

# The Strumpet Sea

By BEN AMES WILLIAMS

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U. S. SERVICE

### SYNOPSIS

George McAusland was 28 years old when he sailed from America to undertake his post as a missionary in the Fiji Islands. A crime he had committed in a fit of excitement had shattered all his confidence in himself. He felt forced to avoid pretty Mary Doncaster, who boarded the ship at Honolulu. She was en route to visit her parents, who were missionaries on Gilead Island. Mary was attracted by George's attempts to avoid her. One day George accidentally overboarded. Mary unhesitatingly dove into the sea to rescue George, who falls in love with her. When the boat approached her home on Gilead Island, she learned that Mary's parents had both died. George volunteered to take charge of the mission and asked Mary to be his wife. She accepted his clumsy proposal, and they left the ship to live in her former home on the island. The scanty dress of the natives shocked George at first, but he soon became reconciled to their customs. Mary discovered that Corkran, a sailor friend of George's, had come there to help George and Mary if they needed him. Their peaceful life was interrupted one day when a ship stopped in the harbor in search of pearls. They see the pearl divers attacked and their schooner sunk by a pirate ship. The pirates head their boat toward the bay near their village. George sends Mary inland for safety and walks down to the beach alone and defenseless. Natives carry him back to Mary hours later, shot through the shoulder. Natives killed the pirates that night and set their boat afire. The long-awaited whaler, the *Venturer*, arrived. Mary was told that its captain had died, and that his sons, Richard and Peter Corr, were now in charge as captain and first mate. She liked Richard, but was told by Peter that he publicly laughed at her affection. George was a sick man when the *Venturer* arrived. George agreed to leave the island when he saw that the epidemic among the natives was caused by his consumptive condition. A native gave Mary a small bag of pearls as a farewell present. The attitude of the crew toward Peter bothered Mary, so she decided to find out if he was really responsible for the death of a seaman who had been killed while whaling.

### CHAPTER X—Continued

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Richard said grimly: "I've noticed a lot of trouble made, more than once, by trying to be responsible for other people's business."

"Do you seriously mean to bribe your men to obedience by turning them loose like wolves on these helpless girls?" George's eyes were hot. "Playing on their weakness, just as you played on my weakness at Gilead, told me I was killing the islanders in order to make me come away."

Richard said after a moment quietly: "Maybe I was wrong. Maybe I'd best have let you stay." He hesitated, said at last curtly: "Mr. McAusland, do as you like; but I'll have to run the ship my way."

He turned away. Peter had joined them in time to hear the last word. "Dick takes his job too hard. He's all blown up with it!"

Mary ignored him, urged: "Perhaps Richard's right, George. And even if he isn't, he must do as he thinks wisest. Come down to the cabin with me."

But George declined to do so. "I'll not shut my eyes," he said. "I'm not a coward."

So they stayed on deck that day while the work of provisioning the ship went forward.

They could not be ready to depart that afternoon; and the boats stayed ashore well into the night. Next morning they made to sea.

Mary hoped that once they were away George would forget his anger at Richard; but he did not, and for days after they left the island, the few minutes they all spent together at the table were made awkward by her husband's wrathful silence, and by Richard's defensive dignity.

The stop for provisions had altered not only the humor of the crew but the very appearance of the *Venturer*. They had taken on tremendous quantities of fresh fruits. A huge cask lashed to the port rail was full of green coconuts. Bunches of bananas hung under the boat house and wherever else room could be found. The potato room where Tommy Hanline slept was so full of yams and plantains and breadfruit that Tommy had to crawl over them to reach his bunk.

Another change took place in the routine aboard after they left the island. George remembered his calling, and with the air of one expecting a refusal, asked Richard's permission to hold a Sunday morning service on deck. Richard consented, and the thing was done. Mary suspected that Corkran was responsible for the quiet and respectful demeanor of the men when they assembled; but when George began to speak, he held them. George, facing an audience, had a spiritual authority and dignity that were fine to see. She realized, while she listened, that her attitude toward her husband had always been protective; her tenderness a little condescending.

She told him afterward how proud she was, and Richard also spoke to George gratefully and appreciatively. She hoped the constraint between them would be forgotten. But George did not relent at all; and matters were still thus tight and strained in the cabin, on the day when at last they sighted a whale.

A whaler may kill and save in the course of a voyage two or three dozen whales; and she may kill others and lose them by sinking or in a sudden gale. Most of her captures are routine; but now and then a whale makes trouble. What happened to the *Venturer* today was one of those extraordinary and isolated phenomena which become legends; and it would take its place in whaling lore.

One of the sailors aloft, a New Bedford man named Gibbons, called down to the after deck:

"Sparrow whale on the port quarter, sir, about two miles off."

The whale was at that a quick and instant stir upon the *Venturer*. Mat Forbes at a word from Richard ran halfway up the mizzen ratlines and shouted to the men aloft to make haste with the topgallant sails. Richard came to the port rail to look off across the leaden sea. Mat Forbes spoke quietly to Richard on the deck below him.

"Sharks at him, Cap'n Corr." Richard nodded.

"All right. Clear boats and stand by to lower."

Feet moved along the deck to obey. Mat Forbes, descending to the deck, said quietly:

"Whale's moving this way, sir."

Richard looked at the weather to the westward.

He watched the work, watching the *Venturer* come to and fall off lazily.

The whale drew nearer; and even from the decks they could see now his efforts to beat off his attackers. He surged to and fro, flukes now and then rising ponderously; and as the fight came steadily nearer them, they could hear the thrash of the flukes, the sigh of the spout, the broken water when he drove this way and that. Peter, standing with George and Mary although his men were ready by his boat yonder, moved restlessly.

"There's something wrong with him," he muttered, "or he'd have driven them off by now. Might be he's hurt or sick or something. Maybe he's got an iron in him." He licked his lips in a nervous tremor.

Richard said just behind them: "Weather coming, Peter; but we'll

"Sock him, Pip!"

Richard, braced and firm, as much a part of the boat as though he were nailed to it, drove his lance again. Tommy screamed:

"There he rolls!"

But the whale rolled away from the boat, not toward it; and in so doing, its under parts were for a moment exposed.

The whale rolled over and over in a smother away from them; and suddenly its flukes lifted high and then it was gone, and the tossed water began to quiet where it had disappeared.

"Sounded!" Tommy cried.

Mary could see the line now snaking out over the bow of the whale-boat, the bow sagging downward and then rising with a jerk as Joe Sassnet kept a strain on the line around the loggerhead, yielding only when he must. Richard in the bow was leaning forward to look straight down into the water, lance in hand.

The bow of Richard's boat rose suddenly as the strain upon the line was eased. "Haul hard!" Big Pip shouted. Sassnet took line hand over hand. Richard spoke over his shoulder, not turning his head, watching the water under them.

"Ready —!" he said crisply. Then men poised, suddenly he cried: "Star! all! Hard astern!"

The oars bent like bows; the boat darted backward like a squid. Then for a moment from where Mary stood on the *Venturer's* deck, boat and men were alike blotted out of sight, hidden behind a vast black column with a blunt end which rose ponderously out of the water, the white mouth gleaming, the bent jaw opening and closing in a vicious futility.

That black mass that was the whale's head rose and rose, slow and slower till it was above the level of the *Venturer's* decks, till Mary thought it would never stop ascending. It seemed to poise and hang for a moment, and then ponderously toppled forward, parting the water like a plow; and she saw the boat safe, secure, beyond the flukes.

Then the whale spouted, and its spout now was a thick crimson cloud; and Mary saw Richard strike a sharp blow at the line with a hatchet, saw its free end disappear.

She cried, sick with sudden disappointment: "Oh, he's let it go!"

"It's dying!" Tommy Hanline told her, proud of Richard. "He always cuts before the flurry unless there's another boat that might get fast. He don't take chances when there's no need of it."

The spout was a fountain of blood as the whale again began to move, but there was no long flurry. Too much of the creature's strength was already spent. It surged a little forward, lay still, seemed to turn half on its side, laboriously righted itself.

"Fin out!" said Tommy Hanline, and he looked up at Mary with shining eyes.

She tried to speak and found her throat dry and constricted. She whispered: "Is it dead? Did Richard kill it?"

George, at her tone, looked at her quickly; but Tommy said in high pride: "Yes! That was pretty wonderful, wasn't it?"

"Yes," she said, not seeing her husband's eyes.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

CHAPTER XI

The whale righted itself and came quartering toward their bow in a sudden rush. Richard leaped forward into the waist as though with his own hands to fend the creature off; and an instant later it shouldered against the *Venturer's* side. Mary, looking down, saw the great black bulk in the water, and the slender gray shapes of the sharks in attendance. George clung hard beside her, and Peter gasped:

"Godfrey, Dick! He'll sink us!"

Richard ran aft toward where his boat hung. The whale drew off, circling slowly, lifting his head as though in an effort to locate the ship for a new attack. Richard called briskly:

"Lower away, Mr. Forbes! Peter, get the Brand gun. Sock a bomb into him if he comes near the ship again."

His boat struck the water with a smooth precision. The boats were carried to port, Richard's farthest aft, Mat's forward.

Mary felt young Tommy Hanline hanging to her arm, his small hands tight as a tourniquet. Mat's boat hit the water; but Richard had already darted away from the *Venturer's* side, the long oars bending as the men put into them every ounce of strength. Mary thought for a moment the boat would meet the whale head on; and she heard a voice scream a warning, and knew it was her own.

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(TO BE CONTINUED)

## FARM TOPICS

### SOY BEANS ARE VALUABLE FEED

#### Keep Bean Rations Low For Best Results.

By W. H. PETERS  
(Professor of Animal Husbandry, University Farm, St. Paul.)

Whole soy beans as raised and threshed on the farm have a high feed value, but the feeder should use caution in making up his ration to include such beans. On the basis of experiments carried out to evaluate soy beans in the live-stock ration, several guides have been established.

(1) Do not feed soy beans in excess of 10 per cent by weight of any grain ration for any type of animal. If beans are fed more heavily than this, the high oil content will cause scouring and disturbances of the digestive system. If fed heavily to such animals as high producing milk cows, fattening hogs, cattle or lambs, such animals will in two to three months' time lose their taste for the beans and voluntarily cut down on their eating.

(2) Soy beans fed in excess of 10 per cent of the ration to dairy cows may cause soft butter. Likewise, overfeeding of fattening hogs on beans is quite certain to produce soft pork.

(3) In so far as possible soy beans should be fed whole without being ground at all. They are just as palatable in the whole form as when they are ground. Because of their high oil content, soy beans become rancid and objectionable in odor and taste very soon after being ground. If they must be ground to fit in with the rest of the ration, they should be crushed only medium fine, and a fresh supply prepared once each week.

(4) Such practices as cooking or soaking soy beans before feeding them have not proved necessary or profitable.

(5) Whole soy beans have their most satisfactory use in feeding when they are fed as a small part of the grain ration to fattening cattle and lambs and high producing milk cows.

### Chickens Need Warmed Water in Winter Months

An egg is 70 per cent water. That is a fact that C. F. Parrish, extension poultryman of N. C. State college, constantly impresses upon poultry raisers in urging that they provide their flocks with plenty of clean water in convenient fountains.

"Arrange for some heated water fountains for the flock to use during this cold weather. Water consumption is greater when the chill is taken off, and the more water a hen drinks, the more and the larger her eggs," Parrish added.

The specialist also warns that drafts through openings in the back and ends of the laying house should be eliminated by closing such openings. "Winter is the time to make money from egg production, when the supply is short," he said. "There is a surplus of eggs only during about six weeks in the spring. That leaves about 46 other weeks in the year that our homes and home markets are not amply supplied with quality eggs."

"By selecting chicks of good breeding, and by proper housing and feeding, the farm flock can be managed so as to produce eggs every month in the year."

### Agricultural News

Soybean production this year is indicated to be 81,500,000 bushels, approximately 6,000,000 bushels below the 1939 production, estimates the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Tests conducted at Oregon State college show that fence posts with the butts charred do not last as well as untreated posts, but green posts treated with a salt combination last almost indefinitely.

Present indications are that an all-time high of 8,000,000 bales of cotton will be used in the United States alone during the coming year, although exports will not exceed two million bales.

The current Canadian wheat crop, estimated at 561,000,000 bushels, probably exceeds domestic requirements by 275,000,000 bushels, report U. S. department of agriculture foreign experts.

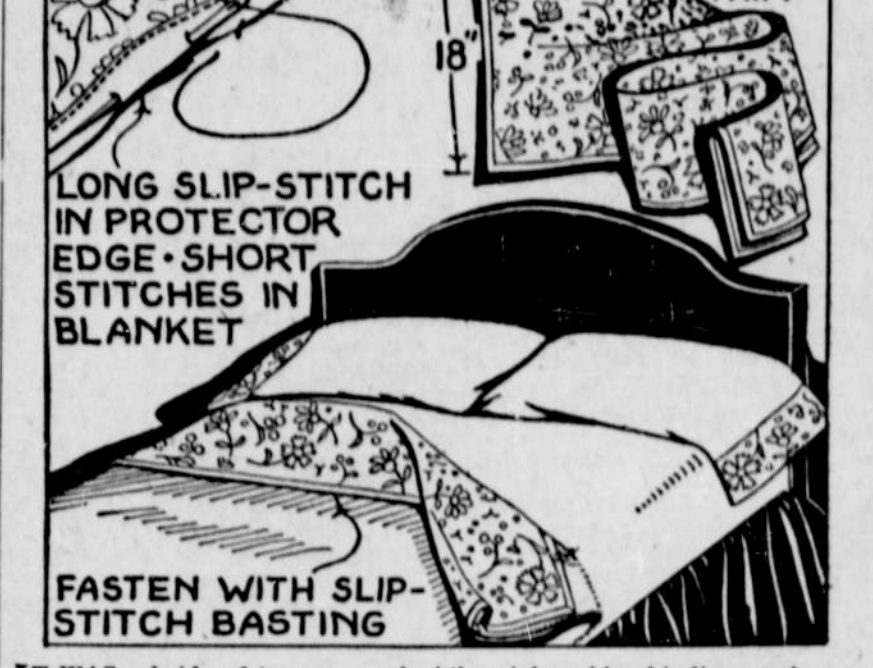
A milking cow should never get more than four tablespoons of cod-liver oil per day.

A winter cover crop returns to the grower many times his investment in seed, fertilizer, and labor by conserving soil, moisture and fertility.

English farmers are being urged to gather acorns, horse chestnuts and beechnuts to eke out the feed-stuff supply of farm animals and thereby release tonnage for other needed imports.

# HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



IT WAS a bride of ten years who reminded me of blanket protectors. I say bride because her home still has the immaculate freshness of a bride's house. Her wool blankets have never been washed or cleaned, yet their soft light colorings show no sign of soil. She brought out some long pieces of cotton material; "I baste these over the tops of the blankets," she said "and change them every few weeks."

I thought of some dainty bed-linens that I had seen all trimmed in flower sprigged cotton print. Why not make flowered blanket protectors to harmonize with blanket colorings? Here is one that would go with either rose or blue. It is easy to hide basting stitches that fasten it temporarily to the blanket by slipping them along in

the pink or blue binding as shown. One length of material as long as the width of the blanket will make a pair of these protectors. A half yard extra of the flowered material will face a matching pair of pillow cases.

You will also find some other ideas for trimming pillow cases in SEWING Book 2. This booklet has been one of the most popular in the series as it not only contains complete directions for many gift and bazaar novelties but shows how to make 42 different embroidery stitches and five ways to darn and repair fabrics. Send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS  
Bedford Hills, New York  
Drawer 10  
Enclose 10 cents for Book 2.  
Name .....  
Address .....

## AROUND the HOUSE

Items of Interest to the Housewife

- Add peeled, quartered apples** when you roast lamb or veal. The apples add a delicious flavor and give a soft topping to the roast.
- More food value is preserved** when a vegetable is baked in its skin than when it is steamed or boiled.
- Two or three minutes** after you have started your gas or electric oven, open the door for a second or two, to let out the damp air. The oven will then heat in a much shorter time.
- To keep cheese fresh** for some time, cover it over with a thin coating of paraffin. When ready to serve remove the paraffin.
- Fruit cake** makes a delicious pudding if served with a sauce.
- Orange juice** as a substitute for vinegar will give a new and deliciously piquant flavor to French dressing. Select the thin-skinned yellow oranges when, as here, the amount of juice is the first consideration. These are always the juicier.

### Made Rather Bad Guess In Dark of the Night

Podkins had been walking about all day looking for lodgings. When darkness came he was still searching. At last he noticed a card in a window.

"Good evening," he said to the woman who appeared at the door in answer to his knock. "I'm here in reference to the card in your window."

"Oh, yes! How many might you want, sir?"

"Only one. You see, I've had a row with my landlady—"

"But you're not going to pelt her with it, are you, sir?"

"Pelt her with a room?"

"Room? I've got no rooms. That card reads 'New-Laid Eggs.'"

# NO! NO!

There is NO extra charge for Vitamin A in Smith Brothers Cough Drops. These delicious drops still cost only 5¢. (Black or Menthol)

**Smith Bros. Cough Drops are the only drops containing VITAMIN A**

Vitamin A (Carotene) raises the resistance of mucous membranes of nose and throat to cold infections, when lack of resistance is due to Vitamin A deficiency.

**Benefits to Our Readers**

THE PUBLIC nature of advertising benefits everyone it touches. It benefits the public by describing exactly the products that are offered. It benefits employees, because the advertiser must be more fair and just than the employer who has no obligation to the public. These benefits of advertising are quite apart from the obvious benefits which advertising confers—the lower prices, the higher quality, the better service that go with advertised goods and firms.