

It was cold and foggy morning, the day Sonya Graham's airship for island explorations was finally supplied, manned and ready to take off. It was this world first ship to travel in air too. One could say it was her creation. She was a driven person by a vision of making entirety of this world mankind's home. Though much of land in this world was in form of numerous islands located in quiet shallow ocean waters. The most of the ocean that was making this world was actually boiling volcanic waters sometimes filled with poisonous chemical air bubbles venting from local eruptions of molten lava. This was making even air trips over the undiscovered sea a dangerous business. The business to which Sonya was preparing her entire life through scholarship with the most prominent research minds of this world. There was no scientific extreme she was not prepared to risk in experimentation to achieve her life's lasting goal. To bend this world under thumb of mankind. Though it was a pretty lonely life. It was her choice however. Not that she was not attractive woman. She had a large share of admirers, but she made her choices. She checked upon her crew, a pretty unhappy bunch to leave their home island. They were to leave behind people they cared about. Not she. This ship was her home. She gave order to first officer "lose the hawsers and commence the take off". The mission was to fly boldly over impassable parts of sea to discover remote and odd lone islands, where no man landed yet. Sonya was full of excitement to see the unknown. Three weeks passed of air travel. It was boring. The small chunks of land her airship passed over were scorched patches of molten lava sizzling with boiling water evaporating into air. She had to make couple adjustments to her ship's course few times as well for weird large yellow clouds slowly descending into sea. She was happy they did not block her ability to travel forward into the unknown. A sailor on the watch finally announced something green to be visible on the horizon. She was about break her daily routine of sailing. Her first discovery! The island was tiny. It was actually just a grass covered rock sticking out of sea. Disappointment combined with discovery of something strange. Someone was to this rock before! There were signs of a typical jolly geologist encampment. As it was impossible to sail over here in a regular ship, she was engaged in new puzzle. Who? How? Why? Entire week passed. She found few more green barren rocks sticking out of sea, before spotting the extraordinary geologist. He was traveling on a heavily modified catamaran boat. Designed to float over hot waters then to haul any cargo. The geologist was astonished by the meet. His mission for last 6 years was to find the extra iron deposit, which his major desperately desired. During these travels he mapped quite large areas of ocean, but he was unlucky in finding the extra iron deposit. He offered her to come with him to meet the major, who was the brain behind his exploration. She was intrigued, so agreed. She traveled with jolly geologist back to his home island and met this lord. He was an open minded, scientifically oriented and capable administrator of his island. Though he saw his youth some time ago, she found him still pretty attractive and intriguing. To great relief of her crew she decided to stage on his island her exploration base... For now at least.