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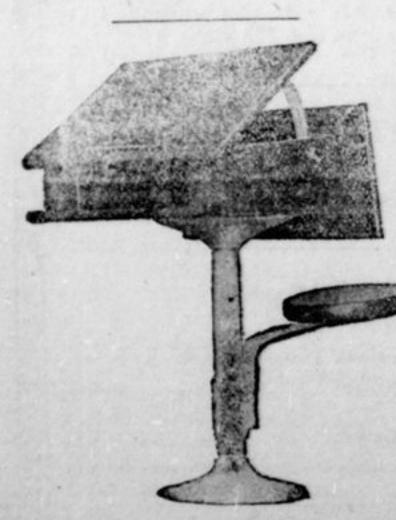
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"I will serve you to the best of my ability, Miss Deane," he exclaimed. "We must hope for a speedy rescue, and I am inured to exposure. It is otherwise with you. Are you ready for the climb?"

The crest of the hill was tree covered, and they could see nothing beyond their immediate locality until the sailor found a point higher than the rest, where a rugged collection of hard basalt and the uprooting of some poon trees provided an open space elevated above the ridge.

For a short distance the foothold was precarious. Jenks helped the girl in this part of the climb. His strong, gentle grasp gave her confidence. She was flushed with exertion when they stood together on the summit of this elevated perch. They could look to every point of the compass except a small section on the southwest. Here the trees rose behind them until the brow of the precipice was reached.

The emergence into a sunlit panorama of land and sea, though expected, was profoundly enthralling. They appeared to stand almost exactly in the center of the island, which was crescent shaped. It was no larger than the sailor had estimated. The new slopes now revealed were covered with verdure down to the very edge of the water, which for nearly a mile seaward broke over jagged reefs. The sea looked strangely calm from this height. Irregular blue patches on the horizon to south and east caught the man's first glance. He unslung the binoculars he still carried and focused them eagerly.

"Islands," he cried, "and big ones

"How odd!" whispered Iris, more concerned in the scrutiny of her immediate surroundings. Jenks glanced at her sharply. She was not looking at the islands, but at a curious hollow, a quarry-like depression beneath them to the right, distant about 300 yards and not far removed from the small plateau containing the well, though isolated from it by the south angle of the main cliff.

Here, in a great circle, there was not a vestige of grass, shrub or tree, nothing save brown rock and sand. At first up at them like an ominous eye, though | pleasant one in some respects." neither paid further attention to it, for the glorious prospect mapped at their feet momentarily swept aside all other considerations.

"What a beautiful place!" murmured Iris. "I wonder what it is called."

"Suppose we christen it Rainbow is-

"Why 'Rainbow?' "

"That is the English meaning of

'Iris' in Latin, you know." "So it is. How clever of you to think

of it! Tell me, what is the meaning of 'Robert' in Greek?"

He turned to survey the northwest side of the island. "I do not know," he answered. "It might not be farfetched to translate is as 'a ship's steward, a

menial." Miss Iris had meant her playful re tort as a mere light hearted quibble. It annoyed her, a young person of much consequence, to have her kindly con descension repelled.

"I suppose so," she agreed, "but have gone through so much in a fe hours that I am bewildered, apt to for get these nice distinctions."

Jenks was closely examining the ree on which the Sirdar struck. Some square objects were visible near the palm tree. The sun, glinting on the waves, rendered it difficult to discern their significance.

"What do you make of those?" he is quired, handing the glasses and bland ly ignoring Miss Deane's petulance. Her brain was busy with other things | be the cause of those tears. while she twisted the binoculars to suit her vision. Rainbow island-Irisit was a nice conceit, but "menial" struck a discordant note. This man was no menial in appearance or speech.

Why was he so deliberately rude? "I think they are boxes or packing cases," she announced.

"Ah, that was my own idea! I mus

visit that locality."

"How? Will you swim?" "No." he said, his stern lips relaxing in a smile; "I will not swim, and, by the way. Miss Deane, be careful when you are near the water. The lagoon is swarming with sharks at present. I feel tolerably assured that at low truth, that only a strong man could tide, when the remnants of the gale have vanished, I will be able to walk there along the reef."

"Sharks!" she cried. What horrible surprises this speck of land contains! I should not have imagined that sharks and seals could live together!"

with becoming gravity. "As a rule, sharks infest only the leeward side of these islands. Just now they are attracted in shoals by the wreck." "Oh!" Iris shivered slightly.

"We had better go back now. The wind is keen here, Miss Deane."

She knew that he purposely misun- manded Iris hysterically. "You must derstood her gesture. His attitude con- have felt that you were working too veyed a rebuke. There was no further hard. You made me rest. Why didn't room for sentiment in their present ex. | you rest yourself?"

istence. They had to deal with chill necessities. As for the sailor, he was glad that the chance turn of their conversation enabled him to warn her against the lurking dangers of the lagoon. There was no need to mention the devilfish now. He must spare her

all avoidable thrills. They gathered the stores from the first dining room and reached the cave without incident. Another fire was lighted, and while Iris attended to the kitchen the sailor felled several young trees. He wanted poles, and these were the right size and shape. He soon cleared a considerable space. The timber was soft and so small in girth that three cuts with the ax usually sufficed. He dragged from the beach the smallest tarpaulin he could find and propped it against the rock in such manner that it effectually screened the mouth of the cave, though admitting light and air.

He was so busy that he paid little heed to Iris. But the odor of fried ham was wafted to him. He was lifting a couple of heavy stones to stay the canvas and keep it from flapping in the wind when the girl called out: "Wouldn't you like to have a wash before dinner?"

He straightened himself and looked at her. Her face and hands were shining, spotless. The change was so great that his brow wrinkled with per-

"I am a good pupil," she cried. "You see I am already learning to help myself. I made a bucket out of one of the dish covers by slinging it in two ropes. Another dish cover, some sand and leaves supplied basin, soap and towel. I have cleaned the tin cups and the knives, and, see, here is my great-

She held up a small metal lamp. "Where in the world did you find that?" he exclaimed.

Buried in the sand inside the cave."

"Anything else?" His tone was abrupt. She was so disappointed by the seeming want of appreciation of her industry that a gleam of amusement died from her eyes, and she shook her head, stooping at once to attend to the toasting of some biscuits. This time he was genuinely sorry.

"Forgive me, Miss Deane," he said the sailor deemed it to be the dried up | pen'tently. "My words are dictated by of the island," she cried. bed of a small lake. This hypothesis | anxiety. I do not wish you to make would not serve, else it would be discoveries on your own account. This choked with verdure. The pit stared is a strange place, you know-an unname. Let us say John Smith, for in-

"Surely I can rummage about my own cave?" "Most certainly. It was careless of me not to have examined its interior | the 'X' and the dot?"

more thoroughly." said. "I take it that the line across the "Then why do you grumble because I found the lamp?"

"I did not mean any such thing.

the small intersecting line the cave. But 32 divided by 1 and an 'X' suram sorry." mounted by a dot are cabalistic. They "I think you are horrid. If you want would cause even Sherlock Holmes to to wash you will find the water over smoke at least two pipes. I have barethere. Don't wait. The ham will be ly started one."

frizzled to a cinder." Unlucky Jenks! Was ever man fated things you read of in stories of pirates to incur such unmerited odium? He savagely laved his face and neck. The fresh, cool water was delightful at first, but when he drew near to the fire he experienced an unaccountable sensation of weakness. Could it be possible that he was going to faiut? It was too absurd. He sank to the ground. Trees, rocks and sand strewn carth indulged in a mad dance. Iris' voice sounded weak and indistinct. It

seemed to travel in waves from a great distance. He tried to brush away from his brain these dim fancies, but his iron will for once failed, and he pitched headlong downward into dark-

When he recovered, the girl's left arm was around his neck. For one blissful instant he nestled there contentedly. He looked into her eyes and waw that she was crying. A gust of enger rose within him that he should He tried to rise.

"Oh! Are you better?" Her lips quivered pitifully. "Yes. What happened? Did I faint?"

"Drink this." She held a cup to his mouth, and he bediently strove to swallow the conobediently strove to swallow the contents. It was champagne. After the first spasm of terror and when the application of water to his face failed to restore consciousness Iris had knocked

"How could you frighten me so?" de-

and ask for Scott's Emulsion the head off the bottle of champagne. you know what you want; the He quickly revived. Nature had only given him a warning that he was over- man knows you ought to have drawing his resources. He was deeply humiliated. He did not conceive the if you are offered something do all that he had done and live. For else. Wines, cordials, extracts, thirty-six hours he had not slept. Duretc., of cod liver oil are plenti-"In there! wilder beasts than they knew at Ephe- ful but don't imagine you are ing part of the time he fought with sus. The long exposure to the sun, the getting cod liver oil when you mental strain of his foreboding that the charming girl whose life depended years we've been increasing upon him might be exposed to even the sales of Scott's Emulsion. "You are quite right," he explained, worse dangers than any yet encountered, the physical labor he had under-Why? Because it has always gone, the irksome restraint he strove to been better than any substitute place upon his conduct and utterances -all these things culminated in utter for it. relaxation when the water touched his heated skin.

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sake. These two said more with eyes face and neck crimsoned.

It was burnt black. She prepared a

fresh supply. When it was ready

Jenks was himself again. They ate in

silence and shared the remains of the

bottle. A smile illumined his tired

Iris was watchful. She had never

in her life cooked even a potato or

boiled an egg. The ham was her first

"My cooking amuses you?" she de

"It gratifies every sense," he mur-

He produced a steel box tightly

"Your pockets are absolute shops,"

said the girl, delighted that his temper

had improved. "What other stores do

He lit his pipe and solemnly gave an

inventory of his worldly goods. Be-

yond the items she had previously seen

he could only enumerate a silver dol-

lar, a very soiled and crumpled hand-

kerchief and a bit of tin. A box of

Norwegian matches he threw away as

"You never know what purpose they

may serve," she said. In after days a

"Why do you carry about a bit of

"I found it here, Miss Deane," he

Luckily she interpreted "here" as

He handed it to her. She could make

nothing of it, so together they puzzled

gram were revealed. At last they be-

came decipherable. By exercising pa-

useless, but Iris recovered them.

mured. "There is but one thing need-

ful to complete my happiness."

"Permission to smoke."

you carry about with you?"

ham is ruined!"

attempt.

manded suspiciously.

"And that is?"

"Smoke what?"

closed and a pipe.

simple phrase.

tin?" she went on.

applying to the cave.

"Let me see it. May I?"

marks assumed this aspect:

9.16 N

113.80E.

Iris was quick witted. "It is a plan

"Also the latitude and the longitude."

"And the figures on the island, with

"I cannot tell you at present," he

island signifies this gap or canyon, and

"It looks quite mysterious, like the

"Yes," he admitted. "It is unques-

tionably a plan, a guidance, given to a

person not previously acquainted with

the island, but cognizant of some fact

connected with it. Unfortunately none

of the buccaneers I can bring to mind

frequented these seas. The poor beg-

gar who left it here must have had

some other motive than searching for a

"Did he dig the care and the well, I

"Probably the former, but not the

"Why do you assume he was alone?"

He strolled toward the fire to kick a

stray log. "It is only idle speculation

well. No man could do it unaided."

and buried treasure."

wonder?"

"What does 'J. S.' mean?"

He looked at her wistfully. This col- at the best, Miss Deane," he replied. lapse must not happen again for her "Would you like to help me to drag some timber up from the beach? If we than lips. She withdrew her arm. Her | get a few big planks we can build a fire that will last for hours. We want some extra clothes, too, and it will soon "Good gracious!" she cried. "The

be dark." her. She complied eagerly, and without much exertion they hauled a respectable load of firewood to their new camping ground. They also brought a number of coats to serve as coverings. Then Jenks tackled the lamp. It was a most difficult operation to open it.

Before the sun went down he succeeded and made a wick by unraveling a few strands of wool from his jersey. When night fell, with the suddenness of the tropics, Iris was able to illuminate her small domain.

They were both utterly tired and ready to drop with fatigue. The girl said "good night," but instantly reappeared from behind the tarpaulin. "Am I to keep the lamp alight?" she inquired.

"Please yourself, Miss Deane. Better not, perhaps. It will only burn four or five hours anyway."

Soon the light vanished, and he lay down, his pipe between his teeth, close to the cave's entrance. Weary though he was he could not sleep forthwith. His mind was occupied with the signs on the canister head.

"32 divided by 1; an 'X' and a dot, he repeated several times. "What do they signify?"

Suddenly he sat up, with every sense alert, and grabbed his revolver. Someweird significance was attached to this thing impelled him to look toward the spot, a few feet away, where the skeleton was hidden. It was the rustling of CHEMIST - AND - DRUGGIST a bird among the trees that had caught

He thought of the white framework of a once powerful man, lying there among the bushes, abandoned, forgot- guessed this earlier. Yet the mischieten, horrific. Then he smothered a your light in her eyes defied control. cry of surprise.

"By Jove!" he muttered. "There is himself up short, over it. The sailor rubbed it with a no 'X' and dot. That sign is meant mixture of kerosene and sand. Then for a skull and crossbones. It lies cried. figures and letters and a sort of diaexactly on the part of the island where we saw that queer looking bald patch today. First thing tomorrow before tient ingenuity some one had indented the girl awakes I must examine that the metal with a sharp punch until the

> He resolutely stretched himself on his share of the spread out coats, now thoroughly dried by sun and fire. In a minute he was sound asleep.

CHAPTER V.

E awoke to find the sum high in the heavens. Iris was preparpresiding goddess had so altered her Did you take one when you went bird's appearance that the sailor surveyed nesting?" her with astonishment. He noiselessly assumed a sitting pos-

ture, tucked his feet beneath him and when he answered: blinked. The girl's face was not visible from where he sat, and for a few before help reaches us we may be visseconds he thought he must surely be ited by cruel and bloodthirsty savdreaming. She was attired in a neat ages, I would not even mention this navy blue dress and smart blouse. Her if it were a remote contingency. As white canvas shoes were replaced by matters stand, you ought to know that strong leather boots. She was quite such a thing may happen. Let us "Probably the initials of a man's spick and span, this island Hebe.

senses returned but slowly. At last seemingly been deserted for many he guessed what had happened. She months, and therein lies our best had risen with the dawn and, conquer- chance of escape. But I am obliged to ing her natural feeling of repulsion, warn you lest you should be taken selected from the store he accumulated yesterday some more suitable garments than those in which she escaped from the wreck.

changed even his pipe and tobacco box, should be taken against a risk that is worth untold gold, for shaving tackle. possible, not probable. No more." Who can say why his thoughts took such trend? Twenty-four hours can effect great changes in the human mind if controlling influences are ac-

Then came a sharp revulsion of feeling. His name was Robert-a menial. He reached for his boots, and Iris heard him.

"Cood morning!" she cried, smiling sweetly. "I thought you would never awake. I suppose you were very, very tired. Please wash quickly. The eggs will be hard." "Eggs!"

"Yes. I made a collection among the trees. I tasted one of a lot that looked good. It was first rate."

He had not the moral courage to begin the day with a rebuke. She was irrepressible, but she really must not do these things. He smothered a sigh in the improvised basin which was placed ready for him.

Miss Deane had prepared a capital meal. Of course the ham and biscuits still bulked large in the bill of fare, but there were boiled eggs, fried bananas and an elderly cocoanut. These things, supplemented by clear, cold wa-When you go to a drug store ter, were not so bad for a couple of castaways hundreds of miles from everywhere.

For the life of him the man could not refrain from displaying the conit. Don't be surprised, though, versational art in which he excelled. Their talk dealt with Italy, Egypt, India. He spoke with the ease of culture and enthusiasm. Once he slipped into anecdote apropos of the helplessness of British soldiers in any matter outsice the scope of the king's regulations. "I remember," he said, "seeing a cav-

take them. Every year for thirty alty subaltern and the members of an escort sitting half starved on a number of bags piled up in the Suakin desert. And what do you think were in the bags?"

> alert for deductions. "Biscuits! They thought the bags contained patent fodder until I enlightened them."

"I don't know," said Iris, keenly

It was on the tip of her tongue to pounce on him with the comment "Then you have been an officer in the army." But she forbore. She had

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He was warned in time and pulled

"You read my face like a book," she

"No printed page was ever so-legible. Now, Miss Deane, we have gossiped too long. I am a laggard this morning, but before starting work I have a few serious remarks to make." "More digs?" she inquired saucily.

"I repudiate 'digs.' In the first place, you must not make any more experiments in the matter of food. The eggs were a wonderful effort; but, flattered by success, you may poison yourself." "Secondly?"

"You must never pass out of my ing breakfast; a fine fire was sight without carrying a revolver, not crackling cheerfully, and the so much for defense, but as a signal,

> "No. Why?" There was a troubled look in his eyes

"It is best to tell you at once that trust in God's goodness that assist-So soundly had he slept that his ance may come soon. The island has unawares."

Iris was serious enough now. "How do you know that such dan-

ger threatens us?" she demanded. He quietly took stock of his own He countered readily. "Because I tattered condition and passed a re- happen to have read a good deal about flective hand over the stubble on his the China sea and its frequenters," he chin. In a few days his face would said. "I am the last man in the world resemble a scrubbing brush. In that to alarm you needlessly. All I mean mournful moment he would have ex- to convey is that certain precautions

> She could not repress a shudder. The sailor wanted to tell her that he would defend her against a host of savages if he were endowed with many lives, but he was perforce tongued tied. He even reviled himself for having spoken, but she saw the anguish în his face, and her woman's heart acknowledged him as her protector, her shield. "Mr. Jenks," she said simply, "we

are in God's hands. I put my trust in him and in you. I am hopeful-nay, more, confident. I thank you for what you have done, for all that you will do. If you cannot preserve me from threatening perils no man could, for you are as brave and gallant a gentleman as lives on the earth today."

Now, the strange feature of this extraordinary and unexpected outburst of pent up emotion was that the girl pronounced his name with the slightly emphasized accentuation of one who knew it to be a mere disguise. The man was so taken aback by her declaration of faith that the minor incident, though it did not escape him, was smothered in a tumult of feeling.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]



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