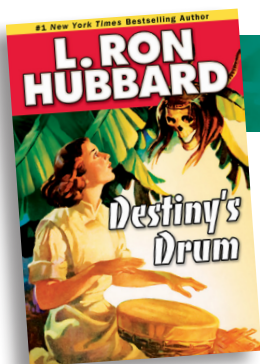


About the Author: L. Ron Hubbard



With 19 *New York Times* bestsellers and more than 325 million copies of his works in circulation, L. Ron Hubbard is among the most acclaimed and widely read authors of our time. As a leading light of American Pulp Fiction through the 1930s and '40s, he is further among the most influential authors of the modern age. Indeed, from Ray Bradbury to Stephen King, there is scarcely a master of imaginative tales who has not paid tribute to L. Ron Hubbard.



About the Story

Former Captain Phil Sheridan, soldier, adventurer and man of fortune—having accepted a dangerous mission in exchange for his own life, finds himself on the long-forgotten Indonesian island of Kamling.

Falling into the hands of a bloodthirsty tribe led by a notorious slave trader known as Portuguese Joe, Sheridan soon finds himself in deep trouble—facing a sudden end with the help of a firing squad. But smooth talking Sheridan has other plans. The island is home to a hidden fortune in gold and a gold miner's beautiful daughter, and he means to walk away alive and with both in hand.

The odds are definitely not in his favor—will his plans succeed or will he, like many others on the island before him, come to a very violent and sudden end?

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Reading Discussion Guide

Destiny's Drum

by L. RON HUBBARD



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1. The person in charge has the group read the glossary, a word at a time, encouraging anyone who wished to discuss any of the words to raise their hand. Once the glossary has been completed and all have been given the opportunity to discuss any definition they wish, the group is advised to note down any word he or she does not understand so they can be looked up in a dictionary at the end of the reading.
2. What images went through your mind when you read the opening paragraph: "Jose Emanuel Batista's voice flowed on like a river of crude oil—conversational, ingratiating in spite of the portent of his words."
3. What was your impression of Sheridan's character after you read the way he handled what looked like his imminent death at the hands of a Portuguese firing squad?
4. Can you think of any present day islands that are forgotten outposts of colonial rule, like the Indonesian island of Kamling in this story?
5. Did you think that Patsy Kilton's story of how she got to be on the island was true and how important is her character's role in the overall plot?
6. There are many points in the story where the Kamling natives are alluded to as cannibals. Is it real that an Indonesian island would have tribes that were cannibals at the time depicted in this story and, if so, do you think they still exist today?
7. Did reading *Destiny's Drum* make you want to find out more about Indonesia and its culture and its many different people?
8. How much does superstition play a part in the story and what is your opinion on such matters as charms, native gods and supernatural phenomena?
9. How did the dynamics of the action change once Portuguese Joe got possession of the dynamite? How important do you consider the invention of dynamite to have been in the survival, or not, of mankind?
10. What was your reaction at the point in the story when Sheridan reveals he was sent to the island to kill Patsy's father and return his body to Shanghai?
11. Did you feel that in the end justice was served when the truth was revealed and Portuguese Joe is felled by Abboo-Tabak's spear?
12. What part of the story left the biggest impression with you?
13. Was the glossary a help to you in understanding the story and what new words did you learn that you could use in your daily life?

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