

## The Treasure of the Bucoleon

By A. D. HOWDEN SMITH

### SYNOPSIS.

Hugh Cheyby, Lord Cheby, and his three-faced desperadoes burst into the service of the Bucoleon, which he left at first. Lord Cheby, the Crusader, Hugh, and his crew of pirates, who are situated in a house in Constantinople, with him are Watkins, his servant; Jack, his cook; and they are set upon by a band of desperate cut-throats sent by Toufou, who hope to steal the secret of their treasure. Nikka and Jack gain access to the cabin door and thrust their weapons through the door to the cockpit, rousing the crew. They pull off a long, delicious stroke while Betty staved. It was no easy task to move that launch across the swift-flowing tide of the Bosphorus, and it seemed an endless time before the blurred mass of the shoreline became visible to an unaided sight, furnished an index to the progress we were making.

We entered the launch to a ruined jetty, a ruinous, left from former days. The old wall between the two wings between the bachelors' quarters and warehouse and the House of the Married—ought to be easy to climb, I concluded.

"The wall here is very irregular," said Betty. "We have passed it close in a number of times by daylight, and we are all agreed an active man could climb it."

"That's a good idea," approved Nikka. "If you could enter by the House of the Married, you could seize the valuable part of the position first."

"What about those to be let?" said Hugh.

"We shall want the room for our club and a couple of crochets. If we need something else we can send back for it."

We took off the engine just opposite the sea wall. Hugh and Watkins unshod two heavy oars from the cabin door and thrust them outboard through the locks to the cockpit, rousing the crew. Side by side in the cockpit, they pulled with a long, delicious stroke while Betty staved. It was no

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"The first knowledge that he had of me came when he looked up the path through the bushes, on his feet. He saw me clearly, lost it, clutching at the wall, adjusted its grasp, turned his head. From the bushes, I saw him, and he Nikka, after friends in refusing to give up your secret?" she said.

I nodded. "Very well," she answered. "We will leave you to think it over. I advise you to make intelligence use of the next twenty-four hours. You cannot be found. Your friends cannot reach you. You have twenty-four hours more."

"They took all the lanterns, except one, and went out, locking the door after them."

Hugh laughed with hollow mirth. "That idiot Hobbes has an uncanny mind. She told the others, when their trailers reported they had lost us, to watch out for a raid on Toufou's premises. They more or less expected it, but they didn't hear anything. They didn't hear the Curlew, either. They didn't know we were here until we raised the trapdoor. But they were prepared for us no matter which way we came."

"Did the Kings and Watty get away?"

"Must have. Helen and the others said something about them."

"Of course we had no means of estimating the passage of time, but we figured it was well into the forenoon when we abandoned efforts to escape our bonds."

"Good use of the trapdoor," advised Nikka.

"Right off he endorsed that," cheered Nikka.

"Jack, sir, and Nikka will come with us. Professor King and Watty will be required and would like to accompany us. Stay where you are, Professor, and wait for us."

We crossed the roof toward Sikaki, we could see the large courtyard on our right. The garden of the Cest's caravanserai was shut, but just then it opened. A black horse. The lad was in place under it. Hugh lowered himself easily, and crept down to the floor. We followed him. A hiss was in tight darkness.

The hiss of the door rattled slightly, we heard it. The next instant we passed through a yawning cavity, darkness and sound reached us, and we stood silent with a almost once.

Midway of the hall were the cots, a row of which Kara had guided Nikka and me. I judged we were close to them when a door jarred



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Kara, her eyes blazing with passion, breast heaving through the rage of her bodice, her slender body quivering with anger.

He turned and fled through the door, slamming it behind him. She was swift on his heels, jerked open the door and ran out into the passage after him. (To be continued.)

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## Dancing Girls Set Earnings Record

Members of Desert Tribe Estimated to Have Made \$150,000

Blaqira, Algeria.—The twirling feet of desert dancing girls enticed more gold out of visiting American and British tourists in the season just passed than at any time in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

Their earnings broke all records,

figures available showed, and they were beginning to disappear into the hinterland, where they perform tribal dances during summer months—also for profit.

It is estimated that the girls, who

number 300 and are under the super-

vision of the French Government,

made about \$150,000, nearly all of

which they invested in gold ornaments, preferably British gold coins.

The custom is to send a courier to Algiers to buy up souvenirs and other gold coins

with which to make necklaces.

The desert dancing girls all belong to the same tribe, the Oulednas. They are consecrated from childhood to be dancers. They descend from their mountain homes to the villages bordering the desert, such as Blaqira.

"They dance in the winter mainly for tourists; in the summer they earn their livelihood by dancing for the rich bedouins and desert chieftains.

They often hear rich golden presents

on them, either coin necklaces or

crusted gold bangles.

Some of the older girls—that is to

say those aged about 17 or 18—

wear gold ornaments worth thousands of dollars.

According to tribal custom, their

marriage dowries, as soon as

they have amassed enough gold to marry,

give their necklaces and bangles as dowry.

After marriage comes dancing again.

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