

# The Son of Tarzan

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## JACK AND AKUT FLEE THE COUNTRY AND WITHOUT MUCH TROUBLE MAKE THEIR WAY TO AFRICA

**Synopsis.**—A scientific expedition off the African coast rescues a human derelict, Alexis Paulvitch. He brings aboard an ape, intelligent and friendly, and reaches London. Jack, son of Lord Greystoke, the original Tarzan, has inherited a love of wild life and steals from home to see the ape, now a drawing-card in a music hall. The ape makes friends with him. The ape refuses to leave Jack despite his trainer. Tarzan appears and is joyfully recognized by the ape, for Tarzan had been king of his tribe. Tarzan agrees to buy Akut, the ape, and send him back to Africa. Jack and Akut become great friends. Paulvitch is killed when he attempts murder.

### CHAPTER IV.

#### Herr Skopf's Mystery.

The killing of the friendless old Russian by his great trained ape was a matter for newspaper comment for a few days. Lord Greystoke read of it and, while taking special precautions not to permit his name to become connected with the affair, kept himself well posted as to the police search for the anthropoid.

As was true of the general public, his chief interest in the matter centered about the mysterious disappearance of the slayer, or at least this was true until he learned several days subsequent to the tragedy that his son Jack had not reported at the boarding school, en route for which they had seen him safely ensconced in a railway carriage.

Even then the father did not connect the disappearance of his son with the mystery surrounding the whereabouts of the ape, nor was it until a month later that careful investigation revealed the fact that the boy had left the train before it pulled out of the station at London and the cab driver had been found who had driven him to the address of the old Russian that Tarzan of the Apes realized that Akut had in some way been connected with the disappearance of the boy.

Beyond the moment that the cab driver had deposited his fare beside the curb in front of the house in which the Russian had been quartered there was no clue. No one had seen either the boy or the ape from that instant, at least no one who still lived. The proprietor of the house identified the picture of the lad as that of one who had been a frequent visitor in the room of the old man. Aside from this he knew nothing.

And there at the door of a grimy old building in the slums of London the searchers came to a blank wall—baffled.

The day following the death of Alexis Paulvitch a youth accompanying his invalid grandmother boarded a steamer at Dover. The old lady was heavily veiled and so weakened by age and sickness that she had to be wheeled aboard the vessel in an invalid chair.

The boy would permit no one but himself to wheel her and with his own hands assisted her from the chair to the interior of their stateroom—and that was the last that was seen of the old lady by the ship's company until the pair disembarked. The boy even insisted upon doing the work of their cabin steward, since, as he explained, his grandmother was suffering from a nervous indisposition that made the presence of strangers extremely distasteful to her.

Among the passengers there was an American named Conlon, a blackleg and a crook, who was "wanted" in half a dozen of the larger cities of the United States. He had paid little attention to the boy until on one occasion he had seen him accidentally display a roll of banknotes. From then on Conlon cultivated the youthful Briton.

He learned easily enough that the boy was traveling alone with his invalid grandmother and that their destination was a small port on the west coast of Africa, a little below the equator; that their name was Billings and that they had no friends in the little settlement for which they were bound. Upon the point of their purchase in visiting the place, Conlon found the boy reticent, and so he did not push the matter—he had learned all that he cared to know as it was.

At last came the day that the steamer dropped anchor in the lee of a wooded promontory, where a score or more of sheet iron shacks, making an ashy blot upon the fair face of nature, proclaimed the fact that civilization had set its heel. Straggling upon the outskirts were the thatched huts of natives, picturesque in their rimeval savagery, harmonizing with the background of tropical jungle and accentuating the squalid hideousness of the white man's pioneer architecture.

The boy, leaning over the rail, was looking far beyond the man-made town, deep into the God-made jungle. A little shiver of anticipation tingled his spine, and then, quite without volition, he found himself mentally gazing into the loving eyes of his mother and the strong face of the father which mirrored beneath its masculine strength love no less than the mother's eyes claimed. He felt himself weakened his resolve.

The task of lowering the boy's grandmother over the side to a waiting canoe was rather difficult. The lad insisted on being always at her side, and when at last she was safely ensconced in the bottom of the craft that was to bear them shoreward her grandson dropped catlike after her.

So interested was he in seeing her comfortably disposed that he failed to observe the little package that had worked from his pocket as he assisted in lowering the old woman over the steamer's side, nor did he notice it even as it slipped out entirely and dropped into the sea.

Scarcely had the boat containing the boy and the old woman started for the shore than Conlon hailed a canoe on the other side of the ship and after bargaining with its owner finally lowered his baggage and himself aboard. Once ashore he kept out of sight of the two story atrocity that bore the legend "hotel" to lure unsuspecting wayfarers to its many discomforts.

It was quite dark before he ventured to enter and arrange for accommodations. In a back room upon the second floor the lad was explaining not without considerable difficulty to his grandmother that he had decided to return to England upon the next steamer. He was endeavoring to make it plain to the old lady that she might remain in Africa if she wished, but that for his part his conscience demanded that he return to his father and mother, who doubtless were even now suffering untold sorrow because of his absence, from which it may be assumed that his parents had not been acquainted with the plans that he and the old lady had made for their adventure into African wilds.

Having come to a decision, the lad felt a sense of relief from the worry that had haunted him for many sleepless nights. When he closed his eyes in sleep it was to dream of a happy reunion with those at home, and as he dreamed, Fate, cruel and inexorable, crept stealthily upon him through the dark corridor of the squalid building in which he slept—Fate in the form of the American crook Conlon.

Cautiously the man approached the door of the lad's room. There he crouched, listening, until assured by the regular breathing of those within that both slept.

Quietly he inserted a slim skeleton key in the lock of the door. With left fingers, long accustomed to the silent manipulation of the bars and bolts that guarded other men's property, Conlon turned the key and the knob simultaneously. Gentle pressure upon the door swung it slowly inward upon its hinges. The man entered the room, closing the door behind him.

The moon was temporarily overcast by heavy clouds. The interior of the apartment was shrouded in gloom. Conlon groped his way toward the bed. In the far corner of the room something moved—moved with a silent stealthiness which transcended even the trained silence of the burglar. Conlon heard nothing. His attention was riveted upon the bed, in which he thought to find a young boy and his helpless, invalid grandmother.

The American sought only the bankroll. If he could possess himself of this without detection, well and good, but were he to meet resistance he was prepared for that too. The lad's clothes lay across a chair beside the bed. The American's fingers felt swiftly through them—the pockets contained no roll of crisp, new notes. Doubtless they were beneath the pillows of the bed.

He stepped closer toward the sleeper; his hand was already halfway beneath the pillow when the thick cloud that had obscured the moon rolled aside and the room was flooded with light. At the same instant the boy opened his eyes and looked straight into those of Conlon. The man was suddenly conscious that the boy was alone in the bed. Then he clutched for his victim's throat.

As the lad rose to meet him Conlon heard a low growl at his back, then he felt his wrists seized by the boy and realized that beneath those tapering white fingers played muscles of steel.

He felt other hands at his throat, rough, hairy hands that reached over his shoulders from behind. He cast a terrified glance backward, and the hairs of his head stiffened at the sight his eyes revealed, for grasping him from the rear was a huge, manlike ape. The bared fighting fangs of the anthropoid were close to his throat. The

lad plucked his wrists. Neither uttered a sound.

Where was the grandmother? Conlon's eyes swept the room in a single, all inclusive glance. His eyes bulged in horror at the realization of the truth which that glance revealed. In the power of what creatures of hideous mystery had he placed himself?

Frantically he fought to beat off the boy so he could turn upon the fearful thing at his back. Freeing one hand, he struck a savage blow at the lad's face.

His act seemed to unloose a thousand devils in the hairy creature, clinging to his throat. Conlon heard a low and savage snarl. It was the last thing that the American ever heard in this life. Then he was dragged backward upon the floor, a heavy body fell upon him, powerful teeth fastened themselves in his jugular, his head whirled in the sudden blackness which rims eternity.

A moment later the ape rose from his prostrate form. But Conlon did not know—he was quite dead.

The lad, horrified, sprang from the bed to lean low over the body of the man. He knew Akut had killed him in his defense, as he had killed Paulvitch. But here in savage Africa, far from home and friends, what would they do to him and his faithful ape?

The lad knew that the penalty of murder was death. He even knew that an accomplice might suffer the death penalty with the principal. Who was there here who would plead for them? All would be against them. It was little more than a half civilized community, and the chances were that they would drag Akut and him forth in the morning and hang them both to the nearest tree. He had read of such things being done in America, and Africa was worse even and wilder than the great west of his mother's native land.

Yes, they would both be hanged in the morning.

Last evening he had been determined to start for home at the first opportunity to beg the forgiveness of his parents for this mad adventure. Now he knew that he might never return to them. The blood of a fellow man was upon his hands. In his morbid reflection he had long since ceased to attribute the death of Conlon to the ape. The hysteria of panic had fastened the guilt upon himself.

Now he turned toward Akut. "Come!" he said in the language of the great apes. Forgetful of the act that he wore only a thin pajama suit, he led the way to the open window. Thrusting his head out, he listened attentively. A single tree grew a few feet from the window.

Nimble the lad sprang to its bole, clinging catlike for an instant before he clambered quietly to the ground below. Close behind him came the great ape. Two hundred yards away a spur of the jungle ran close to the straggling town. Toward this the lad led the way.

No one saw them, and a moment later the jungle swallowed them, and John Clayton, future Lord Greystoke, passed from the eyes and the knowledge of men.

It was late the following morning that a native house man knocked upon the door of the room that had been assigned to Mrs. Billings and her grandson. Receiving no response, he inserted his pass key in the lock, only to discover that another key was already there, but from the inside.

He reported the fact to Herr Skopf, the proprietor, who at once made his way to the second floor, where he, too, pounded vigorously upon the door. Receiving no reply, he bent to the keyhole in an attempt to look through into the room beyond. In so doing, being poorly, he lost his balance, which necessitated putting a palm to the floor to maintain his equilibrium.

As he did so he felt something soft and thick and wet beneath his fingers. He raised his open palm before his eyes in the dim light of the corridor and peered at it. Then he shuddered, for even in the semidarkness he saw a dark red stain upon his hand.

The story is complicated by the entry of Meriem, a pretty little Arabian girl, and two rascally Swedes, who have designs on the child and would buy or steal her for a reward.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

**Room for Everybody There.** Western Siberia, between the Ural mountains and the Yenesei river, is capable, according to reliable estimates, of supporting a population of 800,000,000, or eight times the total population of the United States. Already the huge area is supporting 9,000,000 out of the 11,500,000 that form the entire population of Siberia.

**Superhonesty.** We must not look for absolute perfection in this old vale of tears, and probably all that it is reasonable to expect of an honest man is that you can trust him to tell the truth except in letters of recommendation.—Ohio State Journal.

# FARM ANIMALS

## PROTECTION OF FEEDER HOGS

Department of Agriculture Conducts System of Vaccination Against Hog Cholera.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In an effort to protect the swine industry of the country against the possibility of introducing sick pigs into well herds, and at the same time to permit the shipment from stock yards of stocker and feeder hogs, the United States department of agriculture conducts a system of vaccination against cholera as a part of its inspection service at the various stock yard centers. More than 324,000 hogs were immunized for shipment as stockers and feeders from stock yards in 18 cities during the six months from July to December, 1918, inclusive. To accom-



Inoculating a Hog With Cholera Serum.

plish this without spreading disease, in the face of all the attendant dangers, required, of course, such close care that the wisdom of some phases of the inspection system may not have been always apparent to all concerned.

With swine moving by carloads and trainloads from producing areas into public stock yards of the country, says the statement, the pens of such yards are inevitably infected with the common swine diseases, of which cholera is the most important. Owing to this condition federal regulations formerly required the slaughter of swine received, but after the serum and virus treatment against hog cholera was standardized the possibility of reshipping immature hogs for further feeding resulted in a modification of the rules. Under the plan now in force swine properly vaccinated and disinfected may be reshipped for any purpose, including breeding.

Immunizing hogs against cholera is a veterinary procedure, including the preventive-serum treatment, taking of temperatures and observing the condition of the animal during the test period. Necessarily the official regulations are of technical character, and it has come to the attention of the department of agriculture that in some cases the rules have been misinterpreted so as to make them appear responsible for fluctuation in the stock-hog market.

For the information of the public, the bureau of animal industry outlines briefly the method of inspection:

All public stock yards are considered to be infected and swine are, therefore, exposed to the contagion from the time of their entry into the yards; consequently it is important that they be immunized promptly after arrival at such yards to protect them against contracting the disease.

For that reason the department opposes the immunization of swine that have been so exposed for more than five days. Hogs, though they may not show physical symptoms of cholera, may in some instances be affected with the disease to such an extent that immunization will not protect them.

It is not permissible to immunize swine for immediate shipment interstate if they show symptoms of contagious or infectious disease.

If a considerable percentage of the animals in a lot is found to have high temperatures, the possible presence of such disease is indicated and the animals are not immunized or permitted to be shipped interstate. It is possible to have hogs with high temperatures as a result of conditions surrounding the shipment to market, in which case they will return to normal within a short time.

## LIVE STOCK NOTES

Start training the colt early.

A farrowing rail in the pen is a good thing to protect the young pigs.

Pigs will die if allowed access to their dams after weaning. The old milk is poisonous.

Until the lambs are about three weeks old they should be fed four times daily, one-half pint of milk being given each lamb at each feed.

# U. S. Increases Crop Acreage

More Than 56,000,000 Acres Are Added in the Last Ten Years, Government Statistics Show

More than 56,000,000 acres have been added to the country's aggregate crop acreage in the last ten years. Statistics announced by the department of agriculture show the country's aggregate last year to have been 367,738,000 acres, or 605,840 square miles. That is more than one-sixth of the total land area of continental United States, almost 2 1/2 times the size of the state of Texas and about ten times the land area of the entire New England states. The number of farms in the United States is estimated at 6,717,000.

Texas has the largest aggregate crop acreage with 25,328,000 acres, or a little more than one-sixth of her total land area.

Kansas is second with 22,588,000 acres, or almost one-half of her entire land area.

Illinois is third with 21,727,000 acres, or about three-sevenths of her land area.

Iowa is in fourth place with 21,613,000 acres, which is about three-sevenths of her land area.

The aggregate crop acreage, which includes those of corn, wheat, barley, oats, rye, linseed, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tobacco, flax, rice, hay, cotton, peanuts, kafir, beans, broom corn, hops and cranberries, and the number of farms by states, follow:

State	1918	1909	Farms
Maine	1,623,000	1,588,000	90,000
New Hampshire	592,000	593,000	27,000
Vermont	1,207,000	1,203,700	31,000
Massachusetts	674,000	654,844	37,000
Rhode Island	88,000	84,207	3,000
Connecticut	601,000	584,840	27,000
New York	8,509,000	8,387,771	315,000
New Jersey	1,183,000	1,114,900	33,000
Pennsylvania	8,377,000	7,826,562	218,000
Delaware	520,000	498,522	11,000
Maryland	2,254,000	1,934,954	50,000
Virginia	9,577,000	4,250,226	150,000
West Virginia	2,351,000	1,874,382	100,000
North Carolina	7,822,000	5,737,037	273,000
South Carolina	6,062,000	5,152,847	190,000
Georgia	12,624,000	9,662,383	330,000
Florida	1,661,000	1,223,078	70,000
Ohio	11,462,000	11,431,610	270,000
Indiana	12,714,000	11,331,305	215,000
Illinois	21,727,000	20,273,916	245,000
Michigan	8,808,000	8,198,578	200,000
Wisconsin	9,520,000	8,555,080	182,000
Minnesota	16,003,000	14,731,404	157,000
Iowa	21,613,000	20,374,925	215,000
Missouri	15,232,000	14,335,588	275,000
North Dakota	18,208,000	15,888,750	65,000
South Dakota	15,845,000	12,226,772	65,000
Nebraska	18,646,000	17,231,205	135,000
Kansas	22,588,000	19,900,750	180,000
Kentucky	6,922,000	6,046,810	270,000
Tennessee	7,252,000	6,365,143	290,000
Alabama	10,500,000	7,205,230	280,000
Mississippi	8,980,000	6,158,719	250,000
Louisiana	4,481,000	3,580,348	123,000
Texas	25,328,000	18,380,092	450,000
Oklahoma	13,744,000	11,921,670	230,000
Arkansas	7,309,000	5,378,484	250,000
Montana	4,845,000	1,848,113	30,000
Wyoming	4,369,000	786,650	15,000
Colorado	4,000,000	2,614,312	60,000
New Mexico	1,155,000	632,700	45,000
Arizona	477,000	190,082	13,000
Idaho	1,605,000	755,370	24,000
Nevada	448,000	302,387	3,000
Utah	2,130,000	1,328,470	38,000
Washington	5,040,000	3,431,273	70,000
Oregon	2,768,000	2,281,288	32,000
California	5,027,000	4,924,783	98,000
United States	367,738,000	311,203,382	6,717,000

## OF INTEREST TO POULTRY GROWERS

It is especially important that surplus chickens be utilized as rapidly as possible to increase the meat supply. Capons, or male birds whose reproductive organs have been removed because in weight and they meat is of good quality.

To determine the best time to castrate the male should be guided by the age and size of the bird. A cockerel two to four months of age 500 weighing one and a half to two and a half pounds is recommended as the best to castrate.

There are three essential to good results in castrating. First, the bird should not be fed for 24 hours prior to the operation. Second, the instrument will be sharp and the reproductive organs exposed. Second, the operation should be performed in a strong light in order that the organs may be clearly distinguished. Third, one should have a good set of nails.

The skilled operator can castrate a bird in a short time. Birds which have been operated on should be placed in a house from which the roosts have been removed. Give castrated birds a soft feed for ten days after the operation, after which they may be placed on a scratch feed again. The sex feathers of roosters two pounds can reach one pound of hen and one pound of middlings mixed with skim milk or buttermilk.

The first two weeks castrated birds should be vaccinated for "pneumonia." These can be easily protected by pricking the skin with a needle or a knife. Two or three weeks prior to marketing, confine and fatten capons in crates. Every ounce of gain at this time adds to the appearance of and the profits from the bird.

## Men Who Want More.

Bobshvili means "man who wants more." It is the name of the Russian party which advocates the upsetting of all government. Spartacus means a member of the Spartacist party in Germany, which is a faction of the social democrats. The party adopted its name from Spartacus, leader in the slave war against Rome (73-71 B. C.), a Thracian by birth, who organized the Roman slaves in rebellion.

## Lizards With Beautifully Marked Wings, Resembling Species of the Butterfly

At least one lizard enjoys, to a certain degree, the power of sailing through the air, as in the cases of flying squirrels, flying frogs of Mexico and some other animals. These lizards are called flying dragons, and they are all small-sized forms found in the Indo-Malayan region.

They possess elongated ribs in mid series, some five to seven pairs of them; these ribs support, on either side of the body, a semi-transparent membrane, it being stretched over them both dorsally and ventrally, united at the free margins and continuous with the general integument of the body.

These "wings," so called, close up like a fan when not in use and fall to the sides of the animal, but when spread form a parachute of marked effectiveness, as by its use this lizard can leap from the limb of a tree and sail to another one at certain distances as well as a phalanger or a flying lemur. Sometimes these "wings" in certain species of the flying dragons are beautifully marked, resembling the wing markings of some butterflies.

## The Banana Described.

The banana was only won wide favor in England during the past quarter century. It was not known, however, half a century ago, for B. L. Blanchard, the dramatist, records in his "Autobiography"—July 7, 1861—"I tasted bananas for the first time—a vegetable sausage tasting like narrow flavored with pineapple."

## BUGLE BLASTS

The thump of the heart is the best drum-beat. Keep step with it.

In war, selfishness is a mighty poor bomb-proof.

Late advices indicate that the Huns continue to fight and whine.

Kingly tradition is last year's bird's nest of politics.

The gilded helmet has taken its place on the dump with the cracked tea-kettle.