

TARZAN THE TERRIBLE

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CHAPTER I

The Pithecanthropus

As the shadows through which he moved, the great beast's eyes glared through the mist and staring yellow-green undulating behind him, his body lowered and flattened, and his every muscle vibrated to the throbbing of the jungle which the great cat's occasional clearing of his throat seemed to pass directly across them, and by the tortoise speed of his approach it might have been supposed that he was not so much interested in the thing which he was following as in the fact that it was moving in the same direction as he. He was a creature of the most primitive type, but his brain was not so much as that of the lowest ape, for he was able to understand the meaning of the word "danger" and to act accordingly. He was a creature of the most primitive type, but his brain was not so much as that of the lowest ape, for he was able to understand the meaning of the word "danger" and to act accordingly.

Two months of effort had revealed no slightest evidence that she had entered the beautiful yet forbidding island. His investigation, however, of the country, and his questioning of other tribes in the neighborhood had convinced him that if Lady Jane still lived it must be in this direction that he sought her, since by a process of elimination he had reduced the direction of her flight to only this possibility. Here she had crossed the morass; he could not guess, and yet something within seemed to urge upon him belief that she had crossed it, and that if she still lived it was here that she must be sought. But this unknown, untraversed wild was of vast extent; grim, forbidding mountains blocked his way, torrents tumbling from rocky fescues impeded his progress, and at every turn he was forced to match wits and muscles with the great carnivora that he might procure sustenance.

Time and again Tarzan and Numa stalked the same quarry, and saw only the bare bone of the prize. Scarcely, however, did the ape-man grow hungry, for the country was rich in game animals and birds and fish, in fruit and the countless other forms of vegetable life upon which the jungle-bred man may subsist.

Tarzan often wondered why in so rich a country he found no evidences of man, and had at last come to the conclusion that the marsh, then-covered dloppe and the hideous morasses had furnished a sufficient barrier to protect this country effectively from the hordes of mankind.

After days of searching he had succeeded finally in discovering a pass through the mountains, and, coming down upon the opposite side, had found himself in a country geographically identical with that which he had left. The hunting was good, and at a water hole in the mouth of a canyon where it descended upon a tree-covered plain Numa, the deer, in a busy visit to the ape-man's cabin.

It was just at dusk. The voices of great four-footed hunters rose now and again from various directions, and as the many of afforded among its trees no comfortable retreat, the ape-man shouldered the carcass of the deer and started downward onto the plain.

At its opposite side rose lofty trees—a great forest which suggested to his practiced eye a mighty jungle. Toward this the ape-man bent his step, but when midway of the plain he discovered standing alone such a tree as best suited him for a night's abode, swung lightly to it, he reached and, presently, a comfortable resting place.

Here he ate of the flesh of Numa and when satisfied carried the balance of the carcass to the opposite side of the tree, where he deposited it far above the ground in a secure place. Returning to his cot, he settled himself for sleep, and in another moment the roars of the lions and the howlings of the lesser cats fell upon deaf ears.

The usual noises of the jungle composed rather than disturbed the ape-man, but an unusual sound, however imperceptible to the awakened ear of civilized man, seldom failed to impinge upon the consciousness of Tarzan, however deep his slumber, and so it was that when the moon was high a sudden flash of foot and flying figure, and now so close as to produce the possibility of its quarry escaping, Numa, the lion, in full charge. Voiceless the prey, voiceless the killer, as two spirits in a dead world they moved in silent swiftness toward the culminating tragedy of this grim race.

Even as his eyes opened and took in the scene beneath him—even in that brief instant of perception, followed by reason, judgment and decision, so rapidly one upon the heels of the other, that almost simultaneously the ape-man was in midair, for he had seen a white-skinned creature east in a mold similar to his own, pursued by Tarzan's hereditary enemy. So close was the lion to the fleeing man that he had no time carefully to choose the method of his attack. As a diver leaps from the springboard headfirst into the waters beneath, so Tarzan, the lion, naked in his right hand the blade of his father that so many times before had tasted the blood of Numa.

A raking talon caught Tarzan on the side, inflicting a long, deep wound and then the ape-man was on Numa's back and the blade was sinking again and again into the savage side.

Nor was the man anything either longer fleeing or safe. He, too, creature of the wild, had sensed on the instant the truth of the miracle of his saving, and, turning in his tracks, had leaped forward with raised bludgeon to Tarzan's assistance and Numa's undoing. A single terrific blow upon the flattened skull of the beast laid him insensible and then, as Tarzan's knife found the wild heart, a few convulsive shudders and a sudden relaxation marked the passing of the carnivore.

Leaping to his feet, the ape-man placed his foot upon the carcass of his kill and, raising his face to Goro, the moon, voiced the savage victory cry that had so often awakened the echoes of his native jungle.

THE GUMPS—Bimbo, Beware of a Vamp



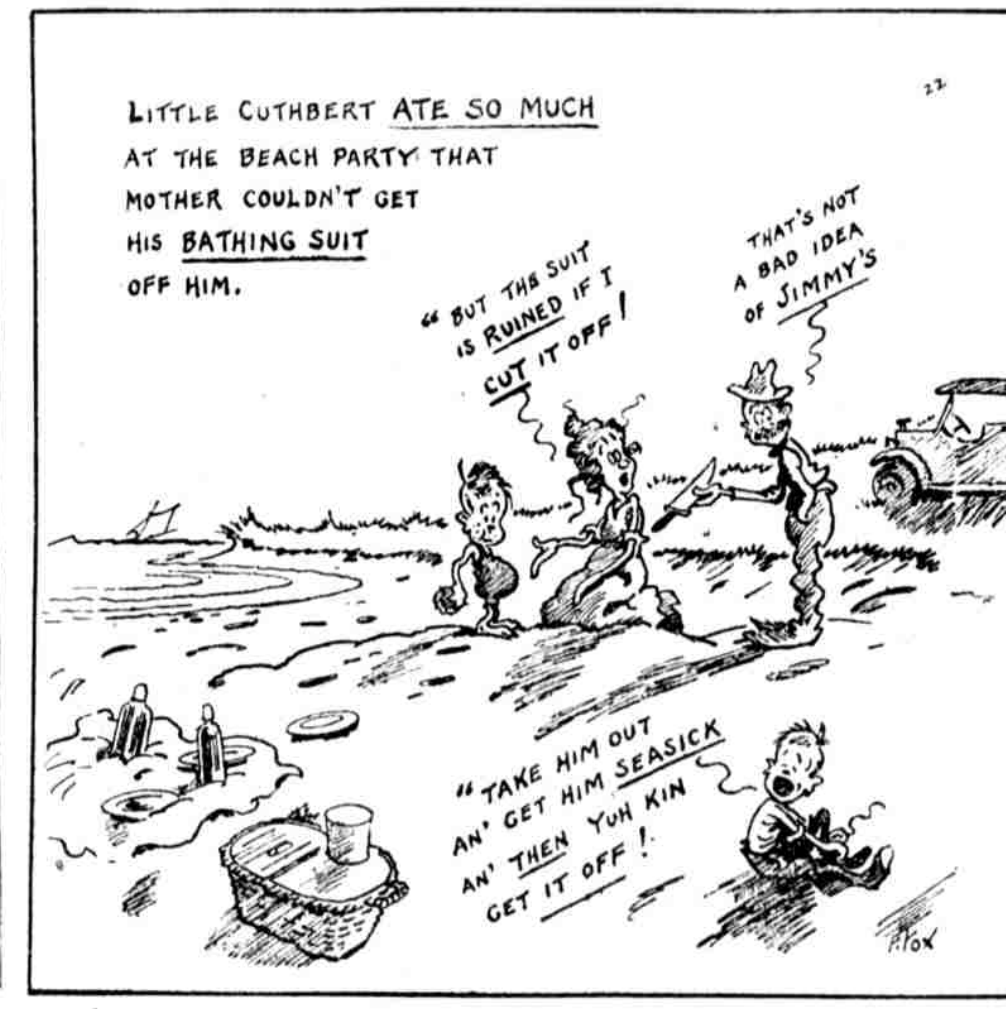
SOMEBODY'S STENOG—Another View of One of Our "Active" Business Men



The Young Lady Across the Way



PATHETIC FIGURES



SCHOOL DAYS



PETEY—The Wild, Wild Waifs



THE CLANCY KIDS—Timmie Beats Around the Bush Too Much



Continued from page 1. From the abundance and diversity of game it might have appeared that

CONTINUED TOMORROW