

for the ground was as hard as iron and had been impervious for days. We next climbed to Stafford's cabin. "Come right in," said he.
"Wait," said Joe. "You told us the

cabin was pretty dark even in the day

hands in your pockets, don't it?" said Joe gently. "It does me."

I then noticed that both men were covering each other with revolvers through their pockets. The stranger slowly drew out his hand. "I'm John Stafford."

"This here is Mr Quaritch of Quebec., I'm his guide. We're come after big game."

"I guess you're speaking truth. It's up to me to apologize. For free to own I was doubtful about you. You'll un-derstand that when I tell you what's happened. Perhaps you've noticed an island about eight miles off the coast.

lying nor' nor'west?"
"Sort of loaf shaped Island? Yes." "Sort of loaf shaped Island? Yes,
"That's where I come from Eel Is-land." I have a fox farm there. I re-turned to it yesterday after a run down to Valdez. When I went away a fortaight ago I left my man in charge-of some of the finest black foxes bedween this and Ungava. I got back to find the foxes all killed and my hired man gone—disappeared."

"Who was he?"

"Who was he?"

"An Alent, called Sam—He's been in uv employ three years. I see what ou're thinking—that he killed the fox, and I'd have thought that myself oly I know he didn't."

"How's that?"

"Thow's that?"

One reason is that I own only one boat, and when I went to the main hard last Friday week I took it, leaving Sam on the island. It's all of soven miles from the coast, so he couldn't have get away if he wanted. That I say, is one reason why it couldn't have been him. The other reason's as good. I was decoved away so crossing.

weakly"
"I thought maybe she was, for if she
house there wouldn't split the water out of the kettle
most times she took it off the stove
thouse is sur
do her
house there wouldn't be any track, and here
is one near on top of the other, so it
happened more'n once on the same
cas all
sort. She found her kettle heavy, Mr
Mae. around And Alent Sam vanished as if he had never lived. If may have been done for spite, but whoever the teen done for spite, but whoever the wis he lived in my cabin several days and slept in my bunk. I wonder what he did with Sam. Knocked him on the head and heaved him in the sea like as not. I'm nigh desperate. The work of three years gone, three win tees spent with Sam alone, like some kind of a Crussee and his man Friday, and keeping my wife and two little gals down at Valdez."

"Look beer, ain't it is lift early in the "Where?"

"It your stove." Joe beut down and ""y,

"Look bere, ain't it a bit early in the year to kill foxes?" said Joe, after a

Then why?

across and skinned it here."
"Where?"
"Ry your stove." Joe bent down and picked up some short red hairs. "Clum sy skinning." said he "Let's go out and take a look round the island."
Stafford led the way. At a short distance some of the skinned carensses that I had learned to connect with his more important discoveries. From one he passed to another till he had handled every careass. Stafford cointed out another island lying some if it was not black.

"There's a lot of red and cross foxes wer there in go the first land." It's named for my eldest gal." he said. "Whenower there happens a black one in the utters I try to catch it and bring it." "Then why?"—
"Because I couldn't have been decoyed away except while the steamer
was running before the winter closed
down. See? Even as early as this in
the year the pelts were worth \$15,000."
"My!" said Joe. "Suspect any one
in particular?"
"Theire it may been been from Transport

particular?

"I believe it may have been Trapper impson. He's had a down on me dis good while back. Well, if it was im, he's paid me our good, the black.

ng his eyes staring at Edith island "Look! That's smoke or I'm dream-

from the distant rock.

"Smoke it is," said Joe.

"But the island is uninhabited. Come on, come on!" cried Stafford excitedly.

"It may be those ruffians clearing out Edith island too. We'll get after them."

"All right, Mr. Stafford," agreed Joe.

"But I guess it's liable to be your, Aleut Sam marooned over there."



as we ran unit; the lee of the land we were aware of a figure standing on the beach waiting for us "It's Aleut Sam, sure enough," said

The Aleut proved to be a squat fel-ow of a most Mongolian east of com-chance. We rowed ashore in the can-cus boat, and on the beach Stafford

cabin was pretty dark even in the day time

After this he bent over the table and, drawing his knife, scratched at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and then at a stain on the near side, and the sam says that one night, four days after 1 left Eel island, he had just eaten his supper when he heard satisfied the supper when he heard in the supper when he heard stafford the a rapid conversation with his man in Indian. Neither Joe nor 1 aviational following the stafford enlightened us. "Sam says that one night, four days after 1 left Eel island, he had just eaten his supper when he heard Stafford enlightened us. "Sam says that one night, four days after 1 left Eel island, he had just eaten his supper when he heard to enlightened us. "Sam says that one night, four days after 1 left Eel island, he had just eaten his supper when he heard sam says that one night, four days after 1 left Eel island, he had just eaten his supper when he heard sam says that one night, four days after 1 left Eel island, he had just eaten his supper when he heard sam says that one night, four days after 1 left Eel island, he had just eaten his supper when he heard sam says that one night, four duly stafford enlightened us. "Sam says that one night, four duly stafford enlightened us. "Sam says that one night, four duly stafford enlightened us. "Sam says that one night, four duly stafford enlightened us. "Sam says that one night, four duly stafford enlightened us. "Sam says that one night, fo

cont were gone.
"Toward evening he discovered a parrel of dried fish which had been tumbled ashore from the beat which naroemed-fullments keep him from stary ing, I suppose. He went up into the

ife, but in doing so was so unfortunate as to overturn the kettle. "That's bad," said he "Best tell your man to get some more water." Stafford sent off Sani on his errand, but no sooner had the Aleut disappear ed than November was on his knees examining the charred embers and

examining the charred embers and delying among the ashes.
"Get rid of your breed man for a while longer, only so fie don't suspect anything," he said. "I hear him com-the."

A moment later Sam appeared in sight walking up the narrow track be tween the rocks, kettle in hand. Stafford spoke to him in Alent. Sam grunted in acquiescence, and went off up the hill that formed the center of the island.

over here to Ee!- Hullo! What's casses, but they was the carcasses of red foxes worth no more than \$10 casses, but they was the carcasses of red foxes worth no more than \$10 apiece instead of a thousand I examined those carcasses mighty careful. Their eyes wasn't the right color for black foxes. That's one thing 'Formother, I found some red bairs. It ain't in nature you can take a pelt off and not a hair stick on the body, under."

"Another thing. The robbers was six days or more on Eel Island. Now, they could catch and kill all your foxes in two. But to catch them so they wouldn't be hurt would take time. No, your foxes ain't dead yet, and they

I guess you're right. I see it now.

I'm grateful to you." Stafford reached for his rifle, but Joe

"Stay you still, and I'll show you the, way we do to the domber camps." A Sam's strong, squat figure advanced toward us. "As he stooped to throw the wood he had brought on the ground Joe caught his shoulder with one hand and snatched the knife from his belt with the other. And then there flashed across the features of the Aleut an expression like a mad dog's. He flung himself, gnashing and snarling, on November

vember

But he was in the grip of a man too
strong for him, and, though he returned again and again to the attack, the

strong for min, and, though the returned again and again to the attack, the
huge young woodsman twisted him to
earth, where Stafford and I tied his
struggling limbs.
This done we rolled him over.
"Now," said Stafford, "who is it has
got my foxes?"
The Aleut shook his bead,
Stafford pulled out his revolver, opened the breech, made sure it was loaded and cocked it. Next he held his
watch in front of Sam's face and pointed out the fact that it wanted but five
minutes to the hour.
"I'm telling him if he don't confess,"
he said, "I'll shoot him when the hand
reaches the hour."
"Good heavens! You don't really
mean."—I cried.
Stafford winked. Joe and I went

"Good heavens! You used mean"—I cried.
Stafford winked. Joe and I went down to the bench below
A quarter of an hour passed before
Stafford joined us
"What's happened?" I asked.
"He's confessed, all right." Then Stafford looked at Joe. "It all went through just the way you said. It



was a rival fox farmer, Jurgensen, did it. Landed on Eel Island with his wife the night 1 left, they were there until two days ago: took them all their time and Sam's to get my foxes. Then they brought him over here."

the island the center of "I told him to go gather some more wood while the kettle's holling. Now you can talk and tell me who you think has the pelts of my foves."

"Your foxes am's dead"
"Ain't dead? You've forgot their skinned careasses."

"I allow we saw some skinned careasses."

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gu geben damit es in gutem Zustand bleibt. Dieh benötigt ein Conic fo gut wie die Menschen, und jest ift die Zeit es ihm zu geben, da Pferde und Rindvieh in der Zeit wo fie andauernd Crockenfutter erhalten allen möglichen Krantbeiten u. Unfteckungen ausgesett find.

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faced the door, and a big ginger ed his business.
"I've just called my foxes," said '"You voxes?"
"The blacks an "You are madt." "Shut it!" cried ago you and you ed me away to ' land. You were ing which time yanimal I owned didn't kill them, make me believ the skinned carr foxes. Three d

the skinned car foxes. Three disland."

As he spoke lure of a womathe big Swede's row face, with eyes, that she f. "Zo! Vot thei "Then you row and marooned n was in the robb. The big Swed the door and ste "Get out of He paused on c myself."

myself
"I'll go if you
dangerously. "I
turn with the r
"And look
broke in Joe
that you'll get
years' rest cur
"Who are yo
"He's the n
wife was weal
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ax cut log ene
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"Ant if I sa "You won't Jurgensen l

cage." snapp gerness of a hobby. "Yo natural life color suffers get affected" "Poof! I place, that's

new minit be, we'll tidy pack ice when But the

Petersh and her ness rel er to be ists for carryin wishes. to, for known