

## preface

The country of Belize exists, and although this story is a work of fiction, it was inspired by actual places, characters, and events which shaped the experience of the author in real life. Can that which is rooted in fact be more bizarre than fiction? Yes, indeed. For the hand of destiny, with its proclivity for unseemly twists and playful ironies, writes that which no mortal can imagine or foretell.

Many years ago I saw a cartoon in a newspaper in which two people stood together in a deep valley. Each slope posted a different sign – one pointed the way to “A Meaningful Life” and the other to “An Indifferent Existence.” The caption below read, "Funny, isn't it? No matter which way you go, it's still uphill."

This story is about a woman who equates a meaningful life with an adventurous one. Few people search for adventure in the classic sense of jungles and waterfalls, since most are content to remain in comfortable surroundings familiar since childhood, preferring to seek their rewards through traditional vocations such as the trades or the corporate world. But it must be remembered that, either way, the path still leads uphill. Neither alternative can guarantee a rich and satisfying life. Nor will either preclude the prospect of utter boredom.

In the springtime of youth when the path beckons and the passion for life runs hot, who can then foresee which choices will assure our mortal happiness and spiritual fulfillment?