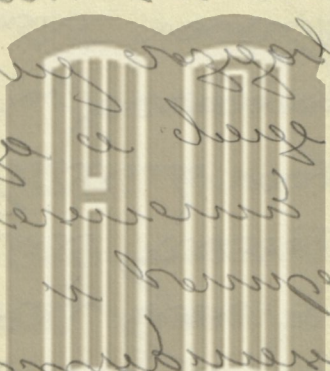


The first thing I noticed  
 when I stepped out  
 of the car was the  
 humidity. It was  
 sticky and oppressive,  
 clinging to my skin  
 like a second layer.  
 The air was thick with  
 the scent of tropical  
 flowers and wet earth.  
 I had heard that the  
 weather was perfect,  
 but this was something  
 entirely different.



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