

7 -The lost Continent

In Chapter 7 of "The Lost Continent," the survivors face a grim reality after losing their launch, crucial for their survival in the hostile and uncharted world they find themselves in. The disappearance of the launch along with Snider and the young woman, Victory, leaves the group in despair, embodied particularly in Taylor's dejected demeanor. Despite their dire situation, the narrator, who holds a position of authority and responsibility, resolves to maintain hope and encourage his companions, proposing a plan to pursue and recover the launch by taking advantage of their knowledge of the terrain, navigating shortcuts, and relying on their maps and compasses.

Their journey downstream is driven by a mix of hope and necessity, as they debate what justice would look like for Snider, the deserter and traitor, should they recapture him. The narrator grapples with his own conflicting emotions towards Victory, unable to rationalize his concern and feelings for someone from such a starkly different world and status.

Unexpectedly, while resting after a challenging day, they spot the launch adrift on the river. The group splits, with some swimming out to reclaim the vessel, only to discover Snider dead inside, a victim of what appears to be a violent struggle and defense by Victory, indicated by a knife wound and a strand of her hair clutched in Snider's hand. Snider's demise provokes no sympathy; he is buried unceremoniously by the river, his actions deemed inexcusable and beastlike.

The survivors decide to search for Victory, motoring up the river and calling out for her in hopes of a reunion. Despite a significant effort that unveils a clue in the form of a recent campfire, Victory's whereabouts remain a mystery. As they deliberate their next move, the narrator is suddenly ambushed by unseen assailants, illustrating the

persistent dangers of this lost continent and setting the stage for further challenges.

This chapter encapsulates the bleakness of their situation, the determination to survive, the moral quandaries faced by the group, and the unpredictable nature of their environment, all while maintaining an undercurrent of hope and the complex human emotions that accompany their struggle for survival and understanding.

