

THE RETURN OF TARZAN

By EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

AUTHOR OF "TARZAN OF THE APES"

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CHAPTER XXIV.—(Continued).

TENNINGTON did not show the surface he felt. That was not all that he meant. He had been much with this fair denizen of Opar, and it had recently come to him that he had grown much more fond of her than would prove good for the peace of his mind, for he recalled almost constantly now the confidence which Monsieur Thuram had imparted to him that he and Miss Strong were engaged. He wondered if, after all, he had been so easily swayed in his statement. He had never seen the slightest indication on the girl's part of more than ordinary friendliness.

"And then in Monsieur Thuram's loss—if they are lost, you would suffer a severe bereavement," he ventured.

She looked up at him quickly. "Monsieur Thuram had become a very dear friend," she said. "I liked him very much, though I have known him but a short time."

"Then you were not engaged to marry him?" he blurted out.

"Heaven's no!" she cried. "I did not care for him at all in that way."

There was something that Lord Tennington and Miss Strong had wanted very badly to say to it, and say it at once; but somehow the words stuck in their throat. He started lame a couple of times, cleared his throat, became red in the face, and finally ended by remarking that he hoped the cabin would be finished before the rainy season commenced.

But though he did not know it, he had conveyed to the girl the very message he intended and left her happy—happier than she had ever been before in all her life.

Just then further conversation was interrupted by the sight of a strange and terrible-looking figure which emerged from the jungle just south of the camp. Tennington and the girl turned to look. The figure, a baboon, reached for his revolver, but when the half-naked, bearded creature called his name aloud and came running toward them he dropped his hand and advanced to meet it.

Nor would have recognized in the filthy, emaciated creature, covered by a single garment of small skins, the impulsive Monsieur Thuram the party had last been upon the deck of the Lady Alice.

Before the other members of the community were apprised of his presence Tennington and Miss Strong questioned him regarding the other occupants of the missing boat.

"They are all dead," replied Thuram.

"The boat which left Africa with Miss Porter was carried off into the jungle by some wild animals while I was lying delirious with fever. Clayton died of the same fever but a few days since. And to think that all this time we have been separated by but a few miles—scarcely a day's march. It is terrible."

How long Jane Porter lay in the darkness of the vault beneath the temple in the ancient city of Opar she did not know.

For a brief, sickening moment Tarzan felt the slipping of the rope to which the shaft's top, then he swung out over the black depths beneath. The moment his full weight came upon the rope he felt it slip from above. He waited there in awful suspense as it dropped in little jerks, inch by inch. The stone was his last refuge, and the masonry search or after witnessing the ease with which the ape-man swung along before them and the last burst of speed, they realized the utter hopelessness of further pursuit. It is difficult to say; but as Tarzan reached the wooden platform at the base of the foothills which skirted the barrier cliffs they turned their faces once more toward Opar.

Just within the forest's edge, where he could yet watch the cliff tops, Tarzan laid his burden upon the grass, and going to the nearby rivulet brought water, with which he bathed her face and hands; but even this did not revive her, and, greatly worried, he gathered the girl into his strong arms once more and hurried her toward the west.

In the afternoon Jane Porter re-gained consciousness.

"Yes, Tarzan of the Apes," she replied, "but it was of a religious nature—the love of God. She has the man's heart, and resolved that she had fallen among people upon whom the refining and softening influence of religion evidently had failed. They would treat her humanely—or that she was now quite sure.

And so when they led her from her dungeon, through the dark corridor, and up a flight of concrete steps to her dungeon, here some sort of ceremony was performed; that it was of a religious nature—the love of God. She has the man's heart, and resolved that she had fallen among people upon whom the refining and softening influence of religion evidently had failed. They would treat her humanely—or that she was now quite sure.

Seizing a cudgel from the nearest priest, she laid about him like a veritable demon as he forged his rapid way toward the altar. The hand of La had paused at the first noise of interruption. When she saw who the author of it was she went white. She had never been able to fathom the secret of the strange, white man's escape from the dungeon, and the hand that had locked him. She had not intended that he should leave Opar, for she had looked upon his giant frame and handsome face with the eyes of a woman and not those of a priestess.

"La's hand was descending slowly toward the bosom of the frail, quiet figure that lay stretched upon the hard stone.

"Save me from death!" she cried, in a pained tone. "We are not both dead, my son."

"You spoke, Jane!" cried Tarzan. "You are regaining consciousness!"

"Yes, Tarzan of the Apes," she replied, for the first time in months a smile of peace and happiness lighted her face.

"Thank God!" cried the ape-man, coming to the ground in a little grassy clearing beside the stream. "I was in time, after all."

"What? What do you mean?" she questioned.

"In time to give you from death upon the altar dear," he replied. "Do you not remember?"

"Save me from death!" she asked, in a pained tone. "We are not both dead, my son."

Anderson was caught beneath the car and driven over by Death in an instant. Thomas Ward, steward of the Montclair Golf Club, was thrown clear and escaped with severe lacerations and contusions. William H. Mitchell, a negro demonstrator, the other occupant of the car, was taken to the Orange Memorial Hospital with a fractured leg.

The roadster was purchased by Anderson two weeks ago, and he had not learned how to drive it, but he insisted upon driving home last night.

Anderson, 30 years old, upheld his family's traditions as golf experts. Last month, for the second time, he won the open golf championship of Pennsylvania. His brother, the late William Anderson, won four times the open golf championship of the United States. William Anderson, his father, was until his death, a ten-year-old professional golfer for the Montclair Golf Club.

Anderson had been professional golfer for the Glen Ridge Golf Club, the Litchfield Golf Club, the Inwood Hill Club and the Outmont Country Club of Pittsburgh. His mother and three sisters live in Scotland. Mrs. John Watson, another sister, lives in Verona, N. J.

"Dead!" he repeated, and then he laughed. "You are not, Jane; and if you will return to the city of Opar and ask them who dwell there they will tell you that I was not dead a few short hours ago. No, dear, we are both very much alive."

But both Hazel and Monsieur Thuram told me that you had fallen into the ocean depths from land," urged, as though trying to calm him down. "He must indeed be dead." They said that there was no question but that it must have been you, unless that you could have survived or been picked up."

"How can I convince you that I am no spirit?" he asked, with a laugh. "It is whom the delightful Monsieur Thuram pushed overboard, but I did not drown—will tell you all about it after a while—here is very much the same wild woman you find here, Jane Porter."

The girl rose slowly to her feet and came toward him. She had not intended that he should leave her, her doubts were turned to fear as she saw him walk away.

"She is mine," said Tarzan, soft and trembling, upon his arm. (CONTINUED MONDAY.)

halted to cast a backward glance toward the city. Coming near the plain he saw a small hidden city of Opar. For a moment he hesitated. Should he descend and make a race for the distant city, or should he hide here until night? And then a glance at the girl's white face determined him. He could not keep her here and permit her enemies to get between them and liberty. For night he knew he would have been followed through the tunnels, and to have foes before and behind would result in almost certain capture, since he could not fight his way through the enemy burdened as he was with the unconscious girl.

To descend the steep face of the boulder with Jane Porter was no easy task, but by binding her across his shoulder with the grass rope he succeeded in reaching the ground in safety before the apeman arrived at a great rock. As the descent had been made upon the side away from the city, the searching party saw nothing of it, nor did they dream that their prey was so close before them.

By keeping the kope between them and their pursuers Tarzan of the Apes managed to cover nearly a mile before he lay at the foot of the granite sentinel and saw the fugitive before them. With loud cries of savage delight they broke into a mad run, thinking doubtless that they would soon overhaul the burdened runner; but they both underestimated the powers of the ape-man and overestimated the possibilities of their own short, crooked legs.

By maintaining an easy trot, Tarzan of the Apes kept them always at the same distance, though he would sometimes stop to rest or to drink. The apeman was proof even against such muscles as his. It needed but a moment's effort to convince him of the futility of endeavoring to force that impregnable barrier. There was but one other way, and that was to climb the long tunnel to the boulder a mile beyond the city's walls, and then back across the open as he had come to the city first with his Raziel.

He realized that to retrieve his steps and enter the city from above would mean the instant death to himself and the Lady Alice, and it had recently come to him that he had grown much more fond of her than would prove good for the peace of his mind, for he recalled almost constantly now the confidence which Monsieur Thuram had imparted to him that he and Miss Strong were engaged. He wondered if, after all, he had never seen the slightest indication on the girl's part of more than ordinary friendliness.

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Raced Death in Stolen Auto

Peter Larro, of Millman street, was arrested for a hearing at Central Station today on account of his being a member of the gang that stole the car of Charles M. Petrucciani, of Lansdowne, N. J., of small automobile.

Larro told the police that he had been to the New Jersey town last Wednesday and found his brother, William, there.

When he returned to the city he had been to the police station and reported his car stolen.

He was then arrested by Detective Gleason.

The story of the young hull ape had told it clear to him that the girl captive had been Jane Porter, for there was nothing else "she" in the jungle.

The "hull" had been recognized from the apeman's crude description as the grotesque parades upon humanity who inhabit the ruins of Opar. And the girl's fate he recalled most vividly, for it was the same as that of the Lady Alice.

As he spoke he stepped past her toward the entrance to the subterranean vaults.

"Who is she?" asked the high priestess, pointing at the unconscious woman.

"She is mine," said Tarzan of the Apes.

For a moment the girl of Opar stood wide-eyed and staring. Then a look of hopeless misery suffused her eyes—tears welled up in her eyes—and with a little cry she ran to the cold floor, just as a swarm of fire ants crawled over her.

When she was discovered she had crawled into the hole under the floor, and had lay down upon the floor, just as a swarm of fire ants crawled over her.

As he passed the shaft beyond the broken wall he felt so positive of the success of his flight that he had no fear of replacing the tumbled stones, for he was sure that any of the inmates would discover that he had escaped through the secret passage, and through it come into the pits below.

He had been to the pits before, and had escaped once before into the pits, and though they had watched the entrance, he was not afraid to go back again.

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