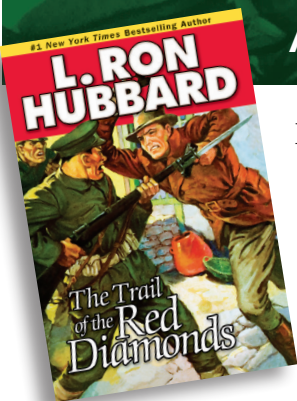


About the Author: L. Ron Hubbard



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



Lieutenant Jonathan Daly's life is about to get a lot more interesting and a whole lot more dangerous—a high stakes game with rewards beyond his wildest dreams at one end and death at the other.

A chance encounter with an original manuscript of Marco Polo's travels to China, opens a trail leading to Kublai Khan's fabled burial site and a

long-lost treasure—glittering rare red diamonds meant to light the way to heaven and serve as an offering to the gods.

Will the Lieutenant be able to overcome criminals, secret agents and the force of the entire Chinese army or will millions of dollars worth of rare gems slip through his fingers like grains of sand?

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Reading Discussion Guide

The Trail of the Red Diamonds

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. At the beginning of the story we find that the person that lent the storyteller the original manuscript didn't know its value and laughed at him when he was told. Then follows: "...I didn't need his help; but even so, I had him lined up for a cut in the event of success." What did you conclude from this and do you think this played any role in the remainder of the story?
3. What did you know about Marco Polo and Kublai Khan before reading this story and did it make you want to learn more about them?
4. Do you agree "the beliefs of the Asiatics [the peoples of Asia] were scarcely understandable to Western minds?" Do you think this is still true today?
5. From how they are referred to in the story, what impression do you get of the British during the 1930s?
6. What loyalty could one expect from a person who sells his service to the highest bidder?
7. What images did you get from the descriptions of the parts of China the story led you through?
8. Why in the past did kings and rulers want to be buried in remote areas where no one could find them? Why do you think this is not the same in today's world?
9. How do you think McDonald was able to make it appear that the war god spoke, in order to distract Daly?
10. After he had been shot and had killed McDonald, Daly says he did not remember bandaging the hole in his side or dragging himself on to a pony and mounting it. Is that something that is real to you and have you ever had the experience of doing something you later had no recollection of doing?
11. Was it a shock that McDonald turned out to be the villain or did you see that as a possibility earlier in the story?
12. After reaching safety and recovering from the gunshot, Daly says he intends to go back with a company of fighting Americans. Do you think this time he will succeed in getting all the diamonds? If you were to write the next chapter in this adventure how would you have it turn out?
13. Did you form any opinions about the differences between American, British and Chinese cultures in the time period this story was written?
14. While keeping the same theme, how do you think this story would have been different had it taken place in today's world?
15. What part of *The Trail of the Red Diamonds* left the biggest impression with you?

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