

Coming Unstuck

About 10 years ago, I went to Sri Lanka with my wife. It's a fascinating country and we had a wonderful time exploring its cities, temples and the natural world. It's a country of intense natural beauty, much wilder than we'd imagined. Everywhere you look, there seems to be something moving (bugs, lizards, spiders, monkeys etc).

Anyway, one day we headed to a hotel which was actually in the middle of the jungle. It took ages to get there because they don't have many motorways in Sri Lanka, so you have to travel by small, twisting roads. Eventually, we arrived at the hotel. It was in a beautiful setting, but completely surrounded by thick jungle and much more remote than we'd expected. It turned out to be an eco-hotel and was quite basic in terms of facilities. We were shown to our room, but within a few minutes we realised we weren't alone...there was a big lizard with us too which came darting out from under the bed. With the help of one of the hotel employees, we managed to catch it.

Dinner was a buffet with lots of different dishes. We'd been there for a little while when my wife decided to try some of the other dishes. She went up to one of the buffet tables and started to serve herself some of the food. Just as she was putting a spoonful of curry onto her plate, a big lizard fell from the ceiling and landed right in the middle of her plate! The lizard jumped off the plate and ran off in terror. My wife yelped and walked tearfully back to our table. Then one of the young waiters came over to apologise and he was also almost in tears. I sympathised with my wife and reassured the waiter, but I have to say it was quite funny.