

Adventure



The South Seas

BY

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SYNOPSIS owner of Berande plantation, by force of will and weapons. Chief Belee alle with forty men. He returns Arunga, a runaway iaborer. like an overgrown and snambed the shedon has Arunga and Billy whipped to quell a mutiny. His sickness increases, the illusion, his face seemed to sprout his partner, Hughia, and many laborers in all directions with a dense bushy

Joan Lackland, a pretty girl, arrives with her crew of Tahitians, Sheldon be-comes unconscious, and she takes charge

She is a self reliant American girl, a lover of adventure, a native of Hawaii and an orphan. Her ship has been wrecked. She proves to Sheldon that she

She resents his triendly suggestions, and they quarrel. She makes it plain that she is not matrimonially inclined. She and Sheldon save two black women from The savage laborers demand the women. Sheldon attempts to discipline them, and Joan shoots a native and saves his life. She scoids him for making her shoot.

Satan, a savage dog, arrives. Despite Sheldon's warnings Joan goes to explore an island she contemplates buying. Financial difficulties threaten Sheld

He falls in love with Joan. Left alone by Sheldon, Joan has trouble with Go-goomy and other natives. Armed savages arrive, and danger threatens Sheldon and Joan routs them with a take dynamite

cartridge, and Satan drives them into trees. Their chief is punished. Morgan and Raff have Sheldon in their power. Joan offers to become his partner. His

ention of conventionalities angers her. he needs no chaperon, she says. Sheldon finally accepts her as his partner. Tudor and Von Blix, gold seekers, arrive a the Martha. Joan and Tudor seem to

interest each other. Sheldon becomes jeal-Joan starts for Australia with her crew to buy a schooner, but stops at Guvutu and buys the Martha, which has been

wrecked, for a mere trifle.

CHAPTER XIII. THE MARTHA.

billiards the next morning, is." after the 11 o'clock breakfast, when Viaburi entered and an-

"Big fella schooner close up."

Even as he spoke, they heard the rumble of chain through hawse pipe, and from the veranda saw a big black painted schooner swinging to her just

stripes fluttered to the masthead.

"Martha, San Francisco," Sheldon read, looking through the telescope. "It's the first Yankee I ever heard of in the Solomons. They are coming ashore, whoever they are. And, by Jove, look at those men at the cars. It's an all white crew. Now, what rea son brings them here?"

"They're not proper sailors." January commented. "I'd be ashamed of a crew of black boys that pulled in such a fashion. Look at that fellow in the bow-the one just jumping out; he'd be

more at home on a cow pony." The boat's crew scattered up and down the beach, ranging about with enger curlosity, while the two men who had sat in the stern sheets opened the gate and came up the path to the bungalow. One of them, a tall and slender

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SMITH'S DRUG STORE

A Romance of

JACK LONDON

man, was clad to write ducks that atted him like a semi-military uniform. The other man, in nondescript garments that were both of the sea and shore and that must have been uncomfortably bot, slouched and shambled mass of red whiskers, while his eyes were small and sharp and restless

Sheldon, who had gone to the head of the steps, introduced them to Joan. The bewhiskered individual, who looked like a Scotchman, had the Teutonic name of Von Blix and spoke with an American accent. The tail man in the well fitting ducks, who gave the English name of Tudor-John Tudor-talked purely enunciated English such as any cultured American would talk, save for the fact that it was most delicately and subtly fouched by a faint German accent.

Von Blix was rough and boorish, but Tudor was gracefully easy in everything he did, or looked, or said.

They were on a gold hunting expedition. He was the leader and Tudor was his lieutenant. All hands-and there were twenty-eight-were shareholders, in varying proportions, in the adventure. Several were sailors, but ever untiring pursuit of gold and they came to the Solomons to get it. Part of them, under the leadership of Tudor, were to go up the Balesuna and penetrate the mountainous heart of Guadalcanar, while the Martha, under Von Blix, sailed away for Malaita to put through similar exploration.

"And so," said Von Blix, "for Mr. black boys. Can we get them from

"In the first place we can't spare them," Sheldon answered. "We are HEY were deep in a game of short of them on the plantation as it

> "We?" Tudor asked quickly. "Then you are a firm or a partnership? 1 inderstood at Guvutu that you were alone, that you had lost your partner." Sheldon inclined his head toward Joan, and as he spoke she felt that he had become a trifle stiff.

"Miss Lackland has become interested in the plantation since then. But "It's a Yankee," Joan cried. "See to return to the boys. We can't spare that bow! Look at that elliptical stern! them, and, besides, they would be of Ah, I thought so"- as the stars and little use. You couldn't get them to a short day's work with the boats from here. They are Malaita men, and they are afraid of being eaten. They would desert you at the first opportunity. You could get the Binu men to accompany you another day's journey brough the grass lands, but at the first roll of the footbills look for them to turn back. They likewise are disinclined to being eaten."

"Is it as bad as that?" asked Von

"The interior of Guadalcanar has never been explored," Sheldon explain-"The bushmen are as wild men as are to be found anywhere in the world today. I have never seen one I have never seen a man who has seen one. The Austrian expedition-scient ists, you know-got part way in before it was cut to pieces. The monument is up the beach there several miles. Only one man got back to the coast to tell the tale. And now you have all or any other man knows of the inside of Guadaleanar."

"But gold-have you heard of gold?" Tudor asked impatiently. "Do you know anything about gold?"

Sheldon smiled, while the two hung eagerly upon his words. "You can go two miles up the Bale

suna and wash colors from the gravel I've done it often. There is gold un-doubtedly back in the mountains." Tudor and Von Blix looked trium

chantly at each other. "Old Wheatsheaf's yarn was true then," T for said, and Von Blix nodded. "And if Malalta turns out as

Tudor broke of and looked at Joan "It was the tale of this old beach comber that brought us here," be ex-plained. "Von Blix befriended him and was told the secret." He turned and addressed Sheldon. "I think we shall prove that white men have been through the heart of Guadalcanar long before the time of the Austrian expedition."

Sheldon shrugged his shoulders. "We have never heard of it down here," he said simply. Then he ad-dressed Von Blix. "As to the boys, you couldn't use them farther than Bliu, and I'll lend you as many as you want as far as that. How many of your party are going and how soon will you start?"

said Tudor: "nine m

Mr. Sheldon, we'll rush the stuff ashore this afternoon and sail by sundown." As the two men returned down the path to their boat Sheldon regarded

Joan quizzleally. "There's romance for you," he said, "and adventure-gold hunting among the cannibals. Aren't you sorry you became a cocoanut planter?" "What do you think of them?" she

"Oh, old Von Blix is all right, solid sort of chap in his fashion; but Tudor is a flyaway-too much on the surface, you know. If it came to being wrecked on a desert island I'd

prefer Von Blix."
"I don't quite understand," Joan ob-"What have you against

"A man of Tudor's type gets on my nerves. One demands more repose from a man."

Josn felt that she did not quite agree with his judgment, and, some how, Sheldon caught her feeling and was disturbed. He remembered noting bow her eyes had brightened as she talked with the newcomer.

A second boat had been lowered, and the outfit of the shore party was landed rapidly. A dozen of the crew put the knocked down boats together on the beach. There were five of these craft-lean and parrow, with flaring sides and remarkably long. Each was equipped with three paddles and everal iron shod poles

"You chaps certainly seem to know river work," Sheldon told one of the carpenters.

"We use 'em in Alaska. They're modeled after the Yukon poling boats. and you can bet your life they're crackerjacks. This creek'll be a snap alongside some of them northern streams. Five bundred pounds in one of them boats an' two men can snake t along in a way that'd surprise you." At subset the Martha broke out her

anchor and got under way, dipping ber flag and saluting with a bomt gun. The union jack ran up and down the staff, and Sheldon replied with his brass signal cannon. The miners pitched their tents in the compound and cooked on the beach, while Tudor dined with Joan and Sheldon.

Their guest seemed to have been everywhere and seen everything and met everybody, and, encouraged by Joan, his talk was largely upon his own adventures. Descended from old New England stock, his father a conthe large majority were miners, culled sul general, be had been born in Gerfrom all the camps from Mexico to many, in which country he had rethe Arctic ocean. It was the old and ceived his early education and his accent. Then, still a boy, he had rejoined his father in Turkey and accompanied him later to Persin, his father having been appointed minister to that country.

Tudor had gone through South American revolutions, been a rough rider in Cuba, a scout in South Africa and a war correspondent in the Russo Tudor's expedition we must have some Japanese war. He had mushed dogs in the Klondike, washed gold from the sands of Nome and edited a news paper in San Francisco. The prest dent of the United States was his friend. He was equally at home in the clubs of London and the continent, the Grand hotel at Yokohama and the selectors' shantles in the Never Never country. He had shot big game in Siam, pearled in the Paumotus, visited Tolstoy, seen the Passion play and crossed the Andes on muleback, while he was a living directory of the fever holes of west Africa.

Sheldon leaned back in his chair or the veranda, sipping his coffee and listening. In spite of himself he felt touched by the charm of a man who had led so varied a life. It seemed to him that the man addressed himself particularly to Joan. Sheldon watched her rapt attention, listened to her spontaneous laughter, quick questions and passing judgments and felt grow within him the dawning consciousness scene had been prepared by a clever playwright, Utami came upon the veranda to report to Joan the capture of crocodile in the trap they had made (TO BE CONTINUED.)

TOGETHER

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Statement of the Condition of

Of Asheville, N. C.

At the Close of Business Feb. 4th, 1913.

RESOURCES

557.58 Furniture and Fixtures 34,000.00 Banking house and other real estate 49,200.00 Stocks and Securities..... 100,000.00 NORTH CAROLINA STATE BONDS ... 307.017.33 Cash in Vault and in Other Banks. \$2,040,545.48

LIABILITIES

50,000.00 63,069.57 41,000.00 Re-discounts..... 1,786,475.91 \$2.040,545.48

I, J. E. Rankin, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the J. E. RANKIN, Cashier. best of my knowledge and belief.

Correct Attest:

James P. Sawyer D. C. Waddell, Jr. Tench C. Coxe Jno. C. Mills Erwin Sluder C. A. Raysor C. Rankin

-Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of February, A. D., 1913.

> J. S. DAVIS Notary Public.

My Commission expires Jan. 17, 1914.