

The SEA BRIDE

By BEN AMES WILLIAMS

CHAPTER XXXVI

Dan'l was already half way down the ladder; but even before his sulphur match scratched, Brander's nostrils told him what had happened. They brought him a smell, unmistakable, appalling—the smell of blood!

He was on his knees beside Slatter's body when Dan'l bent over him with the flickering match. They saw Slatter doubled forward over his own legs.

"I had a full Nelson," Brander explained swiftly. "I was forcing him over that way when he yelled—"

He lifted Slatter's body; and they saw the hilt of a knife that was stuck downward, deep into his right thigh.

"You've killed him!" Dan'l cried.

And Mauger interrupted loyally: "No! He didn't."

Dan'l looked at the one-eyed man.

"How do you know?"

"I did. I stuck the knife in him."

Brander looked at Mauger, and he touched the little man's shoulder.

"You're mistaken, little friend," he said, and smiled. He turned to Dan'l. "I bit the knife out of Slatter's hand," he said. "It fell against my chest and slid down. It must have dropped between his body and his legs; and his own body, bending forward, drove it in."

Dan'l smiled unpleasantly.

"All right, but Mauger says he did it."

Brander shook his head.

"He didn't for a good reason. He was flat on the floor, and I was kneeling on his back, between him and Slatter, when Slatter yelled and quit fighting."

Dan'l groped for the whale-oil lamp, lighted it, and bent to look at the knife.

"How did it kill him, there?" he demanded.

"It must have struck the big thigh artery," said Brander.

Noll Wing's voice came down to them from the scuttle. "What's wrong, below?"

And his big bulk slid down the ladder.

Dan'l and Noll and Faith talked the affair over between them in the after cabin the next morning.

Faith had slept through the disturbance of the night before, but when she heard of it, on waking, it absorbed her. She went on deck found Brander, and made him tell what had happened. He described the outbreak in the fo'c'sle. He told how, when he went forward, he smelled liquor on the men; how he dropped through the fo'c'sle scuttle, and someone knocked the lamp from his hand; and Slatter rushed him.

"Mauger saw what the man meant," he said. "He jumped on him from the side, and then I took a hand. We had it for a while, in a heap on the floor."

"The other men in the fo'c'sle had fled to the deck, leaving Slatter to do his work."

"I made him let go of the knife," Brander explained. "After we had banged around for a while, I got him from behind, my arm under his, my hands clasped behind his neck. I bent him over, forward. He was trying to get hold of my throat, over his shoulder; but he yelled and let go."

Faith's eyes were troubled.

"You say the men had been drinking?"

"Yes."

"Where did they get it?"

Brander shook his head; he waited for her to speak.

"Let me talk to Mauger," she said.

He sent the one-eyed man to her and took himself away. Mauger told his story volubly. The little man had added a cubit to his stature by his exploit; he had done heroically, and knew it, and was proud. He told, straightforwardly, how Brander dropped down into the fo'c'sle.

"Slatter had fixed with a man to knock out the light," he explained. "I heard them whispering. I was watching. I saw Slatter had a knife; so when he jumped for Mr. Brander, I tripped him and he fell over me, and then Mr. Brander grabbed him." The little man chuckled at the joke on himself. "They fit all over me, ma'am," he said. "They done a double shuffle up and down my backbone, right!"

Faith smiled at him, and told him he had done well.

"But where did the men get liquor?" she asked.

"I dunno, ma'am. Did they have any?"

"Mauger," she said steadily.

"Faith, wait—"

She touched his shoulder lightly with her hand, silencing him.

"Write this," she said; and when Noll took the pen, she dictated: "Someone gave the men liquor this day; they were drinking in the fo'c'sle. When Mr. Brander went forward to quiet them—"

She saw Noll had fallen behind with his writing, and waited a moment, then repeated more slowly: "When Mr. Brander went forward to quiet them, Slatter attacked him with a knife. In the struggle Slatter dropped the knife, and a moment later fell on it, dying from the wound."

"She repeated the last sentence a second time, so that Noll got it word for word; and then she took the log from him, and blotted it, and put it away."

"Aren't you saying anything about Mauger?" Dan'l Tobey protested.

Faith smiled quietly.

"Thank you for reminding me."

She opened the log again, bade Noll write, and said slowly: "The man Mauger saved Mr. Brander's life by tripping Slatter as he charged."

Dan'l grimaced as she finished.

"Now," said Faith, "Slatter was not important, at least he is no longer important. But there is one thing, Noll, that you must stop—the whiskey that went forward."

Noll looked at her dully, frowning, as if he sought to understand.

"It was probably Slatter stole it," Dan'l said. "The men say so."

"He took it forward," Faith agreed; "but he did not get it from the stores. He could not."

She hesitated, her lips white; then she set them firmly. "Dan'l, fetch Roy here," she said.

Dan'l was so surprised that for an instant he did not stir.

"Roy?" he repeated. "What's he down here for?"

"Come down to—"

He looked at her, and was suddenly confused with fear he had played Judas.

"What now, ma'am," he drawled. "I callate you best ask the boy that there."

She nodded at once.

"Of course! Thank you, Tinch."

So Faith had this matter in her mind when Dan'l came down to find Noll, in mid-morning, and ask what was to be done about the tragedy.

"Slide Slatter over th' side, Mr. Tobey," Noll said fretfully. "Do I have to look after everything about this ship?"

"Hitch is fixing for that," Dan'l said.

"What I mean is, how about Mauger? He says he done it."

"Well, if he says he done it, he done it," Noll said sullenly.

"That's what I say," Dan'l agreed. "Only thing is, Brander stands up for him. So what do you aim to do?"

"Brander stands up for him?"

"Says he couldn't ha' done it, anyways."

Noll threw up his fist angrily.

"Damn it, Mr. Tobey, don't run to me with this. Find out what happened—then tell me. That's the thing. My God, this ship is—"

Mr. Tobey, he said.

"All right," Dan'l said steadily. "I say Mauger did it."

Noll's cheeks turned pale and his eyes narrowed on the mate.

"Stuck the knife in him?"

"Yes."

"How did he know to stick it in the man's leg so neat? Most men would ha' stuck for the back. The man knows the use of a knife, Mr. Tobey."

Dan'l nodded.

"Oh, ay!"

Noll looked furtively toward the door.

"I've allus said he'd a knife for me. He'll be on my back one day!"

He was trembling and he poured a drink and swallowed it. Faith, sitting near him, looked up, looked at Dan'l, then bent her head over her book again.

"I'm thinking it's wise to put him in frons," Dan'l suggested.

"Then do it, Mr. Tobey," Noll roared. "Don't come whining to me with your little man's. Settle such things. That's the business of a mate, Mr. Tobey."

"Why make so much talk?" Faith said quietly, without looking up. "Mr. Brander has explained what happened."

The men were silent for an instant, surprised and uneasy. Dan'l looked at the captain; Noll's head was bent.

"You think Mr. Brander is right?" Dan'l ventured to say.

"Of course."

"You—think he's telling the truth?"

"Anyone can see that."

Dan'l laughed mirthlessly.

"Then we'd best write—we'd best let Mr. Brander write his story in the log, sir."

Faith looked at Dan'l steadily; then she turned to her husband.

"Noll," she said, "you write the log. I'll tell you what to write. He eyed her stupidly, not understanding. She got up and opened

the log-book and gave him a pen. He protested: "Faith, wait—"

She touched his shoulder lightly with her hand, silencing him.

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CUBS AGAIN HAVE 3 GAMES' MARGIN; N. Y. BEATEN 12-4

Hartnett Hits Homer With Bases Full; Athletics Take Bad Mauling From Detroit.

By HUGH S. FULLETON Jr., Associated Press Sports Writer.

The struggle for first place in the National League between the champion Chicago Cubs and the aspiring New York Giants is back where it started, but the Cubs cannot lose the lead in the current series.

Chicago squared the series with a 12 to 4 triumph yesterday. Defeat left the Giants three games behind the leaders with only two more to play in Chicago. The climax came when Gabby Hartnett clouted his 27th home run of the year with the bases full in the eighth. Charley Root fanned six Giants.

Robins Also Lose

So far as second place was concerned, the defeat cost the Giants nothing. For the Brooklyn Robins took their fifth straight defeat from the Cincinnati Reds, 4 to 1, and dropped to 4½ games behind first place and only 3½ ahead of the St. Louis Cardinals.

St. Louis gained a game by coming from behind to beat the Philadelphia 10 to 8, after giving away a five-run lead.

Timely hitting against Tom Zachary, much of it done by Pie Traynor, gave the Pirates a 10 to 3 victory over the Boston Braves. Traynor's three hits drove in four runs.

The American League games produced no gains or losses among the leaders as the holders of the first three places in the standing were defeated. But it brought the champion Philadelphia Athletics one game nearer the end of the season without reducing their 8½ game lead.

Mackmen Drubbed

The Athletics took a 7 to 1 trouncing from the Detroit Tigers as Vic Sorrell held them to seven hits and fanned seven batters while Detroit pounded George Earnshaw for all its runs in the first five innings. But at the same time the St. Louis Browns took a ten inning decision over Washington by a 4 to 3 count and the Cleveland Indians ran their string of victories to seven by defeating the New York Yankees, 5 to 4.

The Chicago White Sox defeated the Boston Red Sox, 6 to 4. Ted Lyons turned in his 18th victory of the season.

TRAPSHOOT KING OF AMERICA BOY OF 14; FIRST OUT OF 966

(Associated Press Leased Wire)

VANDALIA, O., Aug. 23.—A 14-year-old boy whose iron nerve held steady while he veteran competitors faltered has upset the trapshoot world.

The boy, Alfred Rufus King Jr., of Wichita Falls, won the grand American handicap, the greatest honor in trapshooting, here yesterday from a field of 966 of the country's best marksmen.

Young King not only finished with one of the four best scores in

the large field, but unperturbed by the eyes of 8,000 spectators, outshot three far more experienced marksmen in the shoot-off of the tie for the championship.

King and three middle-aged Ohioans, J. L. Scott, and Dan Casey of Toledo and Lawrence H. Crampton of Dayton, finished with 97 out of a possible 100 targets to top the field. The youngster broke 24 of 25 possible targets in the shoot-off, while the three men were unable to keep up the pace.

It was the first time in 21 years of tournaments that a boy won the championship, and young King has been shooting only two years. He shot from scratch at the 16-yard line, Casey from 17, Scott from 18 and Crampton from 21.

Mrs. George Peter of Phoenix, Ariz., won the women's championship by breaking 93 targets from the 17-yard mark.

Angels Crowding HOLLYWOOD FOR FIRST POSITION

(By The Associated Press)

Baseball fans were today looking for a break in the Pacific coast league to determine whether the Hollywood Stars, leaders, will maintain their top position. With Los Angeles trailing one game behind the Stars, the Angels were within easy shooting distance of tying the leaders, while San Francisco, by winning the remainder of its games, could, if the two top teams lose a couple, land near the top.

Frank Sellenbach, Hollywood veteran snitchballer, stepped forth in the pinches last night, and held "hand" to three runs, while his team mates overwhelmed the Oaks 13 to 3.

Seattle and San Francisco made eleven hits yesterday, but the Senas took the ball game, 6 to 1. Jimmy Zinn chalked up his twelfth victory on this game.

The Sacramento Senators defeated the San Francisco Mission, 4 to 1 last night, thereby tying the Reds and the Oaks for fourth place in the league.

Los Angeles defeated Portland, 7 to 4, with Earl Horne, midget pitcher for the Angels, striking out eleven Portland players. Schulmerich and Jacobs for the Angels and Williams for the Ducks hit homers.

HOLE BURNED IN DWELLING ROOF

Embers from a burning flue set fire to the roof of the home occupied by John Loxley and family located on Benson street, yesterday afternoon. Aside from a small hole burned in the roof, no great damage was done to the building.

Chiropractor DRUGLESS HEALTH CENTER

Mineral Vapor Baths 327 Cass Phone 491 "Complete Health Service"

Plen-king at Idlewild Park—Adv

USED CAR BARGAINS

PRICES REDUCED		
	Was	Now
1929 Oakland Sedan	\$900	\$750
1929 Essex Sedan	\$600	\$550
1928 Hudson Sedan	\$750	\$675
1927 Dodge Sedan	\$475	\$375
1927 Hudson Coach	\$450	\$350
1925 Hudson Sedan	\$425	\$325
1927 Essex Coach	\$225	\$175
1926 Essex Coach	\$175	\$125
1925 Essex Coach	\$150	\$100
1923 Essex 4 Touring	\$200	\$125
1920 Essex 4 Touring	\$100	\$ 50
1923 Essex 4 Coach	\$175	\$125
1923 Chevrolet Touring	\$ 75	\$ 15
Good Hudson Truck		\$125