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# CLASSICS

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No. 28 15¢

# MICHAEL STROGOFF

By JULES VERNE



# Michael Strogoff

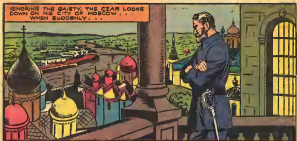
A COURIER OF THE CZAR

By JULES VERNE  
ILLUSTRATED BY: ARNOLD HICKS  
ADAPTED BY: PAT ADAM



IT IS THE YEAR 1840, THE PLACE IS MOSCOW, AS NIGHT STRIKES, FABLE DANCERS WHIRL THROUGH THE GRAND SALONS OF THE PALACE AND IN THE GALA CROWD, IT IS ALICE JOUVET, FRENCH NEWSPAPERMAN AND HIS RIVAL, HARRY BLUNT, THE ENGLISHMAN, WHO SENSE THE UNDER-CURRENT OF DANGER... SOMETHING IS IN THE AIR!

IGNORING THE GAISY, THE Czar LOOKS DOWN ON HIS CITY OF MOSCOW . . . WHEN SUDDENLY . . .



SEE A FRESH DISPATCH FROM TOMSK. THE WIRE IS CUT BEYOND THAT CITY.

A COURIER! THIS MOMENT!



THE TARTARS HAVE NOT YET ADVANCED BEYOND THE IRISH AND OBI, SIRE.

TELL ME ALL YOU KNOW OF THE REBEL, IVAN DEARBIE.



TWO YEARS AGO HE WAS BOILED TO SIBERIA, SIRE.

YES, THE GRAND DUKE BOILED HIM, AND NOW HE POURS TARTAR HORSES INTO SIBERIA. THE BORN HAS SUBST LIKE A PLAGUE - CLAR, MORDEK, IVAN DEARBIE THREATENING FOR VENGEANCE, AIMS AT THE LIFE OF THE GRAND DUKE MY BROTHER!



WHEN THE TARTARS HAVE ENTERED KHUTKA, HE WILL BETRAY THE TOWN AND WITH IT MY BROTHER. THIS THE GRAND DUKE MUST KNOW!

A COURIER WILL HAVE TO PASS THE RANGS OF THE REBELS AND INVADERS. HE MUST DISPLAY ALMOST SUPERHUMAN COURAGE... BUT WITH A CLEAR HEAD AND A FIRM HEART, MUCH CAN BE DONE.



SHALL HE BE ABLE TO FIND THIS HEAD AND HEART?

THE BEST COURIER FOR THE MISSION WAS MICHAEL STROGOFF... FOR...

WHEN FOURTEEN, MICHAEL KILLED HIS FIRST BEAR, AND DRAGGED THE HIDE ANIMAL'S SKIN MANY FEET TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.



EVERET - APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF A MILE.

HE CAN GO TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITHOUT EATING, TEN NIGHTS WITHOUT SLEEPING, AND CAN MAKE A SHELTER IN THE OPEN STEPPES WHERE OTHERS WOULD FREEZE TO DEATH.



HE HAS LEARNED TO READ SLIGHT SIGNS, THE CURVE OF ICICLES... VAGUE SOUNDS IN THE AIR... FLIGHT OF BIRDS... TEMPERED BY SNOW, HE HAS A FRAME OF IRON.



... SO MICHAEL STROGOFF WAS ORDERED TO REPORT TO THE CZAR.



ARE YOU THE COURIER FOR WHOM I SENT?

MICHAEL STROGOFF, SILENT CAPTAIN IN THE CORPS OF COURIERS OF THE CZAR.

HERE IS A LETTER WHICH I CHARGE THEE, MICHAEL STROGOFF, TO DELIVER INTO THE HANDS OF THE GRAND DUKE, AND TO NO OTHER.







NEXT MORNING A PAIR! ALCIDÉ JOLIVET AND MICHAEL STROGOFF ARE ENJOYING IT TO THE FULL... NOT SO HARRY BLOUNT, WHO HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO SLEEP IN THE OPEN AIR DURING THE NIGHT.



WHAT A COLORFUL PLACE!

MOGGO!

DAH!

I MUST FIND THE GIRL FROM THE TRAIN. HER PRESENCE WILL BE USEFUL IN DRAWING OFF SUSPICION THAT I AM A COURIER OF THE Czar.

ALL STRANGERS ARE COMMANDED TO LEAVE THE PROVINCE.

THE TARTARS MENACE TOMORROW.

MAY GOD GUIDE ME...













THE HORSES WON'T MOVE!

LANDSLIDE! WE'LL BE KILLED!



HELP! HELP!

MARK! SOMEONE ELSE IS IN PERIL AROUND THE BEND!



DON'T LOOK BACK CHILD!

Oh!



COME WITH ME, NADIA!



GENTLEMEN, I CAN LEAD YOU ONE OF MY HORSES FOLLOW ME, QUICKLY!

THANK HEAVEN! THIS IS INDEED A GENEROUS PROPOSAL!



LATER... THE TRAVELERS' FIRST THOUGHT ON SEEING A CARCIAGE ON THE ROAD, IS TO GET TO THE POST HOUSE FIRST TO SECURE FRESH HORSES.

WE MUST PASS THEM!



STOP!



HOLD ON, NADIA, IT LOOKS AS IF WE'LL BE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE AT THE POST AFTER ALL!



WHY ARE THOSE HORSES HARD-FASTED TO THE TARANTASS AT THE SCOUT TAKE THEM OUT!

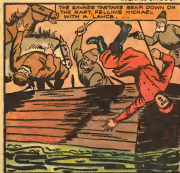
THOSE HORSES ARE ENGAGED BY ME. I HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE.



VERY WELL, THEY SHALL BELONG TO WHICHEVER OF US IS ABLE TO START, DEPND YOUR-SELF!

I SHALL NOT FIGHT.





THE BANGOR TARTARS BEAR DOWN ON THE RAFT, PELLING MICHAEL WITH A LANCE.



YOU BRUTE! YOU'VE KILLED HIM!



SWIMMING WOUNDED UNDER WATER, THE SCOURER OF THE GEAR AT LAST REACHES THE BANK.

FRIEND, HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN IN THY HUT?

THREE DAYS, LITTLE FATHER.



THIS IS OMKEL, IT IS IN THE HANDS OF THE TARTARS.

THREE DAYS LOST!







FACING IVAN GRADSKI, SOME INSTINCT WARRING MARKA . . .

THOU HAST A SON, A COURIER OF THE DEAR, WHO WAS THE YOUNG MAN THOU DIDST CALL SON?

A YOUNG SERBIAN WHOM I TOOK FOR HIM.



TELL THE TRUTH! DIDST THOU KNOW, OLD WOMAN, THAT I CAN TORTURE THEE? LET THE WOMAN BE CONDUCTED TO TOMSKI!

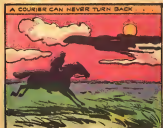
NO! NOT TOMSKI!



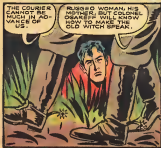
WHEN THE MOMENT ARRIVES, I SHALL KNOW HOW TO MAKE THIS OLD SERBIAN SPEAK!



WHERE THE TURK GOES, NO GRASS GROWS.



A COURIER CAN NEVER TURN BACK . . .



A DESPERATE CHANCE...



HEAVEN IS WITH ME! A STRAY HORSE!

ONLY ONE WAY LIES OPEN... THE HIGHROAD!



LOOK OUT!



MICHAEL'S HORSE IS BECOMING WEAKER...



COURAGE MY BRAVE HORSE!





THE TARTAR'S CAMP IS BREATHTAKING  
IN ITS BARBARIC SPLENDOR.



A DOOLE PRISONER WHO WORKS  
LONG AND WILLINGLY IS STROGOFF...



BUT INACTION GIVES TIME FOR  
THOUGHT. WILL HE EVER SEE  
HIS MOTHER AND NADIA AGAIN?



A FLOURISH OF TRUMPETS GREETS THE ARRIVAL OF THE TYRANT QASREP.



HE PAID SPY REPORTS...



NOTHING?

NOTHING.

IS THE TIME APPROACHING WHEN YOU WILL FORCE THE OLD WOMAN TO SPEAK?

IT IS APPROACHING, SANGARRRE.



AS THE TWO MEN GLADLY MAKE FOR TONER.

THE CORRESPONDENTS ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS AS NEWSMEN.



WE ASK TO BE FREED.

YOU ARE FREE, GENTLEMEN.



HAN IS GREETED BY PEOPLE KHAN ENIR OF THE TURKS.



WE MARCH TO MEET THE SUN TO TAKE IN OUTER. THE GRAND CURSE WILL FALL INTO OUR HANDS.



GOOD!

THE TERRIBLE MARCH. MARPA STROGOFF'S MERRY IS RELIEVED BY A LOVELY YOUNG PRISONER.



NADIA TELLS THE STORY OF HER JOURNEY WITH THE HEROIC MERCHANT.



BUT NADIA BELIEVES MICHAEL IS DROWNED.

HOPE, MY CHILD. I WILL NEVER GIVE AWAY HIS SECRET.



THE MARCH BRINGS A BURNING THIRST AND . . .



IT IS HIS HE STAY, MY DAUGHTER!

DO NOT MAKE A STEP TOWARDS HIM, I MATE ME.



MARPA'S SON IS A PRISONER IN THE ENCAMPMENT.



WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY!



TERRIBLE ANXIETY KEEPS THE TWO PRISONERS AWAKE...  
INSTINCTIVE PRUDENCE KEEPS THEM SILENT.



DRIVEN BY WHIPS, THE PRISONERS  
FORM A CIRCLE.



MARRA STROGOFF...  
GIVE ME YOUR SON TO ME.

NO, NEVER!



THE  
KNOUT!

TO THE DEATH.  
BEGIN!



MY  
MOTHER!





THE MAN STRUGGLES IN THE POST HOUSE!

GOOD THAT, YOU FRIEND!



MICHAEL STROGOFF!



SLOW FOR SLOW - ONE FOR EACH YOU OWE HERE!

SHAME HIM, YOU FOOL! SHAME HIM!

WILL REPAID.



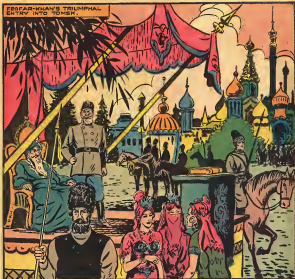
NOW... SEARCH HIM!



THE CZAR'S LETTER CHANGES HANDS.

AH! AT LAST I HAVE WHAT I WANT EVEN AT THE COST OF A BUTCHERED FACE!

ESFAR-KHAN'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO TOMER.



THE PRISONERS ARE DRAGGED INTO THE FESTIVE SQUARE



LOOK, BLOUNT. IT IS SHE... WE MUST SAVE HER!

INTERFERENCE WOULD BE USELESS!





TRIANES DANCE TILL THE CROWD IS IN A MAD MOOD.





MICHAEL IS BLINDED, TARTAR FASHION, BY A HOT BLADE PRESSED BEFORE HIS EYES.



HIS ORDERS EXECUTED, THE EMIR RETIRES WITH HIS TRAIN.



READ NOW, AND GO AND REPEAT AT INSTANT WHAT YOU HAVE READ. THE TRUE COURIER OF THE CAIR IS EVAN OSAROFF.



BROKENLY, MICHAEL, KEEPS HIS MOTHER.



NADIA, NADIA.





COMPLETE OBSESSION GREETE THEM, AND IT IS UNCOMMON FOR A RUSSIAN TOWN NOT TO BE FILLED WITH THE SOUND OF ITS BELLS.



THE TRAVELERS MAKE THE ONLY SOUND TO BE HEARD IN THE GRAC CITY.



WE HAVE TO CROSS THE YENISEI AND NEED LIGHT TO SEE OUR WAY.

A LIGHT!



TO SEE!

FORGIVE ME, ALAS! NIGHT AND DAY ARE THE SAME TO YOU.



A NEW CAUSE FOR ANXIETY. HAVE ALL THE BOATS BEEN DESTROYED TO RETARD THE TARTAR'S MARCH?



CAN YOU SEE A BOAT? I HEAR THE WATER ROARING.

HAVE PATIENCE, LITTLE FATHER.











FORWARD THROUGH A MOUNTAIN PASS TO LAKE BAIKAL.



AROUND THE BEND— THEN WE'LL BE THERE, NADIA ...

LISTEN! I HEAR VOICES!

THANK HEAVEN!

RUSSIANS!



NADIA PARTS WITH RELIEF... BUT THE RUSSIAN FUGITIVES GUIDE MICHAEL SAFELY ONTO THE RAFT.



REST AT LAST ON A BED OF LEAVES.



AS THE CURRENT CARRIES THE REFUGEES TOWARD BRUSH... MAGNIFICENT JETS OF BOILING WATER BURST FROM THE STRANGE, HALF-FROZEN SIBERIAN SEA.





UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS THE RAFT SLIPS INTO THE RIVER ABOVE ISKUTER. THE COLD IS INTENSE... NOT A WORD IS SPOKEN... THE TARTARS LINE THE BANKS.



JOLNET KEEPS A DISCOVERY TO HIMSELF. THE WATER IS COVERED WITH NAPHTHA... ONE SPARK AND IT WILL BECOME A SEA OF FLAMES!



A FIGHT WITHOUT FIREARMS... ONLY THE HOWLS OF THE WOLF PACK RILL THE AIR.



WOLVES WE MUST DEPEND OURSELVES WITHOUT NOISE.



THEIR EYES GLOWING LIKE RED HOT COALS, THE WOLVES COME ON AND ON.



SAVED! FRIGHTENED BY THE GLARE OF A BURNING TOWN, THE WOLVES MAKE OFF.



STILL AS DEATH THE FUGITIVES FACE THE GREATEST DANGER OF ALL... THEY MAY BE SEEN BY THE TARTARS.



REND OFF WITH YOUR BOAT HOOK!



AGAIN AND AGAIN THE ICE HALTS THEM AND THE MEN WAGER PRACTICALLY, BUT FINALLY,



AN UNWISE MOVEMENT GIVES THEIR POSITION AWAY.



NADIA, WE MUST CROSS THE BARRIER. GUIDE ME.



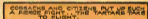
DON'T HEED THE BULLETS. JUST RUN... RUN!



LITTLE BY LITTLE THE CRISIS OF DISTRESS AND YELLS OF THE TARTARS GROW FAINT.

OUR POOR COMPANIONS!









WASILI FEDOR, NADIA'S FATHER... SELECTED BY THE TOWN'S BAILES TO LEAD THEM IN THEIR FIGHT FOR RUSSIA.







ENTIRELY FREE IN HIS MOVEMENTS  
THE TRAITOR SEARCHES THE TOWN  
FOR WEAK POINTS.



WILL SEVERAL THOUSAND TARTARS  
STAND READY TO ATTACK THE GATE.

THE NIGHT OF THE BIRTH OF  
OCTOBER... THE TARTARS  
AID ON THE MOVE...



WAITING FOR THE HOUR  
TO STRIKE LIKE A  
WILD BEAST READY  
TO SPRING.



THE TARTARS  
WILL LONG  
REMEMBER  
MY NAME...

TWO O'CLOCK! TIME  
FOR THE FALSE ATTACK  
TO DRAW THE DEFENDERS  
AWAY FROM THE GREAT  
GATE.



FOR I, MAN  
OBERFF, WILL  
PERSECUTE  
THEM!

AT LAST!  
THE TIME  
HAS COME!



BY OGAREFF'S ORDER, TORRENTS OF MINERAL OIL HAVE BEEN THROWN ON THE RIVER...



THE GATE IS LEFT ALMOST UNSAVED...



AS NIKH OGAREFF GLORES IN THE SCENE...

SANSARR...  
NOT!

IVAN  
OGAREFF!



THE DEFENDERS ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TARTAR ATTACK AND THE TERRIBLE FIRE.



IVAN  
OGAREFF!

SO IT IS MAD  
SILENCE! YOU  
WILL NOT LIVE  
TO TELL WHAT  
YOU HAVE SEEN!









MICHAEL STROGOFF HAS NEVER BEEN BLIND. THE TEARS HE SHED LOOKING FOR THE LAST TIME AT HIS MOTHER, FORMED A PROTECTIVE COAT OF VAPOR WHICH OFFSET THE EFFECT OF THE BURNING SWORD.



A CANNON BOOMS FROM THE HEIGHTS . . . THE RELIEVING ARMY HAS ARRIVED.





IT WILL BE MY JOY TO CALL YOU BOTH MY CHILDREN.



THE PEOPLE OF KRUTCH SHOW THEIR DEEP GRATITUDE TO THE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE, WHOSE JOURNEY HAS ALREADY BECOME A LEGEND.

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE..



THEY SPEAK OF TROUBLE IN PERCH.

BY JOVE - LET'S GO!



TO CHINA?

FAREWELL STROGOFF!

GOOD LUCK MY FRIEND



REUNITED AT LAST IN BEAUTIFUL ST. PETERSBURG.

DEAR CHILD!

MOTHER STROGOFF!

THIS IS THE HAPPIEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE!



MICHAEL STROGOFF RECEIVES THE HIGHEST AWARD - THE CROSS OF ST. GEORGE - PRESENTED BY THE Czar.

ALL RUSSIA IS GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR BRAVERY STROGOFF!

THE END

## LIFE OF JULES VERNE

The works of Jules Verne, symbolizing the voice of youth, couldn't help but find their place in CLASSIC COMICS. Young people look ahead to the future, dreaming of ways to improve with innovations and inventions, whereas Jules Verne wrote of his dreams of things to come. His great works introduced a new school of literature, describing in a near scientific manner the daring and unbelievable adventures unknown to his contemporaries. Science in those days was still looked upon with doubt and was confined to the laboratories of the die-hards who refused to be discouraged by popular thought.

Today, at the threshold of a thrilling and promising atomic age, Verne's prophecies take on new meaning. We have contacted the moon by radar and although many of us still can't realize what this astronomical communication means, Jules Verne wrote of daring adventures between the moon and the earth before the turn of the century.

Jules Verne was born on February 8, 1828 on the island of Faydeau situated in the River Loire near the Bay of Biscay which in those days harbored many of the ships returning from all corners of the world. Raised in an environment rich with tales of the mysterious and enchanting far off places brought back by ships' news, young Verne was naturally aware of the romance and drama of travel.

The family of Verne was traditionally interested in law, and Jules' father, Pierre Verne, was anxious to school his son as a lawyer. As a boy, Jules' life was strongly checked by his father's puritanical ways. Perhaps the oppression of this strict discipline and perhaps the romance incited by "The Swiss Family Robin-



son" and James Fenimore Cooper's Leather Stocking Tales, caused Jules to turn to the sea during the summer of his 11th year. His father heard of his plans and ripped them in the bud by taking the frustrated young sailor from the ship before it departed from France.

The resultant disciplinary action caused young Jules to confide to his mother, "After this I shall travel only in my imagination." He returned to his studies in Nantes and was graduated into law school at Paris. However, before he started practice as a lawyer, Jules Verne was making a name for himself as a popular author. His first literary works (mostly short plays) were published while he was but a 16 year old clerk in a Nantes law office.

In 1857, he married a young widow, Honorine Morel, and moved her and her two infants into his student's rooms in Paris. Temporarily occupied as a stockbroker, his efforts were constantly being expended in the field of literature. The name of Jules Verne became well known to the reading public when he wrote "The Voyages Extraordinary," a series describing thrilling voyages with the latest inventions of the day. In 1863, the first of these, "5 Weeks in a Balloon" was published, and during the following years he kept his promise to his father by writing plays and scientific articles.

His life came to an end in Amiens, France on the 24th day of March, 1905 but he died knowing that his work had been accepted and acclaimed. His books had been crowned by the French Academy and his name added to the roster of the Legion of Honor—two of the highest possible honors accorded a French citizen.

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