



# The Dominica Island Explorers

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High up in the lush green hills of Dominica, ten-year-old Keliyah, her eleven-year-old sister Shannara, and their bright cousin Kermael adjusted their backpacks. Their dark braided hair swayed gently in the tropical breeze as Miss Southwell handed them a mysterious, worn trail map. The Nature Island was calling, and their grand Caribbean adventure was just beginning.



Following Miss Southwell along a winding rainforest trail, the children marvelled at the towering trees and vibrant tropical flowers. A colorful Sisserou parrot flapped its bright purple and green wings high above in the emerald canopy, squawking a cheerful welcome. Kermael whipped out his notebook to sketch the rare bird while Keliyah and Shannara grinned with delight.



The path led them to the shimmering Emerald Pool, where a sparkling waterfall cascaded down smooth black rocks into a clear basin. Sunlight filtered through dense palm fronds, turning the water a breathtaking shade of green. The trio slipped off their boots and dipped their feet into the refreshing natural pool, laughing as tiny river fish darted around their toes.



Deeper into the island's interior, Miss Southwell led the young explorers into the misty Valley of Desolation. Wisps of white steam rose from natural vents in the earth, and warm mineral springs bubbled merrily around the rocky path. Shannara held the map tight while Keliyah carefully traced their route past the steaming ground.



At the edge of the Boiling Lake, a cloud of vapor parted to reveal greyish-blue water churning like a giant natural cauldron. The children stood in awe on the safety of the rocky cliff, feeling gentle heat on their faces as Miss Southwell explained the volcanic wonders beneath their feet. Kermael marvelled at how alive the earth felt beneath their boots.



Transitioning from mountains to coast, Miss Southwell brought the group down to the black sand shore of Number One Beach. Dark volcanic sand glistened under the bright sun, contrasting vividly with turquoise waves curling onto the shore. Keliyah and Shannara built a giant sand castle decorated with polished river stones, while Kermael searched for smooth sea shells.



Boarding a wooden boat guided by a friendly local captain, the three adventurers sailed out into the calm, deep ocean off the coast. Miss Southwell pointed out toward the open sea just as a magnificent sperm whale crested the surface, spouting a tall mist cloud into the sunny sky. The children gasped in total wonder at the gentle giant of the deep.



In the afternoon, they hiked up to Trafalgar Falls, standing before the famous twin waterfalls crashing down mossy basalt cliffs into the river below. Cool water spray refreshed their sun-warmed skin as the roaring waters resonated through the valley. The trio struck a triumphant pose with Miss Southwell, feeling like true mountain explorers.



As twilight approached, Miss Southwell led them into a bustling village market filled with sweet mangoes, passionfruit, and warm island spices. Friendly locals greeted the children as they sampled fresh sugarcane and sweet coconut water directly from the shell. Their dark braids bounced as they tapped their feet to the lively rhythms of traditional music filling the air.



At sunset, gathered on a grassy hilltop overlooking the vast ocean, Keliyah, Shannara, and Kermael opened their adventure journals to record their journey. Miss Southwell smiled proudly at the brave trio as the sky painted itself in brilliant shades of orange and violet. They knew this was only the first of many wild adventures on their beautiful island home.