

Africa Waits

by Achmed Abdullah
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LINCOLN AND RAOUL

CHAPTER XXVI

LINCOLN'S thoughts raced.

No, no—he could not kill Raoul. Raoul, his half-brother, of whom he had always been so fond, to whom he had looked up during childhood days. Raoul who had sinned—sure enough—but, too, had been sinned against, by his stepfather's harsh, puritanical refusal to help.

Years had passed. And something had happened to Raoul. Something had warped his soul. This something, in its ultimate effect, was a dreadful danger to the cause of the United Nations—and so . . .

No, no, no! He could not kill. There must be another way—and, all at once, he found it.

"Listen, Raoul!" he said. "I shall tell the dervishes precisely who you are. I shall tell them that you're not a Moslem, a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, inspired by Allah, but, contemptuously, a renegade Christian who hates his own people for decidedly unsavory and selfish reasons. And what will happen then? Let me tell you! Your whole house of cards will collapse . . ."

"And we'll both be killed."

"I don't mind, where I'm concerned. At least, not enough to keep me from . . ."

"The dervishes," interrupted Raoul, "may not believe you."

"Won't they, though!"

"Go ahead! Talk to them! I dare you!"

How like the old Raoul in schoolboy days—thought Lincoln—with his: "I dare you!"

Aloud he said: "I'm not bluffing. But you are. I'll give you a choice. Either somehow—and I've no idea how you'll do it, maybe by putting it on some sort of spiritual, passive resistance basis—you'll give up this conspiracy and persuade the dervishes to go home peacefully. Or I'll step out of the tent right now and spill the beans. And then—curtains for both of us."

LINCOLN hadn't finished. "But curtains, too, for your fantastic plan of revenge. For you know, as I do, that a conspiracy like this, built upon the fanatical faith of a mob in one single man—why—the slightest whisper of doubt will blow it straight to hell."

Raoul stared at Lincoln. For a long time he did not speak. Then he inclined his head.

"You win," he said dully, "and I lose." He went on: "You know—you're the sort of man I would hate, if we hadn't the same mother. You stand for all the unimaginative obstinacy, all the—stiff kowtowing to duty which I despise about the Occident, about Christianity."

"Yet you were born a Frenchman and brought up as a Christian."

"Don't waste time," sneered the other, "and effort by trying to play on my sentimentality. I'm not a milk-sop romanticist. But—funny—you are, in spite of your hard-headedness."

"So are you. Or you would never have dreamed up this fabulous dream of revenge." He stepped up close to Raoul. "What will you do—I mean, in the future?"

"What," bitterly, "do you care?"

"I care very much. I am deeply fond of you—in spite of everything. I'm a little embarrassed—I suppose it's no use trying to help you out—oh—with a bit of money?"

"Marvelous psychologist!" was sardonic rejoinder.

"One thing, though, I can do for you. Of course I'll have to make some sort of confidential report to account for my absence. But I'll never divulge who you are."

"To save the honor of my name—or of yours?"

"Not quite fair, Raoul."

"Not quite fair. I know. That's always been the trouble with me. Not quite fair." He swore then, viciously. "Get out of here," he cried, "before I change my mind. Tell the dervishes I'm sending you on some special task. Hurry back to where you came from. On the day after tomorrow, when you'll be safely on your way, I—ah—as bitterly as before—shall carry out your orders."

FORTY-EIGHT hours later, the rickety Ford was bearing Lin-

coln, Nancy and Zaman Khan

away from the jungle. Lincoln sighed. "I guess," he said, "Raoul is right. I'm a romanticist, a sentimentalist. You see—I can't help feeling sorry for these dervishes these fanatics, when Raoul will tell them—the Lord knows how—that their grand, glittering dreams are over."

"What do you think your brother'll do?" asked Nancy. "I've no idea. But maybe he'll enter a dervish monastery. Would be the very thing for him. He's really today a Moslem at heart—"

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by Alice Brooks

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HOLD EVERYTHING!



"Those of us who were left hurried back to report a smashing victory!"

a fatalist . . . "So," chimed in the Afghan, "am I! Wah—it is a pleasant fate which awaits me in Yebbal! A girl whose loveliness shames the splendor of the mid-day sun! I would ask her to be my wife—were I not off to the wars, joining the Sixteenth Pathan Brigade."

Nancy Brown, her hands on the steering wheel, looked over her shoulder at Lincoln.

"You aren't going to war, are you?" she demanded. "No. I'm the governor of . . ."

"Well—then—she interrupted—there's really no reason why you shouldn't ask me to be your wife, is there?"

"Haven't I asked you?"

"You have not!"

"Okay! Will you?"

What You Buy With WAR BONDS

All of the implements provided for our army are not war machines. Some you've seen operating in peace time, such as the Caterpillar bulldozer. The Engineering Corps in the Army and Marines uses "Bulldozers" to build roads, to smooth off temporary air fields, camp sites and for many other uses.



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U. S. Treasury Department

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



WHERE'S ELMER?

ANSWER: The state of Washington.

HE KNOWS ANSWERS

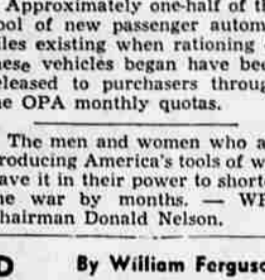
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Out Our Way



BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

Red Ryder



THE END

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



WHERE'S ELMER?

ANSWER: The state of Washington.

HE KNOWS ANSWERS

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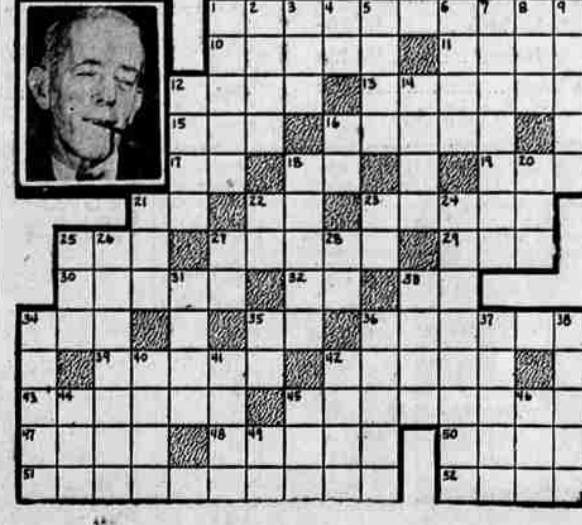
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FUNNY BUSINESS



"Due to the shortage of experienced waiters, the restaurant supplies each customer with a neck umbrella!"



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