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TALE OF A STRANGE, WONDERFUL WOMAN AND MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURES
By H. RIDER HAGGARD

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. On the night before the death of M. L. Vinton...

CHAPTER IX. The Feast, and After!

OR a moment there was a silence of astonishment. They had never heard the report of a firearm before...

I turned my head, and as I lay gasping in the throes of that awful struggle I could see that Leo was off the rock now...

"A spear," cried a voice; "a spear to cut his throat and a vessel to catch the blood!"

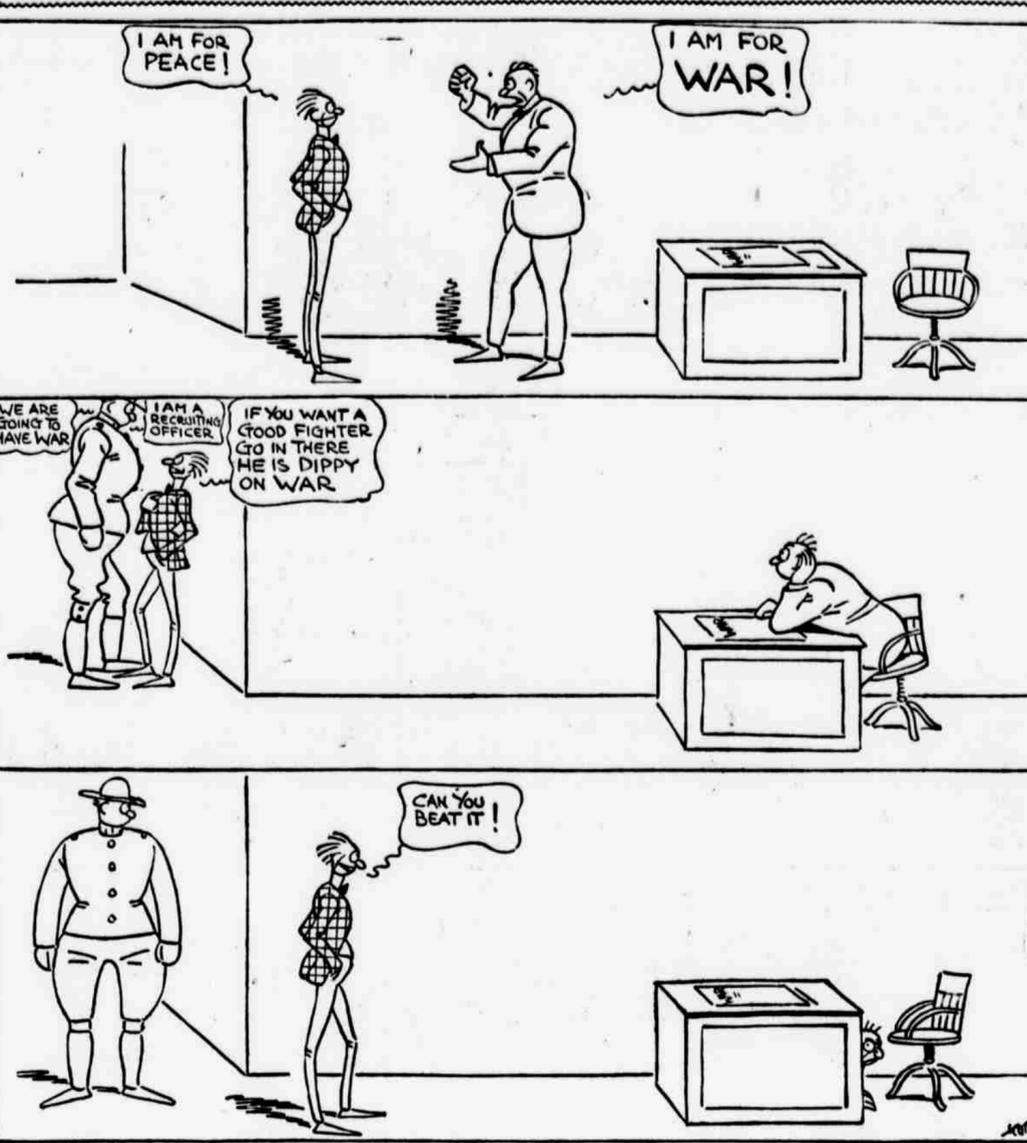
Then suddenly there was a disturbance and involuntarily I opened my eyes and looked toward the cave mouth...

"I feel as though I were going to die," he answered hoarsely. "My head is splitting, my body is trembling and I am as sick as a cat."

CHAPTER XI. Speculations. WITHIN an hour of our finaly deciding to start, five litters were brought up to the door of the cave...

Can You Beat It?

By Maurice Ketten



height. Anything more grand and imposing than the sight presented by this great natural castle...

CHAPTER XII. The Plain of Kor. ABOUT an hour before sundown we at last, to my unbounded gratitude, emerged from the great belt of marsh...

CHAPTER XIII. "She." THE first care of Job and myself, after seeing to Leo, was to wash ourselves and put on clean clothing...

CHAPTER XIV. Ayesha Unveils. "HERE," she said, "the best gone, the white-bearded man, and then I came and saved them, and the evil-doers have I sent on hither to be judged of thy greatness, oh, She, and here they are, and thou dost keep thine household better."

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Why art thou so frightened, stranger? asked the sweet voiced again. "Is that about me that should frighten a man? Then surely are men changed from what they used to be."

"I had been sitting with him for an hour, perhaps, when Billali arrived with an air of great importance and informed me that She had returned to see how Leo was getting on."

"We passed down the passage, crossed the great aisle-like cave, and came to the corresponding passages on the other side, and we entered of which the guards stood like two statues."

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"I entered, shuddering. This woman was very terrible. Within the curtains of the bed, about twelve feet by ten, and in the room was a couch, and a table whereon stood fruit and sparkling water."

"I sat down on the end of the couch near to the foot-like basin of water, and she sank down softly on to the other end."

"Now, Holly," she said, "thou canst not to speak Arabic? It is mine own dear tongue, for Arabian am I by my birth."

WHEH I opened my eyes again I found myself lying on a skin mat, not far from the fire round which we had been gathered for the dreadful feast.

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"I felt more frightened than ever at this ghostlike apparition." "Why art thou so frightened, stranger? asked the sweet voiced again. "Is that about me that should frighten a man? Then surely are men changed from what they used to be."