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The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company of Canada, Limited



## Starlight

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following the general trend of it up to-wards the den. Between two great boulders that barred

shelf in front of him which the hound would be forced to mount ere they could force the passage, stood Starlight. He was silent now, but he watched with fixed intentness. Terrible and forbidding he stood, head half lowered, fangs exposed, yet there was something lacking in the pose of this awful fighting machine. Normally he would have stood with forelegs wide apart, his broad front braced to meet the shock of impact and repel it, but now he stood with one paw raised, unstable, insecure, lacking that vital weapon of the fighting wolf, the ability to meet an attack broadside and rebound with lightning chop and slash. But yet his courage never wavered.

Up came the hounds, bounding from rock to rock, from shelf to shelf, their great jaws wide apart, their savage eyes aflame with the desire to kill. They saw the wolf and came on side by side, heads lowered now and in awful silence. They paused at the foot of the shelf, glaring up, then one of them leapt, cleared the nine feet span at a bound and landed alongside Starlight.

There was a snap, a roar, and Starlight revolved as though on a pivot. He met the charge broadside but was thrown, though as he fell he struck the hound a mighty sweep across the eyes with his busy tail. This was merely to cause a diversion while he gained his feet and cause a diversion it surely did feet, and cause a diversion it surely did, for Starlight's tail was thickly charged with cutting dust. The hound drew back, surprised, momentarily blinded, and Starlight was upon it. Chop, slash, chop went those awful jaws, and two hundred pounds of bone and muscle crashed backward over the shelf the way it had come.

But now the second hound had leapt and landed, but it too was met by a whirling sandblast and a sidelong slash. Sheer weight alone saved it till the first hound was up again, standing beside its mate, pushing irresistibly forward while the wolf pinwheeled and snapped in the narrow space ahead. Starlight seemed scarcely to touch the hounds, yet as they stood awaiting an opening, crimson gashes began to appear across their faces, their necks, their broad and mottled fronts. Now and then one would dart forward, to be hurled back against its mate, grovelling, snarling, shaking the sand from its stinging eyes. For five seconds they remained thus, facing, as it were, a revolving disc of knife blades, then they closed.

Starlight drew back, out into the open. He could no longer hold the narrow way, braver of the hounds leapt upon him, made their nursery den. passed over him, and fell, for Starlight Yet ere a month was passed hound's throat fell between them. and traps, and minus his dogs beat out Something ghastly happened in the for far off Colorado.

twinkling of an eye-chop, slash, chop, but the wolf was flung a dozen paces as the last hound closed, half his shoulder between its mighty jaws.

This time the bulldog blood showed up, for the hound held on, worrying, shaking, waiting for its mate to come and lend a hand. The other hound came, slowly, coughing as it walked, caught the wolf by the mangled forestump and hung back to tear him asunder.

It was not a pretty sight, this desperate stand of a brave and daring beast, barring the way to his home and little ones, but it served to show tha strive as he may man cannot produce from his domestic stock a fighting dog to equal the wild dog of the plains. Starlight was bested now, but he was disabled ere the fight began and he had five times his weight against him. And so the two great hounds, skilled in fighting together, bore him down, and a minute or so later Starlight lay limp and lifeless in the sand.

One of the hounds grovelled to the water's edge and began to drink, but the other lay very still in a pool of red, breathing heavily. But presently the breathing ceased, and only the lap-lap of the drinking hound broke the awful quietude. At length he turned, prepared to tear the wolf asunder, but there behind him he saw, standing erect and braced, confident, terrible, the wolf that they had fought and bested!

The great hound seemed veritably to shrink. Back, back he crouched, heading for an opening of escape, but Starlight cut him off and forced him into a corner. Then the black wolf raised his muzzle to the sky and let forth the short, sharp rally call, and the hound, looking up, saw the she-wolf floating down towards them. He uttered the snarl of a dog which knows it is lost, then closed with Starlight in a last desperate endeavor to break away.

Under the shelf of rock Starlight and Jess tore the great hound to ribbons, then scattered dirt upon his luckless remains, and Wolver Wells, listening anxiously far below, knew that he would see his dogs no more. Yet he waited till the sundown lights changed from gold to crimson, till night fell with the silence of the canyon still unbroken, then he went his way heavy hearted, for he had loved his dogs.

That night Starlight and Jess carried their cubs by narrow shelves, along which no hound could force a passage, skirted black and yawning pits, by which no human foot can ever tread, till and a closed fight against such weight at dawn on a sunny shelf, a thousand was the last thing he desired. The feet above the murmuring creek, they

had bellied down with an upward slash. of the Silvertrail told Wolver Wells that And as the hound fell it uttered a roar the great black wolf and his mate had of pain, and rose nursing one crimson ceased to hunt this range. Perhaps they forepaw, which seemed to be twisted had journeyed westward to that wild back to front. The other hound leapt belt which man has yet to conquer, for ere Starlight could recover and fell upon a wolf that is maimed cannot hope to him, but somehow the wolf's jaws were hold its own in a land of many foes. where his back should have been, and the So Wolver Wells too packed his bags



All tired out!