

TARZAN AND THE Jewels of Opar

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"Tarzan of the Apes"
"Son of Tarzan"

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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—Hiding in the jungle after killing his captain in a fit of brooding madness, Lieut. Albert Werper, Belgian officer, is captured by Achmet Zek, Arab slave raider, who spares his life and proposes to him a scheme to kidnap Jane, wife of Tarzan (Lord Greystoke) and sell her into slavery. Werper accepts.

CHAPTER II.—Posing as Jules Preault, French traveler, Werper is hospitably received by the Greystokes. But his hope is in financial straits and plans an expedition to the treasure vaults of Opar to procure gold. Werper informs Achmet Zek of the opportunity to seize Lady Greystoke, and follows Tarzan to learn the secret of Opar.

CHAPTER III.—Spying on Tarzan, Werper sees him load his blacks with gold from the treasure chamber of the Sun Worshippers. A convolution of Nature causes the collapse of the vault, imprisoning both men.

CHAPTER IV.—Werper recovers from the shock and finding Tarzan apparently dead he leaves him. Seeking a way to safety Werper is seized by priests of the Sun Worshippers. He is about to be offered up as a sacrifice when the ceremonies are interrupted by the appearance of a hunger-maddened lion.

CHAPTER V.—Believing Tarzan dead his black followers return home with the gold. Achmet Zek, acting on Werper's information, has attacked the Greystoke home, burned it, and carried off Lady Greystoke. Mugambi, Tarzan's lieutenant, is severely wounded but recovers and follows the raiders.

CHAPTER VI.—Lord Greystoke recovers consciousness but the accident has destroyed his memory of the events of the Apes. Fleeing from the scene of his misfortune he finds himself in the jewel room of Opar. He fills his pouch with the "pretty pebbles." Reaching the sacrificial chamber he is recognized by the priests, whom he had known in previous years. He slays the lion and releases Werper. The latter sees the jewels and covets them.

CHAPTER VII.—Tarzan and Werper watch the former's party return to the ruined Greystoke home and bury the gold. Tarzan has no memory of the place. He buries the jewels, which Werper digs up, and escapes while Tarzan sleeps.

CHAPTER VIII.—Reaching Achmet Zek's stronghold, Werper tells him of the gold but not of the jewels. Lady Greystoke is there, a prisoner. Achmet Zek recovers Werper's pouch and when he sees the Belgian, fearing for his life, escapes with the gems.

CHAPTER IX.—Tarzan misses Werper but does not discover the theft of the jewels. He and the priests of the Flaming God seek Tarzan and Werper to recover the sacrificial knife, which the latter had snatched off. They capture Tarzan.

CHAPTER X.—The priests make ready to offer Tarzan as a sacrifice to the Flaming God. He offers him life in exchange for his love. He refuses, and in the jungle language calls Tarzan the elephant to his rescue. Tarzan, coming in, immediately destroys all in his path. He frees Tarzan and he saves her from the elephant.

CHAPTER XI.—The priests who escaped Tarzan's rage return to the temple with La. Tarzan remembers the jewels and finding them gone realizes Werper has stolen them. He follows the scene of the Belgian's determined on revenge.

CHAPTER XII.—Lady Greystoke escapes from Achmet Zek and makes her way into the jungle. Werper, fleeing from the raider, is made prisoner by Abdul Mourak, Abyssinian officer, commander of soldiers sent to capture Achmet Zek's band. Tarzan and Mugambi, seeking Lady Greystoke, is also captured by Mourak. He sees the jewels Werper has and recognizing the pouch as the property of his master, steals the gems, replacing them with worthless pebbles, and escapes.

CHAPTER XIII.

Tarzan Again Leads the Mangani. Achmet Zek with two of his followers had circled far to the south to intercept the flight of his deserting lieutenant, Werper. Others had spread out in various directions, so that a vast circle had been formed by them during the night, and now they were beating in toward the center.

A slight noise in the jungle upon the opposite side of the clearing brought Achmet Zek to immediate and alert attention. He gathered his rifle in readiness for instant use, at the same time motioning his followers to silence and concealment.

Presently the foliage parted and a woman's face appeared, glancing fearfully from side to side. A moment later, evidently satisfied that no immediate danger lurked before her, she stepped out into the clearing in full view of the Arab.

Achmet Zek caught his breath with a muttered exclamation of incredulity and an imprecation. The woman was the prisoner he had thought safely guarded at his camp!

Apparently she was alone, but Achmet Zek waited that he might make sure of it before seizing her. Slowly Jane Clayton started across the clearing. Though she was almost despairing of ever reaching safety she still was determined to fight on, until death or success terminated her endeavors.

As the Arabs watched her from the safety of their concealment and Achmet Zek noted with satisfaction that she was walking directly into his clutches, another pair of eyes looked down upon the entire scene from the foliage of an adjacent tree.

Puzzled, troubled eyes they were, for all their gray savage glint, for their owner was struggling with an intangible suggestion of the familiarity of the face and figure of the woman below him.

A sudden crashing of the bushes at the point from which Jane Clayton had emerged into the clearing brought her to a sudden stop and attracted the attention of the Arabs and the watcher

in the free to the same point.

The woman wheeled about to see what new danger menaced her from behind, and as she did so a great anthropoid ape waddled into view. Behind him came another and another; but Lady Greystoke did not wait to learn how many more of the hideous creatures were so close upon her trail.

With a smothered scream she rushed toward the opposite jungle, and as she reached the bushes there, Achmet Zek and his two henchmen rose up and seized her. At the same instant a naked, brown giant dropped from the branches of a tree at the right of the clearing.

Turning toward the astonished apes he gave voice to a short volley of low gutturals, and without waiting to note the effect of his words upon them, the effect of his words upon them, he was charged for the Arabs.

Achmet Zek was dragging Jane Clayton toward his tethered horse. His two men were hastily unfastening all three mounts. The woman, struggling to escape the Arab, turned and saw the ape-man running toward her. A glad light of hope illumined her face.

"John!" she cried. "Thank God that you have come in time!"

Behind Tarzan came the great apes,



"John!" She Cried.

wondering, but obedient to his summons. The Arabs saw that they would not have time to mount and make their escape before the beasts and the man were upon them. Achmet Zek recognized the latter as the redoubtable enemy of such as he, and he saw, too, in the circumstances an opportunity to rid himself forever of the menace of the ape-man's presence.

Calling on his men to follow his example he raised his rifle and leveled it upon the charging giant. His followers, acting with no less alacrity than himself, fired almost simultaneously, and with the reports of the rifles, Tarzan of the Apes and two of his hairy henchmen pitched forward among the jungle grasses.

The noise of the rifle shots brought the balance of the apes to a wondering pause, and, taking advantage of their momentary distraction, Achmet Zek and his followers leaped to their horses' backs and galloped away with the now hopeless and grief-stricken woman.

Back to the village they rode, and once again Lady Greystoke found herself incarcerated in the filthy little hut from which she had thought to have escaped for good.

Singly and in twos the searchers who had ridden out with Achmet Zek upon the trail of the Belgian returned empty handed. With the report of each the raider's rage and chagrin increased, until he was in such a transport of furious anger that none dared approach him.

With the escape of the Arabs the great apes had turned their attention to their fallen comrades. Tarzan was the first to regain consciousness. Sitting up he looked about him. Blood was flowing from a wound in his shoulder. The shock had thrown him down and dazed him; but he was far from dead. Rising slowly to his feet he let his eyes wander toward the spot where last he had seen the She who had aroused within his savage breast such strange emotions.

"Where is she?" he asked.

"The Tarmangani took her away," replied one of the apes. "Who are you who speak the language of the Mangani?"

"I am Tarzan," replied the ape-man, "mighty hunter, greatest of fighters. When I roar the jungle is silent and trembles with terror. I am Tarzan of the Apes. I have been away; but now I have come back to my people."

"Yes," spoke up an old ape, "he is Tarzan. I know him. It is well that he has come back. Now we shall have good hunting."

The apes told Tarzan that they had been traveling toward the east when the scent of the she had attracted them and they had stalked her. Now they wished to continue upon their interrupted march; but Tarzan preferred to follow the Arabs and take the woman from them.

And so, as Jane Clayton was pushed into her prison hut and her hands and feet securely bound, her natural protector roamed off toward the east in company with a score of hairy monsters, with whom he rubbed shoulders as familiarly as a few months before he had mingled with his immaculate fellow members of one of London's most select and exclusive clubs.

But all the time there lurked in the back of his injured brain a troublesome conviction that he had no just

ness where he was—that he should be, for some unaccountable reason, elsewhere and among another sort of creatures. Also, there was the compelling urge to be upon the scent of the Arabs, undertaking the rescue of the woman who had appealed so strongly to his savage sentiments; though the thought which naturally occurred to him in the contemplation of the venture, was "capture," rather than "rescue."

He spoke to his fellow-apes upon the matter, in an attempt to persuade them to accompany him; but all except Taglat and Chulk refused. The latter was young and strong, endowed with a greater intelligence than his fellows, and therefore the possessor of better developed powers of imagination. To him the expedition savored of adventure, and so appealed strongly. With Taglat there was another incentive—a secret and sinister incentive, which had Tarzan of the Apes had knowledge of it, would have sent him at the other's throat in jealous rage.

Taglat was no longer young; but he was still a formidable beast, mighty-muscled, cruel, and, because of his greater experience, crafty and cunning.

These two, then, were to be Tarzan's companions upon his return to the village of Achmet Zek. As they set off the balance of the tribe vouchsafed them but a parting stare and then resumed the serious business of feeding.

It was midafternoon of a sultry, tropical day when the keen sense of the three warned them of the proximity of the Arab camp. Stealthily

Chulk and Taglat, their hairy faces pressed close to that of the patrician, sniffed with him. Each caught the smell of the woman within and each reacted according to his temperament and his habits of thought.

It left Chulk indifferent. The She

was for Tarzan—all that he desired

was to bury his snout in the foodstuffs

of the Tarmangani. He had come to

eat his fill without labor. Tarzan had told him that that should be his reward, and he was satisfied.

But Taglat's wicked, bloodshot eyes

narrowed to the realization of the

nearing fulfillment of his carefully

planned scheme.

Satisfied that the She was where he

had hoped to find her, Tarzan led his

apes toward the tent of Achmet Zek.

A passing Arab and two slaves saw

them, but the night was dark and the

white burnoses hid the hairy limbs of

the apes and the giant figure of their

leader so that the three, by squatting

down as though in conversation, were

passed by unsuspected. To the rear

of the tent they made their way.

Within, Achmet Zek conversed with

several of his lieutenants. Without,

Tarzan listened.

Stealthily They Approached.

they approached, keeping to the dense

tangle of growing things which made

concealment easy to their uncanny

jungle craft.

Silently they made their way to the

edge of the clearing which surrounded

the palisade, and here they clambered

into the lower branches of a large tree

overlooking the village occupied by the

enemy, the better to spy upon his

goings and comings.

A horseman, white burnosed, rode

out through the gateway of the village.

Tarzan, whispering to Chulk and Taglat to remain where they were, swung

monkey-like, through the trees in the

direction of the trail the Arab was riding.

From one jungle giant to the next he sped with the rapidity of a squirrel

and the silence of a ghost.

The Arab rode slowly onward, un-

conscious of the danger hovering in

the trees behind him. The ape-man

made a slight detour and increased his speed until he had reached a point upon the trail in advance of the horse-

man. Here he halted upon a leafy

bough which overhung the narrow jun-

gle trail.

On came the victim, hum-

ming a wild air of the great desert

land of the North. Above him poised

the savage brute that was today bent

upon the destruction of a human life—the

same creature who a few months

before had occupied his seat in the

house of lords at London, a respected

and distinguished member of that au-

thority.

The Arab passed beneath the over-

hanging bough, there was a slight

rustling of the leaves above, the horse

snorted and plunged as a brown-skin-

ned creature dropped upon its rump.

A pair of mighty arms encircled the

Arab and he was dragged from his saddle

to the trail.

Ten minutes later the ape-man, car-

rying the outer garments of an Arab

brought beneath an arm, rejoined his

companions. He exhibited his trophies

to them, explaining in low gutturals

the details of his exploit.

Then Tarzan led them back through

the jungle to the trail, where the three

hid themselves and waited. Nor had

they long to wait before two of Achmet

Zek's blacks, clothed in billiments

similar to their master's, came down

the trail on foot, returning to the

palisade.