

The Son of Tarzan

By EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

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THE SWEDES BUY MERIEM FROM KOVODOO, AND IN FIGHTING OVER HER, MALBIMH KILLS JENSEN

Synopsis.—A scientific expedition off the African coast rescues a human derelict, Alexis Pavlitch. He brings aboard an ape, intelligent and friendly, and reaches London. Jack, son of Lord Greystoke, the original Tarzan, has inherited a love of wild life and steals from home to see the ape, now a drawing card in a music hall. The ape makes friends with him and refuses to leave Jack despite his trainer. Tarzan appears and is joyfully recognized by the ape, for Tarzan had been king of his tribe. Tarzan agrees to let Jack, the ape, and send him back to Africa. Jack and Akut become great friends. Pavlitch is killed when he attempts murder. A thief tries to kill Jack, but is killed by Akut. They flee together to the jungle and take up life. Jack rescues an Arabian girl and takes her into the forest. He is wounded and Meriem is stolen.

CHAPTER IX.

When Thieves Fall Out.

So the two Swedes approached the village of Kovodoo with friends to assure upon their tongues and deep craft in their hearts.

Their plans were well made. There was no mention of the white prisoner. They chose to pretend that they were not aware that Kovodoo had a white prisoner. They exchanged gifts with the old chief, haggling with his plenipotentiaries over the value of the gifts they were to receive for what they gave, as is customary and proper when one has no ulterior motives. Unvarnished generosity would have aroused suspicion.

During the palaver which followed they retailed the gossip of the villages through which they had passed, receiving in exchange such news as Kovodoo possessed. The palaver was long and tiresome, as these ancient ceremonies always are to Europeans. Kovodoo made no mention of his prisoner, and from his generous offers of guides and presents seemed anxious to ensure himself of the speedy departure of his guests.

It was Malbimh who, quite casually, near the close of the talk, mentioned the fact that the sheik was dead. Kovodoo evinced interest and surprise.

"You did not know it?" asked Malbimh. "That is strange. It was during the last moon. He fell from his horse when the beast stopped in a hole. The horse fell upon him. When his men came up the sheik was quite dead."

Kovodoo scratched his head. He was much disappointed. No sheik meant no ransom for the white girl.

"I know where there is a white girl," he said unexpectedly. "If you wish to buy her she may be had cheap."

Malbimh struggled. "We have trouble enough," Kovodoo said, "without burdening ourselves with an old, broken down sheik, and as for paying for one—Malbimh snatched his fingers."

"She is young," said Kovodoo, "and good looking."

The Swedes laughed. "There are no good looking white women in the jungle," Kovodoo said. "I myself have been so fortunate, to try to make fun of old friends."

Kovodoo sprang to his feet. "Come," he said, "I will show you."

Malbimh and Jensen rose to follow him, and as they did so their eyes met and Malbimh slowly dropped one of his lids in a wink. Together they followed Kovodoo toward his hut. In the dim interior they discerned the figure of a woman lying bound upon a sleeping mat.

Malbimh took a single glance and turned away. "She must be a thousand years old," Kovodoo, he said as he left the hut.

"She is young!" cried the savage. "It is dark in here. You cannot see."

"Is she not both young and good looking?" asked Kovodoo.

Well, I will have her brought out in the sunlight. And he commanded the two warriors who watched the girl to lead her from her ankles and lead her forth for inspection.

Malbimh and Jensen evinced no eagerness, though both were fairly bursting with not to see the girl, and to obtain possession of her.

Not so if she had the face of a narwhale or the figure of a pot bellied Kovodoo himself. All that they wished to know was that she was the girl

who had been stolen from the sheik several years before. They thought that they would recognize her for such if she were indeed the same. But Kovodoo had sent to the sheik such as to assure them that the girl was the one they had once before attempted to abduct.

As Meriem was brought forth from the darkness of the hut's interior the two men turned, with every appearance of disinterestedness to glance at her. It was as if they were to ensure themselves of the truth of the statement. They expressed an expression of astonishment. The girl's beauty fairly took their breath from them. But instantly he recovered his poise and turned to Kovodoo.

"Well," he said to the old chief. "Is she not both young and good looking?" asked Kovodoo.

"She is not old," replied Malbimh. "But from so, she will be a burden. We did not come from the north after wives. There are more than enough there for us."

Meriem stood looking straight at the white man, as if she were to ensure herself of the truth of the statement. They expressed an expression of astonishment. The girl's beauty fairly took their breath from them. But instantly he recovered his poise and turned to Kovodoo.

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All that day they marched and the next day the next. Nor did Korak even so much as show himself to the patient little water monitor, silent and stately, beside her hard captors.

It was on the fourth day that Meriem began definitely to give up hope. Something had happened to Korak. She knew it. He would never come now, and these men would take her away. Presently they would kill her. She would never see Korak again.

On this day the Swedes rested, for they had marched rapidly and their men were tired. Malbimh and Jensen had gone from camp to hunt, taking different directions.

They had been gone about an hour when the door of Meriem's tent was lifted and Malbimh entered. His look portended no good to the girl.

Out in the jungle Jensen had brought down two bucks. His hunting had not carried him far afield, nor was he prone to permit it to do so. He was suspicious of Malbimh. The very fact that his companion had been so long gone had alerted him. He had hunted alone in another direction, would not, under ordinary circumstances, have seemed fraught with sinister suggestion, but Jensen knew Malbimh well, and so, having secured meat, he immediately took toward camp while his boys brought in his kill.

He had covered about half the return journey when a scream came from the tent.

At the flash of the explosion he stopped. He halted to listen. It was repeated twice. Then came a third. With a muttered curse Jensen broke into a rapid run. What a fool Malbimh was, indeed, thus to chance his life for a fortune!

"I would only wish to see you," said Malbimh, "and upon the opposite side of the camp, heard Meriem's screams—a stranger who was not even aware of the proximity of white men other than himself. Korak, indeed, with a handful of black warriors.

He, too, listened intently for a moment. That the voice was that of a woman in distress he could not doubt. He should have known that at a run in the direction of the frightened voice, he was much farther away than Jensen, so that the latter reached the tent first.

What the Swede found there roused his pity with his cultured heart, only anger against his fellow second. Meriem was fighting off her attacker. Malbimh was showering blows upon her, and Jensen was standing by, a helpless onlooker.

Jensen, streaming foul curses upon his erstwhile friend, burst into the tent. Malbimh, interrupted, dropped his victim and turned to meet Jensen's infuriated charge.

He whipped a revolver from his hip, Jensen, anticipating the lightning move of the other hand, drew almost simultaneously, and both men fired at the same time.

Jensen was still moving toward Malbimh at the time, but at the flash of the explosion he stopped. His revolver dropped from nervous fingers. For a moment he staggered drunkenly. He was still moving toward Malbimh at the time, but at the flash of the explosion he stopped. His revolver dropped from nervous fingers. For a moment he staggered drunkenly. He was still moving toward Malbimh at the time, but at the flash of the explosion he stopped. His revolver dropped from nervous fingers. For a moment he staggered drunkenly.

PRESIDENT WILSON ASKS SQUARE DEAL FOR THE RAILROADS

"Mobilize Railroads and Treat Them Justly," He Tells Congress.

Fair Treatment for Owners and General Public to Be Guaranteed—Outline of Methods of Government Operation.

Washington, Jan. 5.—(Compensation to the railroads taken over by the government on an average basis secured from the net railway operating revenue of the three years ending July 30, 1917, was recommended to congress by President Wilson yesterday.

His address was devoted to telling of the reason for taking over the roads and the necessity of financing existing operations.

The president spoke as follows: "Gentlemen of the Congress: I have asked the privilege of addressing you in order to report that on the 28th of December last, during the recess of congress, acting through the secretary of war and under the authority conferred upon me by the act of congress approved August 10, 1917, I took possession and assumed control of the railway lines of the country and the systems of water transportation under their control. This step seemed to be imperatively necessary in the interest of the public welfare, in the presence of the great tasks of war with which we are now dealing.

As our experience develops difficulties and uncertainties which may arise, I have deemed it my duty to remove those difficulties wherever I have the legal power to do so. To assume control of the vast railway systems of the country is, I realize, a very heavy responsibility, but to fail to do so in the existing circumstances would have been a much greater. I assumed the lesser responsibility rather than the greater.

Complete Mobilization Needed. "I am sure that I am speaking the mind of all thoughtful Americans when I say that it is our duty as the representatives of the nation to do everything that it is necessary to do to secure the complete mobilization of the whole resources of America by as rapid and effective a means as can be found. Transportation supplies all the arteries of mobilization. Unless it is under a single and unified direction the whole process of the nation's action is embarrassed.

It was in the true spirit of America and it was right that we should first try to effect this necessary unification under the voluntary action of those who were in charge of the great railway properties, and to make certain that the directors of the railways responded to the need promptly and generously.

Prairie Railway Executives. "The group of railway executives who were charged with the task of actual coordination and general direction, with patriotic zeal and marked ability, as well as to have been expected, and did, I believe, everything that it was possible for them to do in the circumstances. It is true that the cause of their hands it has not been because of any delinquency or failure on their part, but only because there were some things which the government can do and approved management cannot. We shall continue to value most highly the advice and assistance of these gentlemen, and I am sure we shall not find them withholding it.

Government Control Needed. "It had become manifestly plain that under government administration can the entire equipment of the several systems of transportation be fully and unreservedly thrown into a common service against injurious discrimination against particular properties. Only under government administration can an absolutely unrestricted and unembarrassed common use be made of all tracks, terminal facilities and equipment of every kind. Only under that authority can new terminals be constructed and developed without regard to the requirements or limitations of particular roads. But under government administration all these things will be possible—not instantly, but as fast as practical difficulties which cannot be merely conjured away give way before the new management.

Little Discrimination, as Possible. "The common administration will be carried out with as little disturbance of the present operating organizations and personnel of the railways as possible. Nothing will be tampered or disturbed which is not necessary to do so. We are serving the public interest and safeguarding the public safety, but we are also respectful of the interest of those by whose great properties are covered and to avail ourself of the experience and trained ability of those who have been managing them. It is necessary that the

transportation of troops and of war materials, of food and of fuel, and of everything that is necessary for the full mobilization of the energies and resources of the country, should be first considered, but it is clearly in the public interest also that the ordinary activities and the normal industrial and commercial life of the country should be interfered with and disturbed as little as possible, and the public may rest assured that the interest and convenience of the private shipper will be as carefully served and safeguarded as it is possible to serve and safeguard it in the present extraordinary circumstances.

While the present authority of the executive suffices for all purposes of administration and while, of course, all private interests must for the present give way to the public necessity, it is just as sure you will agree with me, right and necessary that the owners and creditors of the railways, the holders of their stocks and bonds, should receive from the government an adequate guaranty that their properties will be maintained throughout the period of federal control in as good repair and as complete equipment as at present, and also that they will receive under federal management such compensation as is equitable and just alike to their owners and to the general public.

I would suggest the average net railway operating income of the three years ending June 30, 1917. I earnestly recommend that these guarantees be given by appropriate legislation and given as promptly as circumstances permit."

"Deal Justly With Securities." "I need not point out the essential justice of such guarantees and their great influence and significance as elements in the present financial and industrial situation, and the fact that the use of the strong arguments for assuming control of the railroads at this time is the financial argument. It is necessary that the values of railway securities should be just and fairly paid and that the large financial operations every year necessary in connection with the maintenance, operation and development of the roads should, during the period of the war, be wisely related to the financial operations of the government.

"Our first duty is, of course, to conserve the common interest and the common sense and to make certain that nothing stands in the way of the successful prosecution of the great war for liberty and justice, but it is an obligation of public conscience and of public honor that the private interests we disturb should be kept safe from unjust injury, and it is of the utmost consequence to the government itself that all great financial operations should be carried out in accordance with the financial operations of the government. No borrowing should run against the borrowings of the federal treasury and no fundamental adjustment should be made anywhere but in the necessary impairment. In the hands of many small investors in the country, as well as in national banks, in insurance companies, in savings banks, in trust companies, in the hands of the great banks, railway securities, the sum total of which runs up to some \$10,000,000,000 or \$11,000,000,000, constitute a vital part of the structure of credit and the unquestioned solidity of that structure must be maintained.

"The secretary of war and I earnestly agreed that, in view of the many complex interests which must be safeguarded and harmonized, as well as because of his exceptional experience and ability in this new field of governmental action, Hon. William G. McAdoo was the right man to assume the direct administrative control of this new executive task. At our request he consented to assume the authority and duties of organizer and director general of the new railway administration. He has assumed those duties and his work is in active progress.

May Need Treasury Grants. "It is probably too much to expect that even under the unified railway administration which will now be possible sufficient economies can be effected in the operation of the railways to make it possible to add to their equipment and extend their operations facilities as much as the present extraordinary demands upon their use will render desirable without resorting to the national treasury for the funds. It is not possible, it will, of course, be necessary to report to the congress for grants of money for that purpose. The secretary of the treasury will advise with your committee with regard to this very practical aspect of the matter. For the present, I suggest only the guarantees I have indicated and such appropriations as are necessary at the outset of this task. I take the liberty of expressing the hope that the congress may grant these promptly and ungrudgingly. We are dealing with great matters and will, I am sure, deal with them greatly."

A company has been formed in Portugal to develop hydroelectric power of the northern part of that country.

England is planning to spend \$30,000,000 within the next ten years for reforestation in the United Kingdom. This involves an elaborate plan for timber planting, especially in Ireland, where large areas have been denuded to firewood and charcoal.

Experiments are being made to determine the value of pulverized coal for fuel on the railroads of Brazil. An American pulverizing plant has been built and American coal tests were successful. Brazilian coal will be tested in the new future.

European factories each week make about 10,000,000 pounds of artificial butter with coconut oil as a base.

That's the woman's dread when she gets up in the morning to start the day's work. "Oh! how my back aches!" GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules taken today ease the pain. What's the use of suffering? Begin taking GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules today and be relieved tomorrow. Take three or four every day and be positively free from wrenching, distressing back pain. But be sure you get the genuine GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules. The National Remedy of Holland, the Government of the Netherlands having granted a special charter authorizing its preparation and sale. The housewife of Holland would almost as soon be without her hair oil as she would without her "Dutch Drops," as she quaintly calls GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules. This is the one reason why you will find the GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules so sure and robust.

Chinese Bells. Chinese and Japanese bells are clapperless and are never rung by striking them with wooden mallets.

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A DAGGER IN THE BACK

That's the woman's dread when she gets up in the morning to start the day's work. "Oh! how my back aches!" GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules taken today ease the pain. What's the use of suffering? Begin taking GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules today and be relieved tomorrow. Take three or four every day and be positively free from wrenching, distressing back pain. But be sure you get the genuine GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules. The National Remedy of Holland, the Government of the Netherlands having granted a special charter authorizing its preparation and sale. The housewife of Holland would almost as soon be without her hair oil as she would without her "Dutch Drops," as she quaintly calls GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules. This is the one reason why you will find the GOLD MEDAL Hairton Oil Capsules so sure and robust.

Merely Lazy. The town clerk, sitting at his desk at the city hall, messes London Titbits, was asked by a lady if she might use the telephone. Upon leaving she put a threepenny-bit on the desk.

"There is no charge, madam," said the clerk.

"Oh, but you must take it," said the lady.

"I rather not," said the clerk, very seriously. "You see, if I accept this money it becomes the property of the city. I must then make a report of it to the auditor; he must report it to the treasurer, who will take the money. Then there will be other lengthy reports about it; and in all the acceptable of this threepenny-bit will cost about two pounds' worth of work. Do me a favor and take it back."

"You are very kind," said the lady. "Not at all," said the clerk. "I'm only lazy."

Eat Them Quickly. One storage egg, at 22 cents, is the weekly egg ration of Berliners. The papers state that as a large part of the eggs from which this modest ration is derived are products of the refrigerator, buyers are urged to "fetch them promptly and consume them without unnecessary delay."

The Rich Flavor Grape-Nuts is due to the blending of malted barley with whole wheat flour. Wheat alone does not possess this rich flavor. The wonderfully easy digestion of Grape-Nuts is also partly due to the barley for the barley contains a digestive which wheat lacks.

There's a Reason for Grape-Nuts