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Accom. from Richmond, ... 5.10 p.m. Austruther well knew what he was Midland Division.

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THE STREET STREET STREET

## The Wings of the By LOUIS TRACY

you to be on the Sirdar? I have a of all the passengers and crew, and your name does not appear therein." "Oh, that is easily accounted for. shipped as a steward in the name

"Robert Jenks! A steward!" "Yes. That forms some part of the promised explanation." Iris rapidly gathered the drift of her lover's wishes. "Come, father," she cried merrily. "I am aching to see what the ship's gazing now with provoking admiration stores, which you and Robert pin your at Robert, who certainly offered almost faith to, can do for une in the shape of as great a contrast to his former state

garments. I have the utmost belief in as did the girl herself. He returned the British navy, and even a skeptic her look with interest. should be convinced of its infallibility if H. M. S. Orient is able to provide a ed, "that clothes would do so much for Sir Arthur Deaue giadly availed himself of the proffered compromise. He But come, dearest. Gaptain Fitzroy assisted life into the boat, though that and Lord Ventnor have come ashore active young person was far better

back to the ship. Anstruther during a | a scraphic smile to the others. momentary delay made a small request on his own account. Lieutenant Playdon, nearly as big a man as Robert. dispatched a note to his servant, and the gig speedily returned with a comwith the result that a dip in the buth and ten minutes in the hands of an expert valet made Austruther a new man. Acting under his advice, the bodies of the dead were thrown into the lagoon, the wounded were collected in the hut, to be attended to by the ship's

surgeon, and the prisoners were paraded in front of Mir Jan, who identified every man and found by counting heads that none was missing. Robert did not forget to write out a His lordship, a handsome, saturnine formal notice and fasten it to the rock. man, coel, insolently polite, connseled This proceeding further mystified the officers of the Orient, who had gradually formed a connected idea of the great fight made by the shipwrecked pair, though Austruther squirmed inwardly girl," he urged upon his surprised hearwhen he thought of the manner in which Iris would picture the scene.

As it was, he had the first innings, and struther is a plausible sort of rascal, a he did not fail to use the opportunity. In the few terse words which the militant Briton best understands he de-scribed the girl's fortitude, her unfingging cheerfulness, her uncomplaining readiness, to do and dare, When he ended, the first lieutenant, er. who commauded the boats sent in pur-

suit of the flying Dyaks-the Orient sank both sampans as soon as they were launched summed up the general verdict;

Captain Anstruther. Each man of us envies you from the bottom of his "There is an error about my rank," gust her. He is hard up—cut off by his

he said. "I did once hold a commission in the Indian army, but I was court martialed and cushiered in Hongkong six months ago. I was unjustly convicted on a grave charge, and I hope some day to clear myself. Meanwhile I am a mere civilian. It was only Miss Deane's generous sympathy which led her to mention my former rank, Mr. Playdon." Had another of the Orient's twelve

pounder shells suddenly burst in the midst of the group of officers it would have created less dismay than this unexpected avowal. Court martialed! Cashiered! None but a service man can grasp the awful significance of those words to the commissioned ranks of the army and navy.

Accom. from Annapolis, ... 7.28 a.m. doing. Somehow he found nothing hard in the performance of these penances now. Of course the ugly truth must be revealed the moment Lord Ventnor heard his name. It was not fair to the good fellows crowding around him and offering every attention that the frank hospitality of the British sailor could suggest to permit them to adopt the tone of friendly country which rigit discipline if nothing class would not allow them to maintain.

The first lieutenant by reason of his rank was compelled to say something.
"That is a devilish bad job; Mr. Anwruther," he blurted out.
"Well, you know I had to tell you."

Me smiled unaffectedly at the won-dering circle. He, too, was an officer and appreciated their sentiments. They were unfeignedly sorry for him, a man so brave and modest, such a splendid type of the soldler said gentleman, yet-by their contents, law an enteret. Nor dould they, wholly unberstand his demeanor. There was a noble dignity in his candor, a conscious innocence that girl all that trail happened at Hongdistrined to shield frielf under a par-

The first lieutenant again phrased \* the thoughts of his juniors. and every other man in the ship cannot help but sympathize with you. But whatever may be your record-if you were an escaped convict, Mr. Anstrather no one could withhold from you the praise deserved for your mag-miscent stand against ever-whelming odds. Our duty is plain. We will bring you to Singapore, where the others will no doubt wish to go immediately. I will tell the captain what you have been good enough to acquaint us with. Mean-while we will give you every assistance.

and er attention in our power." A murmur of approbation ran through his glasses. brough the little circle. Robert's face aled spinewhat. What first rate chaps

"I can only thank you," he said un-

intent knot of men of a young lady in a Paris gown, a Paris bat, carrying a Trouville parasol and most exquisitely gloved and booted, made every one gasp. "Oh, Robert, dear, how could you? I actually didn't know you!" Thus Iris, bewitchingly attired, was

steadily. "Your kindness is more try-

A rustle of silk, the intrusion into the

ing than adversity."

"Would any man believe," he laugh-

a woman?" "What a left banded compliment! with father and me. They want us to able to support him, and a word to the efficer in command sent the gig flying cuse him, won't you?" she added, with They walked off together.

"Jimmy!" gasped a fat midshipma to a lanky youth. "She's got on your togs!" Meaning that Iris had ramacked the plete assortment of clothing and linen. Orient's theatrical wardrobe and pounc-The man also brought a dressing case. ed on the swell outfit of the principal female impersonator in the ship's com-

pany. CHAPTER XVI. ORD VENTNOR was no fool.
White Iris was transforming herself from a semisavage condition into a semblance of an ultra chic Parisienne. Sir Arthur Desine told the earl something of the state of affairs on the island.

patience, toleration, even silent recognition of Austruther's undoubted claims for services rendered. "She is an enthusiastic, high spirited

er, who expected a very different ex-pression of opinion. "This fellow Angood man in a tight place, too-just the sort of fire eating blackguard who would fill the heroic bill where a fight is concerned. Hang him, he licked me Further amazement for the shipown-

"Yes. It's quite true. I interfered with his little games, and he gave me the usual reward of the devil's apothecary. Leave Iris alone. At present she is strung up to an intense pitch of "You do not need our admiration, gratitude, having barely escaped a terrible fate. Let her come back to the normal. Anstruther's shady record must gradually leak out. That will dis-

> people and that sort of thing. There you probably have the measure of his scheming. He knows quite well that he can never marry your daughter. It is all a matter of price." Sir Arthur willingly allowed himself to be persuaded. At the back of his head there was an uneasy consciousness that it was not "all a matter of price." If it were he would never trust a man's face again. But Vent-

nor's well balanced arguments swayed him. The course indicated was the only decent one. It was humanly impossible for a man to chide his daughter and flout her rescuer within an hour of finding them. Lord Ventnor played his cards with a deeper design. He bowed to the in-

evitable. Iris said she loved his rival. Very well. To attempt to dissuade her was to throw her more closely into that rival's arms. The right course was to appear resigned, saddened, compelled against his will to reveal the distressing truth. Further, he counted on Austruther's quick temper as an active agent. Such a man would be the first to rebel against an assumption of pitying tolerance. He would bring bitter charges of conspiracy, of un-believable compact to secure his ruin. All this must recoil on his own head when the facts were laid bare. Not even the here of the island could pre-vail against the terrible indictment of the court martial. Finally, at Singapore, three days distant, Colonel Cos-tabell and his wife were staying. Lord

Ventner, alone of those en board, knew this. Infleed, he accompanied Sir Arthur Deaue largely in order to break off a somewhat trying entanglement. He smiled complacently as he thought a flux query. of the effect on Irls of Mrs. Contobe indignant remonstrances when the bar-onet asked that injured lady to tell the

However, Lord Ventuor was mos profoundly autowell, and he cursed auttration from the depths of his heart. But he could see a way out. He came ashore with Iris and her father. The captain of the Orient also joined the party. The three mes watched Robert and the girl walking toward them from the group of off-"Austruther is a smart looking fel-

low." commented Captain Fitzroy. "Who is he?" Truth to tell, the gallant commander of the Orient was secretly amased by the matamorphosis effected in Robert's appearance since he scratinised him

his lordship was quite at ease. "From his name and from what Deane tells me I believe he is an exofficer of the Indian army." "Ah! He has left the service?"

"Yes. I met him last in Hongkong." "Then you know him?" "Quite well, if he is the man I imagine." "That is really very nice of Ventnor,"

thought the shipowner. "The last thing I should credit him with would be a forgiving disposition." Meanwhile Anstruther was reading Iris a little lecture. "Sweet one," he explained to her, "do not allude to me by my former rank. I am not entitled to it. Some day, please God, it will be restored to me. At present I am a plain civilian, and, by the way, Iris,

during the next few days say nothing about our mine." "Oh, why not?"

"If it pleases you, Robert, I am satis-He pressed her arm by way of answer. They were too near to the waiting trio for other comment. "Captain Fitzroy," cried Iris, "let me introduce Mr. Anstruther to you. Lord Ventnor, you have met Mr. Anstruther

The sailor shook hands. Lord Ventnor smiled affably. "Your enforced residence on the island seems to have agreed with you,"

he said. "Admirably. Life here had its drawbacks, but we fought our memies in the open. Didn't we, Jris?"

with false testimony." His lordship's sallow face wrinkled somewhat. So Iris knew of the court martial, nor was she afraid to proclaim to all the world that this man was her lover, As for Captain Fitzroy, his bushy eyebrows disappeared into his peaked cap when he heard the manner of their speech. Nevertheless Ventuor smiled again.

Deane," he said. But Anstruther, sorry for the manifest uneasiness of the shipowner, re-

pressed the retort on his lips and forthwith suggested that they should walk to the north beach in the first finstance, that being the scene of the During the next hour he became audi-

ter rather than narrator. It was Iris who told of his wild fight against wind and waves; Iris who showed them where he fought with the devilfish; Iris who expatiated on the long days of ceaseless toil, his dauntless cou age in the face of every difficulty, the way in which be rescued her from the clutch of the savages, the skill of hispreparations against the anticipated attack and the last great achievement of all, when time after time he foiled the Dyaks' best laid plans and flung them of, crippled and disheartened, during the many phases of the thirty hours' battle.

There were tears in her eyes when she ended, but they were tears of thankful happiness, and Lord Ventnor, a silent listener who missed neither word nor look, felt a deeper chill in his cold heart as he realized that this wo- view the government of India might man's love could never be his. The knowledge excited his passion the more. His hatred of Anstruther now took off his turban and placed it on became a mania, an insensate resolve to mortally stab this meddler who always stood in his path.

Robert hoped that his present ordeal was over. It had only begun. He was know that Allah has pardoned my called on to answer questions without transgression number. Why had the tunnel been 'In spite of made? What was the mystery of the could not help liking Austruther. The valley of death? How did he manage to guess the dimensions of the sundial? How came he to acquire such an amazing stock of out of the way knowledge of the edible properties of roots and trees? How? Why? Where? When? They never would be satisfied, for not even the British navy, poking its nose into the recesses of the world, often comes across such an amazing story as the adventures of this couple on Rainbow island.

He readily explained the creation of quarry and cave by telling them of the vein of antimony imbedded in the rock near the vault. Antimony is one of the substances that covers a multitude of doubts. No one, not excepting the doctors who use it, knows much about it, and in Chinese medicine it might be a chief factor of exceeding nastiness. Inside the cavern the existence of the partially completed shaft to the ledge accounted for recent disturbances on the face of the rock, and newcomers could not, of course, distinguish the bones of poor "J. S." as being the remains of a European.

Anstruther was satisfied that none of them hazarded the remotest guess as to the value of the gaunt rock they were staring at, and chance helped him to bethe further inquiry. A trumpeter on board the Orient was blowing his lungs out to summon them

to tuncheon when Captule Vitaroy put "I can quite understand," he said to Robert, "that you have an affection for this welrd place, but I am curious to know why you lay claim to the island. You can hardly intend to return here." He pointed to Robert's placard stuck.

on the rock.

Austruther paused before he answered. He felt that Lord Ventuor dark eyes were fixed on him. Every-body was more or less desirous to have this polite cleared up. He looked the questioner squarely in the face. "In some parts of the world," he said, "there are sunken reefs, unknown, un-charted, on which many a vessel basfault on the part of her officers."

"Well, Captain Fiturey, when I was stationed with my regiment in Hong-kong I encountered such a reef and wrecked my life on it. At least that

is how it seemed to me then. Cortune threw me ashore here after a long and bitter submergence. You can hardly blame me if I cling to the tiny speck of land that gave me salvation.' "No," admitted the sailor. He knew there was something more in the allegory than the text revealed, but it

was no business of his. "Moreover," continued Robert smilingly, "you see I have a partner." "There cannot be the slightest doubt about the partner," was the prompt re-

Then every one laughed, Iris more than any, though Sir Arthur Deane's gayety was forced, and Lord Ventnor could taste the acidity of his own smile. Later in the day the first lieutenant. told his chief of Anstruther's voluntary statement concerning the court martial Captain Fitzroy was naturally pained by this unpleasant revelation, but he "Just a personal whim. It will please took exactly the same view as that ex-

pressed by the first lieutenant in Rob ert's presence. Nevertheless be pondered the matter and seized an early opportunity of men tioning it to Lord Ventnor. That distinguished nobleman was vastly su prised to learn how Anstruther had cut

the ground from beneath his feet. "Yes," he said, in reply to the sailor's request for information, "I know all about it. It could not well be otherwise, seeing that next to Mrs. Costobell I was the principal witness against

"That must have been awkward for you," was the unexpected comment.
"Indeed! Why?"

"Because rumor linked your name "Yes, dear. The poor Dyaks were with that of the lady in a somewhat not sufficiently modernized to attack us outs, oken way." "You astonish me. Anstruther certainly made some stupid allegations during the trial, but I had no idea he

was able to spread this malicious report subsequently." "I am not talking of Hongkong, my lord, but of Singapore, months later. Captain Fitzroy's tone was exceeding dry. Indeed, some people might

rare luxury of an angry scowl.

"Rumor is a lying jade at the best,"
he said curtly. "You must remember, Captain Fitzroy, that I have uttered no word of scandal about Mr. Austruther, and any doubts concerning his conduct can be set at rest by perusing the records of his case in the adjutant general's office at Hong-

"Hum!" said the sailor, turning on his heel to enter the chart room. The girl and her father went back to the island with Robert. After taking thought the latter decided to ask Mir Jan to remain in possession until he returned. There was not much risk of another Dyak invasion. The fate of Taung S'Ali's expedition would not encourage a fresh set of marauders, and the Mohammedan would be well armed to meet unforeseen contingencies, while on his (Austruther's) representations the Orient would land an abundance of stores. In any event it was better for the native to live in freedom of Rainbow island than to be handed over to the authorities as an escaped convict, which must be his immediate fate no matter what magnanimous afterward take of his services. Mir Jan's answer was emphatic. He

"Sahib," he said, "I am your dog. If some day I am found worthy to be your faithful servant, then shall I In spite of himself Sir Arthur Deans



man was magnetic, a hero, au ideal gentlothan. No wonder his daughter was infatuated with him. Yet the future was dark and storm tossed, full of sinister threats and complications. Irls stances which had come to pass since they parted and which had changed the whole aspect of his life. How could be tell her? Why should it be his miserable lot to snatch the cup of happiness from her lips? In that moment of silent agony he wished he were burden laid on him. Well, surely he might bask in the sunshine of her laughter for another day. No need to embitter her joyous heart until he was driven to it by dire necessity. woebegone phautom of care and en-tered into the abandon of the hour with a zest that delighted her.
dear siri imagined that Robert.
(To be continued.)

Make the board of the second o