

Africa Waits

by Achmed Abdullah
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GIRL SPY?

CHAPTER XVI

LINCOLN felt like saying: "You're also a stubborn, pig-headed little fool!" But he decided it would hardly be in keeping with his assumed Arab character. Instead he begged her again and again, to leave Yebba and she refused, again and again. Finally, again angry, he cried, "Don't you dare interfere in my affairs!"

"I assure you it's nothing personal."

"Well—I should hope not!"

"Only don't say I didn't warn you after your throat's been cut from ear to ear."

"After my throat's been cut," was her maddening reply, "I won't be able to say anything."

"Oh—," he said, "I'm very sorry."

"Besides," she went on, leaning across the table, "you seem to know more about this revolution than seems reasonable. How come?"

Here was a danger point. He made up his mind to argue no longer.

He could not persuade her to go, unless he told her the whole truth or, at least, more than was safe. And that he could not do.

"I am very sorry that I mentioned the matter to you," he informed her stiffly.

"So am I," she said quite as stiffly.

On the threshold he turned; caught her looking at him from beneath lowered lids.

She looked away quickly. So did he.

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HAD, just then, an impartial observer told Lincoln that he, for years a hard-bitten, hard-boiled soldier in the Foreign Legion, had fallen head over heels in love, at first sight like a schoolboy, he would have dismissed it as a lot of bunk.

Yet the fact remained that, at the thought of Nancy Brown's obstinate resolve not to leave Yebba and the realization of what might happen to her, something tore through his heart as with the edge of a dagger.

Therefore, in subconscious self-defense, he put this emotion down to an ordinary prompting of humanity, to the notion, furthermore, that they were both Americans, and he credited the same impersonal reaction with his decision that: "Well—if the damned young fool won't look after herself, I guess it's up to me to do it for her."

He would persuade Zaman Khan to remain in Yebba. In case of trouble, the latter could take her into his house. There, since the Afghan was a Moslem, Nancy Brown would be sacrosanct under the laws of Islam.

He also figured out how to approach the other in the matter, without giving his mission away. The man—he recalled—had an idea that Nancy Brown was a spy. He would play on this belief.

He left the inn, found his friend in the stable yard grossly insulting the black, tattooed Sudanese ostler whom he was trying to underpay.

"Three pieces of silver I gave," he cried, "and most generously, O creature with pig's ears! And not another will you receive!"

"One more piece, O Protector of the Pitiful!"

"No!"

"I am a poor man! My seven children are starving! And my parents..."

The Afghan proceeded to relate some amazing, biological details as to the Negro's origin; and the latter screamed with rage.

"Hut!" he shrieked. "The insult into your beard, foul and tinkling Asiatic!"

"Stinking, am I? Allah! And how do you like the smell of my foot?" came Zaman Khan's coarse rejoinder, as, suddenly, he raised an oak-like leg and, with superb aim, kicked the other violently in the nose.

Weeping, the man ran away, while the Afghan turned to Lincoln with a happy, childlike smile.

"In such a way," he announced proudly, "did I save a silver piece."

The American drew him to one side.

"Do me a favor?" he asked.

"Do I not love you? Name it—and it is done, heart of my heart!"

"I want you to stay here in Yebba for a while."

"But I am on my way to Libya."

I must join my old regiment. "You haven't been in such a hurry so far, what with your horse trading."

"I have already arranged for the sale of the mares at a fair profit."

"Even so, stay here for a while. I need your help."

Lincoln went on to say that he believed Zaman Khan was right in suspecting the girl of being a spy. So he had decided to get out of town at once and find refuge in the dense jungle the other side of Lake Tchad.

"So, at least for a month or two," he wound up, "will you keep close track of her, lest she should..."

"I am a man of deeds, not of words. A thrust of my dagger—and you will not have to run for jungle, nor shall I have to remain here."

"You mean—you...?"

"Yes."

"You—you wouldn't!"

"I would, sah! Why trust the living? Why fear the dead?"

"But she's a woman!"

"Is she less dangerous," inquired Zaman Khan, reasonably enough, "for being a woman?"

Would you leave meat on trust with a female jackal any more than with a male? Ah—"as he saw Lincoln's shocked expression—"I understand." He laughed tolerantly. "You are a sah! Thus Allah created you mad. But I, being an Afghan..."

(To Be Continued)

Deaths due to premature birth are more common among babies born in spring than at any other season.

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PUPPIES POSE IN FILET CROCHET

7580 by Alice Brooks

Putting on the dog is quite correct when it happens to be these chubby puppies in filet crochet. You'll hear the "oh's and ah's" of your friends when they see them standing guard over your chairs. An especially easy filet crochet because the edges are straight. Pattern 7580 contains directions and charts for set; illustration of stitches.

To obtain this pattern send 11 cents in coin to The Herald and News, Household Arts Dept., Klamath Falls. Do not send this picture, but keep it and the number for reference. Be sure to wrap coin securely, as a loose coin often slips out of the envelope. Requests for patterns should read, "Send pattern No. ... to ... followed by your name and address."

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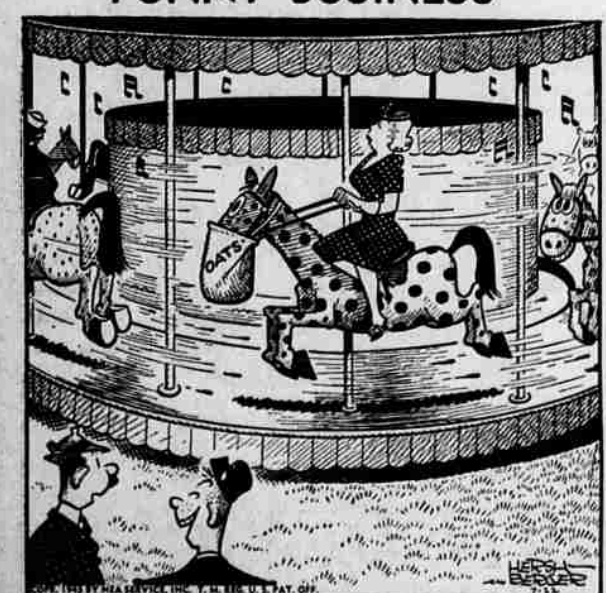
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FUNNY BUSINESS



"I think she's something or other to do with the humane society!"

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Clear, Durable Beauty

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