## PROLOGUE.

Not like any other story you ever read before is "Tarsan of the Apes." While you are read-ing it you would like to pause to ask yourself "Is it possible?" but you can't, because the story is so fascinating that pausing is impossible. It's a yarn of the youcan't- stop - until - you - finish-it

It may have happened in the wilds of Africa just as the author relates it, or it may not we do not know whether or not he has a basis of fact for his story-but you are not a scientist while you are reading it. You are just an ordinary human being, with a love for a story that is absorbing in its interest and swiftness.

> CHAPTER I In the Wilds.

HAD this story from one who had no business to tell it to me or to any other. 1 may credit the seductive influence of an old vin tage upon the narrator for the begin ning of it and my own skeptical in dulity during the days that follow-for the balance of the strange tale. I do not say the story is true, for I did not witness the happenings which

The yellow, mildewed pages of the diary of a man long dead and the recfectly with the narrative of my convivial host, and so I give you the story

as I pleced it out from these several

If you do not find it credible, you will at least be as one with me in acknowledging that it is unique, remark-

From the records of the colonial of fice and from the dead man's diary we learn that a certain young English no-bleman, whom we shall call John Clayton, Lord Greystoke, was commiss ed to undertake a peculiarly delicate investigation of conditions in a British known to be recruiting soldiers for its army, which latter it used solely for forcible collection of rubber and ory from the savage tribes along the go and the Aruwimi.

We learn also that on a bright May ing in 1888 John, Lord Greystoke and his bride, Lady Alice, sailed from Dover on their way to Africa. A month later they arrived at Free

town, where they chartered a small ng vessel, the Fuwalda, which was to bear them to their final destination. And here John. Lord Greystoke, and Lady Alice, his wife, vanished from the eyes and from the knowledge of

Two mouths after they weighed anchor and cleared from the port of Freetown, a half dozen British was sees were scouring the south Atlan-for truce of them or their little vessel, and it was almost immediately that the wreckage was found upon the shores of St. Helena which convinced the world that the Fuwalda had gone down with all on board, and thus the earch was stopped ere it had scarce

We know now that the crew of the Fuwalda mutinied, slew her officers and spared John Clayton and his wife cause of a favor done to the leader of the mutineers by Clayton. Later the crew, fearing discovery, set John Clayton and his wife ashore on the wild west coast of Africa, giving them sufficient arms and tools to enable them to maintain life with work.

Near the shore Clayton built a little cabin for himself and his wife. They endured much bardship, seeing no bu an creature, but watched often by the giant apes which infest that region One day Clayton imprudently left his wife alone, and she was attacked and injured by one of the great apes. Clayton slew the beast and bore his wife back to the cabin.

That night a little son was born in the tiny cabin beside the primeval for-est, while a great tiger acreamed be-fore the door and the deep notes of the lion's roar sounded from beyond

Lady Greystoke never recovered from the shock of the great ape's attack, and, though she lived for a year after her baby was born, she was never again outside the cabin, nor did she ever fully restize that she was not in

In other ways she was quite rational.

constant attentions of her husband made that year a very happy one fo

her, the happiest of her life.
Long since had Clayton given up any hope of rescue, except through acci-With unremitting zeal he had worked to beautify the interior of the

Skins of lion and tiger covered th floor. Cupboards and bookcases lined the walls. Odd vases made by his own hands from the clay of the region held eautiful tropical flowers. Curtains of grass and bamboo covered the winlows, and, most ardnous task of all with his meager assortment of tools, be had fashioned lumber to neatly seal the walls and celling and lay a smooth floor within the cabin.

During the year that followed Clav ten was several times attacked by the great apes, which now seemed to inest the vicinity of the cabin, but as rifle and revolvers he had little fear of the huge beasts.

He had strengthened the window protections and fitted a unique wooden lock to the cabin door, so that when he hunted for game and fruits he had no fear that any animal could break into At first much of the game he shot

from the cabin windows, but toward the end the animals learned to fear the strange lair whence issued the terrifying thunder of his rifle.

In his leisure Clayton read, often aloud to his wife, from the store of oks he had brought for their new Among these were many for ittle children-picture books, primers eaders-for they had known that their little child would be old enough for such before they had hoped to return

At other times Clayton wrote in his diary, which he had always been accustomed to keep in French and in which he recorded the details of their trange life. This book he kept locked in a little metal box.

A year from the day her little so was born Lady Alice passed quietly away in the night. So peaceful was er end that it was hours before Clay. on could realize that his wife was

The last entry in his diary was made it he recites the sad details in a matter of fact way that adds to the pathos of it, for it breathes an apathy born of long sorrow and hopelessness, which even this cruel blow could scarcely awake to further suffering:

"My little son is crying for nourish; Oh, Alice, Alice, what shall I do?" And as John Clayton wrote the last

words his hand was ever destined to pen he dropped his head wearily upon his outstretched arms, where they rest ed upon the table he had built for her who lay still and cold in the bed beside

For a long time no sound broke the deathlike stillness of the jungle midday save the wailing of the tiny man-child.

In the forest of the tableland a mile back from the ocean old Kerchak, the ape, was on a rampage of rage among

f his tribe scampered to the higher pranches of the great trees to escape his wrath, risking their lives upon branches that scarce supported their weight rather than face old Kerchak in ne of his fits of uncontrolle anger. The other males scattered in all di-

ections, but not before the infuriated brute had felt the vertebrae of one snap between his foaming jaws.
Then he spied Kaia, who, returning from a search for food with her young

babe, was ignorant of the state of the mighty male's temper until the shrill warnings of her fellows caused her to scamper madly for safety. But Kerchak was close upon her, so

wise that he had almost grasped her tukle had she not made a furious leap far into space from one tree to another -a perilous chance which apes seldom take, unless so closely pursued by danger that there is no other alternative.

She made the leap successfully, but as she grasped the limb of the further tree the sudden jar loosened the hold of the tiny babe where it clung franti cally to her neck, and she saw the little thing hurled, turning and twisting, to the ground thirty feet below.

With a low cry of dismay Kala rushed headlong to its side, thoughtless now of the danger from Kerchak. but when she gathered the wee mangled form to her bosom life had left it. With low moans she sat cuddling the body to ber, nor did Kerchak attempt

to molest ber. With the death of the babe his fit of demoniscal rage passed as suddenly as it had seized him. Kerchak was a buge king aps, weigh

ing perhaps 350 pounds. His forebes was extremely low and receding his eves bloodshot small and close set to

his coarse, flat nose; his ears large and

thin, but smaller than most of his

kind strength made him supreme among the little tribe into which he had been born some twenty years before.

Now that he was in his prime, there was no simian in all the mighty forest through which he roved that dared contest his right to rule, nor did the other and larger animals molest him. Old Tantor, the elephant, alone of all the wild, savage life, feared him notand him alone did Kerchak fear. When Tantor trumpeted the great are scur-

trees of the second terrace. The tribe of anthropoids, over which he never ventured out except with both Kerchak ruled with an iron hand and bared fangs, numbered some six or eight families, each family consisting of an adult male with his wives and children-some sixty or seventy apes, all told.

ried with his fellows high among the

Kala was the youngest wife of a male called Tublat, meaning "Broken Nose," and the child she had seen dashed to death was her first, for she was but nine or ten years old.

Notwithstanding her youth, she was large and powerful—a splendid, clean imbed animal, with a round, high forehead, which denoted more intelligence than most of her kind possessed. also she had a greater capacity for mother love and mother sorrow.

But she was still an ape, a huge, ierce, terrible beast of a species close ly allied to the gorilla, yet with mor igence, which, with the strength of their cousins, made her kind the rsome of those awe inspiring

When the tribe saw that Kerchak's rage had ceased they came slowly lown from their arboreal retreats and ned again the various occupations which he had interrupted. The young played and frolicked about among the

They had passed an hour or so thus when Kerchak called them together and, with a word of command to them to follow him, set off toward the sea. They traveled for the most part upon the ground, where it was open, following the path of the great elephants



The Sight That Met His Eyes Mus Have Frozen Him With Horror.

whose comings and goings break the only roads through the tangled jungle mazes of bush, vine. creeper and tree When they walked it was with a rolling, awkward motion, placing the knuckles of their closed hands upon the ground and swinging their ungain ly bodies forward.

But when the way was through th lower trees they moved more swiftly swinging from branch to branch with the agility of their smaller cousins, the monkeys. And all the way Kala carcled her little dead baby hugged close by to her breast

eached a ridge overlooking the beach, where below them lay the tiny cottage which was Kerchak's goal.

He had seen many of his kind go to heir deaths before the loud noise made

vonderful lair, and Kerchak had me up his brute mind to own that death lealing contrivance and to explore the

nterior of the mysterious den He wanted to feel his teeth sink into the neck of the queer animal that he had learned to hate and fear, and because of this he came often with his tribe to reconnoiter, waiting for a time when the white ape should be off his

Of late they had quit attacking or even showing themselves, for every time they had done so in the past the little stick had roared out the terrible message of death to some member of

Today there was no sign of the man about, and from where they watched they could see that the cabin door was Slowly, cantiously and noise essly they crept through the jungle to-

ward the little Cabin. On they came until Kerchak bimself slunk steathily to the very door and peered within. Behind him were two males and then Kala, closely straining the little dead form to her

Inside the den they saw the strange white ape lying half across a table, his ad buried in his arms, and on the bed lay a figure covered by a sallcloth, while from a tiny rustic cradle came the plaintive wailing of a babe.

Noiselessly Kerchak entered, crouch ing for the charge, and then John Clayton rose with a sudden start and faced

The sight that met his eyes must have frozen him with horror, for there, within the door, stood three great bull apes, while behind them crowded many more; how many he never knew, for his revolvers were hanging on the far wall beside his rifle and Kerchak was charging.

When Kerchak released the limp form which had been John Clayton Lord Greystoke, he turned his atten tion toward the little cradle, but Kala was there before him, and when he would have grasped the child she snatched it herself, and before he could intercept her she had bolted through the door and taken refuge in a high

As she took up the little live baby o Alice Clayton she dropped the dead body of her own into the empty cradle. The wail of the living had answered the call of universal motherhood with in her wild breast which the dead could

High up among the branches of lighty tree she hugged the shricking nfant to her bosom, and soon the instinct that was as dominant in this flerce female as it had been in the breast of his tender and beautiful mother-the instinct of mother lovereached out to the tiny man-child' half formed understanding, and he be-Then hunger closed the gap between

them, and the son of an English lord and an English lady nursed at the east of Kala, the great ape. Once satisfied that Clayton was dead

erchak turned his attention to the thing which lay upon the bed, covered by a piece of sailcloth.

A moment be let his fingers sink deep into the cold flesh, and then, realzing that she was already dead, he turned from her to examine the contents of the room, nor did he again molest the body of either Lady Alice or Sir John.

The rifle hanging upon the wall caught his first attention. It was for this strange, death dealing thunder stick that he had yearned for months; but now that it was within his grasp. he scarcely had the temerity to seize it. Finally the rifle was torn from its hook and lay in the grasp of the great brute. Finding that it harmed him not. Kerchak began to examine it

During all these operations the apes who had entered sat huddled near the door watching their chief, while those outside strained and crowded to catch glimpse of what transpired within. Suddenly Kerchak's finger closed

apon the trigger, there was a deafening roar in the little room, and the apes at and beyond the door fell over one another in their wild anxiety to

Kerchak was equally frightened—so frightened, in fact, that he quite forgot to throw aside the author of tha fearful noise, but boited for the door with it tightly clutched in one hand.

As he passed through the opening the front sight of the rifle caught upon the edge of the inswung door with sufficient force to close it tightly after the When Kerchak came to a halt a short

distance from the cabin and discovered that he still held the rifle he dropped it as though it had burned him, nor did he again essay to recover it. The noise had been too much for his brute nerves, but he was now quite convinced that the terrible stick was quite harmless by itself if left alone. The cleverly constructed latch which Clayton had made for the door had

ould the apes find means of ingress brough the heavily barred windows. Kala had not once come to earth with her little adopted babe, but now Kerchak called to her to descend with the rest, and as there was no note of anger in his voice she dropped lightly from branch to branch and joined the

sprung as Kerchak passed out, nor

others on their homeward march. Those of the apes who attempted to examine Kala's strange baby were repulsed with bared fangs and menacing

growis, accompanied by words of warning from Kala.

When they assured her that they meant the child no harm she permitted them to accompanied. them to come close, but would not allow them to touch her charge.

It was as though she knew that her baby was frail and delicate and feared test the rough hands of the feared test the rough hands of the feared test the rough hands.

ful scream, he sprang. ENDERLY Kala nursed her li

To one less wise the wild alarm of his derce cry as he sprang would have not more surely have fallen upon his of other mothers. It was nearly a year into her possession before he would out that loud sbrick?

But Sabor knew well the wondrous females about her young hopeful, but make that leap without a little noise.

more than twelve moons had passed since Kala had come upon it. Had they known that the child had seen thirteen moons before it had come into Kala's possession they would have considered its case as absolutely hope-Tublat, Kala's husband, was sorely

vexed and but for the female's careful watching would have put the child out of the way. "He will never be a great ape," he

argued. "Always will you have to carry him and protect him. What good will be be to the tribe? None. Only a hurden. "Let us leave him quietly sleeping

CHAPTER II.

The White Ape.

from the time the little fellow came

walk alone, and as for climbing-my

Kala sometimes talked with the olde

none of them could understand how

child could be so slow and backward

in learning to care for itself. Why, it

could not even find food alone, and

but how stupid he was!

tle waif, wondering silently

why it did not gain strength

and agility as did the little aper

among the tall grasses, that you may bear other and stronger apes to guard us in our old age." "Never, Broken Nose," replied Kala.

'If I must carry him forever, so be it." Tublat went to Kerchak to urge him to use his authority with Kala and force her to give up little Tarzan. which was the name they had given to the tiny Lord Greystoke and which meant "white skin."

But when Kerchak spoke to be about it Kala threatened to run away from the tribe if they did not leave her in peace with the child, and as this is of the unalienable rights of the jungle folk, if they be dissatisfied among their own people, they bothered her no more, for Kala was a fine, clean limbed young female, and they did not wish to lose her. As Tarzan grew he made more rapid

strides, so that by the time he was ter years old he was an excellent climbe and on the ground could do many wonderful things which were beyond the powers of his little brothers and sisters. In many ways did he differ from them, and they often marveled at his superior cunning, but in strength and size he was deficient, for at ten the great anthropoids were fully grown, some of them towering over six feet

in height, while little Tarzan was still

but a half grown boy. Yet such a boy! From early infancy he had used his ands to swing from branch to branch after the manner of his giant mother. and as he grew older he spent bour upon hour daily speeding through the reetops with his brothers and sisters.

He could spring twenty feet across pace at the dizzy heights of the forest op and grasp with unerring precision out apparent jar a limb waving wildly in the path of an approaching tornado. He could drop twenty feet at a

stretch from limb to limb in rapid descent to the ground, or he could gain the utmost pinnacle of the loftiest tropical giant with the ease and swiftn of a squirrel. Though but ten years old, he was fully as strong as the ave age man of thirty and far more agile than the most practiced athlete ever becomes. And day by day his strength was increasing.

His life among the fierce apes been happy, for his recollection held no other life, nor did he know that there existed within the universe aught else than his little forest and the wild jungle animals with which he was fa-He was nearly ten before he com

menced to realize that a great difference existed between himself and his fellows. His little body, burned almost black by exposure, suddenly causd him feelings of intense shame, for he realized that it was entirely hairess, like some low snake or reptile. In the higher land which his tribe requented was a little lake, and it vas here that Tarzan first saw his face in the clear, still waters of its bosom. It was on a sultry day of the dry season that he and one of his consins had gone down to the bank to drink. As they leaned over both little faces were mirrored on the placed pool, the fierce and terrible features of the ape beside those of the aristocratic scion

of an old English house. Tarzan was appalled. It had been ad enough to be hairless, but to own such a countenance! He wondered that the other apes could look at him at all, So intent was he upon his personal appraisement of his features that he did not hear the parting of the tall grass behind him as a great body pushed itself stealthily through the ungle, nor did his companion, the ape, ear either, for he was drinking, and the noise of his sucking lips drowned the quiet approach of the intruder.

Not thirty paces behind the two he

crouched—Sabor, the tiger—lashing his tail. Cautiously be moved a great padded paw forward, noiselessly placing it before he lifted the next. Thus he advanced, his belly low, almost touching the surface of the ground-a great cat preparing to spring upon its

two unsuspecting little playfellows. Carefully he drew his hind feet well up beneath his body, the great muscles rolling under the beautiful skin of crouching that he seemed flattened the earth except for the upward be of the glossy back as it gathered

An instant he paused thus us though urned to stone, and then, with an aw-

Sabor, the tiger, was a wise hunter. seemed a foolish thing, for could he victims had be but quietly leaped with-

quickness of the jungle folk and their almost unbelievable powers of hearing. To them the sudden scraping of one blade of grass across another was as effectual a warning as his loudest cry, and Sabor knew that he could not

His wild scream was not a warning, but instead was meant to freeze his poor victims in a paralysis of terror for the tlny fraction of an instant. which would suffice for his mighty claws to sink into their soft flesh and hold them beyond peradventure of es-

In so far as the ape was concerned reasoned correctly. The little



fellow crouched trembling just an instant, but that instant was quite long enough to prove his undoing. Not so, however, with Tarzan, the man-child. Before him lay the deep

waters of the little lake, behind him certain death-a cruel death beneath tearing claws and rending fangs. Tarzan had always hated water, except as a medium for quenching his thirst. He hated it because he con-

nected it with the chill and discomfort of the torrential rains, and he feared it for the thunder and lightning and wind which accompanied it. But of the two evils his quick mind

chose the lesser, and before the great beast had covered half his leap Tarzan felt the chill waters close above his He could not swim, and the water

particle of that self reliance and resourcefulness which were the badges of his superior being. Rapidly he moved his hands and feet

in an attempt to scramble upward, and, possibly more by chance than design, he fell into the stroke that a dog uses when swimming, so that within a few seconds his nose was above water. and he found that he could keep it there by continuing his strokes and also make progress through the water. He was much surprised and pleased with this new acquirement which had been so suddenly thrust upon him, but be had no time for thinking much upon it.

He was now swimming parallel to the bank, and there he saw the cruel beast that would have seized him crouching upon the still form of his The tiger was intently watching Tar-

zan, evidently expecting him to return to shore, but this the boy had no inten tion of doing. Instead he raised his voice in the call of distress common to his tribe, addito it the warning which would preven would be rescuers from running into

Almost immediately mere came an

the clutches of Sabor.

answer from the distrece, and pres ently forty or fifty great apes swung rapidly and majestically through the trees toward the scene of tragedy. In the van was Kala, for she had ecognized the tones of her best be-

cruel Sabor. Though more powerful and better tiger had no desire to meet these enhatred he sprang quickly into the brush swung creakingly open before his as-

Tarzan now swam to shore and clambered quickly upon dry land. The feeling of freshness and exhibitantion which the cool waters had imparted to the interior, he slowly and cautiously him filled his being with grateful surprise, and ever after he lost no oppor-tunity to take a daily plunge in lake or stream or ocean when it was pos-

custom herself to the sight, for, though her people could swim when forced to

have belonged to his fair young mother had she lived

When he was disobedient she cuffed him, it is true, but she was never cruel to him and was more often caressing than chastising him.

Tublat, her husband, always hated Tarzan and on several occasions had come near ending his youthful career. Tarzan's superior intelligence and unning permitted him to invent a thousand diabolical tricks to add to the

burdens of Tublat's life. Early in his boyhood he had learned to form ropes by twisting and tying long grasses together, and with these be was forever tripping Tublat or attempting to hang him from some over. hanging branch.

By constant playing and experiment ing with these be learned to tie rude knots and make sliding nooses, and with these he and the younger apes amused themselves. What Tarzan did they tried to do also, but he alone orig. inated and became proficient. One day while playing thus Tarzan

had thrown his rope at one of his fleeing companions, retaining the other end in his grasp. By accident the noose fell squarely about the running ape's neck, bringing him to a sudden and surprising halt. Ah, here was a new game, a fine

game, thought Tarzan, and immediately be attempted to repeat the trick. And thus, by painstaking and continued practice, he learned the art of rop-

Now, indeed, was the life of Tublat a living nightmare. In sleep, upon the march, night or day, he never knew when that quiet noose would slip about his neck and nearly choke the life out of him. Kala punished, Tublat swore dire vengeance, and old Kerchak took notice and warned and threatened, but all to no avail.

In Tarzan's clever little mind many thoughts revolved, and back of these was his divine power of reason.

If he could catch his fellow apes with his long arm of many grasses, why not Sabor, the tiger? The wanderings of the tribe brought

them often near the closed and silent cabin by the little landlocked harbor. To Tarzan this was always a source of never ending mystery and pleasure. He would peek into the curtained windows or, climbing upon the roof,

peer down the black depths of the

chimney in a vain endeavor to solve

the unknown wonders that lay within those strong walls. It was on the next visit to the vicinity following the adventure with old Sabor that as he approached the cabin Tarzan noticed that from a distance the door appeared as though an independent part of the wall in which it was set, and for the first time it occurred to him that this might prove

the means of entrance which had so ong eluded him. He was alone, as was often the case when he visited the cabin. The apes had no love for it. The story of the thunder stick, having lost nothing in the telling during these ten years, had quite surrounded the white man's deserted cabin with an atmosphere of weirdness and terror for the simians. The story of his own connected with the cabin had never been told him. In



In the Middle of the Floor Lay a

to him that his father had been a strange" white ape, but he did not loved, and with her was the mother of know that Kala was not his own the little ape who lay dead beneath

On this day he went directly to the door and spent hours examining it and equipped for fighting than the apes, the fussing with the hinges, the knob and

In the middle of the floor lay a skeleton, every vestige of flesh gone from the bones, to which still clung the mildewed remnants of what had once been clothing; upon the bed lay a similar grewsome thing, but smaller, while in a tiny cradle near by was a

third, a wee mite of a skeleton. To none of these evidences of an old tragedy did little Tarzan give but passig heed. His wild jungle life had inared him to the sight of dead and dying animals, and had he known that he

"Barn to B Said

an F Byard Bake butcher of th this morning with a razor. Barney Bal known in Bel the past coup Ontario. A f Belleville on sult a physic toring for so

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