

An Adventure In The Jungle

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 "Tigers very plenty here, Sahib," said Pandu; "all sleep now. When dark they creep out."
 "That's a pleasant prospect," Lucius muttered to me. "The fellow is right, though. This is where the Rajah bags most of his big game. I didn't think we had come so far. We must get clear of the jungle before sunset."

We relieved Pandu of our heavy-bore rifles, and started briskly back. Then we emerged on the brink of a glassy pool of water.

As we instinctively halted, we heard a low, furious growl. Glancing to the left, we saw a sight that chilled the blood with horror. Twenty feet down the shore of the pool, in the shade of a rock and overhanging reeds, crouched a monstrous tigress. Beside her was a playful, six-month-old cub. The beast had seen us, and was making ready to spring. Up went my rifle, and with a hasty aim I pulled the trigger. Perhaps my arm trembled a little—anyway, the ball hit the cub in the breast and stretched it lifeless beside its mother. The rage of the tigress was fearful to see. Her eyes grew like living coals, and she roared like a fury. The next instant she launched herself forward—straight toward me. I was actually fascinated by the sight. My limbs seemed to have lost the power of motion. As though in a dream I heard Lucius cry:

"Down! down! Jump to one side!" I think I moved a few inches, and that unconscious act saved my life. The long, tawny body of the tigress struck me sideways and pitched me head foremost into the muddy pool.

As I staggered to my feet, covered with filth and water, I heard the roar of a rifle. Then I saw the tigress quivering in her death agonies on the ground. She was quite dead before I reached the spot. Lucius stood over her with a smoking rifle in his hand. His face shone with triumph through its pallor.

"That was a splendid shot!" I exclaimed. "It was a deuced lucky one," he replied. "You had a close shave of it. Jove! I thought you were never going to get out of the way. Where is your rifle?"

I remembered that it lay at the bottom of the pool. "I'll soon get it," I said, and started back to the water. My legs were a little shaky, and my back felt bruised. I waded out knee deep and bent over to grope for the weapon. But just then a low cry from Pandu brought me stiffly erect. I heard a thrilling noise in the dry reeds. It was yet at some distance. I hastily rejoined Lucius, and we looked in the direction of the sound. A second later a deep, awful roar echoed through the jungle. It fairly stood our hair on end. Pandu's mahogany face turned livid.

"The tiger, Sahib!" he gasped. "It is coming to avenge its mate and cub." His teeth chattered with every word. "There, Pandu," exclaimed Lucius, "give me your rifle—quick! It has a longer range."

He handed his own gun to the maharajah, but before he could take the other in exchange, the angry roar rang out again, and we had a glimpse of the tiger as it bounded toward us over the reeds. It was less than thirty yards distant.

The sight was too much for Pandu, old hunter though he was. He had never been considered a coward, but in the twinkling of an eye he turned and fled down the shore of the pool, taking both rifles with him. "Come back, you rascal!" roared Lucius.

Pandu never faltered. With a gun swinging from each hand he bounded into the tall reeds and vanished. We unconsciously dashed at the pool, and floundered across, side by side. The water came only to our knees. Without looking back we plunged up into the reeds. After a few steps the marshy ground gave way to firm footing, and we were again in the fastnesses of the rear, full of blended grief and rage, spurred us to greater speed. A furious roar woke the jungle echoes. It seemed at our very backs. "God help us!" cried Lucius. I shivered and nearly fell. He took my arm and dragged me along. Again an awful roar that made the ground tremble.

But just when a horrible death seemed imminent we staggered into a bit of cleared space amid the jungle, and here the scant light revealed the proportions of an iron cage, about eight feet square! We gained the strange object by a dizzy rush, and Lucius jerked open the sliding door. I remember falling inside in a heap and hearing the clang of iron as the door shut fast. And then came a moment of agony.

With a tremendous roar, a great tiger launched himself against the cage, and clawed in madness at the bars until they rattled and creaked. Again and again the huge paws dabbled at us. Lucius had dragged me to the very centre of the cage. There we crouched and shivered while the beast spat and hissed and roared.

Finally, he drew back and prowled around the cage, peering in at us every few steps.

We plucked up courage and examined our shelter. The result was not

encouraging. The cage was very old and rusty. The bars were thin. It seemed to be merely hanging together. "The Rajah who brought this here twelve years ago," said Lucius, "I have heard about it. It was his favorite way of killing tigers. He would draw them to this spot by lying a goat on the edge of the jungle and then shoot them through the bars. I don't suppose he has used it, though, for half a dozen years, and it is rusting and falling to pieces. But as long as the tiger is content to simply prowling about and keep watch we are safe; otherwise—a shrug of the shoulders completed the sentence, and I knew what he meant.

Written words fail me when I try to describe the horrors of that night. The minutes seemed hours; the hours days. Cold, hunger and thirst were slight in comparison to the restless vigil kept by our besieger. His roars of baffled rage constantly resounded through the jungle. Again and again he threw himself against the flimsy cage, or tried to snatch us out with his paws.

Crack! crack! The bars were creaking and bending under his weight. They bent and bulged. Then, to our horror, two of them snapped. "Look out!" cried Lucius. "He's dropping on us!"

The tiger's head and shoulders were actually inside the cage; we could feel his hot, steaming breath on our cheeks.

In desperation Lucius whipped out his pocket-knife, opened the largest blade, and struck at the creature's paw, and drew blood. The roar that followed drove us to the furthest corner of the cage. There we trembled for a moment, while the struggling tiger slipped deeper and deeper between the broken bars.

Suddenly Lucius caught my arm in a fierce grip. "The beast is stuck!" he cried. "Don't you see? Now is our chance. Come on!"

We crept to the door and slid it open, and banged it to behind us as we darted out and sped away across the clearing. Roar after roar rang in our ears, and we heard the rattle of bars, and then a heavy crash, and knew very well that the liberated tiger had crept to the ground. At that moment all hope seemed gone, and yet our deliverance was even then at hand.

As we floundered into the jungle we saw flashing lights just ahead, and a circle of familiar faces.

What followed was confusion. I remember a volley of rifle shots, and then a loud burst of cheering. The tiger lay dead, and half a dozen officers from the cantonment were crowding around us. Pandu had gone home and guided a rescue party back to the jungle. Had they arrived a few minutes later they would have found our mangled bodies.

One of the perils of the Philippines is manifested in the case of Hugh Baker, a discharged soldier, who has just returned to his home in Hazelton, Pa. While in Manila a sea-fly bit him on the right eye, destroying the sight. The other eye is now affected, and it is feared total blindness will result.

A young crocodile, immediately after emerging from its egg, starts instinctively for the nearest body of water, even if it is not in sight and at a great distance.

Korns. Korns. There are more than one sort of korns. Some korn is planted in the ground and the other sort don't need planting; they grow quite naturally on men's toes and don't need hoeing. This kind of korn has two sorts—one gentle on your foot, when it gets boiling mad and swears like everything else; the other is hard headed and makes a row all the time, especially when your boots are on. I don't like korns, and use the extracting medicine, Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor, which removes them painlessly in twenty-four hours.

An eloping couple met with a mishap in Warner, Tenn. Miss Florence Williams was eloping with her sweetheart, Mr. G. C. Bishop, in a buggy, when an obstruction on the road upset the vehicle. She was hurled out, breaking an arm and dislocating a wrist. Two hours later she stood before a clergyman with both of her arms in splints and was married.

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For thirteen years the left arm of Eli Forbes of East Brimfield, Mass., had been useless from rheumatism. He was sitting at his window one evening recently when a thunderstorm arose. A flash of lightning seemed to play about his affected arm, causing a shock and prolonged prickling sensation. In an instant the arm shot forward involuntarily, and from that time it has been as well as ever.

Blue Ribbon Ceylon Tea
 Ask your friends about it.

Scientists now assert that the human body is full of microbes. When they are in good condition the man is healthy; but when they are inactive from illness, the man needs medical treatment.

The lily of the valley contains prussic acid. It is thought dangerous to put the stalks in a person's mouth, because if the sap chances to get into a crack in the lips an annoying swelling is produced.

Some of the largest jewelry houses in New York have immense mirrors behind the counters, so that when they turn their back upon a customer they can see if he transfers any gems to his pockets.

Conscripts in Cologne produced symptoms of heart disease by taking pills recommended for that purpose by local doctors. Several of the physicians have been arrested.

"Pharaoh 100." Payee, of Granby, Que. Clear Manufacturer.

Several societies in Germany amuse themselves by dispatching carrier pigeons to and from various points. About 300,000 birds are thus employed. It is said that the army uses 8,000 of them.

THE CHEERFUL IDIOT.
 I see some fellow is going into the rabbit rearing business, said the boarder who got the morning paper first. Seems to me that raising rabbits would be something of a hare-lifting nature, said the Cheerful Idiot.

THE ENEMY'S SACRIFICE.
 (Maud—Major, is it true that once during the war one of the enemy died to save your life?)
 Major Bluntly—Yes.
 Maud—How noble! How did it happen?
 Major Bluntly—I killed him.

LUBY'S Gives new life to the Hair. It makes it grow and restores the color. Sold by all druggists. 50c a bottle.

VERY LIKELY.
 White—She has a great command of language, hasn't she?
 Black—Yes; that's the reason, I'm inclined to think, that she never got married.

AN IMPORTANT PERSON.
 Visitor—You seem to be an important person; everybody turns round to look at you.
 Local Great Man—Yes; there isn't a man in the town I don't owe money to.

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 MRS. WINDLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used by mothers for their children's teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. 25c a bottle. Sold by all druggists throughout the world. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Windlow's Soothing Syrup."

LIBERTY.
 New Cook—Then I am not to wear your bonnets when I like?
 Mistress—No, but think how large your wages are!
 New Cook, haughtily—My liberty is not for sale!

O'KEEFE'S LIQUID MALT
 LLOYD WOOD, Toronto, GENERAL AGENT.

HELPFUL KNOWLEDGE.
 Go to school, sonny, said Uncle Eben, an' git educated 'bout geography. It'll help you to un'stan' dat dis worl' would keep gwine round, even if you didn' happen to be on han' to push an' holler.

Deafness Cannot be Cured
 by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling round or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

NOT ALWAYS THE SAME.
 Yes, I've heard him spoken of sometimes, but I didn't know he was the richest man in his ward.
 I didn't say he was the richest. I said he was the heaviest taxpayer.

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