The End of Kidd's Treasure

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me an oar, we put off and ere long reached the island.

Then we had a mighty task to convey the chests through the pass-age and into the cavern; but after an hour's hard toil, we accomplished

our task. "There are two more chests," said the captain, when we were done; and immediately we rowed to the ship again and returned to the cavern with two other chests and a great barrel again and returned to the cavern with two other chests, and a great barrel of gunpowder, which, at the cap-tain's orders, we placed about five yards from the chests. When this was done, Kidd took a large bag of powder from the long-boat, and laid a train of powder from the barrel in the passage to the shore.

shore

shore. "Ah," said he, when he had finish-ed, "I have forgotten a matter. See, Jack," said he, pulling something from his pocket, "here be a necklace and a bracelet that were Rose's. Haste to the cavern, lad, and put them in one of the chests. None are locked."

I took the jewels from him. "And, by the way, what have you done with Rose?" I asked. "We cast her overboard last night," he replied. "What else could we do?" At that moment a mad rage that

At that moment a mad rage, that had been growing all day, seized me, and I handled my pistol and thought to shoot him where he stood. But I could slay no man in cold blood, and I resolved, when I came from the cavern, to challenge him to a duel to the death, and if he refused, to slay him outright.

the death, and if he refused, if him outright. So with the joy of approaching vengeance in me, I went into the passage again, albeit resolving to hide the jewels about me, and keep them for a remembrance of one I loved. I stood in the cavern and hid the jewels about me: and as I was so

I stood in the cavern and hid the jewels about me; and as I was so doing, I heard a call through the passage. But I did not hear clearly, and I cried: "What's that?" The cry came again—it was Kidd's voice: "Farewell, Jack! I saved thee for this. Ha, ha, ha!" My blood ran cold at the words and I stood rooted to the ground. But a moment later I smelt burning powder, and with a cry of dread I

powder, and with a cry of dread I started forward. But I was too late for even and there came an for even as I moved, there came an or even as I moved, there came an overwhelming explosion, and I was hurled against the chests and fell to the ground, battered and senseless. How long I lay there I know not, but it was surely hours, for when I awakened, I was lying in water, and I knew that the tide had risen much. I knew that the water would fill

I knew that the tide had risen much. I knew that the tide had risen much. I knew that the tide had risen much. I knew that the water would fill my prison and that therefore I was facing death; but far from affright-ing me, the prospect filled me with a great and soothing happiness. Gradually the water arose, so that I staggered to my feet, and leaned against the chests. Finally it reach-ed my waist, and I fell to making my peace with Heaven. But Heaven chose that I should not die then, and the water rose only to my shoulders and then began to sink. The great bank of earth that had filled the pass-age at the explosion doubtless kept the water from me. As the water began to sink, a strange desire to live seized me with maniacal fervour, and I fell to feel-ing the barrier of earth that blocked the passage, and which was, so soon after the explosion, only loose earth and rocks. Instantly I resolved to dig my way

Instantly I resolved to dig my way Instantly I resolved to dig my way up to the daylight, and without hesi-tating I set to work and clawed at the earth until my nails were torn, and my hands sorely bruised. For three hours I toiled with a madman's strength. My mind seemed to have left me, and I was merely an untiring machine. I was a madman, nothing

machine. I was a madman, nothing more nor less. Finally, when I had bored through full thirty feet of earth, I suddenly broke into the soft, golden sunlight, and with a cry I drew myself from the hole I had made, and threw my-self on the fresh grass and instantly fell asleep. I slept for perhaps two hours and

I slept for perhaps two hours and then staggered to my feet, and the first sight that I saw was three dead bodies. They were my servant Blake and the two fellows that had rowed the treasure from the ship. Kidd had slain them that no man might know

where his treasure lay hidden. Sick in heart and body, I turned away and set off to walk about the island for food; for I was very weak; and nearby I found great plenty of raspberries, and many sweet blue-berries berries

berries. Whilst plucking these berries, Heaven sought to use me for its good purposes, and breathed into me a mad desire concerning Kidd's treasure, that had surely caused untold bloodshed and suffering in its ac-cumulation. God wot, I knew of one sweet life that had suffered for it.

it. I had been weary, but of a sud-den my weariness passed, and a feverish vigour came upon me; so great, indeed, that when I set off to return to the cavern, I ran swiftly. When I reached the narrow hole that I had bored, it was towards evening. But I sat on the grass and that I had bored, it was towards evening. But I sat on the grass and made a bag of my doublet, and with-out more ado, I crawled into the cavern again. And then I opened a chest and filled the bag I had made with an hundredweight of jewels, and bars and ingots of gold and sil-ver. And thereafter, with infinite labour, I dragged the bag through the passage, and emptied it on the grass, and returned to the cavern and filled the doublet again; and so I laboured until it was near morning, and then I threw myself on the dewy grass, when my task was finished, grass, when my task was finished, and fell asleep.

and tell asleep. At noon I awoke, weary and fever-ish. But the sight of the glittering treasures about me filled me with vigour, so that I hastened to the place where the berries were, and devour-ed good store of them. Then I went to the treasure again, and as it was low tide I filled me

and as it was low tide I filled my doublet with great weight of jewel-led ornaments and gold, and then I toiled to the shore and out on a long ledge of rock that ran into the sea, but which was not quite uncovered at low tide, so that I walked to my

knees in water. Then I laid down my doublet, and took from it a great handful of treasure, and with wonderful strength I hurled it far out into the sea; and so I threw all that I had brought in-

so I threw all that I had brought in to the sea. Thus I spent two hours, casting away jewels, and gold, and silver, where they would nevermore trouble man. But when the tide turned, I forebore, and lying on the grass, I slept for nine hours; and thereafter. the tide being low again. I returned the tide being low again, I returned to my work in the moonlight, and before I slept again, cast away the last of the treasure.

When I had done, my vigour left me and I lay on the grass again and fell into a feverish sleep; and surely

fell into a feverish sleep; and surely I slept for four-and-twenty hours ere, sodden with rain, I was awakened by a savage bending over me. This savage, an aged Indian, had compassion upon me, and straight-way lifted me to his shoulders and bore me to the other side of the bore me to the other side of the island, where a canoe lay, in which he laid me, and then put off to the mainland, a few rods away, and bore

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