

DEATH ON THE RIVER OF DOUBT

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S AMAZON ADVENTURE

SAMANTHA SEIPLE



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Theodore Roosevelt, 1900.

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CHAPTER 1

The Naturalist

Five Months Earlier

October 21, 1913

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, South America

Since leaving New York two and a half weeks ago, Theodore Roosevelt's steamship, *Vandyck*, had been plagued by bad weather. For the last two days, the voyage hadn't been any different as the steamer inched along the coast of Brazil. Despite this, the passengers onboard—at least the ones who weren't made seasick by the relentless rocking motion—were awed by the sight of huge porpoises and flying fish sailing out of the choppy sea as the vessel cut through the storm.

It was late at night when the city of Rio de Janeiro first came into view, and the ship finally passed the famed Sugar Loaf peak, which marked the entrance into Rio's calm natural harbor. The next morning, on October 21, Theodore Roosevelt and the other passengers woke up and looked out from the deck.