Tarzan and The Jewels of Opar

By EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

Author of "TARZAN OF THE APES," "SON OF TARZAN"

Copyright, 1916, A. C. McClurg & Co.

CHAPTER XVII.—Continued.

"He is worse than a crook," said a quiet voice behind them.

Tarzan turned in astonishment to see a tall man in uniform standing in the trail a few paces from him. Back of the man were a number of black soldiers in the uniform of the Congo Free State.

"He is a murderer, monsieur," continued the officer. "I have followed him for a long time to take him back to stand trial for the killing of his superior officer."

Werper was upon his feet now, gazing, white and trembling, at the face which had overtaken him even in the fastness of the labyrinthine jungle. Instinctively he turned to flee, but Tarzan of the Apes reached out a strong hand and grasped him by the shoulder.

"Wait!" said the ape-man to his captive. "This gentleman wishes you and so do I. When I am through with you he may have you. Tell me what has become of my wife."

The Belgian officer eyed the almost naked white man with curiosity. He could not quite determine the social status of the strange creature; but he knew that he did not relish the easy assurance that he saw in the fellow possessed of a mate when he might take possession of the latter.

"Pardon me," he said, stepping forward and placing his hand upon Werper's outer shoulder, "but this gentleman is my prisoner. He must come with me."

"When I am through with him," replied Tarzan, quietly.

"Both the law and the power to enforce it are now upon my side," answered the officer. "Let us have no trouble."

"Your legal rights are of no consequence, my friend," replied Tarzan. "And your power to enforce your commands are only apparent—not real. You have entered my country with an armed force. It is for you to withdraw it from this country. Where are the extradition papers which warrant the arrest of this man? And what assurance have you that I shall maintain an armed force about you that will prevent your return to the Congo Free State?"

The Belgian lost his temper. "I have no disposition to argue with a naked savage," he cried. "Unless you wish to be taken also, you will interfere with me. Take the prisoner, sergeant!"

Werper raised his lips close to Tarzan's ear. "Keep me from them, and I can show you the very spot where I found your wife and child," he whispered. The ruse was not lost upon the soldiers, following the signal from their sergeant, closed in upon Werper. Tarzan grabbed the Belgian about the waist, and lifting him bodily, struck his arm as he might have borne a sack of flour. Instantly the man attempt to break through the cordon. His right fist crashed with terrific force upon the jaw and sent him hurtling to the ground. Then the ape-man turned upon the astonished soldiers.

The sergeant, who knew Tarzan of old, laughed aloud. "Their Guard Ordered Them to Rise. "Come, my children," he said, "we have no quarrel with this man. Let us be off. Monsieur le Capitaine will be angry enough with me. Take the prisoner, sergeant!"

The sergeant, who knew Tarzan of old, laughed aloud. "Their Guard Ordered Them to Rise. "Come, my children," he said, "we have no quarrel with this man. Let us be off. Monsieur le Capitaine will be angry enough with me. Take the prisoner, sergeant!"

Werper raised his lips close to Tarzan's ear. "Keep me from them, and I can show you the very spot where I found your wife and child," he whispered. The ruse was not lost upon the soldiers, following the signal from their sergeant, closed in upon Werper. Tarzan grabbed the Belgian about the waist, and lifting him bodily, struck his arm as he might have borne a sack of flour. Instantly the man attempt to break through the cordon. His right fist crashed with terrific force upon the jaw and sent him hurtling to the ground. Then the ape-man turned upon the astonished soldiers.