Berlin
1858.

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF. MY NAME IS ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT AND I AM THE MOST FAMOUS SCIENTIST AND EXPLORER IN THE WORLD.

I'M NINTY NINETY YEARS OLD. I'VE TRAVELED THE WORLD AND WRITTEN SO MANY BOOKS THAT IT ESCAPES ME HOW MANY THERE ARE.

SO... MY TRAVELS... WELL, I LEFT EUROPE IN 1847, WHEN I WAS TWENTY-NINE YEARS OLD AND WE Set ON A DARING EXPLORATION TO SOUTH AMERICA... IF AN OLD MAN MAY BE ALLOWED TO TRAVE his OWN WINDS... FOR A MOMENT TO MY SURPRIZE KING CARLOS IV OF SPAIN GAVE ME PERMISSION TO EXPLORE HIS COLONIES IN SOUTH AMERICA.

IT MIGHT HAVE ALSO HELPED THAT I EMPHASIZED MY EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ON PRECIOUS METALS AND MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AS A MINING INSPECTOR IN TASMA.

BUT, SORRY, I'M DEPRESSING... BACK TO MY EXPLORATION. I SPENT HALF OF MY TIME IN THE VAJ IN THE AND THE OTHER HALF ON MY PUBLICATIONS IN THE FIVE DECADES SINCE MY RETURN TO EUROPE, I'VE PUBLISHED SEVERAL MUSEUMS, BOOKS ON PLANT GEOGRAPHY, GEOLoGY, .....

... BUT I'VE NEVER TOLD THE STORY OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN SOUTH AMERICA.
AT THE END OF MARCH, ALMOST TWO MONTHS AFTER WE LEFT CABACEAS, WE REACH A REMOTE CAFÉ IN MISSION IN SAN FERNANDO DE AREZ ON THE RIO AREZ WHERE THE MONKS SELL US A BOAT. MY TEAM IS SMALL - BONIFACIO AND IDO, OF COURSE, AND THEN FOUR INDIANS TO PADDLE AND ONE PILOT TO STEER THE BOAT. AND, I ALMOST FORGER, WE FOUND A STRANG EGG IN THE MISSION. WE FOLLOWED US AROUND AND WE DECIDE TO ADOPT HIM, WE NAME HIM PAPA. WE ALSO PURCHASED CRICKETS, EGGS, DANANAS, CASSAVA KNOTS, ORANGES, THE POPULAR FRUIT OF THE TAHANING TREE AND SWEET - PROVISIONS THAT WILL LAST US FOR FOUR WEEKS. WE WILL HAVE TO Rely ON WHAT WE CATCH - WE HAVE FISHING BOATS, HUNTS, AND INDIAN GUIDES. I'M HUNGRY FOR ADVENTURE AS IF THESE TWO WAYS WERE FOR ADVENTURE. MYNE, BIRDS, TURTLES, AND FISH, WE JUST NEED TO CATCH THEM AND TELL THE INDIANS. I'M SO EXCITED TO FINALLY BEGIN OUR REAL ADVENTURES. WE'RE GOING TO EXPLORE THE GRINGO AND ITS NETWORK OF INDIANIES. I'M DETERMINED TO FIND THE CASIQUE AT THE RIVER. BACAW!
I WANT... NO, I NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AROUND ME AND WANT TO DISCOVER HOW EVERYTHING IN NATURE IS CONNECTED AND SO WE SLOWLY PADDLE TOWARDS THE JAGUAR. BUT WHEN IT HEARS THE NOISE OF THE OARS, IT DISAPPEARS INTO THE UNDERGROWTH. DELIGHTED BY THIS TURN OF EVENTS, THE VULTURES BEGIN FEASTING ON THE DEAD CAPYBARA. BUT NOT FOR LONG, THE JAGUAR SUDDENLY REAPPEARS WITH ONE BIG LEAP, IT PLUNGES INTO THE GROUP OF VULTURES AND DRAGS THE CAPYBARA INTO THE JUNGLE.
A few days on the Aérean river, we reached the flood where our pilot liked to show off with daring maneuvers.

We didn't drown and amazingly, I only lost one sock... but those water-stained pages in my diary will always remind me of that day.

I can swim

If the crocodiles and snakes don't kill us first.

We're going to drown.

It's not the end of the world, Ma'dam.
A few days after our accident we arrive at the last mission. Before the missionaries arrive, we prepare the area. Our boat is too big for the river, but the missionaries tell us it's a smaller canoe - a nice place to join us.

As we penetrate deeper into the forest, the water gets wilder and flooding camps is increasingly challenging.

Night 1: We sleep on granite boulders in the middle of the river, and the bats that ride in the cracks keep us awake.

Night 2: We try to sleep on a rock at an angle and spend all night checking that no one slips into the river.

Night 3: A storm almost steals our canoe.

The monkeys show us some animals. They're very clever.
ON 23 MARCH 1803, A LITTLE MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER
WE HAD LEFT GUADELOUPE, WE LANDED IN ACAPULCO... THEN
WE MADE THE ARDUOUS TREK ACROSS THE RUGGED SIERRA
MAURA DEB SUIR TO MEXICO CITY.

Tableau physique de la pente Occidentale du Plateau de la Nouvelle Espagne
(Chemins de Mexico à Acapulco)
Pressé & après des mesures Bureométriques prises en 1803 par M. de Humboldt.
The winds pound our vessel, it's absolutely terrifying...
Even the old sailors fear for their lives.

If all this wind storm were engineered, I have never seen winds this high,
I've been at sea since the age of eleven but I've never experienced anything like this.

Where is our rudder? If we die today, I want to be drunk.

They must be at least 100 feet.

Have you seen the door come?

There is so much water in the sala, I fear we will have to swim through it.

And there goes our dinner... 

And the last bit of food, I'm so sad...

Let's go inside.