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The Leopard of Hafia

A Story of Man and Beast

By CLARISSA MACKIE **********

The African desert was bathed in sunset glow. Mile on mile of flat yelow sand took on a palpitating crimson, and with the dropping sun came a tiny breeze that rustled the fronds of the palm trees and made the oasis cool and inviting.

Among the palms was a white tent. and stretched on a bit of oriental carpet before it were two men, Americans. The younger one refilled his pipe and looked up into his companion's grave, lined face.

"Do you know, Howland," he said with boyish enthusiasm, "I wouldn't have missed this trip with you for a year's income! It's great!" "Glad you like it," mumbled How-

Pearson went on, speaking rapidly:

"I was mighty glad that you invited me to come along and make the photographs for your book. It's taking me out of the amateur class into profes ional photography.

"And that's not all. Howland, If you hadn't invited me along I would be grubbing away in Wall street tonight instead of seeing the fire of the sunset on the sand, the breeze in the palms and Ali there smoking his wa-Howland laughed oddly.

"I hope the remainder of the trip suits you as well," he said carelessly. "We reach the edge of the jungle tomorrow at sunset."

The desert was dark now, and above the far horizon the rim of a blood red moon lifted slowly.

Silence brooded over the place. The camels, mere brown lumps of shadow, slept. Ali and his fellow servants had withdrawn to a distance, where they squatted in the sand, silent, meditat

Pearson shook the ashes out of his pipe and yawned. "I believe I'll turn in for awhile," he

apologized. "You'll want to start by midnight, I suppose."
"Yes; good night," said Howland

Pearson vanished within the tent, and Howland sat alone, motionless. His cold eyes were fixed on the rising moon, and a fine, thin smile edged his lips. A cluster of overripe dates thudded

to the ground, and he started violently. "It will soon be over," he muttered and the book-can go hang!" Then he, too, disappeared within the tent to get a few hours' sleep, if possi-

ble. But an uneasy conscience made his slumber very broken and filled with most disquieting dreams. The sound of persons slumbering quietly near by filled him with intense rage, and he finally left the tent to sit outside and smoke his pipe.

The next day at sunset found How-

land's party encamped at the edge of the jungle. Here the desert had merged into low hills clothed in coarse vegetation and scattered rocks. In the background loomed the jungle, dark, mysterious and forbidding.

"This looks like lion country," remarked Pearson as he sipped Ali's delicious coffee. "It is lion country," agreed How-

land. "See how uneasy the camels are, and the bearers are badly frightland. "I suppose you will be sending the

camels back to Podok," said Pearson.
Howland nodded. "The blacks can pack the supplies, and when I come back from the jungle trip I can send a runner after All and his camels." Before midnight Ali and his camel train had vanished in the desert, and

with their going Bob Pearson felt a strange sense of depression. He tried to shake off the feeling, but ft clung to him and kept sleep away from his weary eyes.

In the cool of early dawn Howland shook him roughly.
"Come out here," he said in a tense

tone. "I want to show you something." Alert, Pearson seized his shotgun and followed Howland outside the tent.

In the east the borizon was pearl

gray. Overhead the stars gleamed in the deep blue sky. "What is the matter?" whispered Pearson. Howland's arm swept in a

gesture that overleaped the circle of guardian fires with their sleepy attendants. Pearson looked and saw on a nearby

hillock the black silhouette of a stalk-

"Jove!" he muttered. "Am I to have a try at him?"

"No: I'm saving you for the leopard f Hafia," returned Howland quickly. Pearson laughed.

"Saving me for the leopard, eh?" he repeated. "Sounds a bit cold blooded, Howland." "Saving the leopard for you, then."

said Howland in an odd tone. "This leopard of Hafia has a record, they and he turned away.

Pearson lifted himself upon his el-

"Three hundred natives or more has he carried off. He's easily the king of "I'd like to get him," said Pearson

Howland's gunshot rang out with startling suddenness. The lion grunted savagely and disappeared over the brow of the hill.

The black boys huddled in abject "Missed!" laughed Howland. "But I'm glad. I don't want him bothering around when that leopard comes."

"I may as well sit up here and wait for him," said Pearson, sitting cross legged before the tent and placing his veapon beside him. "It is as well," said Howland.

For a long time they sat there, waiting for the dawn and the coming of the leopard of Hafia. Pearson recalled all the stories of this man eating ter-ror which Ali had poured in his ears, and then his thoughts drifted to James Howland and how changed he was from the man he had always known. At the beginning of the expedition

Howland had been companionable enough, but latterly he had grown moody and silent and almost unbearably taciturn. Then Pearson's thoughts flew to a girl back there in New York, Eleanor Browning. He had asked her to marry

him the night he called to say farewell, and she-Howland's voice cut the silence like a knife.

"I think your friend is coming, Pearson." Pearson leaped to his feet and reached for his gun.

It was gone. "My gun!" he said hastily. As he spoke he saw in the pale day-

light the crouching form of a magnificent leopard. It was on the farther edge of a small semicircle formed by brush and rocks. Pearson looked around and rubbed

his eyes. Vanished were the tent and the bear-

ers and their cumbersome packs.
Only Howland stood there, a cold, cynical smile on his lips. He was lean ing on his own gun. "What does it all mean?" snapped

Pearson impatiently. "Why the melodramatic atmosphere?" "It should be tragic. You're going to

die, Pearson, a horrible death. I've planned it since I asked you to join my expedition. You are going to meet the leopard of Hafia in a hand to hand battle!" "Heavens, Howland, are you crazy?"

demanded the other, leaping at the older man's gun.

"I'm quite sane," snarled Howland, backing away. "I loved Eleanor Browning, but she refused to marry me. I knew the reason why, and so I planned to bring you with me. If I

cannot have her you never shall!"
"Fool!" cried Pearson angrily, his eyes never leaving that splendid savage form beyond the semicircle. "I love her, too, and I told her the very night before we sailed, but"-

"But you will never go back to her, Pearson," interrupted the half crazed man. "Ah, here comes your foe!" Howland jumped aside, and Pearson

turned to look at the huge cat. Apparently puzzled by the lack of fear and by the strange actions of the two men, the leopard had waited, half hidden by a thorn bush.

As Pearson whirled about the leopard came into the open space, the sun shining on the rich black and orange of his spotted hide.

Bob Pearson was no coward, but this contest with a monarch of the African jungle was unequal to the point of absurdity.

There was not time to battle with Howland and try to secure the gun. Howland had dropped from sight behind a bowlder. In the middle of the arena the leopard

paused, its long tail switching slowly, its orange hide rippling over the quiv-ering muscles. Suddenly it screamed and launched itself at Pearson.

Pearson was crouching, with tensed muscles and a prayer on his lips. As the leopard leaped at him Pearson rushed forward, and the huge beast sailed over his body and struck the ground with a jarring thud.

Pearson jumped around to face the leopard as the enraged animal approached him in short, snarling leaps. Bob Pearson knew that the end was near. He could not dodge this splendid enemy. In less time than it takes to relate it the leopard made another quivering leap at its victim, and as the great bulk of flesh bore him to the ground Bob heard a queer cracking

He opened his eyes upon the blazing sky. Howland was bending over him, and there was a strange smell of antisentics from the medicine chest.

Howland's face had changed from its recent ferocity and was the face of the Howland of old-grave, calm and

"You are all right, Pearson?" he asked anxiously. "I potted the beast at the last moment, and beyond a scratch on your shoulder"- His voice broke,

bow, feeling dizzy and faint. Beyond him the dead leopard of Hafia was stretched on the sand. How-

land's bullet had killed it instantly.

"Forgive me, Bob," whispered Howland. "I was quite mad until that last scream, and then my brain cleared, and I knew myself for a murderer. Then fired, thank God! I have saved you for her!"

and clung to it. A wry smile twisted "I-I didn't finish my story," he said, "The night before we sailed I told

Bob Pearson found Howland's hand

Eleanor of my love, and she refused "Refused you!" echoed Howland blankly. "Yes. She's going to marry Munson,

the old millionaire. And, Howland, if you can bring back the pack carriers I'd like my camera. We've got to get a picture of the leopard of Hafia for

SMOKELESS POWDER. And One Reason Why Our Big Guns

Are Made So Long. Only 43 per cent of ordinary gunpowder is converted into gas when it explodes. The remaining 57 per cent is unconsumed residue, which we see in the form of smoke. With smokeless powder it is different. On ignition it is converted wholly into gas. A much greater volume of gas is produced, and the explosive effect is proportionately

When the war with Spain broke out in 1898 the United States government did not have any smokeless powder. The Spaniards, on the other hand, had plenty of it and used it on both land and sea. Consequently the American besiegers at Santiago were unable to see the Spanish soldiers firing at them, whereas the enemy could see by the puffs of smoke just where to shoot, When Admiral Cervera's ships came out of the harbor and tried to escape, the vessels of the American squadron found it hard in the fight that followed to fire accurately because their view of the foe was obscured by the clouds of smoke from their own guns.

There are many kinds of smokeless gunpowder. One of the best known is the English cordite, which, when forced through holes in a perforated metal plate while in a plastic condition. takes the form of thick strings that look like brown rubber. The strings are cut up into short cylindrical pieces. You can safely hold a string of cordite in your hand and light one end of it; it will burn slowly with a bright flame.

A characteristic of smokeless powders is that they burn very slowly; on that account modern guns are very long, in order that all the powder of a charge may have time to be trans-formed into gas before the projectile driven by it leaves the muzzle of the weapon. The smokeless powder used by our army and navy is made by soaking nitro cotton in a mixture of ether and alcohol. It is thus converted into a plastic substance that may be molded or cut into any shape required. For small arms it is manufactured in a form resembling spaghetti-long strings that are chopped into little pieces and packed into the cartridges. For big guns it is made in long rods, which, after being perforated from end to end with a number of holes to insure quicker ignition, are cut into short lengths. That kind of powder, which might be called an explosive celluloid, is of a horny consistency. As in the case of other smoke-less powders, the slowness with which

it burns is owing mainly to its density.

The very cloth of the bags used to contain charges of gunpowder for the big guns has itself been made of smokeless powder-that is, woven of threads of exactly the same substance. That is an invention of the Germans. The bag thus becomes part of the explosive charge and when the gun is fired is wholly consumed.—Professor Charles S. Munroe in Youth's Compan-

Steller's Sea Cow. An inhabitant of the northern seas which has disappeared is Steller's sea cow. When Bering's expedition was caught in the ice near the strait which bears his name his crew lived mainly on the flesh of this huge and stupid Arctic animal. It was larger than an elephant, full grown specimens being as much as twenty-five feet long and weighing five or six tons apiece. It had no teeth at all, their place being taken by great horny plates. The very last of these harmless monsters is said to have been killed by a Russian sealer in the summer of 1848.—New York Press.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Doing Our Bit

(From the St. Mary's Argus) It is beyond all possibility of successful ontradiction that Canada has not done contradiction that Cauada has not done and is not doing her share in the great war, which is her war and the war of all peoples who love liberty rather than absolutism, and responsible and representative government, rather than divineright, autocratic kingship. She has not done her share in men nor in money. Great Britain has contributed in men more than one in fifteen of her total population, Canada one in fitty; Australia has contributed 146,000 out of 5,000,000; Canada 160,000 out of 8,000,000. And Canada 160,000 out of 8,000,000. Canada 160,000 out of 8,000,000. And while Britain is talking seriously of giving half her income, we are not beginning, to any serious extent, to curtail our pleasures or our luxuries. To look at the average Canadian community, except for bulletin boards, the newspapers and khaki-clad men, one would not know that there was a life-and-death struggle for all that Anglo-Saxondom had won through many centuries, and for had won through many centuries, and for all that it had contributed in the way of political freedom tor the world at large. There seems to be just about as much spent on motor cars, motoring, sports, dress, the play houses, tobacco, gum, and candy, as it munitions did not mean the preserving of lives, and the Red Cross he saving of them.

What are we going to do about it? Are we ever going to be serious and face the acts? When are we going to have it soaked into us that there are more portant things than getting gain and spending it in personal pleasure? The time has come for every one in canada to cut out all the more extravagant forms of luxury and pleasure and to-lay aside for war purposes an equal am-ount, cent for cent, dollar tor dollar, tothat spent in the pleasure and luxury we do indulge in. For every five cents spent in candy, in chewing gum, in liquor and in cigars, let five cents be given to the war funds; for every ten cents spent at picture shows or quarters spent at concerts let ten cents or a spent at concerts, let ten cents or a quarter be given to Red Cross or Patri-otic fund; for every gallon of gasoline spent in a pleasure motor-ride, let twenty-five cents be given to help to fill the war chest; for every dollar spent in what is more than necessary in suits and dresses, in collars and ties, in hats and ribbons, in boots and shoes, let a dollar be given to hit this monster that is defying the world. This is a practical way to get at it. The cents, the nickels, the dimes, the dollars, can be laid aside at each corresponding spending on lux-ury and pleasure, and at the end of the week banked. At the end of the month or quarter it can be handed over to one or other of the funds. Such real earnestness backed up in this practical way means ultimate victory. The nightly attendance at an ordinary moving picture theatre is about 200. That at ten cents means \$6,000 a year. Men who smoke cigars, and boys who smoke cigarettes, will on an average spend ten cents a day; that in a town the size of St. Marys certainly means another \$6,000 a year. There is certainly \$2,000 seent annually. There is certainly \$12,000 spent annually on alcoholic drinks in this town. There is \$6,000 spent on ice cream, candies, etc. A corresponding amount would mean \$30,000 a year for war purpoes from St. Marys. That is to say nothing of what would come from a laying aside of amounts equal to those other expenditures beyond what is necessary in motor cars, motoring, dress, suits, collars, ties, hats, ribbons, etc. And even then he necessities have not been touched. Even then we have been giving but not

THE SOLDIER WHO LIVES OVER AGAIN, IN NIGHTMARE, THE AWFUL BATTLE SCENES, as well as AWFUL BATTLE SCENES, as well as the harassed business man, the tired society woman, and busy housewife, whose nerves are gradually wearing to shreds with their never-ending duties, will get quick and pernament relief from TAKAKE. Get a BOX for fifty cents at your druggist's, or by mail from the Georgian Mfg. Co., Collingwood, Ontario.

Vegetable Seed Situation

The following extract of an articlefrom a newspaper of Gothenburg, Sweden will be of interest to growers of vege-table seeds. The article refers to the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Board of Directors of the Agricultural College of Alnarp, Sweden, asking for a Government grant for the encouragement of vegetable seed growing.

"The Board points out that the warhas most clearly emphasized the importance, for the country, of home production of vegetable seed. Owing to the most important vegetable seed producing

most important vegetable seed producing countries having prohibited the export of such seed, the prices of a great number of important vegetable seeds have risen enormously. And, still worse, some seeds can hardly be obtained at any price. It is reported, from a well informed source, that vegetable seed growing in the countries engaged in the war has been largely neglected during the past summer and that for this reason further advances in prices can be expected. Reports from Germany state that the supply of seed of spinach, carrots most kinds of cabbage, onions, cucumbers and peas is utterly small. Futhermore, Germany has prohibited the export of vegetable seeds to the end of the war. There is therefore every reason to fear that we have to face the possibility of a very serious shortage of certain vegetable seeds."

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There are gaps to fill in the ranks of these are fighting for us on the battlefields. It is the young men of Canada who are expe

and emulate the deeds of those who have f of victory. It is left to your voluntary decision. Ask yourself, you of military age, what is yo

that protects you in the enjoyment of your What is your answer?