

ADVENTURE

By JACK LONDON

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(Chapter VII—Continued.)

That of that? I shot him just the... There was no need for you to... down there that way. It was... and cowardly."

"I am afraid I don't understand,"... said, shortly, turning away. "We... talk it over later on."

"I suppose I've been unforgettably... was her greeting when he re... several hours later from a... of the plantation. "I've been to... hospital, and the man is getting... all right. It is not a serious..."

Sheldon felt unaccountably pleased... happy at the changed aspect of her..."

"You see, you don't understand the... tion," he began. "In the first... the blacks have to be ruled... Kindness is all very well, but... can't rule them by kindness only... accept all that you say about the... and Tahitians. You say... they can be handled that way, and... believe you. I have had no experi... with them. But you have had no... to believe me. They are different... your natives. You are used to... questions. These boys are Melane... They're blacks. They're niggers... look at their kinky hair. And they're... whole lot lower than the African... niggers. Really, you know, there is a... difference."

"They possess no gratitude, no sym... ny, no kindness. If you are kind... them they think you are a fool. If... are gentle with them they think... are afraid. And when they think... are afraid, watch out, for they will... you. Just to show you, let me state... one inevitable process in a black... man's brain when on his native heath... encounters a stranger. His first... thought is one of fear. Will the stran... kill him? His next thought, seeing... he is not killed is, Can he kill the... stranger? There was Packard, a colo... trader, some twelve miles down... coast. He boasted that he ruled by... kindness and never struck a blow. The... result was that he did not rule at all... used to come down in his white... to visit Hughie and me. When his... crew decided to go home he had... out his visit short to accompany... me. I remember one Sunday after... on when Packard had accepted our... invitation to stop to dinner. The soup... was just served when Hughie saw a... nigger peering in through the door. He... went out to him, for it was a violation... of Berande's custom. Any nigger has to... and in word by the house boys and to... step outside the compound. This man... was one of Packard's boat's crew... on the veranda. And he knew bet... to. "What name?" said Hughie. "You... tell 'm white man close up we... boat's crew go along. He no... now, we fellas boy no wait. We

CHAPTER VIII LOCAL COLOR

At sunset a small ketch fanned... in to anchorage, and a little... later the skipper came ashore. He... was a soft spoken, gentle... voiced young fellow of twenty, but he... won Joan's admiration in advance... when Sheldon told her that he ran the... ketch all alone with a black crew... from Malaita. And romance lured and... beckoned before Joan's eyes when she... learned he was Christian Young, a... Norfolk islander, but a direct descen... of John Young, one of the original... Bounty mutineers. The blended Tah... hitian and English blood showed in his... soft eyes and tawny skin, but the Eng... lish hardness seemed to have disap... peared. Yet the hardness was there, and... it was what enabled him to run his... ketch single handed and to wring a... livelihood out of the fighting Solomons.

Joan's unexpected presence embar... rassed him until she herself put him... out at his ease by a frank, comradely... manner that offended Sheldon's sense... of the fitness of things feminine... of the fitness of things feminine. News from the world Young had not... but he was filled with news of the... Solomons. Fifteen boys had stolen... rifles and run away into the bush... from Lunga plantation, which was... farther east on the Guadalcanar coast. And from the bush they had sent word... that they were coming back to wipe... out the three white men in charge... while two of the three white men, in... turn, were hunting them through the... bush. There was a strong possibility... Young volunteered, that if they were... not caught, they might circle around... and tap the coast at Berande in order... to steal or capture a whaleboat.

unadulterated brutes." One was a down... east Yankee, as I believe they are call... ed, and the other was a guzzling Ger... man. "They were slave drivers. To begin... with, they bought their labor from... Johnny Be-blowed, the most notorious... recruiter in the Solomons. He is work... ing out a ten years' sentence in Fiji... now, for the wanton killing of a black... boy. During his last days here he... had made himself so obnoxious that... the natives on Malaita would have... nothing to do with him. The only way... he could get recruits was by hurrying... to the spot whenever a murder or... series of murders occurred. The murder... ers were usually only too willing to... sign on and get away to escape ven... geance. Down here they call such... escapees 'pier head jumps.' There is... suddenly a roar from the beach, and... a nigger runs down to the water pur... sued by clouds of spears and arrows. Of... course, Johnny Be-blowed's whaleboat... is lying ready to pick him up. In his... last days Johnny got nothing but pier... head jumps. "And the first owners of Berande... bought his recruits—a hard bitten gang... of murderers. They were all five year... boys. Well, that's the gang of murder... ers we've got on our hands now. Of... course, some are dead, some have been... killed, and there are others serving... sentences at Tulagi. Very little clear... ing did those first owners do, and less... planting. It was war all the time. They... had one manager killed. One of the... partners had his shoulder slashed... nearly off by a cane knife. The other... was speared on two different occasions. They... were chased away—literally chased... away—by their own niggers. And along... came poor raugne and me, two new... chums, to take hold of that hard bitten... gang. We did not know the situation, and... we had bought Berande, and there was... nothing to do but hang on and muddle... through somehow. "At first we made the mistake of... indiscreet kindness. We tried to rule... by persuasion and fair treatment. The... niggers concluded that we were afraid. Then... came the day when Hughie reprimanded... one of the boys, and was nearly killed... by the gang. The only thing that saved... him was the number on top of him, which... enabled me to reach the spot in time. "Then began the rule of the strong... hand. It was either that or quit, and... we had sunk about all our money into... the venture, and we could not quit. And... besides, our pride was involved. We had... started out to do something, and we were... so made that we just had to go on with... it. Do you know, we have been unable to... get white men in. We've offered the... managership to half a dozen. I won't say... they were afraid, for they were not. But... they did not consider it healthy—at least... that is the way it was put by the last... one who declined our offer. So Hughie and... I did the managing ourselves. "And when he died you were... prepared to go on all alone!" Joan cried, with... shining eyes. "I thought 'd muddle through. And... now, Miss Lockland, please be charit... able when I seem harsh, and remember... that the situation is unparalleled down... here. We've got a bad crowd, and we're... making them work." Joan nodded but remained silent. She... was too occupied in glimpsing the vision... of the one lone white man as she had... first seen him, helpless from fever, a... collapsed wraith in a steamer chair, who... up to the last heart beat, by some... strange alchemy of race, was pledged to... mastery. "It is a pity," she said. "But the... white man has to rule, I suppose." "I don't like it," Sheldon assured her. "To... save my life I can't imagine how I ever... came here. But here I am, and I can't run... away." "Blind destiny of race," she said, faintly... smiling. "We whites have been land... robbers and sea robbers from remotest... time. It is in our blood, I guess, and we... can't get away from it." "I never thought about it so ab... stractly," he confessed. "I've been too... busy puzzling over why I came here."

"Where is Marovo lagoon?" Joan asked. "New Georgia, a couple of hundred... miles to the westward," Sheldon answered. "Bougainville lies just beyond."

"His own house boys did it," Young... went on; "but they were put up to it... by the Marovo natives. His Santa Cruz... boat's crew escaped in the whaleboat... to Choiseul, and Mather, in the Lily, sailed... over to Marovo. He burned a village... and got Henley's head back. He found it... in one of the houses where the niggers... had it drying. And that's all the news... I've got, except that there's a lot of new... Lee-Enfield loose on the eastern end of... Ysabel. No body knows how the natives... got them.

The government ought to investigate. Ah—oh, yes—a war vessel's in the... group, the Cambrian. She burned three... villages at Bina—an account of the... Minota, you know—and shelled the bush. Then... she went to Sio to straighten out things... there. The conversation became general, and... just before Young left to go on board... Joan asked: "How can you manage all alone, Mr. Young?" His large, almost girlish eyes rested... on her for a moment before he replied, and... then it was in the softest and gentlest of... voices. "Oh, I get along pretty well with... them. Of course, there is a bit of trouble... once in awhile, but that must be expected. You... must never let them think you are afraid. I've... been afraid plenty of times, but they never... knew it."

"You would think he wouldn't strike... a mosquito that was biting him," Sheldon... said when Young had gone on board. "All... the Norfolk islanders that have descended... from the Bounty crowd are that way. But... look at Young. Only three years ago, when... he first got the Minerva, he was lying in... Suva, on Malaita. There are a lot of... returned Queenslanders there—a rough... crowd. They planned to get his head. The... son of their chief, old One Eyed Billy, had... recruited on Lunga and died of dysentery. That... meant that a white man's head was owing... to Suva—any white man, it didn't matter... who, so long as they got the head. And... Young was only a lad and they made sure to... get his easily. They decoyed his whaleboat... ashore with a promise of recruits and killed... all hands. At the same instant the Suva... gang that was on board the Minerva jumped... Young. He was just preparing a dynamite... stick for fish, and he fought it and tossed... it in among them. One can't get him to... talk about it, but the fuse was short, the... survivors leaped overboard, while he slipped... his anchor and got away. They've got 100... fathoms of shell money on his head now, which... is worth \$100. Yet he goes into Suva regularly. He... was there a short time ago, returning thirty... boys from Cape Marsh—that's the Fulcrum... brothers' plantation. "At any rate, his news tonight has... given me a better insight into the life... down here," Joan said. "And it is colorful... life, to say the least. The Solomons ought... to be printed red on the charts—and yellow, too, for... the diseases."

"The Solomons are not always like... this," Sheldon answered. "Of course, Berande... is the worst plantation and everything it... gets in the worst. All the old timers... shake their heads at it. They say it has... what you Americans call a hoodoo on it." "Berande will succeed," Joan said... stoutly. "I like to laugh at superstition. You'll... pull through and come out the big end of... the horn. The ill luck can't last forever. I... am afraid, though, the Solomons is not a... white man's climate."

"It will be, though. Give us fifty... years, and when all the bush is cleared off... back to the mountains, fever will be stamped... out, everything will be far healthier. There... will be cities and towns here, for there's an... immense amount of good land going to waste. The... black, the brown and the yellow will have... to do the work, managed by the white men. The... black labor is too wasteful, however, and in... time Chinese or Indian coolies will be imported." "Then the Nacks will die off?" Sheldon... shrugged his shoulders and retorted: "Yes, like the North American... Indian, who was a far nobler type than the... Melanesian. The world is only so large, you... know, and it is filling up." "And the unfit must perish?" "Precisely so. The unfit must perish."

Tommy Jones had trained him well, tying... him up daily for several hours and telling... off one or two black boys at a time to... tease him. So Satan had it in for the... whole black race, and the second after he... landed on the beach the bridge building... gang was stampeding over the compound... fence and swarming up the coconut palms. "Good morning," Sheldon called from... the veranda, "and what do you think of... the nigger chaser?" "I'm thinking we have a task before... us to train him into the house boys," she... called back. "And to your Tahitians, too. Look... out, Noah! Run for it!" Satan, having satisfied himself that... the tree perches were unassailable, was... charging straight for the big Tahitian. But... Noah stood his ground, though somewhat... irresolutely, and Satan, to every one's... surprise, danced and frisked about him... with laughing eyes and wagging tail. "Now that is what I might call a... proper dog," was Joan's comment. "He is... at least wiser than you, Mr. Sheldon. He... didn't require any teaching to recognize... the difference between a Tahitian and a... black boy. What do you think, Noah? Why... don't he bite you? He savee you Tahitian, eh?" Noah... Noah shook his head and grinned. "He no savee me Tahitian," he explained. "He... savee me wear pants all the same white man."

"You'll have to give him a course in... 'Sartor Resartus,'" Sheldon laughed, as he... came down and began to make friends with... Satan. It chanced, just then, that Adamu... Adam and Matamare, two of Joan's sailors, entered the compound from the... far side gate. They had been down to the... Balesuna, making an alligator trap, and... instead of trousers, were clad in lava-lavas... that flapped gracefully about their stalwart... limbs. Satan saw them and advertised his... find by breaking away from Sheldon's hands... and charging. "No get pants," Noah announced, with... a grin that broadened as Adamu Adam took... to flight. He climbed up the platform that... supported the galvanized iron tanks which... held the water collected from the roof. Filled... here, Satan turned and charged back on... Matusaure. "Run, Matusaure! Run!" Joan called. But he held his ground and waited... the dog. "He is the Fearless One—that is... what his name means," Joan explained to... Sheldon. The Tahitian watched Satan coolly... and when that sanguine mouthed creature... lifted into the air in the final leap the... man's hand shot out. It was a fair grip... on the lower jaw, and Satan described a... half circle and was flung to the rear, turning... over in the air and falling heavily on his... back. Three times he leaped and three times... that grip on his jaw flung him to defeat. Then... he contented himself with trotting at Matusaure's... heels, eyeing him and sniffing him suspiciously.

"It's all right, Satan! It's all right," Sheldon... assured him. "That good fella belong along me." Then Satan turned his attention to the... three-house boys, cornering Ornfri in the... kitchen and rushing him against the hot... stove, stripping the lava-lava from Lalapera... when that excited youth climbed a veranda... post and following Viaburi on top the billiard... table where the battle raged until Joan... managed a rescue. (To be Continued next Tuesday)

At Ugi has been murdered," he said to Sheldon. "Five big canoes came down from... Port Adams. They landed in the night... time and caught Oscar asleep. What they... didn't steal they burned. The Filiberty... Gibbet got the news at Mbolli pass and ran... down to Agi. I was at Mbolli when the news... came."

"I think I'll have to abandon Ugi," Sheldon... remarked. "It's the second trader you've lost... there in a year," Young concurred. "To make... it safe, there ought to be two white men... at least. I've got a dog for you. Tommy... Jones sent it up from Neal Island. He said... he'd promised it to you. It's a first class... nigger chaser. Hadn't been on board two... minutes when he had my whole whaleboat's... crew in the rigging. Tommy calls him Satan. Jack... Henley was killed at Marovo lagoon two... months ago. The news just came down on... the Apostle."

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