands for silence (which of course was followed by applause from her admirers) and marched down the walkway to the loud house. Once she got to the house, Queen

turned around and stood next to a measuring stick attached to the front doorway of the house. Everyone else stood in a straight line in front of Queen and were called in turn to her side. Queen then measured the person and then either sent them away because they were taller than her, or added planks of wood to their shoes to make them the same height. After everyone had finished this process, they marched inside the house and Queen slammed the door shut. I crept toward the house to investigate more.

When I was stranded on the strange island, it was around the time of the Christmas season. Though I didn't think much of it then, I noticed that the decorations around the bright homes didn't refer to Christmas, or any holiday for that matter. They mostly read "Happy Holidays."

After I had seen all these strange things, I saw one of my crew mates running towards me.

"I found a ship we can use to get home! I can't find any of the others, so we should leave now." he said. I agreed, and we quickly left the island and sailed home.

When we got back, no one would believe the things we said about the island.