### OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

#### A REAL TEST OF COURAGE

One Girl's Way of Proving That All Girs Are Not Cowards.

It was still early in the morning, but as dark as it would be at midniget in the woods around the Waiton camp. And yet Dave Brant sat on the other side of the camp-fire and told the most blood curdiing stories of his long life in this mountain wildernes, as placidly as if it were broad daylight.

felt the cold shivers creep over her, she wished that either she or Dave Brant was | 1'd-" Ben Brant to meet the party of friends wished that Dave, instead of his brother Ben, had gone as driver; she wished that a tornado would sweep over the camp, or wished that something, no matter what. great silence and loneliness all about

And, in the meantime, she listened with terrified thrills of rapture to Dave's next

Presently an owl hooted, somewhere in caught her brother's arm and looked in nervous fright over her shoulder.

"There. Dave Brant!" she said; "when their voices shake like that, I think it is about time to stop."

"Oh, bother!" Rob broke out, masterius and superior, as some boys are in dealing with timbl sisters; "what's the use of a if a wildcat should jump into the camp. Go on, Dave; tell us another. You needn't be afraid, Kity, for there's nothing ni these woods now to hurt anybody; is there Dave?"

Dave answered the question with an

"What d'ye think ye'd do if a wildcat was to jump into the camp, right now?" "I know what I'd do!" Catherine answered promptly. "I'd run into the house and shut the door!"

Rob laughed derisively. and run off into the woods with the wildcut after you. Girls always do. They a rifle and cartridge belt. never keep their wits about them when

there's any danger." "What would you do?"

thing, always. In the next place, i wouldn't turn my back to the beast for a second, or take my eyes off him. Then, when he crouched sown to spring. I'd go right back nite teh house; then, if I "We won't tell them one word," said take steady aim and shoot him right shouldn't kill him at the first shot-You Catherine heartily. between the eyes. That's the best place know they're more dangerous when they to shoot 'em, isn't it, Dave? Right between are wounded, and its no place for a girl. the eyes."

Catherine admired her brother, and Don't get excited and go to screeching. looked up at him, and never doubted that | You'll only annoy me if you do that." he was greatly superior to any mere giri that ever lived; still, she was not always arm and led him back to their former entirely submissive to his patronizing place on the other side of the camp fire.

"Of course that would be a great deal better than my plan," she said, but just and sister against the background of fire. He for hours in a long garden-chair on now the guns are all in the cabin; and while you and the wildcat were looking at each other-"

"Oh, I'd get a gun, quick enough," said Rob, a little taken aback. Dave chuckled across the fire.

"Good doctrine," he said. "Keep yer wits about ye, that's the main point. And ing rod, for no report followed. right right between the eyes is the best place to nim fer-if ye happen to have a gun to aim with. I'm right glad ye know all about it, fer there is lot's o wildcars in these woods vit; and painters,

They both knew that this last word was Dave's name for panthers. Catherine shivered and drew closer to Rob. Rob himself had felt a little chill creep over him, but her movements reminded him of his boldness; he stood up and looked his fiercest challenge at the dark woods.

"Painters is the worst kind of varmint there is in these mountains," Dave went on, in his calm, monotonous tones, "Why, it was only last year, in this very camp, that we had-"

"David Brant, don't you dare!" cried

Cathernie "Why, I thought ye'd want to hear that one. It's about one o' the ladies that camped here with us last summer. I tel you, she had grit; grit clear through: But that's nothin' new; when boys has lived in the woods till they're old men, mostly find out that the women folks has the heft o' the courage. The gals and the women don't know it, not till the time comes; but when the time does come, they're right there, ev'ry time. They're easy scared when there's nothin' to be afraid of, but when real danger comes their way, they jest git up and shake hands with it.' "Thank you, str!"

Catherine got up off the log and made him a sweeping courtesy. Rob laughed in his most offensive maner; and Dave stood up and stretched himself.

"Time fer me to be goin' to see if all's right amongst the livestock," he said. shone faintly but clearly upon the little "Ye sin't afeard to stay a few minutes | log structure. From the dense underwith a hunter that knows how to shoot a wildcat, be ye? And say, don't let me fergit to shet the winder o' that cookcabin afore I go to bed. The cabin's all was Catherine, he knew, and his blood regulate the bowels. Charles Rogers. made fast but that one winder; I left that open a while to cool the place off a little."

He went away into the deep darkness of the woods, as calmly as if wildcats the beast that had possession of it. Rob Klondike region," and panthers were all creatures of prehistoric times.

"Why, he went right past the cookcabin, almost while he was talking about him; hem ust keep the attention of the it." said Catherine, looking after him. beast on himself, as she had said, but "I wonder why he didn't shut the window | what for? then? I must not forget to remind him when he comes back. A 'painter' might it. Where she had come into the path ate relief. Charles Rogers,

get in and steal our breakfast."

built of heavy logs, and all the windows girl's answering cry of triumph. are guarded by thick plank shutters that | Catherine had captured the panther. I've wondered why that is; I know now; failed to shoot,

said. If any wild beasts should happen woods. to come round, you do just as I said, try pects that; but do try not to lose your them! Catherine Walton sat on the log beside wits; if you did, you'd only be in the way So that was it. To keep the terribi her brother, listening intently, and as she of the rest of us. Eve been thinking creature away from the others, this timid

gone with her father and mother and caught him by the arm again, and they thought of father or mother, or anybody at the stage station, five miles away; she an icy sensation creeping along their had said about the girls and the women that a wild beast would leap out of the had fairly died away, it came again. At arose inside the cabin. This was not the darkness in to the circle of firelight; she first it was like the scream of an angry shricking of the panther, but the outer; cat, only many times louder; then it of a man. And the man was Dave Brant would happen to break the spell of that quavered through the air like the high- and he was wholly alive. pitched wail of a woman in mortal terror "Hi, there! let me out! Open this wir or distress; sunk into a victous snarl, and | der! All's safe. Let me out!" rose again to a piercing screech.

whispered. "I heard one in the Zoo, and the woods, not far away, and Catherine Kitty: I was frightened myself, just at of it all.

you have scared the very owls so that go of his arm and was standing erect, Out o' the cook fire, and the painter apparently forgetful that she was to "run screech that ev'ry hunter knows how to

The sound seemed to come from over fool a boy with it!" there,"pointing in the direction that Dave girl, anyhow! There never was one yet had taken "Oh, Rob! Wouldn't it be only one you didn't scare!" Rob bluried that wouldn't have a fit if a mouse locked dreadful-You know we haven't seen or out, with such an effort as only an hones at her. You're shaking yet about that heard anything of Dave since he started, boy can understand. "It was Kitty that owl. Thought it was a wildcat, didn't I should think he would have run back trapped you. I tried to shoot you you? I'd just like to see what you'd do here when he heard that awful scream. though, and I'd have done it, too, only the Rob!" Her voice was a whisper again. gun was out of order. Then your jok-"Look there!"

He looked where she pointed. There, them. As if enraged at being discovered, he creature uttered another terrible cry.

Catherine turned and fled like a hunted grinned as he examined it. camp-fire was between it and the cook- when its loaded," he said quietly. "You wouldn't even do that!" he cried. the same direction. Before he got to the be looked at Dave and at Catherine, and

again, then take steady aim and shoot the trap, had learned a lesson in modes "What would I do? Well, in the first bim right between the eyes, the way you ty that would last him.

"I-I was just coming after this. You right ashamed o' that?" Now, whatever you do, keep you head. THE ELEPHANT AND THE HABY For answer Catherine took him by the

not move from its former position. "Now!" said Catherine. Steady aim, Joy any more exciting amusement than you know."

Rob lifted the weapon, aimed as carefully as he could, and pulled the trigger. The rifle might as well have been a figh-

"Don't you do something with that litte hammer first?" Catherine asked inno-

nalicious triumph.

if you like."

You go into the house and shut yourself

She turned from him, and instantly she was like another shadow among the shadows of the woods. He thought she had gone to the house, but in a moment her drowsiness, to which I yielded; and, after voice, low and clear, reached him from

the opposite direction. "Stay right there, Rob, where he can looking at you if you can. And don't fire that gun unless you have to."

What did she mean? What was she going ot do? Where was she? He had the answer to all three questions in a St. Nicholas. moment. The path to the cook-cabin was broad and unobstructed, and the firelight growth that bordered the path, Rob saw a white figure steal out and creep swiftly forms of stomach and liver troubles seemed to freeze up at sight of her there.

She was close to the side of the cookcable, and was wittin one easy spring of cried out in wild slarm, and the panther answered him wibt a snarling scream. Tribune. That brought the boy's senses back to

cabin from the gyes that were blazing in the open window; crouching low, and keeping close against the cabin wall, she crept around to the front until she was almost directly under the open window

Before Rob had hardly time to realize Nothing more was said by either of the deadly peril that she was in, he saw them for a few minutes; then Catherine the gleam of those terrible eyes shut off he heard the heavy plank shutter slammes "Rob, have you noticed that this camp to; he heard the clang of the outside bolt fooks as if the people here expected visits that held it securely shut; he heard th from the Indians? All the cabins are imprisoned animal's cry of rage, and the

a sledge hammer could hardly break, girl had irapped the beast that he had

it is to keep the wild beasts from break- "You crazy girl! What did you do that for " Rob had reached her sale and wa "Now, see here, Kitty! Don't go to shaking her florcely before the panther's having spasms over what Dave Brant scream had stopped echoing through the

"What for?" she repeated, laughin to keep your wits about you, and not have and crying hysterically. 'Why, some hysteries the way girls always do. Of body had to do it. There was mother course you can't do anything; nobody ex- you know, and father, and the rest of

since Dave left, and I know just what girl had boldly taken her own life in he hands. And Rob confessed to himsel He stopped right there. His sister with secret shame that he had not one both held their breath, while they felt but himself. What was that Dave Bran spines. A terrible cry, such as they had. There was little time to think of that never heard before, fore through the si- however. Catherine's explanation was lent darkness of the woods. Before it hardly uttered before another commotion

In a moment he came out and stood "A panther, as sure as you live!" Rob beside his astonished young friends. "Have you killed the panther?" Cath I know. I don't wonder you are scared, erine asked, trembling with the agitation

"There wasn't no painter," Dave con fessed, laughing uproariously: "not ever frightened even yet. Catherine had let a piece of one. Nothin' but two live coals make. Jest a little toke o' mine, to tr "Where do you suppose it is?" she said. | Yer nerve. Might ha' known I couldn'

"You did fool us both, and Kitty's th wouldn't have been so funny."

"Well, no; only ye see I was down be in the open window of the cook-cabin, hind the logs, and ye can't well show were two great flery eyes looking at through them. Is this the gun ye used" They were back by the camp-fire again, and Dave picked up the uscless rifle. He

"This kind o' gun always shoots bes cabin, and it was a very good place to That was all he said, but it was quite go under the circumstances. Rob did not enough. Rob snatched the rifle from him exactly run, but he followed somehow in and made a quick inspection of it. Then

"You'd lose your head the first second, cabin, be met Catherine running at full in that look he made honest and comspeed towards him. She was carrying plete surrender. The boy that had tried to shoot a panther with an unloaded "Here," she said, putting the rifle in his rifle, and that had stayed by the fire hands. "Get on the right side of the fire while his sister went forward and sprung

> "Good for you!" Rob's voice and hand "Now look here; don't say nathing to both shook a little as he took the rifle, them about my painter joke. I'm down-

And Rob understood them both,

How the Great Beast Acted the Part of z Nurse.

Some time before the elephant-hunt, I The great eyes were still glaring from have described my husband was at a ctathe open window. At sight of the brother tion in Bengal. His work kept him out the panther uttered another scream, but the for hours in along garden-chair on the yeranda, too weak to read, or to en-

> my eyes supplied to me. We had three elephants for our tents and baggage; and one used to feed from my hands every day, and seemed as gentle as any dog or cat.

One of our government chaprasis was particularly devoted to her, and invariably shared his meal of fruit or flour-Then Rob saw that he had forgotten to cakes with his dumb friend. On a parock the gun before pulling the trigger. I cularly hot day, the chaptasis, to my He threw back the hammer with an surprise, placed his little child of six angry jerk, brought the weapon again to months at the elephant's feet, warning his shoulder, and again failed to fire. The her expressively that the infant was i panther snarled at them, apparently in her charge, and was to be cared for until his return

"Something's the matter with it," said I was an eye-witness of her wonderful Rob, despairingly, throwing the rifle to sugnelty. Large banana-trees and figthe ground. "It won't go off, You get frees grow around, and to my surprise ack to the house as quick as you can. the elephant broke off one of the former' I told you to do that before. That fellow spreading leaves, held it like a fan in he von't stay where he is all night, and be'll trunk, and from time to time gracefully make things lively when he comes this waved it over the slumbering chill, whethway! Why don't you go? I'll come too, er to temper the heat of the atmosphere or to keep off the flies. I am anable to say "Rob, if you can't kill that creature. The gentle way in which she moved her we must shut him up where he is!" was feet over the child, ande across to each Catherine's answer to this proposition. | side astonished me. I sent for some or-"Shut him up! Shut up a panther, anges and a white loaf and calling her Maybe you think that's a cow, in there, by name (she was never chained) tried to tempt her to my side on the veranda Nothing would induce her to leave her

charge. The warmn air and monotonous wave of the swinging fan overpowered me with a sleep of some duration, I was awakened by quiet, subdued snorts beside me. To my surprise I found that the chaprast see you all the time, and keep him busy had just returned to his offspring, and that the elephant stood near the veranda beside me, patiently waiting and gently asking for the tempting dainties so brave ly withstood for more than two hours.

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> A MISTAKEN IMPRESSION. "They say they have no birds in the "Oh, but there are! Gulls."-Chicago

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