

TOWARDS THE DRAGON MOUNTAINS

"I'm afraid we're going to have a closing of a gigantic eye.

at the sky.

"I hope we can get through." had been a cloudless blue, had had a like legs, jumped into the car, into in the mud and strove to get the car grey shutter of steel drawn suddenly Christine's laps. She screamed and on to firmer ground. over it. It had grown quite dark in a jerked away. The professor laughed. few minutes. The air seemed heavy and breathless. In the uncanny stillness

insects made loud whirring noises. Ahead of them, the Drakensberg can jump.' mountains lifted their fantastically shaped peaks against the skyline. The hills were tortured into strange shapes, hadn't been for you I might have mar- temporarily. We simply must push on and appeared like the guardians of ried that charming South African, Mr. to the hostel. It would be decidely some secret land. Every detail of grassy | Forester, and come to live among all unpleasant to be stranded here overslope and wrinkled rock stood out with 'these creeping and crawling things!" startling clarity. The hills seemed so near that one could have reached out and touched them.

In reality, they were a good thirty! miles away.

That in itself was a bad sign, a sure | ten gave it a wide berth. portent of a storm. Professor Ellington frowned.

"Are the storms very bad here?" asked Christine anxiously.

Ellington nodded. "I believe so. Normally there's very little rain. When it does come, it comes in torrents. The rivers rise by feet every half hour, and attendant is bitten." the roads are often entirely washed

away. "That's why I'm anxious about getting through to a hostel," he added. "We've come too far now to turn back, and the hostel's our only refuge in the mountains."

Christine glanced back.

"Hadn't we better stop until the others come up?"

He nodded. party to get lost. It will be safer if we

stick together." The road wound away from them across a plain to the foothills. On either side stretched mealie fields, in which the plumed stalks waved like impis' spears.

the professor waved on them to stop. he seemed to think nothing of it. He got out and briefly explained the situation.

"We must all keep together in case one of us gets bogged, as may very well happen in the event of the rain arriving before we get to the hostel. Fortunately we're well equipped with tools to deal with any emergency."

He jerked a thumb at the implements with which the cars were loaded. These had been intended for excavation work on the site of the primitive men's comping ground that Rupert had discovered, but they might have to be put to a more immediate use.

The cars started off once more. The professor had taken the lead because once more on the road to the mountain hostel, there was no need for Rupert to guide them, there being only one read.

As they progressed the country grew wilder and more rugged. It seemed Frank, difficult to believe that only a short time before they had set out from Durban, with its huge white hotels, where bathers plunged in the surf or lounged on the golden beaches under the South African summer sun.

They might have been hundreds of miles from civilization.

Christine was reminded by the scenery of some of the remoter parts of the Scottish Highlands which she had visited.

They were travelling now in a sort of The dongas were overflowing, and water twilight, though the hour was not late. The sun failed to pierce through the road as from a hose.

i leaden shutter that had suddenly swept windshield. drawn itself across the sky like the

The insects in the grass chirped she said. "Something's wrong." Professor Ellington glanced anxiously loudly but there was no other sound, nor was there any sign of habitation. Once a grasshopper, a huge fellow bogged. While the women sat huddled Christine looked up. The sky, which with a striped body and long, spring- in the cars the men waded ankle deep

> the wheels thrashed helplessly, failing The Rain Arrives "Quite all right, my dear. They're to get a grip. perfectly harmless. But they certainly "No use," said Ellington presently. He storm hasn't abated then, I shall go

> "Phew!" Christine fanned herself, foot, and even his black moustache "And to think," she said, "that if it drooped. "We'll have to abandon her forward. "Why wait until morning? I

The professor smiled. "You'll have got used to them. But pert's car. I'm glad you chose otherwise, my dear. Once they saw a snake crawling across the road ahead of them. Elling-

"More dangerous than your grasshopper. He's a mamba. Some motorlists are foolish enough to try to run over them and break their backs. But what generally happens is that the snake winds itself round an axle or gets | into the car. Then some unfortunate

Christine glanced up. "Here comes the rain!"

The rain came abruptly, and from raging torrent, and the cars had got the first it was in solid sheets.

In Rupert's car, Florence shivered. "Rupert, did you have many of these storms while you were working up in the mountains?"

He nodded. "Quite a few. One gets too low for the rest of the party to catch, and Florence saw Rupert start. used to them. Of course I couldn't abandon the diggings so I had to camp "Yes. We don't wan't any of the out in them. It was a little uncomfortable. Once I was isolated for three days because the river had burst its or two things in connection with the

He spoke unconcernedly. Florence set out for the place. Of course we wondered why explorers should be regarded as romantic figures, scientists be lucky if we can moke it to-morrow." the reverse. Rupert had gone through When the other two cars came up as many hardships as any explorer, but picious.

Dorothy, in Frank's car, started out and then took their host aside. at the rain. "I've never seen anything like it! At stone?"

least it can't last long."

"Oh, can't it!" he retorted. "You he replied. "The Basuto whom Mr. don't know your Africa, my child. It Featherstone left to guard the place can go on like this for days-but I hope has just come in. He's afraid the whole that on this occasion it won't!"

must have loosened the soil." The road, which had seemed firm, wos rapidly being churned into wet sliding red clay by the lash of the downpouring water. The dongas on either side of the road, ditches four feet deep, which had been bone-dry, were now threatening to overflow.

a chance that the traces of the cave-The car skidden on the wet, loose surface, and Frank had to exert all his strength and his driver's skill to hold the machine straight on her course.

Then the lightning came. It tore across the sky in great jagged flashes, and Dorothy huddled close to

Carter grunted.

son crow! Of course we have the skull "Thank goodness there are no ironwhich Rupert brought with him, but stone koppies in this part of the country. Up north, in the Transvaal, I'm told that the only thing to do is to lie flat on the ground and hope hard until the storm goes over. Scores of people ly. "I've an idea that Rupert has made mostly natives are killed by lightning every year."

The car was now sliding and slithering on the muddy road. The wheels churned out deep tracks in the red clay. in great sheets splashed across the

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Bargain coach excursion tickets will be valid on Train 46, Thursday, June 13. Passengers will arrange their own transfer to North Bay C. P. Depot and take C. P. Train No. 8, leaving 12.55 a.m., Friday, June 14

Tickets are valid to return leaving destination point not later than C. P. Train No. 7, from Montreal 8.15 p.m. Sunday. June 16, to connect at North Bay with our Train No. 47, Monday, June 17, 1940.

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old bones somehow!" He turned to look at her. Then he

felt for her hand. "Thanks, Florence! You're a dar-

She felt a little thrill of happiness

run through her. Back in the comfortable living room of the hostel, before a roaring fire, they held a council of war, while a hot supper was being prepared for them.

"Now then!" said Ellington. As he often did, he had ceased to be the professor, and had reverted to his war-time role of company commander He glanced round the circle of intent

"Rupert knows all about the diggings, and what chance of their holding cut are," he continued. "Rupert, will you please explain the position?" Rupert spoke with nis usual pre-

"The position is this. The rain has got at the foundations of the old camping grounds. There is a chance that the cave where I have been carrying on my main work will collapse altogether. But I do not think that very

Dorothy peered through the rain-"Unfortunately there is a worse danger. There was a great deal of valuable stuff which I did not have time to remove. I left it covered up with sacking and put a native on guard.

"The other two cars have stopped,

The professor's car had gone into

Christine and he climbed into Ru-

Frank, as the most experienced

"I Must Go To-Night!"

there'll be less chance of you skidding.'

some hours later, staggered into the

driver, elected to take the lead.

Rupert nodded.

through with difficulty.

Bad news awaited them.

"What is it?" she asked.

"Nothing," said Rupert nonchalantly,

"But you'll have to excuse me. I've one

excavation work to attend to before we

can't possibly go there to-night. We'll

He spcke jerkily. Florence was sus-

She watched him go out of the room,

"What did you tell Mr. Feather-

"The rains have got at the diggings,"

place will cave in. The excavations

"What does that mean?" she de-

manded. "Won't they be able to clear

He shrugged. "It's possible. But

unless some sort of support is rigged

up there now, without delay, there's

Swiftly she told Professor Ellington

what she had learned. He frowned and

"What rotten luck!" he mourned

"Two years' work-and it may all go

for nothing! Won't that fellow Jack-

he tells me that there may be even

more interesting relics hidden away in

"That isn't all," said Florence quick-

up his mind to go out there, to-night.

Ellington stared. "Impossible! It

"Rupert is very obstinate," she point-

would be suicide to go up on the moun-

ed out. "Don't forget that he has been

living for this moment. He'll do anything rather than see his work des-

"Then we must stop him! Come on!"

They raced out of the house into the

They were just in time. Rupert, in fisherman's long rubber boots, with a

driving rain, and made for the rondayel

which Rupert had made his head-

knapsock on his back and a stick in his

hand, was making his way towards the

path which led to the mountain that

The professor caught him by the arm. Behind his spectacles, there was a

"I'm not going to have a common

storm wrecking all our work at the

eleventh hour! I know what I'm doing.

I've been out in these storms before-

"You'll come back to the house," said

the professor grimly. "And then we'll

talk the thing over calmly and ration-

ally and plan what has to be done-

Rupert followed rather grudgingly.

Florence gripped his arm and squeezed

Three Men and A Mountain

right. You couldn't do anything on your own. Don't worry, we'll save your

"Buck up, Rupert. The professor's

"No you don't, young man!"

fanatical gleam in Rupert's eyes.

towered over the hostel.

quarters when not at the diggings.

men will be simply washed away."

Florence' fears were confirmed

tugged at his moustache.

to see what can be done."

it again?"

that cave."

tain alone!"

troyed."

together!"

it encouragingly.

"Right."

gled on.

rut and slewed sideways, hopelessly "This torrential rain may flood the place out. If that happens, these relics will be washed away, and our chances of finding them again are exceedingly

Every time the engine was started "I see." Professor Ellington brooded "Then there is only one thing to do. We must wait until morning. If the was plastered with mud from head to with you to the cave and ---"

"Excuse me, sir." Frank Carter leaned agree that it would be madness for one man to go up on the mountain tonight. But if two went-Rupert and myself-we might be able to do something before it's too late." "Thank's Frank."

Rupert's face flushed with pleasure. "That's jolly sporting of you."

"Oho!" roared the professor. "And "Follow in my wheel tracks as closely leave me out of it? Dash it, Carter as you can," he advised Rupert. "Then you came to South Africa to race, I leave me cut of this!"

They left the bogged car and strug-It was a very bedraggled party which,

normally could be forded had been a go out in the rain and ---" The professor glowered.

The man in charge of the hostel to go out in the rain. Hang it, man, juring himself seriously, or worse. greeted Rupert with a worried look. He do you realize that I am shortly to be addressed a few hurried words to him.

Report for May for the District Children's Aid

The following is the report for May by Mr. A. G. Carson, local superintendent of the District of Cochrane Children's Aid Society: -

Applications for children for Office interviews Interviews out of office Complaints received Investigations made Children involved Mail received Mail sent out Children in Shelter Children boarding out Wards visited Court attendance Juvenile cases Children on probation to court

Wards returned to Shelter Wards placed in foster homes Adoptions completed Official warnings given

Children admitted to Shelter

Mileage travelled Meetings addressed Children placed in foster homes (not wards)

(not wards) Children given assistance in their own homes

Investigations for other societies Cases under the Unmarried Parents Act

probably need it."

laced with brandy.

Outside, the rain lashed down monotonously, and the jagged flashes of lightning revealed the towering mass grily to brood.

woman's mind.

Would her man come back safely? Finally the men dressed themselves in appropriate clothes, long rubber boots come to see these relics. You can't such as Rupert had been wearing, a Fadden entertained with two dances. turned down hat, and a mackintosh. The younger men glanced at each Each carried a stout stick and a knap- Wylie, of Schumacher, offered a foast "Quite so, sir," said Frank soothingly, brandy. There was no real rock-climb- club. Of the twenty-nine original "But Rupert and I could do all that's ing to be done, fortunately but the members of the Timmins Lions Club, mountain hostel. The river which necessary. There's no need for you to path, especially in the storm, was wind- seventeen remain, it was pointed out. "I hope you are not trying to insin- man might wander for hours, in dan- lation seventeen was seen as a large uate," he rumbled, "that I am too old ger of falling down a crevasse and in- number of original members.

(To be Continued)

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON MATINEE FOR CHILDREN

Elect Alex Allen To Lead Lions **During Next Year**

District Governor William Thompson, North Bay, Present at Meeting.

Alex Allen was elected to the presidency of the Lions Club on Thursday night at the Empire Hotel. Other new married! Bah, I'm as fit as either of officers for the coming year include: you. No, the three of us will go. But Bill Wren, first vice-president; Charles number is chosen at the Thursday we'll have a good tuck-in first. We'll Yates, second vice-president; Gil evening performance. Chenier, third vice-president; John On Thursday of last week, Mr. J. W. Presently they sat down to a feast of Heltz, treasurer; George Francis, lion Latimer, of 17 Wilson avenue, was not venson, paw paw and coffee-the men's tamer; Joseph McGraw, tail twister, present at the theatre and therefore Director for one year is Dr. Graham forfeited the right to offer his photo-Each of the women sat and watched Lane and directors for two years are graph to the management for the Wendell Brewer and Alex Rose.

of North Bay, was present at the meet- drow. ing. Introduced by Gil Chenier, he of the mountain, black and seeing an- talked on Lionism and the progress of service club work in the north. Two One thought was uppermost in each new clubs were established in the district during the past year, he said, and in the 3,800 districts this stood tenth in efficiency rating.

Misses Joy Fitzgerald and Elsie Mc-Deputy District Governor William sack in which were provisions and some to the charter members of the Timmins ing and treacherous, easily lost in the In view of the fact that the Porcupine darkness. Once off the path and a is a mining camp with a shifting popu-

"Chip" Ball replied to the toast to the charter members.

District Governor Thompson was presented with an electric clock by Dr. M. J. Kelly on behalf of the club.

Maurice Williams asked club members to attend the drumhead service being held on Sunday, in a body.

Other guests were Michael Wernick, North Bay, Lions Club, and Don James,

Missed Chance to Sell His Photograph for \$105

Foto-Nite at the Palace Theatre this week will offer \$125 to the person whose

amount of \$105. Mr. Latimer's number District Governor William Thompson, was 7495, and was chosen by L. Win-

Slight Variation

"When there is spring-cleaning to be done," says a housewife, "men take good care to keep out of the way." For men will shirk and women must sweep. -Star.



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