

A Scaley Vacation

Written by KZ3

They warned Rodney not to leave the tour group during his vacation to Cancun, Mexico but he just had to get a perfect snapshot of a native reptile that was just barely a few feet away from the cross at your own risk sign. Companies pay big money for high-definition shots of exotic animals, what was the worst that could possibly happen? As he zoomed in for the shot, his focus solely on the giant lizard ahead, who was looking at him awkwardly, he didn't notice another lizard climbing up his shoe toward his ankle. He took a few snapshots and immediately felt the stinging sensation of something sharp ripping down his leg.

On instinct he yelped and hopped back and the lizard, who'd accidentally clawed him, went flying into the grass. It landed safely, though startled, and scurried away with the other reptile. Rodney looked confused but was relieved to see that his camera was still secured in his hand, despite the large cut on his leg. He decided he'd get medical attention later, it was nothing too serious and he didn't want to get into trouble with the tour guide, who already had a thick hispanic accent. Little did Rodney know that a lizard's claws can actually carry lots of bacteria, this bacteria would lead to infections if not treated soon enough, and this infection could have a wide variety of results with human DNA.

That afternoon back at his hotel, after being bandaged up, he began to feel weird. Strangely warm, even though he was in a 55 degree air conditioned room to the point of sweating as if he were outside in the 100 degree heat. He could hardly breathe, his lungs felt constricted, and after taking off most of his clothes, which were soaked with sweat, his mind raced. Air, he needed fresh air! He put on his sandals and was sure to grab his bag, if not to avoid his equipment being stolen, to make it look like he was heading to the pool, however instead of going there he went to the forest as if it were calling him. He began to notice things that he'd always taken for granted, the scent of the trees, the grassy areas, and the flowers. The feeling of the warm sun and fresh air. It was as if everything intensified! He walked further into the forest, his mind still racing, to the point where he didn't even know where he was anymore. A few hours ago if you would have told him he'd get lost in the jungle he'd have freaked out, but right now he didn't seem to care. He enjoyed it here.

He walked some more, as if the hotter air was cooling him off, when suddenly he doubled over in pain. He groaned, feeling a cramp throughout his whole body and upon looking at his hands he witnessed razor sharp black claws grow from his finger nails. Shocked, he dropped his bag and his camera fell out, rolling once and then activating it's quick start, which included a timed snap shot sequence to catch those spontaneous moments. He groaned in a mix of pain and pleasure as his body contorted and bones shifted. He fell to all fours as his feet elongated, popping and cracking and his skin

turned from smooth and peachy to orange and scaly. He opened his eyes, his senses heightening and his pupils becoming slit as a giant tail rips from the back of his shorts. He knew what was happening was extremely bizarre and unheard of, but it felt so good and comfortable to be here in this location. In this environment, his new habitat.

The camera managed to take a snapshot of him as the transformation neared its final stages, his body becoming a mix of reptile and human. It was on that day Rodney went 'missing', though the locals in nearby small towns do claim to see a giant lizard traveling throughout the jungle. While many think they're exaggerating about the size of it, they swear they're telling the truth and any investigation into this claim comes up empty, though they do find a set of large reptilian tracks every now and again.