

# Chapter 1: Pirates

Piracy is an offence against the universal law of society, a pirate being according to Sir Edward Coke, *stis humani generis*. Deceiving themselves in the supposition that Avery had outsailed them during the night, they held on their course to the place of rendezvous; but, arriving there, to their sad disappointment no ship appeared. Having had no food since we got the tortoise, John Anthony and myself set out in search of fresh water, and three remained with the boat. Gray not only saved his money, but being suddenly smit with the desire to rise, also studied his profession, and he is now mate and part owner of a fine fullrigged ship, married besides, and the father of a family. Gray and Ben Gunn came and went with the boat, while the rest during their absences piled treasure on the beach. Gray and Hunter were the first to come forward. Gray told me nothing, and I asked him nothing; and what's more, I would see you and him and this whole island blown clean out of the water into blazes first. Gray and I were sitting together at the far end of the block house, to be out of earshot of our officers consulting; and Gray took his pipe out of his mouth and fairly forgot to put it back again, so thunderstruck he was at this occurrence.

He had cut through a bulkhead unobserved and had removed one of the sacks of coin, worth perhaps three or four hundred guineas, to help him on his further wanderings. The bar silver and the arms still lie, for all that I know, where Flint buried them; and certainly they shall lie there for me. Then he was given a lodge to keep, exactly as he had feared upon the island; and he still lives, a great favourite, though something of a butt, with the country boys, and a notable singer in church on Sundays and saints days. I suppose you would hardly ask me to call you a humane man, returned the doctor with a sneer, and so my feelings may surprise you, Master Silver.

I tell you, but Silver was anxious to keep up with us. And there was Silver, sitting back almost out of the firelight, but eating heartily, prompt to spring forward when anything was wanted, even joining quietly in our laughter the same bland, polite, obsequious seaman of the voyage out. It was just at sundown when we cast anchor in a most beautiful landlocked gulf, and were immediately surrounded by shore boats full of Negroes and Mexican Indians and halfbloods selling fruits and vegetables and offering to dive for bits of money. It went to all our hearts, I think, to leave them in that wretched state; but we could not risk another mutiny; and to take them home for the gibbet would have been a cruel sort of kindness. Let the worst come to the worst, its little I care. Let that suffice. And by this time we had reached the gigs.

Its always a ship, and they can get to buccaneering again, I suppose. And so its you, Ben Gunn! He was brave, and no mistake. Next moment I was face to face with Anderson. Let the supplications of that mother touch your hearts, and shield their object from the law. And suddenly, not ten yards further, we beheld them stop. Then you can talk. It was a large, airy place, with a little spring and a pool of clear water, overhung with ferns. I could hear his teeth rattle in his head, but he had not yet surrendered. It was the squire, and we waved a handkerchief and gave him three cheers, in which the voice of Silver joined as heartily as any. It dont make much odds, do it, now?

and he snapped his big fingers, halting a moment on his crutch. The three fellows must have been watching us closer than we thought for, as we soon had proved. And the rest were all too terrified to reply. He held it up with a perfect spout of oaths. And then, making a great effort: Shipmates, he cried, Im here to get that stuff, and Ill not be beat by man or devil. He had been well brought up, had Dick, before he came to sea and fell among bad companions. He were an ugly devil, cried a third pirate with a shudder; that blue in the face too! He had still a foot in either camp, and there was no doubt he would prefer wealth and freedom with the pirates to a bare escape from hanging, which was the best he had to hope on our side. Let us imagine for a moment that we see the souls standing before the awful tribunal, and we hear its dreadful sentence, depart ye cursed into everlasting fire.

Then here goes! Then I looked around me, and as the ship was now, in a sense, my own, I began to think of clearing it from its last passenger the dead man, OBrien. and by E. Next moment we were both groping downstairs, leaving the candle by the empty chest; and the next we had opened the door and were in full retreat. Then he lay quiet for a little, and then, pulling out a stick of tobacco, begged me to cut him a quid. It was like somebody else's voice now it was like By the powers, Ben Gunn!

he cried. It was, indeed, a most pleasant portion of the island that we were now approaching. While I was thus turning the business over in my mind, I had not been idle with my body. I saw him dead with these here deadlights, said Morgan. Let me then, in this public manner, return my sincere thanks to him, for his kind and gentlemanly deportment during my confinement. I thought so, cried the cook; this here is a pintar.

Let none of his friends or relations ever venture to sea he hoped his death would be a warning to them, that the innocent might suffer for the guilty. Its a pity, sir, we lost that second load. I believe a chill struck for a moment to every heart. Next we procured the timbers of ribs, which, to avoid the same hazard, were in three pieces each, and jointed in two places. While we lay hulling up and down, our hopes at so low an ebb, we discovered a tortoise, not far from us, asleep in the sea. Next to the Cassaubah, the mole with the marine forts, presented the handsomest and most imposing pile of buildings. It seemed to me so obvious, in this case, that I could not imagine how he was to turn their anger. The three fellows still abroad upon the island did not greatly trouble us; a single sentry on the shoulder of the hill was sufficient to ensure us against any sudden onslaught, and we thought, besides, they had had more than enough of fighting. Then I lashed the tiller and went below to

my own chest, where I got a soft silk handkerchief of my mothers. While we were getting into her, one of my fellow prisoners, a Spaniard, attempted with tears in his eyes to speak to the captain, but was refused with the answer. Its not them I mind; its the roundshot.

Let the reader conceive our apprehensions, after all our toil and labor, of being seized by some Turkish privateer, such as are never off the seas. Then he went the rounds and saw, as he said, that all was clear. She was stockstill but for the current. While Vane was upon this island, a ship put in there from Jamaica for water, the captain of which, one Holford, an old buccaneer, happened to be Vanes acquaintance. And then, mates, us that has the boats, I reckon, has the upper hand. He called them all the fools and dolts you can imagine, said it was necessary I should talk to the doctor, fluttered the chart in their faces, asked them if they could afford to break the treaty the very day they were bound at treasurehunting. She headed nearly due south, yawning, of course, all the time. Next morning he paid the prisoners a visit and ordered them to the capital, called together the principal people of the town, and desired each to select one as a servant. It cried. It dont bind no moren a balladbook.

She would swear the same, in a manner of speaking, before chaplain. The last flood had lifted her, and had there been much wind or a strong tide current, as in the southern anchorage, we should never have found her more, or found her stranded beyond help. While they lay at anchor, and were employed in taking in water, one of the abovementioned fleet moved towards them with English colors, and was answered by the pirate with a red ensign; but they did not hail each other. She was at the boarding of the viceroy of the Indies out of Goa, she was; and to look at her you would think she was a babby. Let young Hawkins go at once to see his mother, with Redruth for a guard; and then both come full speed to Bristol. he roared and looked about him positively like a lion. It is for you to choose. And first, Ill give you a bit of hope; Silver, if we both get alive out of this wolfrap, Ill do my best to save you, short of perjury.

And youll put that down for me too, for its a long stretch, is that! Let us overhaul these patients of yours. Then he advanced to the stockade, threw over his crutch, got a leg up, and with great vigour and skill succeeded in surmounting the fence and dropping safely to the other side. Then he put his head on one side, and looked at me. The doctor sent back Gray for one of the pickaxes deserted, in their flight, by the mutineers, and then as we proceeded leisurely downhill to where the boats were lying, related in a few words what had taken place. The buccaneers, with oaths and cries, began to leap, one after another, into the pit and to dig with their fingers, throwing the boards aside as they did so. He himself slept peacefully and snored aloud, yet my heart was sore for him, wicked as he was, to think on the dark perils that environed and the shameful gibbet that awaited him.

And youll not forget what I done good, not any more than youll forget the bad, I know. Next morning these boats were brought to the fleet; ten or twelve men were taken in them. It was red and hot, and now and again it was a little darkenedas it were, the embers of a bonfire smouldering. I had a line about my waist and followed obediently after the seacock, who held the loose end of the rope, now in his free hand, now between his powerful teeth. It would have been a poor end of my adventures to get shot down by my own party in mistake. Its to you, Abraham Grayits to you I am speaking. Its a pleasant thing to be young and have ten toes, and you may lay to that.

She was at the fishing up of the wrecked plate ships. Its my belief neither of you gentlemen know what you are about, but Ill tell you my way of itlife or death, and a close run. While there, he had the command of a boat employed in bringing logwood to the ship. While the boat was conveying them, Soto held in his hand a cutlass, reddened with the blood of the murdered captain, and stood scowling on them with silence: while another ruffian, with a lighted match, stood by the long gun, ready to support the boarding, if necessary, with a shot that would sweep the deck. Its a way of speaking, said the captain. While Barbazan was employed in superintending the clearing of the decks, the arming and breakfasting of the men, he walked rapidly up and down, revolving in his mind the plan of the approaching attack, and when interrupted by any of the crew, he would run into a volley of imprecations. Then he pulled me aside. Next day Mr. It cost him no end of time and groans to haul his wounded leg behind him, and I had quietly finished my arrangements before he was much more than a third of the way up. Next morning we arrived in the suburbs, where the singularity of our attire, being barefoot and bare legged, and having nothing on except loose shirts, drawn over our coats, attracted a crowd of enquirers.

She was refused, as being in every respect opposite to the description of the person sent for. Next morning the seal was perfect, the sentry at his post, but the bullion was gone through a small hole made in the back wall. and he snapped his fingers. he asked; and when I had refused: Well, Ill take a drain myself, Jim, said he. Next moment we had turned the corner and my home was out of sight. And then he bade them get the fire lit, and stalked out upon his crutch, with his hand on my shoulder, leaving them in a disarray, and silenced by his volubility rather than convinced. And now I should wish to have a talk with that boy, please.

Next best thing to tell the truth, muttered Captain Smollett. I seen the doctor waving you to run for itwith the tail of my eye, I did; and I seen you say no, as plain as hearing. The third rose nearly two hundred feet into the air above a clump of underwooda giant of a vegetable, with a red column as big as a cottage, and a wide shadow around in which a company could have manoeuvred. I remembered with confusion my insubordinate and stealthy conduct, and when I saw where it had brought meamong what companions and surrounded by what dangersI felt ashamed to look him in the face. The first of the

tall trees was reached, and by the bearings proved the wrong one. And the doctor it was. While steering their course, Avery sent a boat to each of the sloops, requesting that the chiefs would come on board his ship to hold a conference. This was a run of eight or nine miles. Its the name of a buccaneer of my acquaintance; and I call you by it for the sake of shortness, and what I have to say to you is this; one glass of rum wont kill you, but if you take one youll take another and another, and I stake my wig if you dont break off short, youll diedo you understand that? I have that curiosity beside me at this moment, but not a trace of writing now remains beyond a single scratch, such as a man might make with his thumbnail. He drew some cognac from the cask into a tin cannikin.

She dreaded being refused, and sent back to the horrid dungeon she was leaving where no difference was paid to rank, and slaves of all conditions were huddled together. It was such a game as I had often played at home about the rocks of Black Hill Cove, but never before, you may be sure, with such a wildly beating heart as now. He hobbled to the torch, where it stood propped among the firewood, and took a fresh light to his pipe. I knowed him well, says another. Then we reloaded and turned our attention to poor Tom. he added, returning his pipe to his mouth.

I made a hash o this cruise, did I? He drew again quietly at his pipe. He still wore the fine broadcloth suit in which he had fulfilled his mission, but it was bitterly the worse for wear, daubed with clay and torn with the sharp briars of the wood. It was a sad sight, but it showed us that the anchorage was calm. It was a smile that had in it something both of pain and weakness a haggard old mans smile; but there was, besides that, a grain of derision, a shadow of treachery, in his expression as he craftily watched, and watched, and watched me at my work. And now, shipmates, this black spot?

Then rest his soul for a true seaman! While Alexis was occupied in a war with Patzinaces, on the banks of the Danube, Zachas, a Saracen pirate, scoured the Archipelago, having, with the assistance of an able Smyrniate, constructed a flotilla of forty brigantines, and some light fastrowing boats, manned by adventurers like himself. For my part, as I was not much use at carrying, I was kept busy all day in the cave packing the minted money into breadbags. Its well, said the pirate, for had you been ill treated, I would have put all these rascals to the sword. It was such a scene of confusion as you can hardly fancy. While Lafitte and his followers, seconding a gallant band of volunteer riflemen, formed a phalanx which they in vain assayed to penetrate. I thought you said you knowed the rules, returned Silver contemptuously. I could just make out that he had a book as well as a knife in his hand, and was still wondering how anything so incongruous had come in their possession when the kneeling figure rose once more to his feet and the whole party began to move together towards the house. I turned to the loophole nearest me and looked out. He looked upon it for a moment, thrusting forth his under jaw, tried the point upon his hand, and then, hastily concealing it in the bosom of his jacket, trundled back again into his old place against the bulwark.

Its been meat and drink, and man and wife, to me; and if Im not to have my rum now Im a poor old hulk on a lee shore, my bloodll be on you, Jim, and that doctor swab; and he ran on again for a while with curses. Its these people of the innits that boy. It was very tiring and slow work, yet I did visibly gain ground; and as we drew near the Cape of the Woods, though I saw I must infallibly miss that point, I had still made some hundred yards of easting. And now I resign, by thunder! The pines, great and small, grew wide apart; and even between the clumps of nutmeg and azalea, wide open spaces baked in the hot sunshine. She was vain and bold in her disposition, but susceptible of the tenderest emotions, and of the most melting affections. And number three? She replied, that, As to hanging, she thought it no great hardship, for were it not for that, every cowardly fellow would turn pirate, and so infest the seas; and men of courage would starve. And youre the last above board of that same meddling crew; and you have the Davy Joness insolence to up and stand for capn over meyou, that sank the lot of us!

He had risen from his position to his hands and knees, and though his leg obviously hurt him pretty sharply when he movedfor I could hear him stifle a groanyet it was at a good, rattling rate that he trailed himself across the deck. The colour went from their six faces like enchantment; some leaped to their feet, some clawed hold of others; Morgan grovelled on the ground. It was plain she was not to be interfered with, and at that rate, since I could in no way influence her course, what hope had I left of reaching land? She indeed, frequently declared, that the life of a pirate was what she detested, and that she was constrained to it both on the former and present occasion. Then I came to a long thicket of these oaklike treeslive, or evergreen, oaks, I heard afterwards they should be calledwhich grew low along the sand like brambles, the boughs curiously twisted, the foliage compact, like thatch. Then there followed a great todo through all our old inn, heavy feet pounding to and fro, furniture thrown over, doors kicked in, until the very rocks reechoed and the men came out again, one after another, on the road and declared that we were nowhere to be found. And then, fourth, theres this here boy. He watched me keenly and slyly, his chin all the while on his breast.

The body pointed straight in the direction of the island, and the compass read duly E. She had 200,000 dollars in specie, and other valuable articles on board. While Judge Betts was delivering his address to them, Wansley was deeply affected and shed tearsbut Gibbs gazed with a steady and unwavering eye, and no sign betrayed the least emotion of his heart. I know when a games up, I do; and I know a lad thats staunch. He grunted, or rather, I might say, he barked. Its the glory of the sea that has turned my head. It was at first mere instinct, but once I had it in my hands and found it fast, curiosity began to get the upper hand, and I determined I should have one look through the cabin window. And he took another swallow of the brandy, shaking his great fair head like a man who looks forward to the worst.

She manned and armed two more boats for us. It was already late in the afternoon, although still warm and sunny. he roared in a voice of thunder. It was plainly a damp, feverish, unhealthy spot. The party spread itself abroad, in a fan shape, shouting and leaping to and fro.

he roared. I guess Hands and OBrien turned soft. He had been growing nettled before, but now he pulled himself together. The top of the plateau was dotted thickly with pinetrees of varying height. The red cross was, of course, far too large to be a guide; and the terms of the note on the back, as you will hear, admitted of some ambiguity. The other men were variously burthened, some carrying picks and shovels for that had been the very first necessary they brought ashore from the HISPANIOLA others laden with pork, bread, and brandy for the midday meal. It was still quite early, and the coldest morning that I think I ever was abroad in a chill that pierced into the marrow. I know youve got that ship safe somewhere.

I didnt mean to; no, not till you spoke up. While at Princes Island, Capt. Its Black Dog! He wasnt dead when I got round to him, not he. He was tricked out in his best; an immense blue coat, thick with brass buttons, hung as low as to his knees, and a fine laced hat was set on the back of his head. She had no masts, spars, rigging, furniture, provisions or any think left, except her bowsprit, and a few barrels of salt provisions of her cargo. She proved leaky, for we had no carpenters yard, or smiths shop to go to.

She struck, and the pirates took possession, and carried her away to a small island called Barnacho, where they cleaned. It occurred to me that this might be the white rock of which Ben Gunn had spoken and that some day or other a boat might be wanted and I should know where to look for one. He was whistling Come, Lasses and Lads. I ax your pardon, sir, acknowledging you for to be captaing at this present; but I claim my right, and steps outside for a council. The explosion of disapproval, which nothing but Silvers black looks had restrained, broke out immediately the doctor had left the house. The very same Jim as ever was, says Silver. Then it struck sharp on the inn door, and then we could hear the handle being turned and the bolt rattling as the wretched being tried to enter; and then there was a long time of silence both within and without. And talking o trouble, why did that doctor give me the chart, Jim? The black spot! While the unconscious crew were proceeding, as usual, to catch seals on this island, lying about three leagues from the main land of Arauca, an armed body of men rushed from the woods, and overpowering them, tied their hands behind them, and left them under a guard on the beach.

It did all our hearts good to see him spit in his hand, knit his brows, and make the blade sing through the air. He turned and spoke to us, Doctors watch on the lookout. It is something to have been an old soldier, but more still to have been a doctor. It seemed dark and shaggy; more I knew not. Then my mother got a candle in the bar, and holding each others hands, we advanced into the parlour. Then he rapped on the door with a bit of stick like a handspike that he carried, and when my father appeared, called roughly for a glass of rum. Its there she learned Pieces of eight, and little wonder; three hundred and fifty thousand of em, Hawkins! She had been the latter, belonging to the French king, and could mount 50 guns; but being taken by the English, she was bought by some London merchants, and fitted out from that port to slave at Madagascar, and go to Jamaica. While in the fort, his eyes were keenly employed to discover the position of the arms, and how the fort might most successfully be surprised.

Its trying on a man, I know. he asked. It was all over, I thought. While off the island, they lost several of their anchors by the rockiness of the ground; and one day, blowing more violently than usual, they were forced to take to sea, leaving several people and most of the watercasks; but when the gale was over, they returned to take in their men and water. It is one thing to be idle and skulk and quite another to take a ship and murder a number of innocent men. Then Lord Exmouth, having seen only the smoke of the gun, before the sound reached him, said, with great alacrity, That will do; fire my fine fellows! She took great care of his education, and when he was grown up, as he had an inclination to the sea, procured him the kings letter.

She was built at the latter end of the war, for a privateer, was an excellent sailer, and mounted 24 guns. And he sprang up, drawing his knife as if he had been twenty. While under the direction of Trumpet, some proposed to proceed directly to Madagascar, but others were disposed to wait until they should be provided with a store ship. He were afraid of none, not he; ony SilverSilver was that genteel. While the fleet lay here, one night the Portuguese who were left in the captured brig murdered the Ladrones that were on board of her, cut the cables, and fortunately escaped through the darkness of the night. And as for the schooner, it was I who cut her cable, and it was I that killed the men you had aboard of her, and it was I who brought her where youll never see her more, not one of you. She received the ransom and left the Antelope just before dark.

While he was in chase of this vessel a circumstance occurred, which made his men believe he dealt with the devil; his fore and main topmast being carried away, he, Lewis, running up the shrouds to the maintop, tore off a handful of hair, and throwing it into the air used this expression, good devil, take this till I come. She appeared to be a vessel of about thirty tons; her hold was filled with straw and wood, and there were a few small boxes of combustibles on her deck, which exploded alongside of us without doing any damage. And now you are to choose, and you may lay to that, said Silver. Then sent the boat on board for the other two men, being five in all; who came ashore, and rejoiced enough was I to see among them Thomas Young, one of my crew, who was detained on board the Mexican, but had escaped through Nickolas means; the other a Frenchman, named John Cadedt. I stood straight up against the wall, my heart still going like a sledgehammer, but

with a ray of hope now shining in my bosom. The door opened, and the five men, standing huddled together just inside, pushed one of their number forward. The seacock instantly removed his pipe. The parrot sat, preening her plumage, on Long Johns shoulder.

She anchored off Quallah Battoo in February 1832, disguised as a Danish ship, and came to in merchantman style, a few men being sent aloft, dressed in red and blue flannel shirts, and one sail being clewed up and furled at a time. While with us he gave me a letter written in great haste, which contains some particulars respecting the cargo; as follows: January 4th, 1822. While passing our solitary island, they laughed at our misery, which was almost insupportable looking upon us as though we had committed some heinous crime, and they had not sufficiently punished us; they hallooed to us, crying out Captain, Captain, accompanied with obscene motions and words, with which I shall not blacken these pages yet I heard no check upon such conduct, nor could I expect it among such a gang, who have no idea of subordination on board, except when in chase of vessels, and even then but very little. It was as plain as day. Then they ordered Captain Orgamar to leave his vessel, allowing him his trunk and turned him ashore, to seek for himself.

And then, in his first gracious tones, he replied to me, Yesterday morning, Mr. The sixth had only risen upon his elbow; he was deadly pale, and the bloodstained bandage round his head told that he had recently been wounded, and still more recently dressed. And so, Jim stopping the tobacco here you were, and quite a pleasant surprise for poor old John. Its a black conscience that can make you feared of me. I stood hazing long enough from one, added another. And thereupon he sat down across the brandy cask and began to fill a pipe. he cried. It was so decided; loaded pistols were served out to all the sure men; Hunter, Joyce, and Redruth were taken into our confidence and received the news with less surprise and a better spirit than we had looked for, and then the captain went on deck and addressed the crew.

The pirates were in possession of the house and stores: there was the cask of cognac, there were the pork and bread, as before, and what tenfold increased my horror, not a sign of any prisoner. I stopped, for, I tell you, I was out of breath, and to my wonder, not a man of them moved, but all sat staring at me like as many sheep. Its not Flints ship, and Flint is dead; but Ill tell you true, as you ask methere are some of Flints hands aboard; worse luck for the rest of us. Its the custom, sir, he added apologetically.

It would be pleasanter to come to blows. He had found a longish fir tree lying felled and trimmed in the enclosure, and with the help of Hunter he had set it up at the corner of the loghouse where the trunks crossed and made an angle. She gave Davis a broadside, and killed nine of his men; a desperate engagement ensued, which continued from one o'clock at noon until nine next morning, when the Dutchman struck. Its a main cold morning, to be sure, sir, to sit outside upon the sand. I never seen a pack o' fools look fishier; and you may lay to that, if I tells you that looked the fishiest. Then Teach went into the tender with forty hands, and upon a sandy island, about a league from shore, where there was neither bird nor beast, nor herb for their subsistence, he left seventeen of his crew, who must inevitably have perished, had not Major Bonnet received intelligence of their miserable situation, and sent a longboat for them. He had lain like a Trojan behind his mattress in the gallery; he had followed every order silently, doggedly, and well; he was the oldest of our party by a score of years; and now, sullen, old, serviceable servant, it was he that was to die. She kept on to the eastward about ten or fifteen minutes after we had tacked, then wore round, set square sail, steering directly for us, came down upon us very fast, and was soon within gun shot of us, fired a gun and hoisted patriot colors and backed main topsail. And one of the men left the loghouse and presently returned with a lighted brand. She had great sweetness of disposition and ingenuousness.

I asked with a very tremulous voice. The seacry of the watch, that beautiful Alls well, never fell more reassuringly on my ear. He looked to the priming of his gun. It is for you to speak, says Mr. Its your own doing. Its a bargain! Its us must break the treaty when the time comes; and till then Ill gammon that doctor, if I have to ile his boots with brandy. He caught the painter and made it fast, and we fell to loading the boat for our very lives.

I dont say nothing as to your being in our hands, continued Silver, though there you are, and you may lay to it. he broke out. he added with a look of great shrewdness. The dusk had come nigh hand completely, and as I opened out the cleft between the two peaks, I became aware of a wavering glow against the sky, where, as I judged, the man of the island was cooking his supper before a roaring fire. The wood was pretty open, and keeping along the lower spurs, I had soon turned the corner of that hill, and not long after waded to the midcalf across the watercourse. Its childs play to find the stuff now. He heard me with the keenest interest, and when I had done he patted me on the head. She was at this time just fifteen, and ripening into that slight fullness of form, and roundness of limb, which in that climate mark the early passing from girl into woman. It were, said the cook; it were when we weighed anchor. I turned to run, struck violently against one person, recoiled, and ran full into the arms of a second, who for his part closed upon and held me tight.

He was still holding me by the wrist, and at that he give it quite a wring. he asked. she was with her parents a passenger on board a Dutch ship, bound from Curracoa to Holland; there were a number of other passengers, male and female, on board, all of whom except the young lady abovementioned were put to death; her unfortunate parents were inhumanly butchered before her eyes, and she was doomed to witness the agonies and to hear the expiring, heartpiercing groans of those whom she held most dear, and on whom she depended for protection! Then he ordered them all ashore. She accordingly gave them all chase, and coming up with the brig, the Arabs took to their boats and abandoned her. My second is a piece of

advice: keep the boy close beside you, and when you need help, halloo.

And then, all of a sudden, a shrill voice broke forth out of the darkness: Pieces of eight! She was one of the Great Moguls own ships, and there were in her several of the greatest persons in his court, among whom, it was said, was one of his daughters going upon a pilgrimage to Mecca; and they were carrying with them rich offerings to present at the shrine of Mahomet. Marys Island in safety. And I put the helm hard up, and the HISPANIOLA swung round rapidly and ran stem on for the low, wooded shore. Then Lewis sent on board him, and ordered the master into his sloop. I had no time left me to recover. The water scarcely reached my waist; the sand was firm and covered with ripple marks, and I waded ashore in great spirits, leaving the HISPANIOLA on her side, with her mainsail trailing wide upon the surface of the bay. I should lie down in my own place (I thought with a silent chuckle) and enjoy their faces when they found me in the morning. I stole round by the eastern end, keeping close in shadow, and at a convenient place, where the darkness was thickest, crossed the palisade. She sustained his attacks with great courage and talent; but during a severe action in the gulf of Finland, Alf boarded her vessel, and having killed the greatest part of her crew, seized the captain, namely herself; whom nevertheless he knew not, because she had a casque which covered her visage. The peak dropped instantly, a great belly of loose canvas floated broad upon the water, and since, pull as I liked, I could not budge the downhall, that was the extent of what I could accomplish.

And now, boy, you stand by. Then one of them struck the union flag on the top of the castle, which the men from the vessel perceiving, rushed to the combat, and in an instant were in possession of the castle, without tumult or bloodshed. It was a master surgeon, him that amputated me out of college and allLatin by the bucket, and what not; but he was hanged like a dog, and sundried like the rest, at Corso Castle. Its Flint, by ! It was Silvers voice, and before I had heard a dozen words, I would not have shown myself for all the world, but lay there, trembling and listening, in the extreme of fear and curiosity, for from these dozen words I understood that the lives of all the honest men aboard depended upon me alone.

I stopped, with much wonder in my heart, and perhaps a little terror also. The jibs I speedily doused and brought tumbling to the deck, but the mainsail was a harder matter. The evening breeze had sprung up, and though it was well warded off by the hill with the two peaks upon the east, the cordage had begun to sing a little softly to itself and the idle sails to rattle to and fro. I had nothing nearer my fancy than to get home to the stockade and boast of my achievements. It was something to see him wedge the foot of the crutch against a bulkhead, and propped against it, yielding to every movement of the ship, get on with his cooking like someone safe ashore. Then he told the Frenchman that he must pass for captain, and by, says he, you are the captain; the Frenchman durst not refuse doing as he would have him. I scrambled forward and looked over. he asked.

The blood ran down the faster, to be sure, but I was my own master again and only tacked to the mast by my coat and shirt. She then struck her colors. Benavides, though unquestionably a ferocious savage, was, nevertheless, a man of resource, full of activity, and of considerable energy of character. While setting here, the sun was so powerful and oppressive, reflecting its rays upon the sea, which was then calm, and the white sand which dazzled the eye, was so painful, that we retired under the awning; there the moschetoes and flies were so numerous, that good rest could not be found. It had been originally meant that the captain, Mr. I thought this made it still more dangerous; yet the strain was so heavy that I half feared to meddle. While he remains at Algiers he and his family shall be under the protection of the commanderinchief. While I was still in this delightful dream, we came suddenly in front of a large inn and met Squire Trelawney, all dressed out like a seaofficer, in stout blue cloth, coming out of the door with a smile on his face and a capital imitation of a sailors walk. He was clothed with tatters of old ships canvas and old seacloth, and this extraordinary patchwork was all held together by a system of the most various and incongruous fastenings, brass buttons, bits of stick, and loops of tarry gaskin. She proved to be the armed schooner Gen. Wheres Flints?

The dirk, where it had pinned my shoulder to the mast, seemed to burn like a hot iron; yet it was not so much these real sufferings that distressed me, for these, it seemed to me, I could bear without a murmur; it was the horror I had upon my mind of falling from the crosstrees into that still green water, beside the body of the coxswain. And I went back to my meal with a good appetite. Then he went to a place called Porca, where he watered his ship and bought a number of hogs of the natives to victual his company. She fired a gun at a vessel about to enter, and forced her to run aground; she then tacked and shortly after came to an anchor at the entrance of the pass. But this was not all. I was now alone upon the ship; the tide had just turned. She was a very rich prize, laden with sugar, skins, and tobacco, with four thousand moidores of gold, besides other valuable articles. After that, we kept under cover of the bulwarks, and when next I looked out they had disappeared from the spit, and the spit itself had almost melted out of sight in the growing distance. then ordered me to come on board in my boat.

And again dodging the boom, I ran to the colour lines, handed down their cursed black flag, and chucked it overboard. And where mought you have come from? And if so, where were the men? It was the crew that troubled me.

She was commanded by Don Pedro Gilbert, a native of Catalonia, in Spain, and son of a grandee; a man thirtysix years of age, and exceeding handsome, having a round face, pearly teeth, round forehead, and full black eyes, with beautiful raven hair, and a great favorite with the ladies. He was concealed by this time behind another tree trunk; but he must have been watching me closely, for as soon as I began to move in his direction he reappeared and took a step to meet me. I was no sooner certain of this than I began to feel sick, faint, and terrified. And I had hardly moved before the boat, giving up at once

her gentle dancing movement, ran straight down a slope of water so steep that it made me giddy, and struck her nose, with a spout of spray, deep into the side of the next wave.

It contained two thingsa book and a sealed paper. It will amount to this: If we have the clue you talk about, I fit out a ship in Bristol dock, and take you and Hawkins here along, and Ill have that treasure if I search a year. While I was still casting about in my thoughts to find some probable excuse, Dr. The hammer fell, but there followed neither flash nor sound; the priming was useless with seawater. Then giving the Bristol galley to the Frenchman, they sailed in quest of new adventures, and soon took several prizes, and out of them increased the number of their own hands. Indeed, on a second glance, it seemed impossible to fancy that the body was in a natural position. She replied, St. It was not yet seven, she said, by a long way; she knew her rights and she would have them; and she was still arguing with me when a little low whistle sounded a good way off upon the hill. And when, at last, I shouldered the coracle and groped my way stumblingly out of the hollow where I had supped, there were but two points visible on the whole anchorage.

And yet, in this breath of time, the fight was over and the victory was ours. I could see by the working of his face that he was trying to think, and the process was so slow and laborious that, in my newfound security, I laughed aloud. And how many on yours, Mr. The tides made good enough by now. He whipped out of sight in a moment, leaving Silver to arrange the party, and I fancy it was as well he did so. The whole story was a pretext. While I was thus looking and wondering, in a calm moment, when the ship was still, Israel Hands turned partly round and with a low moan writhed himself back to the position in which I had seen him first. She had left the pleasant harbor of Salem, Mass. she was about two miles right to windward of us; could perceive a large number of men upon her deck, and one man on the fore top gallant yard looking out; was very suspicious of her, but knew not how to avoid her. Then entering St. She ran along to windward of us, hailed us to know where we were from, where bound, &c.

He fairly outstripped himself in willingness and civility; he was all smiles to everyone. I placed my palms against the mainmast, which was of a goodish bigness, and waited, every nerve upon the stretch. It was a long, difficult business, for the coins were of all countries and sizesdoubloons, and louis dors, and guineas, and pieces of eight, and I know not what besides, all shaken together at random. I spoke with a little heat, thinking of the bloody dirk he had hidden in his pocket and designed, in his ill thoughts, to end me with. he added, breaking off. It was like any other seamans chest on the outside, the initial B burned on the top of it with a hot iron, and the corners somewhat smashed and broken as by long, rough usage. And then, as we all slunk back to our places, Gray, he said, Ill put your name in the log; youve stood by your duty like a seaman.

She was a low strait schooner of about one hundred and fifty tons, painted black with a narrow white streak, a large head with the horn of plenty painted white, large maintopmast but no yards or sail on it. Then ensued a battle; they attacked each other with guns and stones, and many people were killed and wounded. Then he brought the sloop alongside, put every thing on board the ship, and sunk the sloop. It was already candlelight when we reached the hamlet, and I shall never forget how much I was cheered to see the yellow shine in doors and windows; but that, as it proved, was the best of the help we were likely to get in that quarter. Then would the O he oh, on its discharging, have been a delightful sound to me. He was the flower of the flock, was Flint! And I hoperaising his voicethat all hands in this here block house will overhaul my words, for what is spoke to one is spoke to all. The coxswain told me how to lay the ship to; after a good many trials I succeeded, and we both sat in silence over another meal. He had a way of talking to each and doing everybody some particular service.

She proved to be a very rich prize, having on board the Governor of Acra, with all his substance, going to Holland. And he filled a pipe and lighted it; and the two men sat silently smoking for quite a while, now looking each other in the face, now stopping their tobacco, now leaning forward to spit. She kept along the coast and made several prizes, French and English, and put into a harbor where a French ship lay making fish. She was called the Pearl of Jamaica, and got under sail at the sight of them; but the pirate sloops coming near Rowland, and showing no colors, he gave them a gun or two, whereupon they hoisted the black flag, and fired three guns each at the Pearl. I said. It was the second death I had known, and the sorrow of the first was still fresh in my heart. And the captain looked at him calmly and proceeded to fill a pipe. He had a line or two rigged up to help him across the widest spacesLong Johns earrings, they were called; and he would hand himself from one place to another, now using the crutch, now trailing it alongside by the lanyard, as quickly as another man could walk. The breeze served us admirably.

Then retired for rest and sleep, but realized little of either. I was prompt with my answer, however, for I saw where my advantage lay and that with a fellow so densely stupid I could easily conceal my suspicions to the end. I cant hit the name on t; well, you get me a bottle of wine, Jimthis here brandys too strong for my head. Then they insisted on fighting, and said if I would not help them, I was no friend. He was a great confidant of Long John Silver, and so the mention of his name leads me on to speak of our ships cook, Barbecue, as the men called him. She soon, however, came near enough to anchor, and her boat pushed off towards us with three men in her. I never seen sich dirty luck, not I. The floor was thick with mud where ruffians had sat down to drink or consult after wading in the marshes round their camp.

The moan, which told of pain and deadly weakness, and the way in which his jaw hung open went right to my heart. It was some time before either I or the captain seemed to gather our senses, but at length, and about at the same moment, I released his wrist, which I was still holding, and he drew in his hand and looked sharply into the palm. then notorious pirates,

and by them known to be so, they all received sentence of death, and were executed on the 17th of February at Gallows Point at Port Royal. It was one January morning, very early a pinching, frosty morning the cove all grey with hoarfrost, the ripple lapping softly on the stones, the sun still low and only touching the hilltops and shining far to seaward. It was a bitter cold winter, with long, hard frosts and heavy gales; and it was plain from the first that my poor father was little likely to see the spring. He had no command among the men, and people did what they pleased with him. I aint particlar as a rule, and I dont take no blame for settling his hash, but I dont reckon him ornamental now, do you? Then the depositions that had been given against the other prisoners were repeated, upon which he was convicted, and received the sentence of death accordingly, which he suffered in company with Captain Weaver and William Ingham.

Then followed a battle of looks between them, but the captain soon knuckled under, put up his weapon, and resumed his seat, grumbling like a beaten dog. He and the squire were very thick and friendly, but I soon observed that things were not the same between Mr. The jibs behind me cracked aloud, the rudder slammed to, the whole ship gave a sickening heave and shudder, and at the same moment the mainboom swung inboard, the sheet groaning in the blocks, and showed me the lee afterdeck. She was a sloop from Jamaica, of about twelve tons, with a cargo of rum and wine, bound to Trinidad. Then all of a sudden there was a tremendous explosion of oaths and other noisesthe chair and table went over in a lump, a clash of steel followed, and then a cry of pain, and the next instant I saw Black Dog in full flight, and the captain hotly pursuing, both with drawn cutlasses, and the former streaming blood from the left shoulder. he said at last, wiping his cheeks. I had now plenty of water and good things to eat, and my conscience, which had smitten me hard for my desertion, was quieted by the great conquest I had made.

She was commanded by the notorious Diablo or Little Devil. It may, indeed, be wondered at that he and his Janissaries should be allowed to retain all their illgotten booty, under the name of private property; but Count de Bourmont, though not without talent, was essentially a weak man, and was in this instance overreached by the wily Moor. The planks, which had not been swabbed since the mutiny, bore the print of many feet, and an empty bottle, broken by the neck, tumbled to and fro like a live thing in the scuppers. She married a young sailor without a shilling. And we could hear him adding to himself, Capn, is it? I mean to get into North Inlet and beach her quietly there. he burst out. I walked aft until I reached the mainmast. And what do you want with your flag of truce? Then he passed his hand over his eyes several times and at last turned back into the house.

Then well see. The schooner trembled to her keel under the reverse, but next moment, the other sails still drawing, the jib flapped back again and hung idle. It amounted in the English fleet, to one hundred and twentyeight men killed, and six hundred and ninety wounded; in the Dutch squadron, to thirteen killed, and fiftytwo wounded; grand total, eight hundred and eightythree. She knew that her husbands mother was in good circumstances, and could easily support her child, provided she could make her pass for a boy, and her sons child.

I was on the lee side of the forecastle, and the mainsail, which was still drawing, concealed from me a certain portion of the afterdeck. Then it was that there came into my head the first of the mad notions that contributed so much to save our lives. I had scarce time to thinkscarce time to act and save myself. The bowsprit was over my head. I was not a hundred yards from her when the wind came again in a clap; she filled on the port tack and was off again, stooping and skimming like a swallow. I have said this was the worst thing possible for me, for helpless as she looked in this situation, with the canvas cracking like cannon and the blocks trundling and banging on the deck, she still continued to run away from me, not only with the speed of the current, but by the whole amount of her leeway, which was naturally great. She accordingly quitted that service, and enlisted into a regiment of horse; there she behaved herself so valiantly, that she gained the esteem of all her officers. I was now gaining rapidly on the schooner; I could see the brass glisten on the tiller as it banged about, and still no soul appeared upon her decks. Then he hesitated, drew back, came forward again, and at last, to my wonder and confusion, threw himself on his knees and held out his clasped hands in supplication. He should run him down, hand over hand, by the powers!

She obtained permission to take her little daughter with her. It was by their fire that all the ships in the port (with the exception of the outer frigate already mentioned) were in flames, which, extending rapidly over the whole arsenal, gunboats, and storehouses, exhibited a spectacle of awful grandeur and interest which no pen can describe. I could see the cool green treetops swaying together in the breeze, and I felt sure I should make the next promontory without fail. He was one of them. She went therefore prepared to accept of anything short of these sufferings. The breeze fell for some seconds, very low, and the current gradually turning her, the HISPANIOLA revolved slowly round her centre and at last presented me her stern, with the cabin window still gaping open and the lamp over the table still burning on into the day. Then I skirted among the woods until I had regained the rear, or shoreward side, of the stockade, and was soon warmly welcomed by the faithful party. The current was bearing coracle and schooner southward at an equal rate.#Chapter 3: Aliens

Yet though they wore no clothing, it was in the other artificial additions to their bodily resources that their great superiority over man lay. And please close the door gently when you go inside. And he did, but he wished it didnt have to continue in quite that way. And still he didnt have her full attention.

And for you, Phyllis. And there wont be any snow or anything. And I think your species must be an adaptable one, too; you just havent really tried. and perhaps a trace of spite toward his wife? And Im quite sure she thinks of you as a tree who

happens to look like a human being. And dont underestimate Magnolias capabilities. And I suppose he laughed modestly because Im such a good teacher. And she burst into tears again. And even when there is fruit, so much of it tends to be parthenocarpousno seeds. And how do you think I felt when a tree answered me back? And I know youll like Phyllis when you get to know her.

And there, amazed and afraid, even as I stood amazed and afraid, were my cousin and my wifemy wife white and tearless. And then a strange thing occurred. And then I forget. And as I looked at this wide expanse of houses and factories and churches, silent and abandoned; as I thought of the multitudinous hopes and efforts, the innumerable hosts of lives that had gone to build this human reef, and of the swift and ruthless destruction that had hung over it all; when I realised that the shadow had been rolled back, and that men might still live in the streets, and this dear vast dead city of mine be once more alive and powerful, I felt a wave of emotion that was near akin to tears. And scattered about it, some in their overturned warmachines, some in the now rigid handlingmachines, and a dozen of them stark and silent and laid in a row, were the Martiansdead! And I would save myself even the trouble of killing myself. And as I emerged from the top of Baker Street, I saw far away over the trees in the clearness of the sunset the hood of the Martian giant from which this howling proceeded. And pursuant to this idea of a holiday, he insisted upon playing cards after we had eaten. And I noted that now there was no question that he personally was to capture and fight the great machine.

And the great thing is, we must leave the Martians alone. And we may even be able to keep a watch, and run about in the open when the Martians keep away. And in all those places we shall gather. And they cant be happy. And the railway tunnels and subways.

and subsided into a grim meditation. And I succumbed to his conviction. And some, maybe, they will train to hunt us. And the bar loafers, and mashers, and singersI can imagine them. And suddenly I gripped his hand. And I dont mean to be caught either, and tamed and fattened and bred like a thundering ox. And if Im not mistaken, youll show what insides youve got, too, before long. And thats the principle I acted upon.

And I saw one, one day, out by Wandsworth, picking houses to pieces and routing among the wreckage. And even if theres a delay, how can it alter the end? And theyve made their footing good and crippled the greatest power in the world. And the night before lasthe stopped and spoke impressivelyit was just a matter of lights, but it was something up in the air. And after they went away I got off towards Walton across the fields. And you werent killed at Weybridge?

And presently, turning suddenly, with an odd feeling of being watched, I beheld something crouching amid a clump of bushes. And I set this down as I have set all this story down, as it was. And in the garden beyond Roehampton I got a quantity of immature potatoes, sufficient to stay my hunger. And oh! and seemed to go out of the cellar again.

And that was all. And after that I abandoned altogether the idea of escaping by excavation. And then began a shrieking and a sustained and cheerful hooting from the Martians. And suddenly I heard a yell, and saw a long tentacle reaching over the shoulder of the machine to the little cage that hunched upon its back. And I recall now with a sort of wonder that, in spite of the infinite danger in which we were between starvation and a still more terrible death, we could yet struggle bitterly for that horrible privilege of sight. And while upon this matter of detail, it is remarkable that the long leverages of their machines are in most cases actuated by a sort of sham musculature of the disks in an elastic sheath; these disks become polarised and drawn closely and powerfully together when traversed by a current of electricity. And not only did the Martians either not know of (which is incredible), or abstain from, the wheel, but in their apparatus singularly little use is made of the fixed pivot or relatively fixed pivot, with circular motions thereabout confined to one plane.

And I have been convinced of this in spite of strong preconceptions. And afterwards I found it broadcast throughout the country, and especially wherever there was a stream of water. And then they yelled again. And then a swift movement of the steamboat (she had suddenly come round to avoid being run down) flung him headlong from the seat upon which he was standing. And beyond, over the blue hills that rise southward of the river, the glittering Martians went to and fro, calmly and methodically spreading their poison cloud over this patch of country and then over that, laying it again with their steam jets when it had served its purpose, and taking possession of the conquered country. And in the evening many people came hurrying along the road nearby their stopping place, fleeing from unknown dangers before them, and going in the direction from which my brother had come. And farther on, from a lull near East Barnet, they saw two trains running slowly one after the other without signal or ordertrains swarming with people, with men even among the coals behind the enginesgoing northward along the Great Northern Railway. And as the day advanced and the engine drivers and stokers refused to return to London, the pressure of the flight drove the people in an everthickening multitude away from the stations and along the northwardrunning roads. And through this two Martians slowly waded, and turned their hissing steam jets this way and that.

And where it came upon water some chemical action occurred, and the surface would be instantly covered with a powdery scum that sank slowly and made way for more. And the touch of that vapour, the inhaling of its pungent wisps, was death to all that breathes. And there had been no crash, no answering explosion. And from this paper my brother read that catastrophic dispatch of the CommanderinChief: The Martians are able to discharge enormous clouds of a black and poisonous vapour by means of rockets. And all about himin the rooms below, in the houses on each side and across the

road, and behind in the Park Terraces and in the hundred other streets of that part of Marylebone, and the Westbourne Park district and St. And even as I spoke he sprang to his feet and stopped me by a gesture. And suddenly fire, earthquake, death! And while the Martians behind me were thus preparing for their next sally, and in front of me Humanity gathered for the battle, I made my way with infinite pains and labour from the fire and smoke of burning Weybridge towards London. And then, very slowly, I realised that by a miracle I had escaped. And shining with the growing light of the east, three of the metallic giants stood about the pit, their cowls rotating as though they were surveying the desolation they had made.

And the smell good God! And this was the little world in which I had been living securely for years, this fiery chaos! And I was galloping hard to meet it! And this Thing I saw!

And very faint now, but very distinct through the hot, quiet air, one heard the whirr of a machinegun that was presently stilled, and an intermittent crackling of rifles. And that behind me! And then, with a renewed horror, I saw a round, black object bobbing up and down on the edge of the pit. No matter how much you well, pursue me, I can never turn into a laurel tree. And invisible to me because it was so remote and small, flying swiftly and steadily towards me across that incredible distance, drawing nearer every minute by so many thousands of miles, came the Thing they were sending us, the Thing that was to bring so much struggle and calamity and death to the earth. The creatures mindless!

And before we judge of them too harshly we must remember what ruthless and utter destruction our own species has wrought, not only upon animals, such as the vanished bison and the dodo, but upon its inferior races. It was unreasonable. And we men, the creatures who inhabit this earth, must be to them at least as alien and lowly as are the monkeys and lemurs to us. What he wanted to say, he had no right to say, so he kept silent. And how are all things made for man?

CHAPTER SEVEN THE MAN ON PUTNEY HILL I spent that night in the inn that stands at the top of Putney Hill, sleeping in a made bed for the first time since my flight to Leatherhead. And early in the twentieth century came the great disillusionment. I thought I'd wanted to have a word with Magnolia. And looking across space with instruments, and intelligences such as we have scarcely dreamed of, they see, at its nearest distance only 35,000,000 of miles sunward of them, a morning star of hope, our own warmer planet, green with vegetation and grey with water, with a cloudy atmosphere eloquent of fertility, with glimpses through its drifting cloud wisps of broad stretches of populous country and narrow, crowded seas. I hope he grows up to make you a good husband.

And then he perceived that, very slowly, the circular top of the cylinder was rotating on its body. People were watching for Martians here from the church towers. And there's something inside. he called. And then, within thirty yards of the pit, advancing from the direction of Horsell, I noted a little black knot of men, the foremost of whom was waving a white flag. copyright on this publication was renewed. And far away towards Knaphill I saw the flashes of trees and hedges and wooden buildings suddenly set alight. I had almost forgotten she was only a tree. And I'll bring it back by midnight, I said. And in an instant it was gone.

and in another minute it was with its companion, half a mile away, stooping over something in the field. and leaving him to digest that if he could, I hurried on after the artilleryman. And meanwhile the military and naval authorities, now fully alive to the tremendous power of their antagonists, worked with furious energy. And through the charred and desolated areas perhaps twenty square miles altogether that encircled the Martian encampment on Horsell Common, through charred and ruined villages among the green trees, through the blackened and smoking arcades that had been but a day ago pine spinneys, crawled the devoted scouts with the heliographs that were presently to warn the gunners of the Martian approach.

And the mightier they are the more sane and wary should we be. and so forth. And one at least was disposed of perhaps more. And so, with reiterated assurances of the safety of London and the ability of the authorities to cope with the difficulty, this quasiproclamation closed.

and hurried to the next door. And presently men selling unnaturally early newspapers came bawling into the street: London in danger of suffocation! And overhead the dawn was growing brighter, clear and steady and calm. And in the back of my mind was the sense of all the huge unknown and hidden forces Londonward. And then the Martian beside us raised his tube on high and discharged it, gunwise, with a heavy report that made the ground heave.

And then night and extinctionnothing but a silent mass of impenetrable vapour hiding its dead. And as they advanced towards Barnet a tumultuous murmuring grew stronger. And amid the various cries one heard disputes, reproaches, groans of weariness and fatigue; the voices of most of them were hoarse and weak. And the child suddenly darted away from my brother, crying Mother! And this was no disciplined march; it was a stampede a stampede gigantic and terrible without order and without a goal, six million people unarmed and un provisioned, driving headlong. And all this time the boat was paddling steadily out to sea and away from the fight; and when at last the confusion cleared, the drifting bank of black vapour intervened, and nothing of the Thunder Child could be made out, nor could the third Martian be seen. And as it flew it rained down darkness upon the land. And all being quiet throughout the afternoon, we started about five o'clock, as I should judge, along the blackened road to Sunbury. And then followed such a concussion as I have never heard before or since.

And then the light filtered in, not through the window, which remained black, but through a triangular aperture between a

beam and a heap of broken bricks in the wall behind us. And this was the sum of the Martian organs. And while I am engaged in this description, I may add in this place certain further details which, although they were not all evident to us at the time, will enable the reader who is unacquainted with them to form a clearer picture of these offensive creatures. And speaking of the differences between the life on Mars and terrestrial life, I may allude here to the curious suggestions of the red weed. And I assert that I watched them closely time after time, and that I have seen four, five, and (once) six of them sluggishly performing the most elaborately complicated operations together without either sound or gesture. And of their appliances, perhaps nothing is more wonderful to a man than the curious fact that what is the dominant feature of almost all human devices in mechanism is absent—the wheel is absent; among all the things they brought to earth there is no trace or suggestion of their use of wheels. And in this connection it is curious to remark that even on this earth Nature has never hit upon the wheel, or has preferred other expedients to its development. And I would sit in the darkness unable to keep my mind off him by reason of his importunities. And while within we fought out our dark, dim contest of whispers, snatched food and drink, and gripping hands and blows, without, in the pitiless sunlight of that terrible June, was the strange wonder, the unfamiliar routine of the Martians in the pit. And then, amid the clangour of the machinery, came a drifting suspicion of human voices, that I entertained at first only to dismiss.

And I should have had to do all the digging myself. And so our widened incompatibility ended at last in open conflict. And over all silence. And when, by an effort, I had set aside that picture of a prostrate body, I faced the problem of the Martians and the fate of my wife. And suddenly that night became terrible. And besides He looked at me. And these are only pioneers. And what will they do with us? And its the man that keeps on thinking comes through.

And losing our heads, and rushing off in crowds to where there wasnt any more safety than where we were. And instead of our rushing about blind, on the howl, or getting dynamite on the chance of busting them up, weve got to fix ourselves up according to the new state of affairs. And weve got to live and keep independent while we learn. And on Sundays fear of the hereafter. And those of a less simple sort will work in a bit of what is it? And we form a bandablebodied, cleanminded men.

And swish, bang, rattle, swish! And just as I was beginning to face these things, the artilleryman stopped digging, and looked at me. And as the day came they became aware of a fightingmachine standing near by the Langham and looking down at them. And for the food!

And just outside the terminus the train jolted over temporary rails, and on either side of the railway the houses were blackened ruins. And strange, too, it is to stand on Primrose Hill, as I did but a day before writing this last chapter, to see the great province of houses, dim and blue through the haze of the smoke and mist, vanishing at last into the vague lower sky, to see the people walking to and fro among the flower beds on the hill, to see the sightseers about the Martian machine that stands there still, to hear the tumult of playing children, and to recall the time when I saw it all bright and clearcut, hard and silent, under the dawn of that last great day. And strangest of all is it to hold my wifes hand again, and to think that I have counted her, and that she has counted me, among the dead. And now Phyllis, for whom he had performed all this labor of love, for whom he had waited five long monthsthe tedium of which had been broken only by the intellectual pleasure of teaching English to a sympathetic native neighborPhyllis seemed unappreciative. And this our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything. And if your coming to this planet has served only to add poetry to our cultural heritage, it would be reason enough to welcome you with open limbs.

And such a charming tune to go with it, too, Magnolia went on. And plants are just vegetables. And he, he had often thought secretly, was a different kind of man. And Ive baked cookies, too, and whipped up a batch of penuche.

And for you, too, he said courteously to Magnolia. And the right two. and it was very, very sweet of you, dear. And that it is only a little Christmas holly plant thots probably going to die, anywaythey almost always do. And I hope he doesnt die. and her friend. And if he turns blue, who knows what other changes might be brought about? The coffees already on and the canapes made, Phyllis smiled. It must have been awful for you, seeing me like this, practically crowding over you, and knowing that you yourself would never have the chance to be a mmmmother. It wont stay green, Magnolia observed.

It must be hard when one has no intellectual resources upon which to draw. I want you to have him. The door slammed behind his weeping wife. He wondered where he and Phyllis could put them all, but some could sleep outside, if need be, for it was never cold on Elysium. I didnt realize. Its a boy, Magnolia announced, after a minute. Then why did you take your hat off when you were introduced to Miss Magnolia, Cutler?

Its so very thoughtful of you, Doctor, but Im sure Jim would never give me anything that would injure me. He hadnt much time to be sociable those days, for there was such a lot of work to be done, so many preparations to be made, so many things to be requisitioned from Earth. It was tears. Then why, where the natives are trees, shouldnt I study botany? I like that and was going to go on when she obviously recollected that they had company, and stopped. While I was still watching their sluggish motions in the sunlight, and noting each strange detail of their form, the curate reminded me of his presence by pulling violently at my arm. While the rest of the body dwindled, the hands would grow larger. I told you, Miz Phyllis, maamhe may know the first thing about botany, but he doesnt know anything after that. Then I returned through the pine wood, neckhigh with red weed here and there, to find the landlord of the Spotted Dog had already found burial, and so came home past the

College Arms. Let us take a rest and gather strength while we may. She was laughing a little bitterly.

He kicked at one of the pebbles. Let us knock off a bit he said. Then suddenly a change, the passing of something I knew not what and then a stillness that could be felt. The tree had only been trying to cheer him up as any friend might reasonably do. I guess this Christmas is too early, but next Christmas there ought to be berries. Let us crawl under those bushes and talk. Its impossible to synthesize chlorophyll from the light rays given off by our sunonly cyanophyll. He had remembered Phyllis as beautiful and she was beautiful.

She looked toward James, but he turned his glance away. She gave back the pot reluctantly. I hope you do. Then he would suddenly revert to the matter of the food I withheld from him, praying, begging, weeping, at last threatening. It was almost like being back at the faculty club.

The base camp, where the bachelors and the older married couples lived, was located a good distance away from his land, for he had raised his honeymoon cottage far from the rest; he had wanted to have his Phyllis all to himself. I dont believe anyone ever gave me a present before. It didnt really hurt. She kissed his cheek. I know I should wait until tomorrow, but I want to give the girls their presents now. Let me return to those first new experiences of mine. Let us go back!

Let it suffice to say, blood obtained from a still living animal, in most cases from a human being, was run directly by means of a little pipette into the recipient canal. Then I heard quite distinctly a booming exactly like the sound of great guns. Then things came to me slowly. While I was occupied in this way, one of the dismounted hussars came running up. She and Dr. He wrested the axe from her grip. Its so deeply cognizant of the really meaningful things in life. Then with a violent thud, a blinding flash, her decks, her funnels, leaped upward. While I was still doubtful, it rapped smartly against the cellar door and closed it. Then my brothers attention was distracted by a bearded, eaglefaced man lugger a small handbag, which split even as my brothers eyes rested on it and disgorged a mass of sovereigns that seemed to break up into separate coins as it struck the ground.

I do wish I could see myself. She embraced him and the pot simultaneously. Then a dirty woman, carrying a heavy bundle and weeping. It was almost true. He laughed. he asked. It would have been silly for her to pretend not to have overheard, since the two were still standing almost directly underneath her. Then round the corner of the lane, from between the villas that guarded it at its confluence with the high road, came a little cart drawn by a sweating black pony and driven by a sallow youth in a bowler hat, grey with dust. The plants here synthesize cyanophyll instead of chlorophyll; thats why the leaves are blue instead of green.

She was in his arms at last; he was about to kiss her, and the tree seemed very remote, when she drew back. She spoke, she read, she was capable of conscious turgor movements. He made a wide curve to avoid me, as though he feared I might prove a fresh competitor. She cant move from where she is, because shes rooted to the ground, but shes capable of turgor movements, like certain Terrestrial forms of vegetationfor example, the sensitive plant or blue grass. It was populated by an intelligent race which had developed its culture to the limit of its physical abilitiesactually well beyond the limit of what the astounded Terrestrials could have conceived its physical abilities to be then, owing to unavoidable disaster, had started to die out. Its cruel and unfair to keep an intelligentloosely speakinglifeform anywhere against her will, dont you think?

She stabbed her needle energetically through the tablecloth she was embroidering. It remained for the scout team to determine whether human beings would want to live on itwhether, in fact, they themselves would want to, because, if so, they had the option of becoming the first settlers. Its that the male trees produce so little pollen. It may be that in the larger design of the universe this invasion from Mars is not without its ultimate benefit for men; it has robbed us of that serene confidence in the future which is the most fruitful source of decadence, the gifts to human science it has brought are enormous, and it has done much to promote the conception of the commonweal of mankind. Then he jumped out of bed and ran to the window. Then it was, and then only, that he realised something of the full power and terror of these monsters. She must be telepathic. Its beautiful.

I dont suppose Ill need to turn on the landing lights, he said to Magnolia. I hope they bring some pickles along. I think Dr. The entire race is dying out. She pushed him away. Then the St. It seems to me that they have lost a vast advantage in the failure of their first surprise. The only thing I didnt suspect was that she was a tree! It seems to me that it should be possible to define the position of the gun from which the shots are discharged, to keep a sustained watch upon this part of the planet, and to anticipate the arrival of the next attack. I just stopped for a chat with Magnolia.

she asked suspiciously. I am, dear. Its a possible thing? I understand. He appeared to be standing and yelling, for no reason that I could discover. She wasnt so very polite to me! He was as black as a sweep with the black dust, alive, but helplessly and speechlessly drunk. Then everything was still.

Then I saw them dimly, colossal figures of grey, magnified by the mist. I sense a tropism that seems to incline me toward you. Then a hoarse murmur and a movement of feeta splashing from the water. I know its a great honor. She was a big girl, radiantly healthy, even though a little green at the moment. Its all over, he said. She had hardly looked at the inside of the cottage, when he had shown her through, and now was staring at the outside in a blank sort of way.

Its like a great city, and in the glare you can just see them moving. Then we crept out of the house, and ran as quickly as we could down the illmade road by which I had come overnight. She brushed back the long, light brown hair which had got tumbled when she fainted. The preliminary exploration team had established the fact that the planet was more or less Earthtype, that its air was breathable, its temperature agreeably springlike, its mineral composition very similar to Earths, with only slight traces of unknown elements, that there was plenty of drinkable water and no threatening lifeforms. The bluereally bluegrass, blueviolet shrubbery and, loveliest of all, the great golden tree with sapphire leaves and pale pink blossoms, instead of looking alien, resembled nothing so much as a fairytale version of Earth. Its perfectly true, I said. He was still optimistic, but it was a less kinetic, a more thoughtful optimism. She seemed asleep, but she was dead. She was alive still; the steering gear, it seems, was intact and her engines working. She was steaming at such a pace that in a minute she seemed halfway between the steamboat and the Martiansa diminishing black bulk against the receding horizontal expanse of the Essex coast. He talked so eloquently of the possibility of capturing a fightingmachine that I more than half believed in him again.

He came down the road towards them, and picked up nearly a hundred too drunk or frightened to run away. Then the Thing shut off the HeatRay, and turning its back upon the artilleryman, began to waddle away towards the smouldering pine woods that sheltered the second cylinder. Then the monster had risen to its feet and had begun to walk leisurely to and fro across the common among the few fugitives, with its headlike hood turning about exactly like the head of a cowled human being. Its a cylinderan artificial cylinder, man! The Venus Trap By EVELYN E. She had been growing increasingly hysterical, fearful, and depressed during the two days journeyings. She had never been out of England before, she would rather die than trust herself friendless in a foreign country, and so forth. Then abruptly he sat down before the table, put his head on his arms, and began to sob and weep like a little boy, in a perfect passion of emotion, while I, with a curious forgetfulness of my own recent despair, stood beside him, wondering. It slammed again.

I had a birthday on the ship. I merely said . Its out on Horsell Common now. Now do you understand, Magnolia? Then I perceived this was a wrecked train, the fore part smashed and on fire, the hinder carriages still upon the rails.

The results of an anatomical examination of the Martians, so far as the prowling dogs had left such an examination possible, I have already given. I certainly hope so. Then I heard midnight pealing out from Pyrford Church behind me, and then came the silhouette of Maybury Hill, with its treetops and roofs black and sharp against the red. It was a mere hopeless desire to feast upon my misery. It was, as it were, cut off. I hope you dont feel Ive been toowell, personal, Jim. He hesitated, holding his spade. he said, with his eyes shining. Then I fetched out the servant, telling her I would go upstairs myself for the box she was clamouring for. She looked away from me downhill.

He thought. I dont think so. Its air is much more attenuated than ours, its oceans have shrunk until they cover but a third of its surface, and as its slow seasons change huge snowcaps gather and melt about either pole and periodically inundate its temperate zones. There is, as your proverb says, no accounting for strange tastes, the tree murmured. Its physical condition is still largely a mystery, but we know now that even in its equatorial region the midday temperature barely approaches that of our coldest winter. Somebody blundered against me, and I narrowly missed being pitched onto the top of the screw.

The terrible disasters at the Ealing and South Kensington laboratories have disinclined analysts for further investigations upon the latter. Its amovin, he said to me as he passed; ascrewin and ascrewin out. He repeated his words, Were beat. The house is deserted. I suppose there could be manloving ones, too. I want to go home.

It seemed to me then that this might have happened by a handlingmachine escaping from the guidance of its Martian. she said. She fired at six yards distance, narrowly missing my brother. Its a pity they make themselves so unapproachable, he said. She turned without a wordthey were both pantingand they went back to where the lady in white struggled to hold back the frightened pony. She explained that they had as much as thirty pounds in gold, besides a fivepound note, and suggested that with that they might get upon a train at St. He nodded. It crept almost imperceptibly upon my senses. The line on the London side of Woking station was still undergoing repair, so I descended at Byfleet station and took the road to Maybury, past the place where I and the artilleryman had talked to the hussars, and on by the spot where the Martian had appeared to me in the thunderstorm.

Then I realised that the crest of Maybury Hill must be within range of the Martians HeatRay now that the college was cleared out of the way. The nursery grounds were everywhere crimson with the weed, a wide expanse of livid colour cut with purple shadows, and very painful to the eye. The Surrey pine woods were too dry, however, for the festoons of the red climber. I hate this nasty planet. Then slowly the hissing passed into a humming, into a long, loud, droning noise. Woodman, as the Terrestrial poem goes, the tree remarked, spare that tree! Its bows and arrows against the lightning, anyhow, said the artilleryman.

She saw it. The first rush was already over. I dont like blue grass. I dont like it here, Phyllis sobbed. The matter he printed was emotional; the news organisation had not as yet found its way back. Then I shifted my position to a little knoll that gave me the advantage of a yard or more of elevation and when I looked for him presently he was walking towards Woking. The vestries were indiscriminately distributing bread sent us by the French government. It was a city condemned and derelict. He

looked over his shoulder suddenly. he said. The Last Man Left Alive!

It seemed to me, too, that the house was inconveniently chosen, and required a needless length of tunnel. It never was a war, any more than theres war between man and ants. The dome of St. It is all over with humanity, I said. Its motion was so swift, complex, and perfect that at first I did not see it as a machine, in spite of its metallic glitter. He shot out a pointing finger. he cried, when I was within ten yards of him, and I stopped. It filled me with indescribable terror to think how swiftly that desolating change had come. She seemed, poor woman, to imagine that the French and the Martians might prove very similar. I dont know so very much, really, he smiled.

It was early on the fifteenth day that I heard a curious, familiar sequence of sounds in the kitchen, and, listening, identified it as the snuffing and scratching of a dog. I know how youve been looking forward to her arrival. She headed straight for a second Martian, and was within a hundred yards of him when the HeatRay came to bear. Its seeds were simply poured down into the water of the Wey and Thames, and its swiftly growing and Titanic water fronds speedily choked both those rivers.

He stood silent and motionless, regarding me. Then something resembling a little grey snake, about the thickness of a walking stick, coiled up out of the writhing middle, and wriggled in the air towards meand then another. But the chances are, if he survives, hell turn blue. It came into the scullery no more; but I lay all the tenth day in the close darkness, buried among coals and firewood, not daring even to crawl out for the drink for which I craved. He lay still. She gave a faint cry. It was like a black worm swaying its blind head to and fro. He went headlong forward and lay stretched on the ground. I dont suppose the other women were especially nice to her, either. Its just men and ants.

He rose to his knees, for he had been sitting in the darkness near the copper. Its all too bulky to stop. He talked with his voice rising slowly, through the greater part of the eighth and ninth daysthreats, entreaties, mingled with a torrent of halfsane and always frothy repentance for his vacant sham of Gods service, such as made me pity him. she asked, avoiding his appreciative eye. She touched his arm diffidently. She still has hopesfarfetched, maybe, and Im not so sure they are. The dusky houses about me stood faint and tall and dim; the trees towards the park were growing black. I thought blue was your favorite color.

The forepart was shattered. I suppose by the time we did relay the news, you were on your way. I go to London and see the busy multitudes in Fleet Street and the Strand, and it comes across my mind that they are but the ghosts of the past, haunting the streets that I have seen silent and wretched, going to and fro, phantasms in a dead city, the mockery of life in a galvanised body. It worried at the catch for a minute, perhaps, and then the door opened. She was very youngless than eight years younger than he, true, but he was mature for his age. He perceived a hold on mehe threatened he would shout and bring the Martians upon us. She wants you! She was the most beautiful creature he had ever seen . The mood that had sustained me passed. I sit in my study writing by lamplight, and suddenly I see again the healing valley below set with writhing flames, and feel the house behind and about me empty and desolate. Its energy in a gale of funk, and turned clean inside out.

It had found the door! He came sliding down the rubbish and crept beside me in the darkness, inarticulate, gesticulating, and for a moment I shared his panic. The streets were horribly quiet. She seems to guttate an awful lot. He slept little. The red weed was tumultuous at that time, and nearly choked the bridge roadway; but its fronds were already whitened in patches by the spreading disease that presently removed it so swiftly. Its a sort of disloyalty, after all, to live and taint the race.

He ate more than I did, and it was in vain I pointed out that our only chance of life was to stop in the house until the Martians had done with their pit, that in that long patience a time might presently come when we should need food. Its saving our knowledge and adding to it is the thing. He would weep for hours together, and I verily believe that to the very end this spoiled child of life thought his weak tears in some way efficacious. He wanted the slit, which permitted only one of us to peep through; and so I had to forego watching them for a time while he enjoyed that privilege. Then he dropped his spade, snatched up his jacket, and came out into the road. What is this favor? Then the thing came upon him in a flash. In fact, sometimes I almost think you, too, dont want to understand.

It passed, scraping faintly across the cellar door. Its safer by night. It has already been too long delayed. It is just. It is just, O God! He presented them as tilted, stiff tripods, without either flexibility or subtlety, and with an altogether misleading monotony of effect. She has sense organs, and motor organs, too. It sounds paradoxical, but I am inclined to think that the weakness and insanity of the curate warned me, braced me, and kept me a sane man. I made a step forward, and caught her in my arms. He made me no answer, but so soon as I began eating the faint noise I made stirred him up and I heard him crawling after me.

The northern hills were shrouded in darkness; the fires near Kensington glowed redly, and now and then an orangered tongue of flame flashed up and vanished in the deep blue night. Its stuck on you; I just know it is. She isnt a lot like one. I came, she said. The artilleryman began to tell me of the sort of people who still remained in London. Its a long trip out from Earth and an uncomfortable one.

It was, I know, a night and a day, but to me it seemed it seems now an interminable length of time. The red creeper swarmed up the trees about the old palace, and their branches stretched gaunt and dead, and set with shrivelled leaves, from amid its clusters. She didn't draw away this time. It was the only occasion on which I actually saw the Martians feed. He fancied he saw a column of smoke rising out of the distant grey haze. The artilleryman paused and laid a brown hand upon my arm.

Then suddenly he noticed with a start that some of the grey clinker, the ashy incrustation that covered the meteorite, was falling off the circular edge of the end. Then I saw some cabmen and others had walked boldly into the sand pits, and heard the clatter of hoofs and the gride of wheels. If for no other reason, your name will go down in the history of our colony as that of the guide and mentor of Miss Magnolia. Then it was as if an invisible yet intensely heated finger were drawn through the heather between me and the Martians, and all along a curving line beyond the sand pits the dark ground smoked and crackled. Phyllis looked down at the plant she held cradled in her arms and then up at the tree. I turned, and the French window was open behind me. I was startled. It is disagreeable for me to recall and write these things, but I set them down that my story may lack nothing. She started to guttate to cry again. Then came a crying from the common.

Lakin said to James later that same evening, after the planting ceremonies were over and the rest of the party had gone into the cottage for fresh coffee and more sandwiches and cookies and penuche. Then I remembered her cousins at Leatherhead. She got confused by that zoology book I read her. Then abruptly she turned and went in, leaving my cousins side by side wishing me good hap. He would probably have remained longer had it not been for the sound of guns that began about that hour in the south. Its a great tragedy, he told her in a hushed tone. He was also told that the Midland Railway Company had replaced the desertions of the first days panic, had resumed traffic, and was running northward trains from St. It is commonly supposed that they communicated by sounds and tentacular gesticulations; this is asserted, for instance, in the able but hastily compiled pamphlet (written evidently by someone not an eyewitness of Martian actions) to which I have already alluded, and which, so far, has been the chief source of information concerning them.

she rustled anxiously. The main drains are big enough and airy enough for anyone. It was just as well for them, for the mere attempt to stand upright upon our planet would have broken every bone in their bodies. It had behaved exactly like mud under the violent blow of a hammer. I came down and went into the dining room. I remembered my inability to fix my mind that morning, scarcely a month gone by, and how I had broken off to get my Daily Chronicle from the newsboy. He saw anger change to terror on the face of the poor wretch on the ground, and in a moment he was hidden and my brother was borne backward and carried past the entrance of the lane, and had to fight hard in the torrent to recover it. He is dying fast, and very thirsty. I stumbled into the hall, and the house felt empty.

Its not that so much. Then suddenly the trees in the pine wood ahead of me were parted, as brittle reeds are parted by a man thrusting through them; they were snapped off and driven headlong, and a second huge tripod appeared, rushing, as it seemed, headlong towards me. Its not your field. Then he came over and across the lawn to the corner of the house. He would overtake them, he said, at about half past four in the morning, and now it was nearly nine and they had seen nothing of him. I looked at my house with a quick flash of hope that faded immediately. Its all wrong. I got a compartment to myself, and sat with folded arms, looking greyly at the sunlit devastation that flowed past the windows. Then the sound came again, this time from the direction of Chertsey, a muffled thud the sound of a gun.

It was still daylight, and I perceived him across the room, lying against the triangular hole that looked out upon the Martians. Its because shes of a very high order of intelligence. The tame ones will go like all tame beasts; in a few generations theyll be big, beautiful, richblooded, stupid rubbish! Then suddenly we saw a rush of smoke far away up the river, a puff of smoke that jerked up into the air and hung; and forthwith the ground heaved under foot and a heavy explosion shook the air, smashing two or three windows in the houses near, and leaving us astonished. It was deep twilight when the captain cried out and pointed. I bought a copy for a blackened shilling I found in my pocket. The death of that one at Weybridge was an accident. Its the only explanation. Its very noble of you to defend her; you would have disappointed me if you had said anything else, and I honor you for it, James. It must have driven through the iron of the ships side like a whitehot iron rod through paper. It hit her larboard side and glanced off in an inky jet that rolled away to seaward, an unfolding torrent of Black Smoke, from which the ironclad drove clear.

It would seem they were regarding this new antagonist with astonishment. He had hurried home, roused the women their servant had left them two days before repacked some provisions, put his revolver under the seat luckily for my brother and told them to drive on to Edgware, with the idea of getting a train there. Then suddenly the white flashes of the HeatRay came leaping towards me. I remained with them four days after my recovery.

Its lack of fertility, not lack of enterprise, thats responsible for our decline, she exclaimed in pretty excitement. He heard the clatter of hoofs, the whip stung across his face, a third antagonist struck him between the eyes, and the man he held wrenches himself free and made off down the lane in the direction from which he had come. I was a lonely man, and they were very kind to me. Its part of the pregnancy syndrome. Then my fears got the better of me again, and I resumed my paddling. The morning was bright and fine, and the eastern sky glowed pink, and was fretted with little golden clouds. Then came soldiers. I found myself in a house of kindly people, who had found me on the third day wandering, weeping, and raving through the streets of St. It was the first Martian my brother had seen, and he stood, more amazed than terrified,

watching this Titan advancing deliberately towards the shipping, wading farther and farther into the water as the coast fell away.

The former gave me no sensation of horror or remorse to recall; I saw it simply as a thing done, a memory infinitely disagreeable but quite without the quality of remorse. Then we heard the guns at Chertsey, and folks coming from Weybridge. Its a holly plant, Phyl. Then the door behind him opened, and the man who lodged across the landing came in, dressed only in shirt, trousers, and slippers, his braces loose about his waist, his hair disordered from his pillow. He came upon them just in time to save them. I have learned since that, so far from my being the first discoverer of the Martian overthrow, several such wanderers as myself had already discovered this on the previous night. He passed near several farmhouses and some little places whose names he did not learn. She tore the papers off slowly. The latter I could not eat, they were too rotten, but the former not only stayed my hunger, but filled my pockets. she gasped.

The place had been already searched and emptied. I turned and looked down the slope of the hill to where, enhaloed now in birds, stood those other two Martians that I had seen overnight, just as death had overtaken them. I stood staring into the pit, and my heart lightened gloriously, even as the rising sun struck the world to fire about me with his rays. I felt no fear, only a wild, trembling exultation, as I ran up the hill towards the motionless monster. The Martians, I thought, had gone on and left the country desolated, seeking food elsewhere. Then the fourth cylinder fella brilliant green meteors I learned afterwards, in Bushey Park. Its impossible. It was with the greatest difficulty they could get her down to the beach, where presently my brother succeeded in attracting the attention of some men on a paddle steamer from the Thames. Then beyond the bend my brother stopped again. He succeeded in getting some food at an inn. The aspect of the place in the dusk was singularly desolate: blackened trees, blackened, desolate ruins, and down the hill the sheets of the flooded river, redtinged with the weed.

It fell while Miss Elphinstone was watching, for she took that duty alternately with my brother. I missed my way among the streets, and presently saw down a long avenue, in the halflight of the early dawn, the curve of Primrose Hill. The red weed was less abundant; the tall trees along the lane were free from the red creeper. I hid from the night and the silence, until long after midnight, in a cabmens shelter in Harrow Road. It was the beginning of the rout of civilisation, of the massacre of mankind. I turned down St. I came upon the wrecked handlingmachine halfway to St. Then he began to look out for a chance of edging to the right across the road.

The wall was some six feet high, and when I attempted to clamber it I found I could not lift my feet to the crest. Then suddenly out of the golden haze of the sunset came the vibration of guns, and a form of black shadows moving. He left it by the roadside and trudged through the village. It was din and confusion indescribable; but in and beyond the town the road forks repeatedly, and this to some extent relieved the stress. He was passed by a number of cyclists, some horsemen, and two motor cars. I came upon him as if it were a matter of course.

I awoke to find that dismal howling still in my ears, Ulla, ulla, ulla, ulla, ulla. I came into Oxford Street by the Marble Arch, and here again were black powder and several bodies, and an evil, ominous smell from the gratings of the cellars of some of the houses. He heard footsteps running to and fro in the rooms, and up and down stairs behind him. The day seemed, by contrast with my recent confinement, dazzlingly bright, the sky a glowing blue. She was a native of Elysium, neither animal nor vegetable, unique unto the planet, unique unto herself. he heard people crying, and again Black Smoke! The red weed grew tumultuously in their roofless rooms. I thought of the poisons in the chemists shops, of the liquors the wine merchants stored; I recalled the two sodden creatures of despair, who so far as I knew, shared the city with myself. It is hard to imagine that host. It seems she had had a revolver all this time, but it had been under the seat when she and her companion were attacked. The trees near me were dead and brown, but further a network of red thread scaled the still living stems.

It was perhaps a vague idea of making his way to Chelmsford, where some friends of his lived, that at last induced my brother to strike into a quiet lane running eastward. He returned and tried in vain to divert his attention to his examination notes. He read and reread the paper, fearing the worst had happened to me. I felt intolerably lonely. It was a crescent with twelve miles between its horns. Then suddenly, as we approached Kew, came a number of people running, and the upperworks of a Martian fightingmachine loomed in sight over the housetops, not a hundred yards away from us.

Then I turned to see how much of our rampart remained. It was a few minutes past nine that night when these three sentinels were joined by four other Martians, each carrying a thick black tube. It would seem that a leg of the tripod had been smashed by one of the shells. He walked from Westminster to his apartments near Regents Park, about two.

Then somethingsomething struggling violentlywas lifted high against the sky, a black, vague enigma against the starlight; and as this black object came down again, I saw by the green brightness that it was a man. He noticed an unusual number of police regulating the traffic. He was driving from the direction of Westminster Bridge; and close behind him came a hay waggon with five or six respectablelooking people in it, and some boxes and bundles. I found I was intensely weary, footsore, and now again hungry and thirsty. I puzzled over this for a time, and then went on to the bridge over the Serpentine.

It was this howling and firing of the guns at Ripley and St. I had half a mind to break into the Natural History Museum and find

my way up to the summits of the towers, in order to see across the park. It is impossible to stop them. I stopped, staring towards Kensington Gardens, wondering at this strange, remote wailing. Then he slept awhile, and began again with renewed strength, so loudly that I must needs make him desist. Then I saw through a sort of glass plate near the edge of the body the face, as we may call it, and the large dark eyes of a Martian, peering, and then a long metallic snake of tentacle came feeling slowly through the hole. I did not trouble to touch them. It wants showing up, he said.

I think I should have stayed by him but for the brutal expression of his face. The pit dropped sheerly from my feet, but a little way along the rubbish afforded a practicable slope to the summit of the ruins. I was still upon the roof when the late moon rose. It was stated that the people of Walton and Weybridge, and all the district were pouring along the roads Londonward, and that was all. It is a curious thing that I felt angry with my wife; I cannot account for it, but my impotent desire to reach Leatherhead worried me excessively. The word of the Lord is upon me! Then a heavy body I knew too well what was dragged across the floor of the kitchen towards the opening. I resolved to leave this strange undisciplined dreamer of great things to his drink and gluttony, and to go on into London.#Chapter 2: Vikings

Behold Osla, Queen of Sogn! she whispered. she cried. Let us wake the knave, and ask him, said Helgi; and suiting the action to the word, he drove one foot sufficiently hard into the sleepers side to rouse him with a start. Then Thord the Tall is dead? It was an ill deed, said Estein. And that she cried in astonishment. I was banished for mine own fault, thenceforth Thord exiled me for his. Let them drink, let them drink. Next day the old man was more silent and reserved than before, but every now and then Estein saw that his eyes followed him, and the few words he spoke were couched in a kindlier manner. While Thorar was still going down the room, Estein, with a deliberately clumsy movement, upset and extinguished the one nearest him.

He took the bag, weighed it in his hand, and answered slowly, This is a small atonement for a brothers death. While the King of Sweden and his forces were engaged with their attack upon Olafs centre of battle, Earl Erik adopted a plan which, although seemingly more hopeless, was in the end more successful than any that had yet been attempted by either the Danes or the Swedes. It was a fine starlight night, and down below he could see the glimmer of the sea, and across the fiord the black outline of the hills, and nearer at hand he heard the sough of the night breeze in the pines. Let us hear how the men of Liot will sing when they are warm. The writing gave me the direction of one who knew where he could be found, and so I travelled to a far country Jemland it is, many days from Sogn. Its people were more barbarous than the Norwegians, and had long been in a state of half-subjection to the Norse kings. The girl paused for a moment as if to collect her thoughts, and then she said, You had a brother, King Estein Olaf Hakonson. She stopped again, and seemed to look hesitatingly at him. The girl seemed to start a little, and then she said in a low voice, Are you King Estein?

And now you seek me? It is hard, Helgi, to lose at once both a father and a fathers regard. Let us seek Liot wherever he is, and when we have found him, tell him to arm as many men as he can muster. It all comes to this: the purposes of the gods are too deep for me to fathom, so I must even hold my peace and bide the passage of events.

The smile died quickly from his face as he walked down the hall, and men noticed that he looked grave and preoccupied again. Its wings and body were perfectly black. It was on a breezy April morning that the mountains of Sogn came into view again. I have seen him, he answered evasively. It was even so. While the Danes were in full retreat the Swedes hastened forward to renew the attack. It is strange indeed, replied Estein, thoughtfully. Then run your thoughts still on this maiden? I ask your pardon, Mistress Osla. Then since I need no revenge, let the slaying cease, said Estein, though in truth the treacherous dogs ill deserve mercy. And he left me a writing for he had taught me the art of reading on the island and with it much silver, or at least it seemed much to me.

It was about midday, when, as they were coming down a wooded slope, Helgi exclaimed, Hark! And tell her, added Helgi as the birdman turned away, that here sits the kings fosterbrother, a most proper person at all times to hear a maidens tale, and now most persuasively charged with ale. While King Sweyn crossed to the opposite side of the stream and led an attack upon Southwark, Olaf effected a landing near Billings Gate and directed all his strength upon the wall. She will not tell her business, he said, but begs earnestly to see the king. He is called Atli, now, she replied, but Atli, a brother of Thord the Tall! Then he came up to the girl and said, Thy chamber is ready for thee.

Next he felt that he was very wet and cold; and then he discovered that he was not alone. And now for a horn of ale, and then to bed, responded Helgi, cheerful as ever again. He lived in the island, she went on, for many years, all alone save for me. While Sigurd was speaking, Olafs eyes rested upon the queen. Then came a brief pause in the hostilities, and, looking round the edge of his fort, Estein could see his foe standing motionless close under a tree. He was the enemy of your family, but a lenderman of high birth, and a good and noble man. she asked. She looked at him with some surprise, and just a sufficient touch of dignity to check the dash of his advances. and then again, Trolls take me, if this be not enough to make a bear laugh!

Then the faroff howl of a wolf struck dismally on his ear. he cried. Next he killed his brother Biorn, because he refused to pay him homage and tribute. While these words were being spoken, Queen Allogias eyes rested upon Olaf Triggvisor, who was acting as cup bearer to his uncle Sigurd. So were we left here in this town. I have heard of them, said Estein, half to himself.

she answered. he would cry, or A shrewd scheme, by the hammer of Thor! While Sigurd was dealing with the people concerning the kings business, Olaf Trigverson went about from place to place in quest of tidings of Queen Astrid. she said softly, father! He is but young and foolish.

He at least died well, said Helgi; when my turn comes may it be my luck to look as proudly on my foes. It is highly befitting, she said, more soberly and a little shyly. Let fate do with me what it will. While Olaf was in Halogaland he deemed it well to sail yet farther north; so he fared out to the Lafoden Isles, and thence along the coasts of Finmark as far even as the North Cape. And yet you sail to Orkney? she whispered.

he cried, drawing his dagger and springing forward, never more As he spoke, Estein, who stood between them, had just time to throw out one foot and bring the Jemlander flat on his face, his dagger flying from his hand. THE END OF THE STORY. He is a certain trader from Norway, whom men call Estein, said Atli, still looking at her curiously. Let her prow and not her stern stand out. It was repeated twice, and then he heard Jomar rise with much growling, and go softly across the floor. Let us still wait. She held his great hand in both of hers, and pressed it against her lips, and in a broken voice she said, No, not tonight, not tonight.

She was in the presence of something so mysterious that even wise men in those days shrank from it in fear. he said to himself, with a start of excitement. The hall was brightly lit and gaily hung with tapestries and cloths, rich and manycoloured, and men bravely dressed poured into their places all down the long rows of benches. It was a wise inquiry, and the answer was such as an entirely sober man might have reasonably expected. While I slept, it seemed to me that I saw you standing at the brink of a deep well of water. While Kolbiorn and others of Olafs stem defenders kept up an incessant battle with their javelins and swords, King Olaf and his archers shot their arrows high in air so that they fell in thick rain upon the Danish decks.

She turned his questions as best she could, and strove to make him think of other things. The next day was spent in preparations for the solemn ceremonies of pyre and mound, and the great feast which should mark the reigning of another king in Sogn. she said gently. And whither were you sailing? I shall press his claims myself, said Estein, rising from his seat. The time for action is at hand, and we shall see what new freak fortune will play with me. The burly captain frowned and scratched his head, as though deliberating how to do a thing so foreign to his genius as the telling of a narrative. Then he saw that in his curiosity he had stepped outside the shelter of the wood and stood in a space between the trees. She tried to rouse him, but he answered only in absent monosyllables. Let him pass on! It took them but a short space to find the dead sentinel; and thereupon Thorar, who seemed almost beside himself with anger, sent the others off in haste to intercept our road to Ketill, while he himself ran to collect a force from the village.

The fools should have fallen on Ketill that very night. It would seem so, indeed, I replied, and thereupon ran him through with my blade and opened the gate. I have a message for the king, replied the man. And with that I bound him firmly to a tree, and left him to think upon his misdeeds. He had nothing for it but to equip me with this great sheepskin coat and cap, and a stout bow and sheaf of arrows; and then, after a most kindly parting with his goodwife, I made him set me on my way to Ketill. She walked slowly to the windswept cells.

And with that he took his shield from his back. She brought me to the abode of her father, the hermit of the Holy Isle; and there I learned to love her. It seemed strangely still and fresh in the open glade. While the vikings were at this work a constant rain of arrows and javelins was showered upon them by King Olaf himself and his marksmen on the poop, and as Erik saw his best men falling he half repented having taken them from the fight. Let him first prove his worthiness by some act of prowess. He was clad in a loose and almost grotesquely illfitting garment, seemingly of sheepskin, and held an arrow on his bow ready to shoot on a sign of movement. And now to sleep. It is she or her spirit, he exclaimed. It had been so dark and their flight so hurried that nothing remained in his memory of the night before, to show him whither the way was leading.

I could name one fair maid, said Helgi, glancing at the king, but in Esteins eye he saw a warning look. She is no witch, Helgi, only the fairest girl in all the North. It landed on its point and sunk almost out of sight in the snow. I saw your mother married, Estein, and a fair maid she was. Then I came to Jemland, where cunning men were said to live. Then in a brisker tone he continued, For some years I sailed the west seas; but I was growing old and my strength was wearing away with the wet work and the fighting, so I hied me home again. And certainly there was noise enough to be heard. he wondered. she said, looking up, and he saw that her eyes were filled with tears. It was nearly noon when he awoke, and the sun was streaming through the attic window.

The attack is made, cried Helgi. And what compensation does the king intend to make? He shoots too well, muttered Estein. I will yet keep my promise to thee!

Then why came you not to my fathers house? She turned her face away. I know not his name, but treachery, he said, was determined; and I stopped all drink thereafter, and there was nothing at all left then but to play with dice and sleep. He could only see her back as she talked with the men, but every gesture she made, slight though they were, brought sharply and clearly before his mind memories of the Holy Isle. He had been in two minds about taking this last, but ere the day was done

he had reason to congratulate himself that it was with him. I will warrant your doings will make me laugh rather than envy, said Ketill. he inquired with some wonder; what then have you to do with me? she asked.

And when the fit passed away he was quieter than ever. The old man remained lost in thought. And so the days went by; summer changed to autumn, and autumn gave place to winter. While he spoke Oslas gaze was fixed on the turning tide, but her eyes, had he seen them, were lit by the fire of his words. she said, more softly than he had ever heard her speak before. It all came true then? Then he turned to Estein and said, When I saw thee by the shore at Hernersfjord, now some two years gone, didst thou think then that Atli was a stranger? It was another Estein whom you saw before. Then unquiet rumours reached mine ears; for though I live apart from men here in this forest, little passes in the countryay, and in Norway toothat comes not to Atlis knowledge. And Vandrad, the searover, had gone with the sunshinehad gone, never so Osla said to herself, to return again. It was too late to turn back, even had his pride allowed him to think of taking such a course.

Let them all be set free, ordered the earl. The girl at once left the fire, and followed him back to the other room. She seemed merely friendly, and he was distracted between a wild desire to break down the barriers between them and a strange and numbing feeling of warning that held him back, he knew not why. Let none of the blood fall upon my hair! Let us leave him and go our ways without him. Estein stood like a man struck dumb, and then muttering, I will join you again, he started quickly up the pier, and was shortly lost to view in the darkness. Then he turned back and answered, The gods curse you and him! While he lived I always told myself that I would find some way even yet by which I might fulfil my promise, but now it is too late. The girls look, as he turned at the foot and faced her, stuck in his mind for long after. And the spell is broken?

She threw him one glance that lived long in his memory, and quickly followed her father. Then with a frown he rose and walked down the hall. It was done with neither my knowledge nor consent, and none grieved at such an outrage more than I. I slew them in the outset of the battle. He was never the man to forgive an injury, he added, apparently to himself. I had a strange dream last night, replied Helgi. I thought I heard the voice of a girl; but when I woke more fully, it was gone, indeed. Let the boy be given up to him, then, said the king; for he has won him very fairly. Then Ketill shall stay here with the rest of our troop, and you and I, with twenty more, will to the king.

Let me see him that I may tell him to his face that he is a coward! She sprang to her feet as he finished, and said, I, too, have the Norse blood in me; the sea calls me as it calls you; and if I were a man, I fear I should make a bad hermit. The Viking had not been watching very long when the girls voice rose a little as she said something earnestly, and Atli, with a slight movement and a warning frown, glanced up at the loft and pointed with one finger straight at where Helgi lay. Let it be so by all means if you so wish it, answered the earl in a light tone of unconcern. Then Ketills gruff voice called out, After him! Then Osla started, and her heart smote her. Then all went outside the circle, and with a shout Liot sprang at his foe. And the hermit? Then you have spared Olafs burner for the sake of the burners daughter?

Then I bethought me it were well to have a burning, if it were only of a long ship; so we kindled three great fires, one for each vessel, and if the men of Liot feel cold tonight, it will not be my fault. Then you set them on fire? Then the crowd on shore set off for their ships. She had milked their solitary cow, baked cakes enough for the days fare, and now, her simple housekeeping over, she was free to entertain her guest. Let me be your pilot, for I know all the deepest channels between the isles, and I will lead you through them by such ways that you will come out far in advance of your other ships! And his hands were tied by a stronger chain. She smiled, and her smile was one of those that illuminate a face. He sat down on a bench as he spoke and gazed into the fire. It seemed to him to have an almost supernatural import, and again he said to himself, An old man, a maiden, and a spell.

she cried decidedly; it will be time enough to talk of gifts when I have earned them. And so the time passed away, till Estein had spent six weeks in the Holy Isle. It fell wet and gusty at night, and Osla, bending over the couch, could hear nothing but the wind and the roost she knew so well. she asked. He found himself in a room that seemed to occupy most of the small house. I shall say nothing to any one, Helgi answered more soberly. It is more fitting, replied Helgi, for the man who comes back to be cheerful. And I have to thank your daughter that I am not there now, Estein added.

She rode easy upon the waves, both before and against the wind, and Olaf was well pleased. She therefore accepted Forkbeards proposals, and they were wedded in accordance with the rites and customs of their pagan faith. He added the last words with a touch of irony that hardly tended to propitiate his guest. it was a song I sung myself. I have only just arrived. It was easy to see that. he exclaimed. she cried.

She was the widow of King Erik the Victorious and the mother of King Olaf the Swede. It was about two hours after midnight when the long ship, stealing under the shadow of the cliffs, turned into a small bay. The door closed, the party seemed to go away, and then whispering began in the room below him. Then he saw that he had only to deal with a halfawakened drinker, and as his mouth was framing a question, Grims dagger flashed, and with a cry the man fell heavily on the floor. It will take us full two hours to reach the bay where Liot dwells, and the feast, I fear, will have ended even now, for the hour is late. THE MIDNIGHT GUEST.

She stepped back a pace, so that the moonlight, falling upon him, might show her where to strike. It was a stern and sombre

coast, unbroken by any bays or inland glimpses, and gloomy and terrible in the fading light. she murmured; and her voice sounded through the hail like the soughing of the wintry wind among the pines. She stood over him, holding her hand aloft, ready to strike the fatal blow. It has come true sooner than I expected. He started off as he spoke, and Estein, perceiving the hopelessness of further search, followed him with a heart little lightened. he whispered. She stood before him. She was his daughter Gudrun. I should ask your pardon. she asked as she took his hand.

She looked up and beheld two men standing in the shadow of the trees. I fear my habit pleases not your eye, he said at last, striving to control his countenance. Let us now go down to our ships and not be too slow in attack. She did not believe that what people said of him was truet hat he was black of heart, and cruel and base. I shrewdly suspected, from my memory of the way I had come overnight, that he was leading me back to King Bues hall, and meant on our parting to put a horde of his rascally fellows in my way. And I, that I am with an overconfident crew, she answered. Then he placed it against the wall, and gave one whispered order. And you have five brothers to avenge; the sword should not rust long in your scabbard, Estein.

And what is my fate, old man? The door was open, but it was so pitch black inside that I knew they could not see me, though them I saw plainly enough as they stopped at the gate. And yet, Estein, he added in a lower tone, as he embraced him, I would that Yule were here again and you with it. He could see nothing, and had just stepped forward a pace, when noiselessly as a phantom a dark form appeared round the corner of the hall, and without pausing an instant came straight up to him. He woke with a start, saw that the drink was coming to an end, and cried with drunken ardour, More ale, more ale, Thorar!

He had been placed between Estein and Helgi, and now Estein was able to lean over to his fosterbrother, and, under pretence of trying to make him drink, whispered in his ear, Go out by the far door, and await me outside the court on the farthest side from the entrance. I laid the man out under the shadow of the fence, where he could not well be seen save by such as had more clearness of vision than becomes the guests of so hospitable a monarch as King Bue, and having stripped him of his coat and put it round mine own shoulders, I took his place and awaited your coming. She pursued him far and wide; but the gods protected him and he escaped. She went nearer to him, lifted up his hood and looked long and earnestly into his eyes. It is unlucky to break such spells so rudely. She was the longest ship that Olaf had ever seen, and he counted that she was fitted for twenty pairs of oars. Let our cry be Onward, Christ men; onward, Cross men! Then they became afraid to row at more than a snails pace, and sometimes almost stopped altogether.

Then Liot is alive? she asked. It was dark, but he seemed to see plainly a figure, wrapped in a long cloak, walking before him towards the cells. Let us not lose courage at the sight of these heathen devourers of horse flesh! And then again, as the stir increased, and he could see the men beginning to troop on board the long ships, This voyage shall be as the falling of snowflakes into the sea; but what man can escape his fate? He glanced round the hall now and then, and could see them quickly succumbing to the Jemtland hospitality. Let us give him food and drink quickly, father. Let us sit here, Osla, he said.

Then the memory of Thord the Tall, telling of the burning, rose fresh and strong, and again his hand sought his side, and his breath came fast, till the vision of Osla swept aside all other thoughts. I left that hall, accursed of the gods, and over full, I fear, of drunken men, in the manner you witnessed. And when the word went round that the rescued man was Kolbiorn Stallare and not the king, the lad pointed outward upon the sea and all looked in amaze upon the shining crucifix as it rose and fell with the motion of the waves. And then there came the sound of hurried feet upon the stairs, and Einar Eindridson rushed upon the upper deck, followed by three of his shipmates, and pursued by Earl Erik and a great crowd of clamouring vikings. she cried, throwing down a bag of coins upon the table. he thought, I have walked into the trap like a child in arms.

Let us drown them then, he said. I doubt it not, replied his friend, with a smile; you have the look of one who is high in favour with himself. The man leaned so heavily upon the gate, that wake him I must, for I liked not to slay a sleeping man, even though he stood upon his feet. And as the weight increased so did the Serpent lean over, until at last her bulwarks were almost on a level with those of the Iron Ram. He took his seat, and glancing round the hall saw his twenty followers scattered here and there among the crowd of guests. And now the Long Serpent lay with only two companions, the Short Serpent at her starboard and the Crane at her larboard side. She sent a message through the King of Sweden, asking that she might have Olaf back in Norway to live in her court, and to be taught and nurtured as behoved one of such exalted birth. He walked up to his seat by the king, and on the spur of the moment could hit on no plan of communicating with his men. I shall have one other shot. She was his evil genius, egging him on to deeds of treachery and violence which made him detested of all men. he asked.

And I have been thinking, ever since this battle began that the great luck of Olaf may be due to that sign of the cross that we see on all his banners and shields. She was named Gunnhild, and had learned all kinds of sorcery and witchcraft among the Finns. Then we drove them in and closed the door. I have turned sluggard, it seems, he said. Then they heard us, they smelt the smoke, and they ran to the doors. I accept the counsel, Atli, he cried, springing to his feet. She was the daughter of King Erik of Hordaland, and King Harald, hearing that she was exceedingly fair and high minded would fain have her to be his wife. She went across to the side of the great fireplace, and, seating herself in one of the large oaken chairs, signed to Sigurd and Olaf to approach her. I had read the stars, and talked with divers magicians and men skilled in the wisdom of things unseen.

Then all at once it seemed to flash upon him that this was no mortal visitor, and with a sudden thrill of fear he stopped. The old seer laid his hand affectionately upon his shoulder. The old man repeated the last words low and slowly, and then, for a little, silence fell upon the pair. Then he sang his farewell song: Canst thou spare a sigh, fair Osla? She paused for a moment, then added: I am your queen, Hersir Sigurd, and I command you to tell me what I ask. Then he said, I am called Vandrad; from my youth up I have been a searover, and I fear I may prove ill suited to your fathers company. She broke off and turned to Sigurd. It is hard to part, but it must come some day, and these verses are my parting song. he exclaimed half aloud. The faces of the wizard and the witch (Esteins look darkened for an instant), I could not see, but at last, in the still nighttime, there spoke a voice to me, and I knew it came from the gods.

He had come, and what was to follow? It seemed to him a face that appeared and then vanished, and a faroff voice that whispered a warning in his ear. I could not visit Hakonstad; I could not even stay in the land of my birth. Then he had a confused recollection of being swept along by an irresistible current, clinging the while to what he afterwards found to be a friendly plank, and after that came oblivion.

She then bade Sigurd call in her bodyguard fully armed to protect the lad, while she went out into the kings chamber and pleaded with Valdemar to prevent the shedding of blood. The frosted roof sparkled in the moonlight, and a thin stream of smoke rose from a wide chimney at one end, but there was never a ray of light from door or window to be seen. She saw the drinking horn tremble in his hand, so that the wine it held dripped over the silver rim, and fell upon the front of his white kirtle; and she divined that it was to him that the prophecy referred. I tell thee, Estein, many fair years lie before thee. And it may be that in this he was right. he said. I have left my truest friend and twenty stout followers besides in yonder hall. I see thou knewest not where thy way would lead thee. he pleaded, casting himself on his knees. The alarm is raised, and neither you nor Helgi can be found, so perchance he has not yet suffered for his folly.

Let us begin by hanging this man, said Ketill, and then fire, fire through the country! He had with him Helgi, Ketill, and a picked force; and as he stood on deck and watched the towering precipices slip by, and the white clouds drift over their rough rim of pines, his heart beat high. It was the work of Ulf, captain of the forecastle; and roaring like a bull, the old Viking followed his stone. Then Estein turned to his men and said, We are of one mind, are we not? It is ill that a man should die thirsty. she asked. Near at hand a narrow lake began, and stretched for a mile or two down the snowfields, and, like the greater lake they had passed, it was frozen and shining white. Then Estein sails today? She paused and looked round at Olaf, who stood apart with his hand caressing the head of a great dog that had risen from before the fire. There was a minutes silence after he had finished, and then the king took Osla by the hand and drew her towards the door, saying, I wish them to see my queen tonight.

She was the daughter of Erik Biodaskalli, who dwelt at Ofrestead, in the Uplands, a mighty man. Of friends and kinsmen I had few left in the land, but I had long had other thoughts for myself than the tilling of fields and the emptying of horns at Yule. It is the King! It was amidships that the toughest fighting went on, and it was here that the larger number of the defenders met their death. I have waited for thee, Estein.

And now the battle raged fiercely. It is ill made and cumbrous, and a figure of the cross will take less room in our stem and bring us more luck withal. She wore a blue woven mantle ornamented with lace, and under it a scarlet kirtle with a silver belt. He was sadder and more reserved than of yore, but the king saw with joy that the gloom was lifting. he said; a strange witchcraft I fear has been at work.

I shall overtake you ere long. It was not very long ere yet two others followed; and then the Short Serpent was exposed, even as her four companions had been. He paused, and she pressed his hand the tighter. The man went swiftly up to the paling, and taking an axe from under his cloak drove it hard into the wood as high above his head as he could reach. Then Thorfinn caught sight of King Olaf, and at a sign from the king he lowered his blade and drew back a pace. It is for Christs faith that we fight today. I was not told to risk my life for him.

It was only that, taken wholly unawares, he had need to prepare for the coming battle. he cried. THE HOUSE IN THE FOREST. And his heathen Sweden, I think, would find it more agreeable to sit at the fireside and lick their sacrificial bowls than to board the Long Serpent under the rain of our weapons. I saw it somewhere written in Runes. Let me come tomorrow, she whispered. I see the glint of the sun on weapons. It is the host of King Sweyn of Denmark, for I saw the banner on one of the longships, and it was like unto the banners that Sweyn Fork Beard carried at the time when we were with him in England.

It was the ship of Eindrid of Gimsar. It was very large, and the hull timbers at both bow and stern were plated with thick staves of iron from the gunwales down to the waterline. The king, a foolishlooking old man, evidently completely under Thorars influence, became very soon in a maudlin condition; man after man around them grew rapidly more and more drunk; and all the time they themselves were plied with ale so assiduously that their suspicions grew stronger. He shall have mercy, Osla! He used to sing to me of war. The smoky flames flashed on snowcovered ground and wild faces, and the branches of black pines outside, making the night above seem dark as a great vault. Then Thorstein Oxfoots sword was struck from his hand. He looked at her doubtfully, and then said, Where is Vandrad?

And now, taking the lead, he arrayed his ships in order, with the Short Serpent and the Crane together in his immediate wake, and his eight other longships following close behind. The mention of the Runes brought no look of recognition to Thorars face. Then Olaf strode back to the lyting deck and once more surveyed the battle from on high. She approached the steward, and said as he turned to withdraw from the hall: I pray you, go on with your lesson, hersir. Ay, replied Ketill, a burial worthy of King Estein, and a royal feast we shall have to follow it. She was wonderfully skilled in spaedom, and it was always the custom at yuletide, when the guests assembled in the kings hall, that his mother was borne in thither and placed in the high seat. It was yet early morning when King Olaf again went on deck. It is not for Christian folk to inquire into the future. She waited until it came to the turn of those who were younger than eighteen years, and then she watched with keen eyes.

Then at fullest speed he bore down upon the kings outermost dragon, crashed into her side and renewed his onslaught. The seaking must not stay, Een for tresses rich as summer And for smile as bright as May; But one hope I cannot part from We may meet again some day! She had heard the turmoil of voices from without. It was, therefore, a very natural thing that the earl should go thither also. he wins! she inquired. It seemed that if only for the sake of domestic peace an expedition to Wendland must soon be brought about.

It was that, by reason of her flight from Wendland, she had forfeited all the possessions that had been reserved as her dowry. It was very splendidly furnished, with beautifully carved wood and tapestries of woven silk. He bent all his energies on driving Liot back on the ring, shifting his ground as fast as his foe, heading off his attempts to move round, and all the while watching keenly for an opening. She looked at Olaf as she spoke, and saw the pleading in his eyes. Then he lashed two spars together, a long plank crossed with a shorter one, and raised this rough made crucifix high in the stem of the Iron Ram. It is not probable that she was very deep in the water; but of this there is no record. The sun hung high overhead, under foot the snow crunched pleasantly, and the air was clear and bracinga day to inspire an adventurer and a skald.

Then Earl Erik backed out with the Iron Ram, while the seamen on his other ships cut away the lashings that had bound Olafs outermost vessel to her neighbour, and drew the conquered craft away into the rear, leaving the next ship exposed. she asked with anger in her tone. The old spirit of my countrymen has died out, he added sadly, and no man dare meet your force in the field. I shall see first whether he has spoken the truth, answered Estein. It was I who did it. She smiled softly on the boy as she said this. Then Wolf the Red, his standard bearer, whose station was forward in the bow, mumbled a complaint: If the Serpent shall lie as far forward as she is longer than your other ships, then there will be windy weather today in her bows. I have brought with me Arne the Slim, your scattgatherer in Jemtland. I took it He had begun to wander again, but with a last effort he collected his thoughts and went on, Open it. She was the sister of the King of Dublin, in Ireland, and she was considered very beautiful. It was they who, two years afterwards, united their forces in the great sea fight in which Olaf the Glorious lost his life.

She said: It is a heavy tale to tell. She had been taken off by a fever, and her death gave Olaf so much sorrow that he found no more happiness in the home to which she had brought him. Then the king turned to his own ships. It is told that great Odin once swore on the ring. It was most beautifully wrought and interwoven with scrolls and circles so delicate that all wondered how the hand of man could achieve such perfection. I have burned, I have slain in battle, I have pillaged towns and devastated cornlands.

She rose and went to meet him, knowing him for Kark, Earl Hakons thrall. Then Thorkel Nefja had his oars brought out, and he steered the Short Serpent round against the stream and went back with all speed to meet the king. She led him through among the trees to the back of the steadings. She was very rich and possessed many great manors in Sweden and large landed estates among the islands of the Baltic. It was the face of Gudrun. The man was bound and guarded, and the march was continued. It is our god Thor, answered one of the chieftains. It was a very large and splendid building. And what is the meaning of your coming back?

She was fitted with thirtyfour rooms amidships, each room being divided into two half rooms. The little army came to a halt, and a poorlooking man, clad in a skin coat, and trembling violently as they dragged him along, was brought before Estein. He was opposed, however, by one of the best and most determined swordsmen in Norway, and Estein as well as any one knew the risk he ran. Then Earl Erik added with a sneer: Even if Olaf the Glorious had no larger ship than the Short Serpent, which we now see, methinks Sweyn with all his army of Danes could never win it from him without aid.

The alarm has spread, I fear, answered Estein. I seem to have been long asleep, and now I know that this wakefulness you see is but the clearness of a man before he dies. It is held as a sacred custom among us that we shall make sacrifices to our gods, and we now hold that, although you are our king, you have no power to decide which gods we are to believe in, or in what manner we shall worship. She felt that, here in Norway, she had no private wealth of her own such as beseemed a queen, whereas there were her great estates in Wendland and Denmark, from which large revenues were due. And now did Sweyn at once understand how greatly he had been mistaken in what he had expected of King Olafs famous dragonship, and how much his fancy had fallen short of the reality. And then he went to the ship and planed out all the notches and cuts, and made the bulwarks so smooth and fair that all who saw what he did declared that the ship was made far handsomer than she had been before.

Then the Swedish king took up the dice and he threw two sixes. And when she had told him all her trouble he gave her good counsel and a kindly welcome, and said that she should always have a peaceful dwelling in his realm. I have that on my mind that you must hear before I die. I go to Norway, replied Estein. I had forgotten Liot, said Estein. I forgot my kinsfolk and my country, forgot all but Osla. I would slay him, Helgi, like a dog, were it not that something within me bids me ask in this wise the wishes of Odin. It is told that the storm abated near to the ships while it still roared wildly some distance away from them. The country, however, was difficult, so the men marched warily, their arms ready for instant use, and a sharp watch kept all the time. I will slay Liot Skulison for you; in fair fight if you will, though I think not he deserves such a chance.

Then when the earl had gone off to his own ships, Olaf turned to go below to his cabin. I tell you, my brother, you are under a spell; let us seek some magician who will cure you, and not rashly look for death when you are wearied with sleepless nights and black magic. She wept and prayed and pleaded so often that Olafs patience was well nigh exhausted. It is because our god, who rules all, has come, and looks on you with keen eyes. It seemed to her that he had suddenly become a decrepit old man.

He began to give ground, Estein pressing him hotly, his blade flashing so fast that men could not follow it. I like not a midnight murder, and Liot and I have not yet decided who is the better man. It is that you shall follow in pursuit of Earl Hakon and bring him to his bane. He called for ale and meat, and with the eye of an old soldier carefully picked his weapons; while the men around him muttered to each other that Estein was surely fey.

She could never forget how Olaf had smitten her in the face with his glove, and from the earliest days of her marriage with King Sweyn she had constantly and earnestly urged him to wage war against Olaf Triggvisor. Then why should it be for me that you fear? Then Olaf had his fair weather sails hoisted. It was you who, escaping from Sweden with your mother, were captured by Estonian vikings and sold into slavery. The Viking frowned and exclaimed, Let those laugh who have tested my steel. He found Liot sitting in the waist bound hand and foot.

I asked if you would follow me. Then Thorberg went to his side, and said he: Be not so wrathful, O king. And the husband whom Sigvaldi and Sweyn chose for me was their fatherinlaw, King Burislaf. He slew your brother, Estein. She looked out upon the bay, and seeing the enormous hostile fleet that was closing in upon Olafs diminished force she burst into tears.

I think so, he said at length. The king at last began to take alarm, and one day he called Earl Sigvald to him and talked with him alone. The story must now come back to Norway. He was a moody and fitful old man. She was a longship, of twenty banks of oars, and her crew were the pick of all the warmen of Denmark. He woke at last to the chill of a grey morning and the roll of a Viking ship. he cried; we will row along the shore to meet them. I have come to meet Liot tonight, Estein replied, and turning away he paced the deck in deep thought. He was right.

He has had time enough to tear the long ships plank from plank. The boxyou know the box? And Kolbiorn left Olafs side and went to meet her. The lingering winter passed at length, and one morning, in the first freshness of spring, Osla stood without the cell. And although you had twice the wealth that you have and were yet more glorious than you are, yet never should I obey such a bidding. And she rose and took up the ring he had sent as a gift, which ere this time her two smiths had repaired.

And at last he took her hand and swore by the holy rood that he would be true to her. And she let them break the ring asunderand lo! It was in the early springtime when he reached Dublin, and he was not long in learning that Ole was then living at the court of King Kuaran, his brotherinlaw. I was wrong, Ketill, he said.

Then into Sigrids eyes there flashed an angry light. Then the bonders thought that the king might easily be persuaded to adopt their old time customs, and their indignation against him was appeased. Then he began to speak to the king and to tell him of things that had happened many hundreds of years before and of many lands whose very names were strange to the king. The spell of summer weather had passed from the islands, and in its wake the wind blew keenly from the north, and the grey clouddrift hurried low overhead. Then perhaps he would fall into argument with one of the leading men of the place and show how the God of christened men was almighty, and how Thor and Odin must therefore be rejected. Then you will enjoy good things from me always, as you have done before; so betray me not. And as a token of his good faith the king had sent her a gift. Then the chieftain called one of the young warriors to him and questioned him closely concerning Hakon. And it seemed that her messages had the effect that she wished. And now she deemed that she had at last discovered one whose magnificence would match with her own. The sun had long been up, but the whole sky was obscured by light clouds, and there was an early morning feel in the air.

She spoke in the Norse tongue, but with a pretty, foreign accent, and she looked so fair and so kind that thoughts of sirens and mermaids passed through the Vikings mind. The Vikings cool indifference gave place to the most exuberant excitement. Then Olaf brought his five ships close in upon him and assailed him with arrows, killing many of his men as they swam to land. She was silent, and seemed intently plucking sea pinks.

It was an expedition greater than any that Brihnoth had ever met with steel or Ethelred with gold, and its purpose was one of deliberately planned invasion and conquest. It was a principle of the Christian faith; said Cerdic, that men should remember

the Sabbath day and keep it holy, that they should not bow down to graven images, that they should not steal, nor be covetous, nor do murder, nor bear false witness; that they should love their enemies and bless those who cursed them. THE VERDICT OF THE SWORD. Then he saw the cloaked figure of a man steal quickly away into the shadow of the sails. She gave him no time to answer, but rose and ran lightly away. she asked, with a smile. It was the face of his own fellowslave in far off Estonia, his companion in Holmgard, his shipmate Egbert, whom he had believed to be drowned. He was impelled by his creed of morbid fatalism to seek this test, whereby his fate might be sharply decided. And then they thought of Ironbeards daughter, Gudrun, and of what a good thing it would be for them if the king could be made to wed her.

Then Olaf said, This is indeed the gladdest news that I have heard for many a long year! The four swimmers stoutly struck out for dear life, to a splashing accompaniment of darts and stones. I shall make these cravens row. It is but a matter of endurance, and one good sword, well wielded, is as good as the strongest gate ever made. He hummed an air, and leaning against the bulwark awaited the march of events with his usual careless philosophy. Then it may be that she is already dead? She yielded an instant, and then suddenly broke free and started away. Then at last he began to ask many questions concerning the Upland kings, and who of them were yet alive, and what dominion they had. she said again, and her voice sounded like a sob.

She saved my life, and that at least I owe her. And yet, said Olaf; it seems to me that he is made of nothing more strong than wood. It was considered very important in the early part of a battle that the shield fortress should not be broken or opened, nor could such a breach be easily effected except by overpowering strength or stratagem. I shall not lose my ship that you may the sooner feed the fishes. The boat had got a start by this time; the rowers bent their backs and made her spring like a live thing, and the still water rose in oily waves from the bow. He turned away abruptly, and gazed moodily into the fog; while Ketill, with the look of one who is dealing with a madman, left the poop. And aloud he said: The god with whom you have threatened us is blind and deaf and can help neither himself nor others; nor can he move anywhere from his place unless he be carried.

Then Thorir took the animal by its halter and went and stood by the side of the handsome Norseman. It is told that during this march he came to a certain monastery and asked for food for his army. He did not trust himself to answer, but turned and hurried to the boat. Then Olaf wedded Princess Gyda, and went with her to Ireland, and lived in great happiness for many days.

And who is the young King Olaf that he has power to fill the heart of the great Earl Hakon with terror? The pursuers at first either failed to see Ketills party, or mistook them for their own men, for they continued their headlong rush straight to the water, firing arrows and darts as they ran. he cried, drawing her towards him. The dogs are sobering, said Helgi. The chamber was dark as a wolfs mouth as he groped for the bed. She rose and tried to give her thoughts a lighter turn, but the note of the north wind smote drearily upon her ears, and she left the seashore with a sigh.

she said. She was tall, and seemed young, and her movements, as she held out her hands to the flames, or half turned to address the old man, had grace and the marks of good birth. I thought you would leave us little say, Estein, when once you were aroused, he said. I have lately heard tell of another. he cried, and stopped abruptly. It seems to me, said Kolbiorn, when Olaf had told him of the defeat of the Jomsvikings, that now with these forty ships that are ours we might very well fare to Norway, and take vengeance upon Earl Hakon.

he cried. She seemed to be telling a narrative to Atli, who, with folded arms and deep attention that sometimes passed into suppressed emotion, looked intently at her, and frequently broke in with some whispered question. He stood out clearly in the transparent duska tall, mailclad figure, walking with a confident carriage. She seemed at first afraid to speak, and, with rising interest, he said courteously, You wish to see me? Then the hermit answered: In the time that is to come, thou shalt be a very glorious king and do glorious deeds. He said these last words with a gleam in his eyes and a tightening of his lips, as if he gloated over the memory of his bygone faith. It seemed now that the few Jomsvikings who were left would have the glory of victory all to themselves. It is said that some saw the maidens of Odin, the Valkyrias, standing at the prow of Hakons ship, sending forth a deadly hail of unerring arrows. he cried; and Estein saw that a change had indeed taken place. He came to himself with a start, the sweat standing on his forehead.

Then Briortho's archers answered the challenge, and the battle began in good earnest. She gave a little start back, her pride stung to the quick, and he heard her breath come fast. It hit him in the middle and killed him. Then about Friesland and the parts that are now covered by the Zuyder Zee, and so right away south to the land of the Flemings. He began to dream, at first of confused events and hurrying faces, and then more distinctly and vividly. She started this time indeed, and for an instant the shock of surprise took thoughts and words away. It was the custom at such feasts as this that the high seat, or throne, of the man whom the guests were met to do honour to, should be left vacant until the memorial toast of the deceased, and of the mightiest of their departed kinsmen, had been proposed. she cried faintly, and then she was trembling in King Esteins arms. I will call Ketill and the Orkneyman, and we four will hold council here.

He called it the Kings War Song. And what thing is that? He spoke little, but always courteously, and seemed to treat him at first merely as an addition to the live stock of the island. Then Guthmund took up an arrow and fired it so that it struck the

boats mast. I cannot give you a storm, I fear, laughed Helgi, but you can have fighting enough tonight. And the cry was echoed upon every side. It was in the autumntide that Olaf encountered the first serious storm. The dead could hear a landing like this. It may be that he also was cruel, for it is told that he was stern and wrathful with all who offended him, and that in punishing his enemies he knew no mercy.#Chapter 4: Dinosaurs

Theres not more than an hour of daylight left, but if you take your notebook you may be able to get some rough sketch of the place. Well, it might be worse! Well, we made it; but it was a narrow squeak. Well, then you do not know how I felt at that moment. Well, so I should, only I know there are a lot of traps for the unwary, and that stones may be of any size and yet of little value where color and consistency are clean off. Well, it is marked as a forked cave, and in the darkness we passed the fork before the torches were lit. Well, that settles it. Well, if you come to think of it there are eighteen cave openings on the hillside above us. Well, young fellah, said he, who would have thought of meetin you up here?

Well, its up to you to say what you will do, said he; for my part I have a score to settle with these monkeyfolk, and if it ends by wiping them off the face of the earth I dont see that the earth need fret about it. Well, gentlemen, have I read you the riddle aright, or is there any point which you would query? Well, its a fact. Well, its lucky for you, Challenger, that you ARE a little out of the ordinary. Well, we must just go back and fetch em. Well, that is just under apetown, and thats the jumpinoff place of their prisoners. Well, we had a horrid business afterwards. Well, yesterday the apemen got hold of a dozen of the humans and brought them in as prisoners. Well, we have seen the natives themselves. Well, now, young fellah, Ill tell you what will surprise you. Well, said Challenger, I admit that my mind will be more at ease when I am assured that the result of our expedition has been conveyed to our friends.

Well, it couldnt be helped. Well, said our companion, here I am. Well, we are well down Channel now. Well, neither did I. Well, I didnt ask you in here just to talk sport. Well, its an open secret that when hes out of trainin he drinks hardstrikin an average, he calls it. Well, its Ballingerhes the risk. Well, said he, at last, weve gone and done it, young fellah my lad.

Well, what do you make of that? Well, then, I promise. Well, he insisted, turning to me, what is it, then? We had to go quite a bit farther than usual before we could surround a little bunch of antelope, and as I was helping drive them, I saw a fine red deer a couple of hundred yards behind me. Well, of course, I am aware that there is not any what you might call DEFINITE evidence. If God wills it, we shall live out our lives here. Well, sir, let us do what we can to curtail this visit, which can hardly be agreeable to you, and is inexpressibly irksome to me. commanded the tugcaptain, and instantly revolvers and rifles poured bullets upon the deck of the submersible.

Well, goodbye. One of these is a giant Indian maizea lofty perennial often fifty and sixty feet in height, with ears the size of a mans body and kernels as large as your fist. Well, thats my chair and desk. For a time Nobs had been all the protection she required; but one day he disappearednor has she seen him since. Well, yes; I propose to write to him. Then he raced to the rear of the tremendous thing and seized it by the tail. Well, Im a bacteriologist, you know.

And I doubt not but that Kho would easily have bested me in an encounter of that sort had not Lys voice awakened within my momentarily reverted brain the skill and cunning of reasoning man. Well, by his insufferable rudeness and impossible behavior. For another three days I searched north and south, east and west for the hatchetmen of Caspак; but never a trace of them did I find. Well, Sir, anything that had adventure and danger in it. Yet I could not believe that it was the girl. Well, perhaps if both love, it may be different. But what interested me most was the slender figure of a dainty girl, clad only in a thin bit of muslin which scarce covered her kneesa bit of muslin torn and ragged about the lower hem. Well, what is it that he does that I dont do?

Malone. Well, in the first place, I dont think my ideal would speak like that, said she. Who knows? Well, Mr.

Fuzzy little blackvelvet monkeys, with snowwhite teeth and gleaming, mocking eyes, chattered at us as we passed. Well, a bowdlerized version of it would run: Professor Challenger presents his compliments to the President of the Zoological Institute, and would take it as a personal favor if he would go to the devil. And maybe it was Lys! Well, it is a translation. Even a superficial examination revealed the fact that nothing had ever been attempted that might have improved the livability of the cavern; nor, should I judge, had it ever been cleaned out. Well, at least you are better than that herd of swine in Vienna, whose gregarious grunt is, however, not more offensive than the isolated effort of the British hog. I nodded my head in assent and crushed her to me. Well, what do you think of that? Well, sir, what is yours? Well, it is a vegetable ivory palm, and they run to about fifty or sixty feet. Well, that is something gained, said he.

Well, he cried, expectantly, what may it run to? Well, he became more reasonable and we had a chat. Well, I dont know about that. Well, Mr. Well, then, the photographs? Well, then, the bones? Well, perhaps its only fair. Well, it is all in the main line of my business. Well, my idea was that you and I could rush him.

Well, when I was up there I heard some yarns of the same kindtraditions of Indians and the like, but with somethin behind them, no doubt. Well, suddenly out of the darkness, out of the night, there swooped something with a swish like an aeroplane. Well, sir, what do you propose? Well, what did they do? Well, I was telling you my tale of woe. Well, it wasnt. Well, our rope is still more than a hundred feet long, I cried. Well, within reason, said he.

Well, just one question, I cried. Well, somethin in the lie of the land took my notice. Well, now, in the whole world I've only had to do with one place that was a volcanic vent of blue clay. Well, Challenger, what will you do with your fifty thousand? Well, Wilson, I asked. Well, well accept her challenge. Next he touched upon the Indians, and upon the extraordinary colony of anthropoid apes, which might be looked upon as an advance upon the pithecanthropus of Java, and as coming therefore nearer than any known form to that hypothetical creation, the missing link. The she is mine, he cried.

While they are stunned, we must overcome them. Let us come among you in peace. Let me introduce you to my husband. I asked her if she thought she could brave the ascent, and she laughed gayly in my face. Its head was long and thick, with a blunt muzzle, and the opening of the jaws ran back to a point behind the eyes, and the jaws were armed with long sharp teeth.

Let me tell it in a few words. Its hissing rose to a shrill scream as it raised half its body out of water onto the sloping sides of the hull of the U33 and endeavored to scramble upon the deck to devour us. she cried, and ran eagerly toward the base of the cliff. The last two hundred feet is over a steep incline of loose rubble to the valley bottom, and I had just reached the top of this when there arose to my ears an agonized cryBowen! I kill! And yet it may have been pure coincidence; my better judgment tells me that it is coincidence that in Caspax the term for speechless man is Alus, and in the outer world of our own day it is Alalus. she cried. The first wave of sudden joy which surged through me was shortlived in the face of the swiftfollowing conviction that the one who fought below was already doomed.

The wind is offshore; the tide is running out; perhaps it will be carried into one of those numerous oceancurrents which sweep perpetually from pole to pole and from continent to continent, to be deposited at last upon some inhabited shore. He was a mighty beast, mightily muscled, and the urge that has made males fight since the dawn of life on earth filled him with the bloodlust and the thirst to slay; but not one whit less did it fill me with the same primal passions. He will kill Sota if he knows that Sota aided you. Let our young friend give it a name, said Challenger. While we were attempting to lower boats, the submarine emerged and trained guns on us. She had been the wife of Tojo. Its strange shawl suddenly unfurled, spread, and fluttered as a pair of leathery wings. It is a hard, fierce, dangerous life, and I shall pray always that we shall be rescued from itfor her sake.

Let me remind you that we came here upon a perfectly definite mission, entrusted to us at the meeting of the Zoological Institute in London. And this time he jerked his head toward the north. Its long, savage mouth, which was held halfopen, was full of a double row of sharklike teeth. I did not take conscious aim; and yet at each report a beast crumpled in its tracks! Let me say in a few words how the crushing blow fell upon us. While doing so, I shall make it my business, with infinite tact and delicacy, to throw out a few remarks which may arouse the interest of the audience and cause some of them to desire to go more deeply into the matter. And he jerked his head to the south. He would give me a day to think it over; then he left, and the women leftthe men for the hunt, and the women, as I later learned from Sota, for the warm pool where they immersed their bodies as did the shes of the Stolu. The sun never shone; the rain scarcely ever ceased falling.

While I stood stunned and horrified at the frightful evidence before me, there came from the direction of the great lake an increasing sound that rose to the volume of a shriek. And I kept on in the direction of the cliffs base. And I raised my pistol to a level with his heart. He had to admit that he had not, and also that he was much interested in me, my rifle and the way I had handled his three warriors. While we were with them, we saw this same thing repeated every morning; but though we asked them why they did it we could get no reply which was intelligible to us. Let me give you, with as much detail as I can, the sequence of events which have led us to this catastrophe. He asked where they were and I told him toward the south somewhere, using the Caspaxian phrase which, literally translated, means toward the beginning. And so, as night was drawing on, I came to the southern end of a line of cliffs loftier than any I had seen before, and as I approached them, there was wafted to my nostrils the pungent aroma of woodsmoke.

She was a dear girl and a stanch and true comrade more like a man than a woman. Its a map, and heres a cross on it. The early light of morning was dimly filtering into the cave. It recalled me from the forgotten eon to which my brain had flown and left me once again a modern man battling with a clumsy, unskilled brute. She brought me all my belongings that had been filched from merifle, ammunition, knife, and thermos bottle, and then hand in hand we descended the cliff and set off toward the north.

The question puzzled me. She insisted, and I insisted; but at last we compromised. The chiefs name was Tojo, and his household consisted of seven females and himself. She raised one hand with the palm toward me the Caspaxian equivalent of a negative shake of the head. And he grasped his rifle and started on a run toward the lake. Then the two men went on deck through the main hatch, and while one kept watch, the other cut a hind quarter off Plesiosaurus Olsoni, as Bradley dubbed the thing.

Let me see; you have given me your promise that my confidence will be respected? The walls of the cavern to which I was conducted were covered with drawings scratched upon the sandstone. Let me down! It was Kho of the tribe of Tsa, the hatchetmen. Then I went into the tower and ordered full speed ahead, hoping to distance the fearsome things; but it was useless. Its general shape was that of a shallow funnel, all the sides sloping down to a considerable lake in the center. And

let me tell you, if you have not already realized it, the chances are a thousand to one that not one of us ever will see the outside world again. I have three gourds which I fill with water and take back to my cave against the long nights.

And then it reached out its long neck and opened its mighty jaws and grabbed for me; but I wasnt there. And so Olsons remark helped to clear the atmosphere for the Allies at least, and then our attention was once more directed toward the river, for around us there had sprung up a perfect bedlam of screams and hisses and a seething caldron of hideous reptiles, devoid of fear and filled only with hunger and with rage. Its comrades had flown higher at the sudden sound, and were circling above our heads. She looked at me and then turned and glanced at my arm about her, and then she seemed quite suddenly to realize the scantiness of her apparel and drew away, covering her face with her palms and blushing furiously. And I pointed at a spot closer to shore. It was a long shot, a dangerous shot, for unless one is accustomed to it, shooting from a considerable altitude is most deceptive work. Its blocked!

Let me down this instant! The fourth day Lys told me that she thought she felt equal to attempting the return journey on the morrow, and so I set out for the hunt in high spirits, for I was anxious to return to the fort and learn if Bradley and his party had returned and what had been the result of his expedition. Let me draw one last picture before I close the notebooka picture which is the last memory of the old country which I bear away with me. He asked me who I was, from whence I came and what my intentions were. The she may remain if she is afraid, and we will keep her; but the he must depart. I reached the summit and looked out upon the broad gray terrible Pacific of the farsouthern winter. Let me set down exactly what occurred. Let us go forward, and either die now or live for the future in safety. And so we approached the coast upon which no living eyes had ever rested. She told me of her abduction and of the fright she had undergone, and together we thanked God that she had come through unharmed, because the great brute had dared not pause along the dangerinfested way. Let em have it!

Let me think about it, I parried, and Tojo said that he would wait until night. Its just the very biggest thing that I ever heard of! Then again something charged the periscope and blotted out the mirror. Then under the bottom, wi the best o luck an give em hell! I wanted myself to die, and yet I clung to lifeuseless and hopeless and harrowing a thing as it had become. Its not a secret, she cried. Come! Then one afternoon the girl came to me. I did not even know that they still lived; in fact, I could not bring myself to believe that they did. The she is mine, I replied, and I have come to claim her. It was a week ago that I wrote the preceding paragraph, which I thought would end the written record of my life upon Caprona.

And it made me love her all the more; it made me swear inwardly a thousand solemn oaths that I would win her. And she slipped something into my hand. And try it again we did, only to be almost rammed by a huge freighter. She told me that she had loved me from the first, and that she never had loved von Schoenvorts, their engagement having been arranged by her aunt for social reasons. She did not struggle to free herself; but instead her dear arms crept up about my neck and drew my own face even closer to hers. The dirty boches are shellin the fort. She has learned to speak it, and so have I, to some extent.

He had been a good man, but the personal loss was not what affected me. And I dont know the first thing about a sub. And that was the only mention she ever made of it; yet I know that she was thankful and that only reserve prevented her from referring to what, to say the least, was an embarrassing situation, however unavoidable. She did not withdraw her hand, and she looked up into my face with tears on her cheeks and I read in her eyes the thanks her lips could not voice. He dropped, and I ran forward to finish him with the long thin knife, which one of the men had given me; but just as I reached him, he staggered to his feet and ran on for another two hundred yardswhen I dropped him again.

He had even shelled the fort as a parting compliment; nor could anything have been more truly Prussian than this leavetaking of the Baron Friedrich von Schoenvorts. And to think that I was to have married one of thema lieutenant in the German navy. I was lost. She wasnt of the gushing type, I knew; so I didnt expect much from her and was duly grateful for the few morsels of attention she threw upon the floor to me. And then I let my eyes drop once more to the face upon the water, and what I saw nearly tumbled me backward into the sea, for the eyes in the dead face had opened; the lips had parted; and one hand was raised toward me in a mute appeal for succor. Its deeper. he cried. And Summerlee, too, there he was with his short briar between his thin moustache and his gray goatsbeard, his worn face protruded in eager debate as he queried all Challengers propositions.

It is said that hope springs eternal in the human breast; but there is none in mine. It is cold up here. Its love. He also asked permission to get some dried meat and maize, saying that they were so busy with the work of refining that they had no time to hunt. I think that I almost gave up then.

The others slept; but I arose and followed by Nobs went down to the stream for a plunge. He has been gone about three days; but the most startling thing I have on record is that von Schoenvorts and Olson while out hunting the other day discovered oil about fifteen miles north of us beyond the sandstone cliffs. I was becoming a ladies man after a lifetime of bashfulness! It is cold here today; yet here I sit watching, watching, watching for the thing I know will never comefor a sail. ITS JUST THE VERY BIGGEST THING IN THE WORLD V. He took Sinclair, Brady, James, and Tippet with him. And must be unless you had polygamy, only the other way round; you understand. And Gladysoh, my Gladys! Then I turned my attention to my own business.

Its all so beautiful and natural until this kind of thing comes in! E. and interruption. She made no replyonly turned and walked very rapidly toward her room. The next day Plessner and two other Germans came down overland for ammunition. The U33 merely landed those of us that were to return to the fort and then retraced its course toward the oilwell. I will go with you to the Krolu, I replied, but then I must return to my own people `toward the beginning. I must have lain there bound and uncomfortable for two or three hours when at last Sota entered the cave. Its nature. So we decided to construct a palisaded camp.

Its nobody in particular, she explained, laughing at the expression of my face: only an ideal. You see, I cried to his fellows, that I can kill you wherever you may be. And now I turn to the last supreme eventful moment of our adventure. He says that there are many Galus north of us, and that as soon as he becomes one he will go and live with them. Its for men to do them, and for women to reserve their love as a reward for such men. ) If the audience had done less than justice, surely it made ample amends. Its just what I want. Suddenly it rained apes.

I realized that she was quite rightthat we were but comic figures hopping from the cradle to the grave, of interest to practically no other created thing than ourselves and our few intimates. Then other footsteps sounded, approaching me. Then he explained that the U33 would cruise in these waters for a time, sinking neutral and enemy shipping indiscriminately, and looking for one of the German raiders that was supposed to be in these parts. She felt the submergence of the boat and came out of her room to investigate. I pondered a long time upon all that I had heard, before sleep came to me. He calls us Galus and says that in a short time he will be a Galu. And yet the day may come when I would not have it otherwise.

She looked at me with a puzzled expression on her face for the barest fraction of a second, and then she turned and went up the ladder. He was unharmed except for minor bruises; but he was the most chastened dog I have ever seen. It was late in the morning. Its really awfully good of you to give me a lift. This is what I read: HERE LIES JOHN TIPPET ENGLISHMAN KILLED BY TYRANNOSAURUS 10 SEPT.

It is forbidden. I leaped between them while he was still kicking her, and obtaining a quick hold upon him, dragged him screaming with pain from the cave. I was loath to lose so much time; but the fellow was obdurate, and so I accompanied them. And so, in humble and thankful mood, I close this account. And you, Summerlee? Then I saw her frame convulse, shudderingly, her muscles reacting to her rapidly lowering temperature, and casting prudery to the winds, I threw myself down beside her and took her in my arms, pressing her body close to mine. I refused to give him my rifle, but promised to show him the trick he wished to learn if he would guide me in the right direction.

And you, Challenger? He eyed me in that disagreeable way of his and demanded to know, in case they accepted my suggestion, what their status would be in event of our finding a way to escape with the U33. It was humiliating, but it was true. Then it is settled, said Lord John, and turning to the chief he nodded and slapped his rifle. I do not know who the Galus may be; I have never seen them. The mind of man can scarce conceive the plethora of carnivorous life in this lost world; and their prey, of course, is even more abundant. And now come the apemen and the Indian.

I dont like to appear conceited, but I may as well admit that I am proud of my strength and the science that I have acquired and developed in the directing of itthat and my horsemanship I always have been proud of. she cried. The following morning we started building operations in earnest, and things progressed finely. Its not the first time, either, said the policeman, severely, shaking his head. I would find them; they would direct me to the cliffs; perhaps they would accompany me and take us back with them to their abodes to the abodes of men and women like ourselves.

Its all bosh. He had been wont at home to enter the surf with me, and evidently he had not forgotten it. He could make no landing; nor in the several days he cruised about it did he see sign of life. And yet I felt happier than I had done since this crushing blow had fallen upon me, for it was good to think that the world should know what we had done, so that at the worst our names should not perish with our bodies, but should go down to posterity associated with the result of our labors.

She looked at me in wideeyed consternation for a moment, and then she went very white and rose from her seat. It was the sole remaining thread of the ancient woof of a dawning culture which had been woven when Caprona was a fiery mount upon a great landmass teeming with life. It was a little mound of newturned earth sprinkled with flowers long since withered, and at one end was a flat slab of sandstone stuck in the ground. And suddenly there came something to remind me of my absent companions. The sailor immediately straightened up, faced his officer, clicked his heels together and saluted. Its the last thing you young fellahs think of learnin. It was a cloudy day, though warm, as it always is in Caspakk. It was an hour later before the tribe began to stir about. The following morning we commenced work upon our camp, Bradley, Olson, von Schoenvorts, Miss La Rue, and I having sat up half the night discussing the matter and drawing plans. I went on in the direction I thought was south but which I now imagine must have been about due north, without detecting a single familiar object.

Its funny we should both sail under sealed orders from a man we dont know. It was too dark to do more than this. Then he pointed to us. She had signaled us to stop, and our skipper had ignored the order; but now she had her gun trained on us, and the second shot grazed the cabin, warning the belligerent tugcaptain that it was time to obey. Its old man Challengers

show and we are here by his good will, so it would be rotten bad form if we didnt follow his instructions to the letter. She could not have lived through another night upon the Channel; she might not have lived through the coming day. It appeared to me, as I afterward learned was the fact, that I was witnessing the most primitive of marriage ceremonies. I must have gone about a mile before the truth dawned upon me I was lost, hopelessly lost.

It appeared to stand out in marked contrast and incongruity to all its surroundings, and when I stopped to examine it, I found that it was a small strip of muslin part of the hem of a garment. Then where the dooce did they drop from? I called a few times and waited, but there was no response and no one came. She had turned her head during the night so that as I opened my eyes I saw her face not an inch from mine, my lips almost touching hers.

She shook her head. I know it now, and how far we were from guessing the wonderful, the miraculous, the gigantic truth which even yet I may only guess at the thing that sets Caspax apart from all the rest of the world far more definitely than her isolated geographical position or her impregnable barrier of giant cliffs. The creature appeared to be more impressed with Nobs than by us and our firearms, for it stopped as the Airedale dashed at it growling, and struck at him viciously with its powerful jaws. She was not dead!

The creature in our rear was gaining on us rapidly when Nobs flew past me like a meteor and rushed straight for the frightful reptile. It was a beautiful, gently rolling country, broken by occasional outcroppings of sandstone and by patches of dense forest relieved by open, parklike stretches and broad meadows whereon grazed countless herbivorous animals red deer, aurochs, and infinite variety of antelope and at least three distinct species of horse, the latter ranging in size from a creature about as large as Nobs to a magnificent animal fourteen to sixteen hands high. she said. It seemed incredible that man could be so perfidious that we had really seen with our own eyes the thing that we had seen; but when we returned to the fort, the shattered wall gave us ample evidence that there was no mistake. Then they fell back from the edge, formed themselves again into line, and waited for the next victim. Its a name for any kind of devil. Then we had very different things to think of, for an active drama was in progress. The creature appeared to be a great lizard at least ten feet high, with a huge, powerful tail as long as its torso, mighty hind legs and short forelegs. She drew back her hands.

The deer lay in a small open space close to a clump of acacias, and we had advanced to within several yards of our kill when we both halted suddenly and simultaneously. And then suddenly, with a crashing and a rending, a thudding of giant feet and a panting of monster lungs the beast was upon me once more. Then we shall see whether we cant get back to their town and hit em where it hurts most. I asked. He is scarcely mentioned even by contemporaneous historians probably because he got into political difficulties on his return to Italy. Its better to learn wisdom before you get into a cookinpot; so we will content ourselves with hopin that there is no trouble waitin for us, and at the same time we will act as if there were. It was Olson who first recovered from his daze sufficiently to guess the explanation of the phenomenon. Then suddenly I saw it. I asked them if they knew Ahm; but they said they did not. he asked. It was Whately who discovered the first clue a huge humanlike footprint in the soft earth beside the spring, and indications of a struggle in the mud.

Then from out of the silence, imminent and threatening, there came once more that low, throaty croaking, far louder and closer than before. And now I was coming into my own. She was altered in some subtle way. He remained defiant almost to the last; but just before he went out, he motioned to me, and I leaned over to catch the faintly whispered words. It was daylight when I awoke. The Germans among us might kill all the English, or the English might kill the last German, without affecting in the slightest degree either the outcome of even the smallest skirmish upon the western front or the opinion of a single individual in any belligerent or neutral country. And I venture to trust we may not, I observed. its foot was so much larger than an ostriches that its height upon the same scale must be enormous. And then, under this highpitched, ringing sound there was another, more intermittent, a low, deepchested laugh, a growling, throaty gurgle of merriment which formed a grotesque accompaniment to the shriek with which it was blended. He would sacrifice anyone, even you; and if you still love him, you might be his ready tool.

It is beginning to pall on us. It took a long time to build that wall, and we all turned in and helped except von Schoenvorts, who, by the way, had not spoken to me except in the line of official business since our encounter a condition of armed neutrality which suited me to a T. I showed them the thermosbottle, and when I poured a little water from it, they were delighted, thinking that it was a spring which I carried about with me a neverfailing source of water supply. Then it came back, to me. It was the first time that she had spoken thus to me. He was rather an intelligent fellow of the English middle class, in whom I had much confidence. Its up to you, young fellah, to name the lake, said he. she wailed. The line was made fast to a small tree, and at the same time I had the stern anchor dropped.

I had laid aside my ammunition belt and rifle, though both were close beside me; but my pistol I kept in my lap beneath my hand. And where? Then it dived, and I saw it no more. The game, however, seemed wary; for the instant the animals discovered us, they threw up their heads and tails and went cavorting off, those farther inland following the example of the others until all were lost in the mazes of the distant forest. I had matches with me, and in the light of one I found a small cavern with a flat roof and floor which followed the cleavage of the strata. It is full, it is satisfying, it is ennobling. I placed a foot upon the lowest ledge and clambered upward, reaching down and pulling Lys to my side. he asked. And yet it was all over in a flash, and there was no sequel to it, save in our own convictions. Then Lord John threw a bundle of twigs upon the

fire, and their red glare lit up the intent faces of my companions and flickered over the great boughs above our heads. I do not fear you, screamed the creature.

She was confused, but not unduly so. It couldnt have hurt him, for it didnt leave a mark; but he flew into a terrific rage, shouting: Attention! Then it shut off as suddenly as it began. I seized a brand from the fire and hurled it out into the night, and there came back an answering chorus of savage and rageful protest; but the eyes vanished for a short time. The water was quite free from reptiles, and the vegetation upon the banks of the river had altered to more open and parklike forest, with eucalyptus and acacia mingled with a scattering of tree ferns, as though two distinct periods of geologic time had overlapped and merged. I saw that she was upon the verge of a breakdown, after all that she must have passed through of fear and horror that day, and I tried to quiet and reassure her as best I might; but even to me the future looked most unpromising, for what chance of life had we against the frightful hunters of the night who even now were prowling closer to us?

He looked at me quizzically. He is the German of whom I spoke, she said. It consisted of upward of five hundred individuals representing several species closely allied to man. And then suddenly we perceived something which filled us with new hope. Then suddenly out of the whizzing, slatecolored circle a long neck shot out, and a fierce beak made a thrust at us. And now, having demonstrated this important conclusion so that it is clear to anyone, however prejudiced or obtuse, I am of opinion that we cannot do better than break up our camp and travel to westward until we find some means of ascent. It was grazing away from us and had not seen us when one of my men called my attention to it.

Then he stood staring as if forgetting us, so utterly entranced was he by what he saw. Then it slowly drew inwards and disappeared. Its three or four miles from here. And now, my readers, if ever I have any, I have brought you up the broad river, and through the screen of rushes, and down the green tunnel, and up the long slope of palm trees, and through the bamboo brake, and across the plain of treeferns. He lowered his head and rushed at me, bellowing like a bull. The trees were full of monkeys of all sizes and shades, and once we thought we saw a manlike creature watching us from the depth of the forest. Then at last Summerlee, with his sneer and his pipe, would move forwards, and Challenger would come rolling and grumbling after. He got up, stretched, turned around a few times and lay down again, and the girl opened her eyes and looked into mine.

It was further understood that we were to act as a military organization under military rules and disciplinel as commander, with Bradley as my first lieutenant and Olson as my second, in command of the Englishmen; while von Schoenvorts was to act as an additional second lieutenant and have charge of his own men. she screamed. And now my patient readers, I can address you directly no longer. I kill!

The girl ate with us that night at the little officers mess just back of the torpedo compartment. It was more the heat of a steamroom than of an oven. I was close enough to hear his words, which were similar to the language of Ahm, though much fuller, for there were many words I could not understand. I should say that they were a little higher in the scale of evolution than Ahm, possibly occupying a place of evolution between that of the Neanderthal man and what is known as the Grimaldi race. Its among the trees there. The thing didnt have sufficient brainpan to entertain more than a single idea at once. He prices the lot at a minimum of two hundred thousand pounds. The thing stopped then and looked at me a moment as much as to say: Why this thing has a stinger! Its over, said Lord John. Then we distributed the various burdens among usguns, ammunition, food, a tent, blankets, and the restand, shouldering our packages, we set forth upon the more laborious stage of our journey. The long neck was far outstretched, and the four flippers with which it swam were working with powerful strokes, carrying it forward at a rapid pace.

Then so you shall. And why shouldnt we be the men to find it out? She looked at me with rather more interest. You cannot harm me as you harmed Tsa. The tall, fernlike trees were alive with monkeys, snakes, and lizards. He took a pillbox from his pocket, and spilled out of it a beautiful glittering diamond, one of the finest stones that I have ever seen. The tide was running out, and this, together with the strong flow of the freshwater current, would have prevented our going against the cliffs even had we not been under power; as it was we had to buck the combined forces in order to hold our position at all. It seemed strange that beyond the buttressed walls of Caprona icebergs floated and the south wind was biting, for only a gentle breeze moved across the face of these living waters, and that was damp and warm. Its shoulders were humped, and round them were draped what appeared to be a faded gray shawl. It was some time before we could persuade the girl to continue her meal, but at last Bradley prevailed upon her, pointing out that we had come upstream nearly forty miles since the boche had been seized, and that during that time we had seen literally thousands of these denizens of the river, indicating that the chances were very remote that this was the same Plesiosaur. She looked so beautiful in her enthusiasm that I nearly brought down the whole level of the interview.

It gave one a feeling of newness that was almost embarrassing, although it didnt seem to embarrass our appetites. The mornings search brought us no shred of hope. It had been weeks, now, since we had tasted it, and the sight of the reptiles gave me an ideathat a steak or two from one of them might not be bad eating. He opened his cigarbox, and tilting it over he poured about twenty or thirty rough stones, varying from the size of beans to that of chestnuts, on the table.

and Shame! The countenance might have been that of a cross between Pithecanthropus, the Java apeman, and a daughter

of the Piltdown race of prehistoric Sussex. Its owner grabbed at its legs, but too late to hold it. I have not looked upon it sincenor in all likelihood shall I ever look upon it again. And then, sir, what did you do next? It charged us as savagely as a mad bull, and one would have thought it intended to destroy and devour the mighty Uboat, as I verily believe it did intend. It turned its eyes upon us, opened its lizardlike mouth, emitted a shrill hiss and came for us. She laughed at the elasticity of my character. People dont stumble upon enormous discoveries and then lose their evidence. It is fair to assume that inland the river is fed by pure streams, that there are fruits and herbs and game. he said.

She looked at me with a wondering distrust which was much more to my mind than her wholehearted confidence. It flows through a land covered with vegetationand therefore a land upon which the sun shines. Its large toes protruded laterally as do those of the semiarboreal peoples of Borneo, the Philippines and other remote regions where low types still persist. It cant come from the ocean; so it must come from the land.

It must have been about two bells of the afternoon watch that Bradley called my attention to the branch of a tree, with leaves upon it, floating on the sea. I received no response, though I finally pounded with all my strength; then I turned the knob and entered, only to find that she was not there. The carcass was badly swollen and partly decomposed. The beach was composed largely of small stones worn smooth by the action of water. It was the body of a low type of man or a high type of beast. She nodded severely. You do not belong among us.

And now I am gladso gladif it wakens these thoughts in you! I went to my own room, and there I sat by the light of one of the crude candles we had made from the tallow of the beasts we had killed, and lived over the events of the evening. and perhaps after all it is only a feeling peculiar to myself. But here were intermingled the voices of later erasthe scream of the panther, the roar of the lion, the baying of wolves and a thunderous growling which we could attribute to nothing earthly but which one day we were to connect with the most fearsome of ancient creatures. I cried. It was a long slim blade he offeredone that I could carry between my teethand so I accepted it gladly. Then he drew out a map of South America and laid it on the table.

She put forward a handsuch a gracious, stooping attitude it wasand she pressed back my head. Dont you be scared, my bonnie boy, said Lord John, patting the matted head in front of him. The clifftops, though ragged, were of such uniform height as to suggest the boundaries of a great plateau, and now and again we caught glimpses of verdure topping the rocky escarpment, as though bush or jungleland had pushed outward from a lush vegetation farther inland to signal to an unseeing world that Caprona lived and joyed in life beyond her austere and repellent coast. He stared at me with a hopeless expression upon his vacuous, goodnatured, scrubby little face.

Then with a little confidential chuckle of laughter, he patted me two or three times on the chest, finally pushing me back into my chair. The needle was pointing straight toward the land. She sat with that proud, delicate profile of hers outlined against the red curtain. I am alone upon the summit of the great cliff overlooking the broad Pacific. The sight of land filled us with renewed hope. Its the subterranean channel of an inland river, I cried. I have tried on several occasions to broach the subject of my love to Lys; but she will not listen. The long and the short of it was that we cruised about aimlessly until the sun came out again. Then I move, said Professor Challenger, that both these gentlemen be elected, as representatives of this meeting, to accompany Professor Summerlee upon his journey to investigate and to report upon the truth of my statements.

And yet how aloof! If I had stumbled upon the grave of one of the party, was it not within reason to believe that the bones of the others lay scattered somewhere near? She could but refuse me, and better be a repulsed lover than an accepted brother. Why, man, they dont come north of fourteen here in these waters. Then he pictured the solidification, the cooling, the wrinkling which formed the mountains, the steam which turned to water, the slow preparation of the stage upon which was to be played the inexplicable drama of life. The wind of that night brought on some pretty rough weather with a lot of black clouds which persisted for several days.

It was she who closed the divingtank seacocks and roused Olson and me, and had the pumps started to empty them. Then for Heavens sake, man, write it up! The suspense was more wearing than that which I had endured while waiting for dissolution. She did unbend a little. Mental inertia! It did not take me long to liberate myself, and then I was at her side. Then the Zoological Institutes Hall at eightthirty tonight.

I had to smile as I read Bradleys report. And Lady Stanley! Had the halfbreed simply wrought his vengeance and then escaped, all might have been well with him. She gave me her hand; but with such sweetness and dignity that I could only stoop and kiss it. Im goin to get a young devil chick for Challenger. And yet it is so real with me, so entirely part of my very self, that I cannot help acting upon it. In a moment the three would charge! The throbbing of the engines ceased, and in its stead came the steady vibration of the electric motors.

The drop to the triangular deck forward of the conningtower might easily have broken a leg for me, or I might have slipped off onto the deck and rolled overboard; but fate was upon my side, as I was only slightly bruised. He admitted that the members of the committee were men of character. She laughed at my sudden Irish effervescence. At first she frightened me; but presently I was aware that she was quite as safe here as was I. I quit about a week ago and commenced working on this

chronicle for our strange adventures, which will account for any minor errors in chronology which may have crept in; there was so much material that I may have made some mistakes, but I think they are but minor and few. she said.

It turned out to be quite the most exciting adventure I had ever encountered. He much regretted that any personal bias should have been read into his remarks, which were entirely dictated by his desire for scientific truth. Then your case is not hopeless. It was daylight when I awoke. And if I do Her dear hand rested like warm velvet upon my lips. Then I must confess that I dont know what it is. She was a bright, vivacious, darkeyed lady, more French than English in her type. We all come from there, he said. I know how difficult your position is, I said; but dont feel that you are alone.

The sea was calm except for the white water at our bows and the two long radiating swells running far off into the distance upon either hand astern, forming a great V which our propellers filled with choppy waves. I imagine that I am frightened and blue, she said, and I know that I am very, very homesick and lonely. Then came a picture of a cheerful and corpulent ecclesiastic in a shovel hat, sitting opposite a very thin European, and the inscription: Lunch with Fra Cristofero at Rosario. The Englishman struck the fellow a frantic blow upon the neck and at the same time snatched his pistol from its holster. I inquired. Then a subtitle, Glimpse of a singular menage. Then Id better try my luck with the original. Challenger had been in the habit of walking off by himself every morning and returning from time to time with looks of portentous solemnity, as one who bears the full weight of a great enterprise upon his shoulders. I dont like irony, she said; it indicates a small soul. I realize as never before how cheap and valueless a thing is life.

The girl accompanied us, and when she saw the thing I had in mind, she stepped forward and lent a hand to the swinging of the great cylinder of death and destruction into the mouth of its tube. I gave the order to fire, and at the first volley six of them went down, including the Neanderthal man. Then she looked into my upturned face with a very wistful smile. You are here for but an instant, and you mustnt take yourself too seriously. It was another two days before we were ready to limp along, half repaired.

I did not wish to fire among them unless it became absolutely necessary, and so I started to lead my party around them; but the instant that the Neanderthal man guessed my intention, he evidently attributed it to cowardice upon our part, and with a wild cry he leaped toward us, waving his cudgel above his head. I set off at a rapid run in the direction of the harbor. She barred her husbands way like an enraged chicken in front of a bulldog. Take Tsas hole, which lies above you. It was wide open. And so it was that I found myself that foggy November evening pursuing the Camberwell tram with my heart glowing within me, and with the eager determination that not another day should elapse before I should find some deed which was worthy of my lady. I afterward learned that he had served three years on the trafficsquad of the Chicago police force. The girl was coming almost at a runshe was at my side immediately. And that telegony is still sub judice? Bradley did not return; nor did we have any word from von Schoenvorts.

The first time she hesitated as though she wished to speak to me; but I did not raise my head, and finally she passed on. The sailing ship saw us while we were still a long way off, as was evidenced by her efforts to escape. It seemed to me that the divingtanks never had filled so slowly. He then thrilled the assembly by some account of the terrible carnivorous dinosaurs, which had on more than one occasion pursued members of the party, and which were the most formidable of all the creatures which they had encountered. And that the germ plasm is different from the parthenogenetic egg?

I told him to wait until I gave the word; then we would fire simultaneously, he at the heart and I at the spine. And I may come? and an inoffensive little person in spectacles, struggling violently, was held up among a group of students. It proved itself such that morning, for I had scarce gotten into my dry clothes and taken the girls apparel to the captains cabin when an order was shouted down into the engineroom for full speed ahead, and an instant later I heard the dull boom of a gun. He would only add, before he sat down, that he rejoicedand all of them would rejoice that these gentlemen had returned safe and sound from their difficult and dangerous task, for it cannot be denied that any disaster to such an expedition would have inflicted a wellnigh irreparable loss to the cause of Zoological science. She was seated in a low settee under the shaded standard lamp by the piano. I then had arms and ammunition issued to the Germans, and leaving Bradley and five men to guard the U33, the balance of us went ashore.

He would not, he said, stand for more than a moment between that vast assembly and the treat which lay before them. Then I had what I can only regard as an inspiration. If he succeeds, we shall have the means for leaving Caspax and returning to our own world. I told them that it was obvious our very existence depended upon our unity of action, that we were to all intent and purpose entering a new world as far from the seat and causes of our own worldwar as if millions of miles of space and eons of time separated us from our past lives and habitations.

She looked up with amazement in her face. The Germans would be crazy to do it, for their lives are as much at stake as ours. The fellow scratched his head a moment and said, No, and then as though it was an afterthought, he told me that he had seen the girl in the crews room about midnight talking with the German commander, but as there hadnt seemed to him to be any harm in that, he hadnt said anything about it. I was mighty glad that our entrance into the interior of Caprona had been inside a submarine rather than in any other form of vessel. And so, amid shouting and cheering, our fate was decided, and I found myself borne away in the human current which swirled towards the door, with my mind half stunned by the vast new

project which had risen so suddenly before it. And here we are, up to our necks in the tureen. And goodbye to you also, Professor Summerlee. I saw I could do nothing with her unless I exerted force, and so I turned with my back toward her that I might be in a position to shield her from the strange reptile should it really succeed in reaching the deck; and as I did so I saw the thing raise one flipper over the rail, dart its head forward and with the quickness of lightning seize upon one of the boches. The sextant and chronometer had both been broken beyond repair, and they had been broken just this very night.#Chapter 5: Pirates, Vikings, Aliens, and Dinosaurs

The tale is told that the king, as he swam beneath the cover of his shield, stripped off his armour and, making his way to the land, went away on a pilgrimage to Rome. The bar silver and the arms still lie, for all that I know, where Flint buried them; and certainly they shall lie there for me. The man counted. The arrow hit Einars famous bow in the middle and broke it with a loud snap.

The arrow flew from the string and went straight to its mark. The viking stumbled, and Thorstein snatched up the half of a broken oar and wielding it above his head rushed among the vikings, belabouring them right and left. The clang of weapons was now at its highest. The water was strewn with wreckage, an arrow floated on every wave. The eyes of the two bravest of Norse warriors met. The kings men were well nigh exhausted with the long days fighting under the hot sun; their bronzed faces streamed with perspiration, their limbs moved weakly. The heavy, iron bound bow of the Ram crashed into the broadside of Olafs outermost longship, whose timber creaked and groaned under the impact. The clang of the weapons upon the metal shields, the dull thud of blows, the wild shouts of the warriors and cries of the wounded, mingled together in a loud vibrating murmur. The wind had fallen, the sea was calm; the sun hung hot and glaring in a cloudless sky, flashing on burnished helmet and gilded dragon head. The larger number of his chosen chiefsas Kolbiorn Stallare, Thorfinn the Dashing, Ketil the Tall, and Thorstein Oxfoothad their stations forward on the forecastle deck or in the close quarters nearer the prow.

The armaments, fitted in no fewer than nine successive efforts, were mostly equipped with such haste and ignorance, and with so little choice, that ruinous delays, shipwrecks, and final discomfiture, were naturally to be expected. The taste for depredation had become so general and contagious, that privateers were now allowed to be fitted out, which equipments quickly degenerated to the most cruel of pirates. The foremost of these were the Venetians and Genoese, among whom the private adventurers, stimulated by an enterprising spirit, fitted out armaments, and volunteered themselves into the service of those nations who thought proper to retain them; or they engaged in such schemes of plunder as were likely to repay their pains and expense. The success of this freebooter shows that the Eastern emperors could no longer protect, or even assist, their islands. The King answered: I had the Serpent built longer than other ships, so that she might be put forward more boldly in battle, and be well known in fighting as in sailing. The seamen were now lashing the ships together stem by stem. The eleven dragons had been ranged side by side as he had ordered, with the Long Serpent in the middle and the Crane and the Short Serpent at either side of her. The rising sun shone red upon the mans skin. The cases of ammunition and of food were scattered about in a wild litter, together with our unfortunate cameras and platecarriers, but none of them were missing.

The rifles still lay upon the ground, and one of themLord Johnshad the empty cartridge in the breech. The whole disordered appearance of the camp showed that there had been some sort of attack, and the rifleshott no doubt marked the time when it had occurred. The horrible thought that I might never see them again, that I might find myself abandoned all alone in that dreadful place, with no possible way of descending into the world below, that I might live and die in that nightmare country, drove me to desperation. The stars were fading, the sky was whitening, and the cold wind of morning blew pleasantly upon my face. The countenance might have been that of a cross between Pithecanthropus, the Java apeman, and a daughter of the Piltdown race of prehistoric Sussex. The carcass was badly swollen and partly decomposed. The beach was composed largely of small stones worn smooth by the action of water. The post in the center, some nine feet long, was sharpened at the upper end, and was black with the stale blood of the creatures who had been impaled upon it. The path lay still behind me.

The ground shook beneath his tremendous weight, and his gulps of water resounded through the still night. The night had been exceedingly still, but as I advanced I became conscious of a low, rumbling sound, a continuous murmur, somewhere in front of me. The trees grew so thickly and their foliage spread so widely that I could see nothing of the moonlight save that here and there the high branches made a tangled filigree against the starry sky. The full moon was shining brightly, and the air was crisply cold. The aspect of the place in the dusk was singularly desolate: blackened trees, blackened, desolate ruins, and down the hill the sheets of the flooded river, redtinged with the weed. The red weed was less abundant; the tall trees along the lane were free from the red creeper. The crowd of onlookers was very large, for among the Northmen no amusement was more popular than the horse fight, unless it were the combat between men.

The inadequate boat finally arrived at a precarious landing, the natives, waistdeep in the surf, assisting. The disappearance of Olaf Triggvason was scarcely remarked by the Norwegians, who were at that time holding high revel in celebration of their victory. The man took the beautiful hair in his two hands and held it fast, while Olaf stretched forth his neck. The man who was to act as executioner was one Thorkel Leira, a stalwart warrior, who had done great deeds in the battle. The pretty women in Borgund holm will not now be so fond of kissing me, said he. The spears and arrows whizzed about the head of Earl Hakon, and his coat of mail was so rent and cut that it fell off from him. The Indians were so terrified at it that they would

not go near the place, and, though we twice made expeditions and saw it each time, we could not make our way through the deep marsh in which it lived.

The point of the blade passed in at his breast and out between his shoulders, and at the same instant the battleaxe fell. The other bounded round in an eccentric circle with shrill, wailing cries, and then lying down writhed in agony for some minutes before it also stiffened and lay still. The wretched Indians screamed with terror, but were helpless, run as they would, before the relentless purpose and horrible activity of these monstrous creatures. The two vessels floated close together, the oars were shipped, and there, in the grey prosaic early morning light, they heaved gently on the North Sea swell, and awaited the approach of the ten. The blackbearded man looked at him with an air of some astonishment, and then answered shortly, They call me Ketill; but what is that to you? The party by this time were so close that they had perforce to halt, with some clash of armour, and again their captain cried, Are you deaf? The morning sun glanced on their helmets and coats of mail, and in the still air the clash of preparation rang far up the pineclad hillside.

The Indians now could only shake their heads and shrug their shoulders when we expressed by signs our desire to descend. The victory of the Indians and the annihilation of the apemen, marked the turning point of our fortunes. The air was calm, full of the eternal hum of insects, a tropical chorus of many octaves, from the deep drone of the bee to the high, keen pipe of the mosquito. The chief of these we called Mojo, after his tribe, and the others are known as Jose and Fernando. The first is a gigantic negro named Zambo, who is a black Hercules, as willing as any horse, and about as intelligent. The captain had risen earlier than usual and set out down the beach, his cutlass swinging under the broad skirts of the old blue coat, his brass telescope under his arm, his hat tilted back upon his head.

The doctor never so much as moved. The old fellows fury was awful. The exploits of the Red Chief, as they called him, had become legends among them, but the real facts, as far as I could learn them, were amazing enough. The scientific attainments of Professor Summerlee are too well known for me to trouble to recapitulate them. The preliminary exploration team had established the fact that the planet was more or less Earthtype, that its air was breathable, its temperature agreeably springlike, its mineral composition very similar to Earths, with only slight traces of unknown elements, that there was plenty of drinkable water and no threatening lifeforms. The Tasmanians, in spite of their human likeness, were entirely swept out of existence in a war of extermination waged by European immigrants, in the space of fifty years. The meaning of the phrase high seas, embraces not only the waters of the ocean, which are out of sight of land, but the waters on the sea coast below low water mark, whether within the territorial boundaries of a foreign nation, or of a domestic state.

Seven of King Sweyns vessels did he thus clear; and at last no more came, and for a time he had rest. The pirate is truly fond of women and wine, and when not engaged in robbing, keeps maddened with intoxicating liquors, and passes his time in debauchery, singing old songs with chorusses like Drain, drain the bowl, each fearless soul, Let the world wag as it will: Let the heavens growl, let the devil howl, Drain, drain the deep bowl and fill. Never before did I thus miss a man! The pirate, from the perilous nature of his occupation, when not cruising on the ocean, the great highway of nations, selects the most lonely isles of the sea for his retreat, or secretes himself near the shores of rivers, bays and lagoons of thickly wooded and uninhabited countries, so that if pursued he can escape to the woods and mountain glens of the interior.

Sure enough, he was squatting among his blankets beside his fire in his little camp. The sunlight shone upon his fair young face. A cry that was half a groan escaped Earl Eriks lips. The boy turned sharply and looked at the man who had spoken. There was still a most fierce fight going on between the earls men and Olafs champions.

The other three had gone down with the boat. Brave and strong though they were, they could not withstand the furious onslaught of the ambitious and valiant Earl Erik. The other three took complete headers, and came up again drenched and bubbling. Outside the narrow lines of the rivers what does anyone know? The report fell in at the same instant of time. I said today that he would not gain victory over us if he had the image of Thor in his stem.

The ebbtide, which had so cruelly delayed us, was now making reparation and delaying our assailants. It is Olaf the King! The cry he gave was echoed not only by his companions on board but by a great number of voices from the shore, and looking in that direction I saw the other pirates trooping out from among the trees and tumbling into their places in the boats. They surrounded the Serpent like a pack of eager wolves held at bay; and the most eager of all men there present was Earl Erik. The gig was no longer to be feared; the little point had already concealed it from our eyes. So the earl decided to make one more effort after the victory and to risk his all in a final hand to hand encounter with the King of the Norsemen. The one source of danger was the gun. They immediately passed over to Ireland, and divided it into three sovereignties; that of Dublin fell to the share of Olauf; that of Waterford to Sitrih; and that of Limerick to Yivar. The islands of the Indian Ocean, and the east and west coasts of Africa, as well as the West Indies, have been their haunts for centuries; and vessels navigating the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, are often captured by them, the passengers and crew murdered, the money and most valuable part of the cargo plundered, the vessel destroyed, thus obliterating all trace of their unhappy fate, and leaving friends and relatives to mourn their loss from the inclemencies of the elements, when they were butchered in cold blood by their fellow men, who by practically adopting the maxim that dead men tell no tales, enable themselves to pursue their diabolical career with impunity.

There was no lack of arrows on the Short Serpent, or indeed, on any other of King Olaf's battleships. The current of the river is a slight one, the drop being not greater than eight inches in a mile. The intellectual side of man already admits that life is an incessant struggle for existence, and it would seem that this too is the belief of the minds upon Mars. The voices stopped at once, all but Dr. The captain glared at him for a while, flapped his hand again, glared still harder, and at last broke out with a villainous, low oath, Silence, there, between decks! The unknown is up against us on every side. The path was very narrow at that point, and he of the black beard called out gruffly, Make way, old man!

The fates, however, were against them. The most that we could do was to check their progress by distracting their attention with the flash and roar of our guns, and so to give both the natives and ourselves time to reach the steps which led to safety. The great reptilian hearts, however, each as large as a cushion, still lay there, beating slowly and steadily, with a gentle rise and fall, in horrible independent life. The edge of the shield was cut through like paper, and the blade coming fair on the nape of the Hooknoses neck, the bodies of the two champions rolled together off the gangway. The line was broken, and five and twenty of their ships followed in the wake of Earl Sigvaldi. The lads call me Ole the Estonian, Olaf replied. The two horses rose high on their hind legs, biting at each other savagely until their manes and necks and shoulders were torn and bloody. The combat went on until eleven rounds had passed. The vessel rocked as though the sea beneath it had been upturned by a mighty volcano. The silence which followed the detonation of the exploding torpedo was almost equally horrifying.

The Martians seem to have calculated their descent with amazing subtlety their mathematical learning is evidently far in excess of ours and to have carried out their preparations with a well-nigh perfect unanimity. The darkness of the forest had been alarming, but even worse was the white, still flood of moonlight in the open glade of the iguanodons. The air above it was shimmering with heat, and the ground round was so hot that I could hardly bear to lay my hand on it. The first thing which I saw filled me with amazement. The moonlight shone upon his huge projecting eyes, the row of enormous teeth in his open mouth, and the gleaming fringe of claws upon his short, powerful forearms. The atmosphere was poisonous and horrible. The remains scattered about were fragments of the victims, which had been cut away in order to clear the stake for the next who might blunder in. The surf was not heavy, and there was no undertow, so we made shore easily, effecting an equally easy landing.

The creature must have been about the height of a fair sized man; its features were similar to those of a man; yet had it been a man? The sloping wall of the pit was not difficult for an active man to climb, but I hesitated long before I trusted myself within reach of the dreadful creature which had so nearly destroyed me. The zareba rose before me, even as I had left it, but the gate was open. The blankets of Challenger and of Summerlee beside the fire suggested that they had been asleep at the time. The more I tried to think it out with my confused and weary brain the less could I find any plausible explanation. The son of Queen Sigrid the Haughty stands in need of a little practice in warfare, said Olaf. The king had a bow in his hand. The king lowered the arrow and did not shoot.

The first attempt of this powerful gang was upon England, where, finding Alfred too powerful to be coped with, he stood over to the mouth of the Seine, and availed himself of the state to which France was reduced. The sovereign, however, did not possess sufficient naval means to suppress the enormities of the great predatory squadrons, and their ravages continued to disgrace the English name for upwards of twenty years, when the valor and conciliation of the gallant Prince Edward brought them to that submission which his royal parent had failed in procuring. The Norsemen fought with brave determination, and as one after another of the Dane ships was cleared of men it was drawn off to the rear, and its place was occupied by yet another ship, whose warriors, fresh and eager, renewed the onset. The air was filled with flying arrows and flashing spears and waving swords. The Norsemen, indeed, were completely surrounded by their foemen. The Swedish king, believing that Olaf Trigginson must certainly have suffered terrible loss at the hands of the Danes, had the fullest hope that he would take very little time in turning the defeat of King Sweyn into a victory for himself. The son of Queen Sigrid stood still on his forecastle. The man who taught you the use of the sword might have been better employed, for in truth he has taught you very little. The earls men were fresh and vigorous; they had waited for hours for their chiefs orders to enter the fray, and now that those orders had been given to them they fought with hot fury, yelling their battle cries and cutting down their foemen with ponderous axe and keen edged sword. The advice is good, said Erik, and I will follow it. The Iron Ram, and other ships, to the number of fifteen, then closed in about the Serpent, and, as they advanced, the archers on their decks opened battle by shooting their arrows high in air, so that they fell into the midst of Olaf's men in an unremitting shower.

The good ship creaked in all her beams, but no great damage was done. The king then went into the foreroom, unlocked the high seat chest and took therefrom many bright and sharp swords which he carried out in his arms and put down among his men. The Vikings were still cautious of Olaf's champions. The king flung his weapon, taking good aim; but this spear missed its mark as the first had done. The number of his men had become woefully small, and yet, as he believed, Olaf Trigginson was still unwounded, undaunted, and as full of confident hope as he had ever shown himself to be. The other was assailed by arrows and spears, but instantly he turned over and held his shield above him. The sight of so many goodhumoured faces (especially the blacks), the taste of the tropical fruits, and above all the lights that began to shine in the town made a most charming contrast to our dark and bloody sojourn on the island; and the doctor and the squire, taking me along with them, went ashore to pass the early part of the night. The maroon had connived at his escape in a shore boat some hours ago, and

he now assured us he had only done so to preserve our lives, which would certainly have been forfeit if that man with the one leg had stayed aboard. The seacock had not gone emptyhanded. I will not lie behind my men when the battle begins!

Its not them I mind; its the roundshot. But Einar Eindridson kept his eyes upon the waves until at last, in the midst of a bright beam of sunlight far away he saw the shield of King Olaf appear, with its glistening image of the holy cross. She looked out upon the bay, and seeing the enormous hostile fleet that was closing in upon Olafs diminished force she burst into tears. While the King of Sweden and his forces were engaged with their attack upon Olafs centre of battle, Earl Erik adopted a plan which, although seemingly more hopeless, was in the end more successful than any that had yet been attempted by either the Danes or the Swedes.

And then there came the sound of hurried feet upon the stairs, and Einar Eindridson rushed upon the upper deck, followed by three of his shipmates, and pursued by Earl Erik and a great crowd of clamouring vikings. Let that suffice. And as the weight increased so did the Serpent lean over, until at last her bulwarks were almost on a level with those of the Iron Ram. While the Danes were in full retreat the Swedes hastened forward to renew the attack. Its large toes protruded laterally as do those of the semiarboreal peoples of Borneo, the Philippines and other remote regions where low types still persist.

He had cut through a bulkhead unobserved and had removed one of the sacks of coin, worth perhaps three or four hundred guineas, to help him on his further wanderings. She was a longship, of twenty banks of oars, and her crew were the pick of all the warmen of Denmark. I shouted loudly and waved my handkerchief. He looked down into the sea. he cried; and then he whispered in Olafs ear, and they both strode slowly aft to the rail. Then he was given a lodge to keep, exactly as he had feared upon the island; and he still lives, a great favourite, though something of a butt, with the country boys, and a notable singer in church on Sundays and saints days. It was just at sundown when we cast anchor in a most beautiful landlocked gulf, and were immediately surrounded by shore boats full of Negroes and Mexican Indians and halfbloods selling fruits and vegetables and offering to dive for bits of money. He pressed forward to the stairs; but Kolbiorn Stallare drew him back.

Let none of the blood fall upon my hair! I searched round in the forest, but could see no tracks which could help me to a conclusion. He turned to see who had flung the javelin and saw King Olaf standing by the poop rail poising a second spear. Let them all be set free, ordered the earl. he cried. While Alexis was occupied in a war with Patzinaces, on the banks of the Danube, Zachas, a Saracen pirate, scoured the Archipelago, having, with the assistance of an able Smyrniate, constructed a flotilla of forty brigantines, and some light fastrowing boats, manned by adventurers like himself. It was amidships that the toughest fighting went on, and it was here that the larger number of the defenders met their death. He sent many of his best men on board, armed with axe and sword.

Then Thorfinn caught sight of King Olaf, and at a sign from the king he lowered his blade and drew back a pace. He boarded her with a vast crowd of his vikings. He bade his rowers stop their rowing on the starboard side. And now the Long Serpent lay with only two companions, the Short Serpent at her starboard and the Crane at her larboard side. And I have been thinking, ever since this battle began that the great luck of Olaf may be due to that sign of the cross that we see on all his banners and shields. Then Thorstein Oxfoots sword was struck from his hand. While Kolbiorn and others of Olafs stem defenders kept up an incessant battle with their javelins and swords, King Olaf and his archers shot their arrows high in air so that they fell in thick rain upon the Danish decks. Let her prow and not her stern stand out. I did not know which way to turn or what I should do first.

It is ill made and cumbrous, and a figure of the cross will take less room in our stem and bring us more luck withal. Then Olaf strode back to the lyting deck and once more surveyed the battle from on high. While the vikings were at this work a constant rain of arrows and javelins was showered upon them by King Olaf himself and his marksmen on the poop, and as Erik saw his best men falling he half repented having taken them from the fight. And it may be that in this he was right. He passed astern of the kings fleet. I have a vague recollection, as one remembers a bad dream, of rushing about through the woods all round the empty camp, calling wildly for my companions. It was not very long ere yet two others followed; and then the Short Serpent was exposed, even as her four companions had been.

Let us not lose courage at the sight of these heathen devourers of horse flesh! And now the battle raged fiercely. He would have known Olaf Triggvisor had a score of such men as Kolbiorn been at his side. He was, therefore, well able to judge that neither the king of the Danes nor the king of the Swedes was capable of overcoming so brave and mighty a warrior as the king of the Norsemen, or of wresting the Long Serpent from the man who had built her and who knew so well how to defend his own. Then at fullest speed he bore down upon the kings outermost dragon, crashed into her side and renewed his onslaught. It is for Christs faith that we fight today. Then he lashed two spars together, a long plank crossed with a shorter one, and raised this rough made crucifix high in the stem of the Iron Ram. And suddenly there came something to remind me of my absent companions. It is true that we had made a strict resolution against firing, but if it seemed to them that I might be in danger they would not hesitate. And then suddenly there came a crash! was falling through space, and everything beyond was darkness and rest. It was the body of a low type of man or a high type of beast.

I rushed in. He had fought with his father in the great battle against Sigvaldi and the vikings of Jomsburg, and from what he had seen on that day of Olaf Trigginsons prowess, and from what he had since heard of Olafs warfare in England and other

lands, he had made a very true estimate of the man who now fought in defence of the Long Serpent. And yet I shuddered at the position in which I found myself, and would have given all I possessed at that moment to have been honorably free of the whole business. Then Earl Erik backed out with the Iron Ram, while the seamen on his other ships cut away the lashings that had bound Olafs outermost vessel to her neighbour, and drew the conquered craft away into the rear, leaving the next ship exposed. He has taught me enough to enable me to slay such a man as you! he cried as he rallied his men.

I quickened my pace into a run. Then it would catch it up again and come bounding swiftly along the path I had taken. It was a long slim blade he offeredone that I could carry between my teethand so I accepted it gladly. And then suddenly came the thought, Why not? Then he lumbered away and was lost among the boulders. He had already, from a distance, kept up an intermittent fire of arrows into the midst of the Norse ships, and it may be that he had thus helped to reduce King Olafs strength.

He had made the attack with five and forty fully manned warships, and yet all this great force had been as nothing against the superior skill and courage of the defenders. It was smelling out my trail. And in the garden beyond Roehampton I got a quantity of immature potatoes, sufficient to stay my hunger. Then the king asked Sigurd what prize he had staked, and Sigurd answered: The prize was staked many months ago when I met Klerkon over in Estonia, and it was arranged that if the vikings horse should overcome mine he was to take the young thrall Ole. It was the stegosaurusthe very creature which Maple White had preserved in his sketchbook, and which had been the first object which arrested the attention of Challenger! And so it was done. Then Klerkons stallion took hold of the jawbone of Sleipner, and held on until it seemed that he would never yield his hold. I was weary and spent, so my progress was not so fast as I wished; but at last I came into regions which I knew. It was clear that the great volcanic outburst which had raised this strange plateau so many years ago had not yet entirely spent its forces. I paused and listened, but there was nothing more.

Then Olaf snatched back his head sharply, and so it happened that the blow hit the man who had hold of his hair, and the axe took off both his hands. And Earl Erik ordered his men to set Olaf free from his tether. And a third: I shall at least die in good company; but first, let me tighten my belt. I turned away baffled. I could not say, for it resembled an ape no more than it did a man. And with that the forecastle captain sprang down on the gangway, and knocking men off into the waist in his impetuous rush, swung his battleaxe round his head and aimed a terrific blow at Osmund Hooknose. Then for a few minutes came a lull in the fight, and men could breathe for a space. And we men, the creatures who inhabit this earth, must be to them at least as alien and lowly as are the monkeys and lemurs to us. And as it is his invariable practice to secrete and bury his booty, and from the perilous life he leads, being often killed or captured, he can never revisit the spot again; immense sums remain buried in those places, and are irrecoverably lost. From this place also he could fire his arrows and fling his spears over the heads of his Norsemen.

It was the shotgun, not the rifle, which I had taken! he cried as full three score of his bravest warriors followed close at his back. And at this the boy turned round and said more softly: Well, Thorgils, for your pleasure will I do it, and not for the vikings praise. Now do I swear upon the hilt of my swordhe raised his sword hilt to his lipsthat if I win this battle and take the Long Serpent for my prize I will straightway allow myself to be christened.

He laid an arrow on the string and turned it on Wolf, who cried: Shoot another way, king, and not at me but at your foes, for what I win in the fight I win for Norway, and maybe you will find that you have not over many men before the evening comes. Then followed a battle of looks between them, but the captain soon knuckled under, put up his weapon, and resumed his seat, grumbling like a beaten dog. Then the boy caught his knives and thrust them one by one into his belt, and, turning shoreward, strode quickly down the plank and made his way through the cheering crowd, followed by Thorgils. It came about in this way. It filled me with indescribable terror to think how swiftly that desolating change had come. Then as the two gleaming weapons were well in play, rising and falling in quick succession, one of his hands went to his belt, and he drew yet a third knife and plied it in turn with the other two. Our effects were scattered in wild confusion over the ground; my comrades had disappeared, and close to the smouldering ashes of our fire the grass was stained crimson with a hideous pool of blood. I shied a small stone at him and bade him shut uphis uncanny noise made me nervous.

It lasted for perhaps two seconds, to be followed by the screams and moans of the wounded, the cursing of the men and the hoarse commands of the ships officers. It struck us on the starboard side almost amidships. And the boys on the bank cried out, Well done, Rekon! And he and Redruth backed with a great heave that sent her stern bodily under water. He called out loudly to Ketil the Tall: Bring forward the large ship.

It seemed that, like all the other vikings who had spoken so boldly at that feast, Vagn was to be cheated of his vow, yet he resolved to meet his death bravely. I attribute this to the fact of the smallness of the beach, the enormous depth of surrounding water and the great distance at which Caprona lies from her nearest neighbor. And as he swam to shore the vikings laughed aloud, and some who had thought of giving him a reward put back their gold into their wallets and turned away. But this was not all. And he thrust his thumbs into his belt and drew back. I remembered that Challenger had declared that man could not exist upon the plateau, since with his feeble weapons he could not hold his own against the monsters who roamed over it. Then the Norwegians pressed in a great throng against him, and he saw that further resistance was useless.

He is the noblest champion who will fight against us today, said Olaf, and from him and the high born men that I see upon his decks we may expect a hard battle. I began to walk slowly round, therefore, feeling in every direction to find out what this strange place could be into which I had been so opportunely precipitated. It must have been a little after three o'clock in the afternoon that it happened the afternoon of June 3rd, 1916. And all the while Sigurd Erikson kept his eyes upon the lads glowing, upturned face. It was only upon the third day that the ganglia ran down and the dreadful things were still. He had seen from the first that it would be his place to assume the defensive, and he had given the order for his ships to be drawn up in line, broadside to broadside. Then I gladly accept, said Olaf. I say hopped advisedly, for the beast moved like a kangaroo, springing along in an erect position upon its powerful hind legs, while its front ones were held bent in front of it. And before we judge of them too harshly we must remember what ruthless and utter destruction our own species has wrought, not only upon animals, such as the vanished bison and the dodo, but upon its inferior races. It contained much wonderful magic, and some astonishingly hard strokes, as they told it; but reading between their lines, the magic bears a strong resemblance to many spells cast even at this day, and as for the sword strokes, there was need for them to be hard in Norway then. Then it dived, and I saw it no more.

It was at Para also that we engaged Gomez and Manuel, two halfbreeds from up the river, just come down with a cargo of redwood. It remained for the scout team to determine whether human beings would want to live on it whether, in fact, they themselves would want to, because, if so, they had the option of becoming the first settlers. And now, sir, continued the doctor, since I now know theres such a fellow in my district, you may count Ill have an eye upon you day and night. Then it came back, to me. I stood like a man paralyzed, still staring at the ground which I had traversed.

He was at my very heels. Then from out of the silence, imminent and threatening, there came once more that low, throaty croaking, far louder and closer than before. He was not personally afraid of Klerkon, neither did he believe that the viking would go to much trouble to secure his prize even if his horse should be successful. He offers it who has the power Earl Erik himself, answered the earl. Then suddenly I saw it. And there to the south? It was August 2nd when we snapped our last link with the outer world by bidding farewell to the Esmeralda. He put Vagn Akison at the end of the log, intending to keep him to the last in order to increase his agony. I was plodding up the slope, turning these thoughts over in my mind, and had reached a point which may have been halfway to home, when my mind was brought back to my own position by a strange noise behind me. And then again, as the stir increased, and he could see the men beginning to troop on board the long ships, This voyage shall be as the falling of snowflakes into the sea; but what man can escape his fate?

I could testify that it was full of strange creatures, and I had seen several land forms of primeval life which we had not before encountered. It is for this reason that I am compelled to be vague in my narrative, and I would warn my readers that in any map or diagram which I may give the relation of places to each other may be correct, but the points of the compass are carefully confused, so that in no way can it be taken as an actual guide to the country. I had no time to examine it further for I had need to hurry if I were to be back in camp in the morning. And now Earl Hakon pulled up alongside the ship of Bui, and a combat ensued, which has scarcely had its equal in all the battles of the Northmen. It narrowed rapidly, however, and after two more days steaming we reached an Indian village, where the Professor insisted that we should land, and that the Esmeralda should be sent back to Manaos. and sprang into the sea. It floods the banks, extends in great lagoons over a monstrous waste of country, and forms a huge district, called locally the Gapo, which is for the most part too marshy for foottravel and too shallow for boating. and each answered in his own fashion. And brandishing his axe he rushed towards his enemy.

He did not doubt that, because they were all that remained of the Jomsburgers, they were therefore the bravest and stoutest of all the vikings who had engaged in the great battle, and he feared that if they were allowed to live they would surely bring some great trouble upon him. It happened in the beginning of the summer that Sigurd Erikson journeyed north into Estonia to gather the kings taxes and tribute. Then the king turned to his own ships. He was seized from behind, disarmed, and bound hand and foot with strong ropes. He took up two chests of gold, one in either arm, and mounting the gunwale of his ship, cried out: Overboard all folk of Bui!

It seemed that the lad was of good station, for his clothing was of finely woven cloth, and there was a gold neckband to his kirtle, and his long black hair was well combed and curled. This final contest, while it lasted, was fierce and terrible. And over allsilence. Then Wolf the Red, his standard bearer, whose station was forward in the bow, mumbled a complaint: If the Serpent shall lie as far forward as she is longer than your other ships, then there will be windy weather today in her bows. It would be supposed that his wild career would be one of delight. When he advanced upon the Serpent Olaf Triggverson was ready to meet him, refreshed by his brief rest, unwounded still, and with his warlike spirit burning eager within him. And now I was coming into my own.

It is of no importance, for the purpose of giving jurisdiction in cases of piracy, on whom or where a piratical offence is committed. It was a bitter cold winter, with long, hard frosts and heavy gales; and it was plain from the first that my poor father was little likely to see the spring. And then suddenly, with a crashing and a rending, a thudding of giant feet and a panting of monster lungs the beast was upon me once more. And his heathen Sweden, I think, would find it more agreeable to sit at the fireside and lick their sacrificial bowls than to board the Long Serpent under the rain of our weapons. And it is evident, that notwithstanding these follies wasted the population of Europe, squandered its treasures, and infected us with new vices and

diseases, still the crusades diminished the bondage of the feudal system, by augmenting the power of the King, and the strength of the Commons; while they also occasioned a very increased activity in commerce: thus taming the ferocity of mens spirits, increasing agriculture in value from the safety it enjoyed, and establishing a base for permanent prosperity.

He was tall and powerfully framed, and bore his years and the white volume of his beard in an altogether stately fashion; but his eyes were most indelible, pale blue and singularly cold in repose, very bright and keen and searching when his face was animated. he would cry, pointing to the north. And he cut his way through the crowd of Danes, who, led by Sweyn himself, had been making a final rally and preparing to board the Serpent. And now it must be told how Earl Erik Hakonson fared in that fight. And now ensued one of the sharpest combats that had been seen that day. And when the word went round that the rescued man was Kolbiorn Stallare and not the king, the lad pointed outward upon the sea and all looked in amaze upon the shining crucifix as it rose and fell with the motion of the waves. He would tell the history of the mighty river so rapidly explored (for some of the first conquerors of Peru actually crossed the entire continent upon its waters), and yet so unknown in regard to all that lay behind its everchanging banks. I crouched low among the bushes, for I knew from past experience that with a single cry the creature could bring a hundred of its loathsome mates about my ears. He could not speak of that great country without ardor, and this ardor was infectious, for, ignorant as I was, he fixed my attention and stimulated my curiosity. I passed close to the pterodactyl swamp, and as I did so, with a dry, crisp, leathery rattle of wings, one of these great creaturesit was twenty feet at least from tip to tiprose up from somewhere near me and soared into the air. He then formally declared war against Pedro Lopez, the leader of the slavedrivers, enrolled a band of runaway slaves in his service, armed them, and conducted a campaign, which ended by his killing with his own hands the notorious halfbreed and breaking down the system which he represented.

I could notmust notfail. It was one January morning, very earlya pinching, frosty morningthe cove all grey with hoarfrost, the ripple lapping softly on the stones, the sun still low and only touching the hilltops and shining far to seaward. It may be that they cannot, but it may also be that they will not, help us to get away. He has been gone about three days; but the most startling thing I have on record is that von Schoenvorts and Olson while out hunting the other day discovered oil about fifteen miles north of us beyond the sandstone cliffs.

It was a rude, raw, primeval version of the Jews in Babylon or the Israelites in Egypt. He took Sinclair, Brady, James, and Tippet with him. He was not sailory, and yet he had a smack of the sea about him too. It was on the third day after our forming our camp near the Indian caves that the tragedy occurred. He was a pale, tallowy creature, wanting two fingers of the left hand, and though he wore a cutlass, he did not look much like a fighter. It seems incredible that all that I have passed throughall those weird and terrifying experiencesshould have been encompassed within so short a span as three brief months.

I stopped, and, picking a cartridge from my pocket, I opened the breech of my gun. It seemed now that the few Jomsvikings who were left would have the glory of victory all to themselves. I thought of the despairing yell of the tortured iguanodonthat dreadful cry which had echoed through the woods. He sank daily, and my mother and I had all the inn upon our hands, and were kept busy enough without paying much regard to our unpleasant guest. It was dreadful in the forest. It was a cheery companion, gurgling and chuckling as it ran, like the dear old troutstream in the West Country where I have fished at night in my boyhood. He has a gentle voice and a quiet manner, but behind his twinkling blue eyes there lurks a capacity for furious wrath and implacable resolution, the more dangerous because they are held in leash. He added privately that we were now approaching the door of the unknown country, and that the fewer whom we took into our confidence the better it would be.

It was not until it had settled again that I dared to steal onwards upon my journey. It was like a boiling kettle or the bubbling of some great pot. I simply could not slink back with nothing done. I may have said somewhere in this chronicle that I am too imaginative to be a really courageous man, but that I have an overpowering fear of seeming afraid. 2 Black Dog Appears and Disappears IT was not very long after this that there occurred the first of the mysterious events that rid us at last of the captain, though not, as you will see, of his affairs. It was a fearsome walk, and one which will be with me so long as memory holds.

It was wonderful, and yet it must surely be. He has fruits delicious to taste, and as companions, the unsophisticated daughters of Africa and the Indies. He stood with his bare feet firmly gripping the plank, and his head thrown back, and his lithe, well balanced body swaying in regular movement with his arms. I seemed to hear her voice as she said it. It was out of the question for the moment, and yet surely we could not leave the plateau until we had some definite knowledge upon the point. It was shallow, for in many places I saw low sandbanks protruding above the water. It was something between a snore and a growl, low, deep, and exceedingly menacing.

It was of enormous size and power, like an erect elephant, but its movements, in spite of its bulk, were exceedingly alert. He ran his fingers over his short yellow hair, and then, turning with his back to the sun, flung one of his knives high up into the air. Both were agreed that the monsters were practically brainless, that there was no room for reason in their tiny cranial cavities, and that if they have disappeared from the rest of the world it was assuredly on account of their own stupidity, which made it impossible for them to adapt themselves to changing conditions. It was, as I have said, a pit, with sharplysloping walls and a level bottom about twenty feet across. He was fair of skin, and by this Sigurd knew that he was not an Esthonian.

It was so high that I could not reach the top of it with my hand, and it appeared to be covered with grease. I warmed at the thought. It was a trap made by the hand of man. I encountered a couple of hungry looking dogs, but both hurried circuitously away from the advances I made them. I rested for the remainder of the daylight in a shrubbery, being, in my enfeebled condition, too fatigued to push on.

I rose, also, and over the ships side, I saw not two hundred yards distant the periscope of a submarine, while racing toward the liner the wake of a torpedo was distinctly visible. I shall never forget the ashy faces of the passengers as they stampeded for their lifebelts, though there was no panic. It was now broad daylight. It was for me now to hurry on as fast as possible, and so to reassure them.

It is true that there was that one hideous pool of blood, which told of violence. He rode across the marketplace and there alighted from his horse, and turned his eyes towards the sea. That formidable seafaring man with one leg has at last gone clean out of my life; but I dare say he met his old Negress, and perhaps still lives in comfort with her and Captain Flint. It happened to the Swedes, as to the Danes, that notwithstanding their superior numbers they found that they were ill matched in skill and prowess with the Norsemen. He was a very handsome man, tall and strong, with long fair hair and clear blue eyes. Suddenly a thought came to me and brought some little comfort to my heart. It struck the crest of Eriks helmet, but did no harm. He strode nearer to them, and heard the hoarse voices of the vikings calling out in loud praise of a feat that had been performed by someone in their midst. It must be Gods will that he now shall rule in Norway; and that is not strange, for I see that he has changed the stem dweller on the Iron Ram.

I am, or was, junior member of my fathers firm. He was a tall, red bearded man, whose nose was flat against his scarred, bronzed face. His helmet was battered by the many spears and swords that had struck upon it, and his shield bristled with broken arrows. I rescued it, but I was soaked above the knees doing it; and then I sat down in the sand and opened it, and in the long twilight read the manuscript, neatly written and tightly folded, which was its contents. I will take peace gladly if it be that all my comrades have it also, answered the viking. I had thought you were of Norway, Erik said, and if that be so it were not well that you should die.

I should not be a worthy Jomsviking if I were afraid of death, said one; and then Thorkel dealt him the blow. I had come to Greenland for the summer, on the advice of my physician, and was slowly being bored to extinction, as I had thoughtlessly neglected to bring sufficient readingmatter. He doubtless here refers to the waters of the ocean on the sea coast, and not in creeks and inlets. Christian against pagan! I am here and here must remain. he asked of the tall youth at his side. I will tell also of the huge bird which chased Challenger to the shelter of the rocks one day a great running bird, far taller than an ostrich, with a vulturelike neck and cruel head which made it a walking death. It is to be hoped so, I suppose, for his chances of comfort in another world are very small. He is better equipped for a rough expedition of this sort than one would imagine at first sight.

He spends his days flitting through the woods with his shotgun and his butterflynet, and his evenings in mounting the many specimens he has acquired. He has been upon several scientific expeditions in his youth (he was with Robertson in Papua), and the life of the camp and the canoe is nothing fresh to him. I had to smile as I read Bradleys report. It is the king! I paused where I was, with my napkin in my hand.

I followed him in, and I remember observing the contrast the neat, bright doctor, with his powder as white as snow and his bright, black eyes and pleasant manners, made with the coltish country folk, and above all, with that filthy, heavy, bleared scarecrow of a pirate of ours, sitting, far gone in rum, with his arms on the table. I had regarded his presence as an encumbrance to the expedition, but, as a matter of fact, I am now well convinced that his power of endurance is as great as my own. He is twenty years younger, but has something of the same spare, scraggy physique. I speak freely, and I leave the use of my material to your own discretion, Mr. He is exceedingly neat and prim in his ways, dresses always with great care in white drill suits and high brown mosquitoboots, and shaves at least once a day. I will also allude very briefly to our river journey, up a wide, slowmoving, claytinted stream, in a steamer which was little smaller than that which had carried us across the Atlantic. I had but wished to see you succeed where your masters son has failed, sighed the elder lad. When the men had finished lashing the ships together he again took his war horn and blew a loud blast upon it that echoed and reechoed along the rocky shores of the island. I understand that they are the very two Ataca and Ipetu by name who accompanied Professor Challenger upon his previous journey. He spoke little of his own exploits in Brazil and Peru, but it was a revelation to me to find the excitement which was caused by his presence among the riverine natives, who looked upon him as their champion and protector.

He was only once crossed, and that was towards the end, when my poor father was far gone in a decline that took him off. He sprang to his feet, drew and opened a sailors claspknife, and balancing it open on the palm of his hand, threatened to pin the doctor to the wall. He spoke to him as before, over his shoulder and in the same tone of voice, rather high, so that all the room might hear, but perfectly calm and steady: If you do not put that knife this instant in your pocket, I promise, upon my honour, you shall hang at the next assizes. He expects to be gone several weeks and to follow along their base in search of a point where they may be scaled.

I have, according to our arrangement, addressed it to you, my dear Mr. He could see some bringing weapons and provisions down to the shore, and others busily lading the ships. He did not flinch, but tried to pass off his injury with a jest. I will not bore those whom this narrative may reach by an account of our luxurious voyage upon the Booth liner, nor will I tell of our weeks stay at Para (save that I should wish to acknowledge the great kindness of the Pereira da Pinta Company in helping us to get together our equipment). I remember his breath hanging like smoke in his wake as he strode off, and the last sound I heard of him as he turned the big rock was a loud snort of indignation, as though his mind was still running upon Dr. He remained on board until nightfall, and then, dropping into a small sailing boat that he had been careful to provide himself with, he stole out of the bay and was soon far away among the skerries, safe from all pursuit. He was an Indian.

he asked of Bersi the Strong, one of his chieftains who stood near him. He then retook London, embellished it, equipped fleets, restrained the Danes in England, and prevented others from landing. I had always my eye open for seafaring men, with one leg or two, and I remember this one puzzled me. He fled for safety to the Scandinavian island of Soderoe, where finding many outlaws and discontented fugitives, he addressed their passions, and succeeded in placing himself at their head. He assailed each ship as it approached with showers of well directed arrows. He now rowed proudly upon the left wing of the Norse fleet. I asked him what was for his service, and he said he would take rum; but as I was going out of the room to fetch it, he sat down upon a table and motioned me to draw near.

I took a step nearer. He thought that he had made an end of the King of Sweden. I can scarce believe the truth of it. I have said before that Lord John Roxton was a South Americomaniac. He had won no fame by his daring attack, but only ignominious defeat, and he was fain to escape alive, albeit very badly wounded. He had also seen Sweyn Forkbeard in the thick of battle, and Olaf of Sweden no less. I ask you to picture the shaded sittingroom of the Fazenda St. I write this from day to day, but I trust that before I come to the end of it, I may be able to say that the light shines, at last, through our clouds.

I shall have tales of a merry fight to tell to Odin tonight. I go before, he said, and fell on the deck with a clatter of steel. He had a firm belief that the men of Norway were braver and bolder, stronger in body, more skilful in the use of their weapons, and had greater powers of endurance than any of their neighbours. He at least saw cause for thinking that the only men who could succeed in vanquishing King Olafs Norsemen were the Norsemen of Earl Erik Hakonson. I will tell, too, of the great nocturnal white thingto this day we do not know whether it was beast or reptilewhich lived in a vile swamp to the east of the lake, and flitted about with a faint phosphorescent glimmer in the darkness.

I can only say that it seemed to be larger than a cow and had the strangest musky odor. I was carried ashore, and while the evening meal was being prepared, I wandered to and fro along the rocky, shattered shore. He saw that while the Long Serpent continued to be supported on either side by five strong and well manned dragonships she was practically unassailable. I know a sub as a mother knows her babys face, and have commanded a score of them on their trial runs. I graduated under Curtiss, and after a long siege with my father obtained his permission to try for the Lafayette Escadrille. He knew how much depended upon his preventing Erik from boarding the kings ship. I was sitting on deck with some of the fellows who were going into the American ambulance service with me, my Airedale, Crown Prince Nobbler, asleep at my feet, when the first blast of the whistle shattered the peace and security of the ship. He was himself unwounded still, but his silken tunic was tattered, so that the links of his coat of mail showed through. He saw that his stem defenders were quickly becoming fewer and fewer, and that those who yet remained wielded their weapons with slow and heavy strokes. He saw that his stem defenders, to whom he had served new weapons, had now become so furious that they leapt upon the gunwales in order to reach their foes with their swords and kill them.