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# THE PRISONER OF ZENDA

Anthony Hope



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# The Prisoner of ZENDA

Illustrated by  
H.C. KIEFER

by ANTHONY HOPE

Marble River No. 31

Had I not been born with the  
peculiar evidence of my relations of flesh  
that gave absolute evidence of my  
relationship to the royal Elphinstone  
family of Ruritania, I may likely  
would have gone to the yard to write  
a slightly more, I found myself in  
the small kingdom of Ruritania where  
I have a job far more exciting than  
anything I could have imagined! This  
is, at least, a truth indeed, is stronger  
than fiction.  
— Rudolf Rassendyll

RUDOLFE



RASSENDYLL



PRINCESS FLAVIA



MME. DE MAUBAN



SAPT

FRTZ



HENTZEAU



BLACK MICHAEL



WHEN I SET OUT FROM LONDON, BOTH MY BROTHER, LORD BURLINGTON, AND HIS CHARMING WIFE, ROSE, CAME TO THE STATION TO SEE ME OFF...

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE YOUR BOOK. GOODBYE AND PLEASANT JOURNEY, RUDOLF.

GOODBYE.



ON THE TRAIN, A NEWSPAPER HEADLINE CAUGHT MY EYE...

RUDOLF OF THE HOUSE OF ELMBERG IS TO BE CROWNED KING OF BURSTANIA! WHY, HE'S A DISTANT COUSIN OF MINE, ALTHOUGH WE'VE NEVER SEEN EACH OTHER



**RUDOLF OF ELMSSAU IN BURSTANIA IN TWO DAYS**

There will be much talk to-day about the coronation of Rudolf of Elmsau, the young king of Burstania, who is expected to be crowned in two days.

I KNOW! INSTEAD OF GOING TO THE TYROL, I'M GOING TO STRELSAU FOR THAT CORONATION!



SOON AFTER I BOARDED THE TRAIN AT PARIS, A FELLOW TRAVELER ENTERED MY COMPARTMENT.



MADAM, YOUR PURSE! MAY I?

OH!



THANK YOU, SIR!

NATURALLY, I WONDERED WHAT IT WAS ABOUT MY APPEARANCE THAT AFFECTED THE LADY SO DEEPLY. FROM TIME TO TIME, I CAUGHT HER LOOKING AT ME WITH A STRANGE INTEREST, WHEREUPON SHE INTENTIONALLY DISREGARDED ME FOR THE REST OF THE JOURNEY.



WE ARE NEAR THE EURASIAN BORDER, EVIDENTLY MY COMPANION IS ALSO GOING TO THE CORONATION.

SINCE THERE WOULD BE LITTLE CHANCE OF OBTAINING LOGGERS IN CROWDED STRELGAU, I DECIDED TO GET OFF THE TRAIN AT ZENDA, A SMALL TOWN ABOUT FIFTY MILES FROM THE CAPITAL.



THERE SHE IS, STARING AT ME AGAIN! I WONDER IF I SHOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED HER!

I FOUND THE ZENDA INN AND WAS KINDLY RECEIVED BY THE INNKEEPER AND HER DAUGHTER.



I SHOULD LIKE A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT, BUT FIRST A MEAL.

SIT DOWN AT A TABLE, SIR, MY DAUGHTER WILL WAIT ON YOU.

NATURALLY, I WAS ANXIOUS TO LEARN ALL I COULD ABOUT RUDOLF V AND MY QUESTIONS WERE GRACIOUSLY ANSWERED BY MY PRETTY WAITRESS.



WHERE'S PRINCE RUDOLF NOW?

HE'S AT THE ROYAL SHOOTING LODGE IN ZENDA FOREST, AND GOES THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW TO STRELGAU TO BE CROWNED.

**A** S I ATE, THE GIRL CHATTERED.

FEW KNOW PRINCE RUDOLF, FOR HE HAS LIVED MANY YEARS AWAY FROM BURGUNDIA, BUT HIS BROTHER, DUKE MICHAEL, HAS ALWAYS LIVED HERE AT ZENDA CASTLE. WE CALL HIM BLACK MICHAEL BECAUSE OF HIS jet BLACK HAIR.



THEN PRINCE RUDOLF AND PRINCE MICHAEL ARE FRIENDS?

OH, THEY LOVE EACH OTHER AS MEN DO WHO WANT THE SAME PLACE AND THE SAME WIFE!

HUSH! YOUR SPEAKING OF ROYALTY OFFENDS. HERE'S JOHANN, KEEPER OF DUKE MICHAEL'S CASTLE!



WE HAVE COMPANY, JOHANN.

GOOD EVENING.

GOOD EVENING TO YOU, SIR? UH... UH...



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, JOHANN? THIS GENTLEMAN HAS COME TO SEE THE CORONATION!

PARDON ME, SIR, DO YOU KNOW OUR KING?

I NEVER SAW HIM, AND NOW I'LL BID YOU ALL GOODNIGHT.



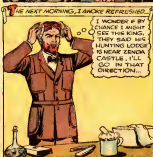
COME, I'LL LIGHT YOUR WAY, SIR. JOHANN WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE SAW THE COLOR OF YOUR HAIR.

THE COLOR OF A MAN'S HAIR ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT!



**T**HE NEXT MORNING, I AWOKE REFRESHED.

I WONDER IF BY CHANCE I MIGHT SEE THE KING. THEY SAID HIS HUNTING LODGE IS NEAR ZENDA CASTLE. I'LL GO IN THAT DIRECTION...



IF THE CASTLE OF ZENDA IS A HALF HOUR'S WALK FROM THE INN, I MUST BE NEARLY THERE.



PRESENTLY, I CAME TO A CLEARING IN THE FOREST...

SO THAT'S ZENDA CASTLE! I SHOULD NOT CARE TO BE AN ENEMY OF BLACK MICHAEL'S!



OH, WELL... NO MUM! WHY WORRY ABOUT THAT? THIS IS MUCH TOO BEAUTIFUL A SPOT TO BOTHER ABOUT BLACK MICHAEL'S CASTLE...



HOW LONG I SLEPT I DON'T KNOW. I OPENED MY EYES AND FOUND TWO MEN LOOKING AT ME WITH MUCH CURIOSITY...



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT? CHASE HIM AND HE'D BE THE KING!

HE'S THE RIGHT HEIGHT, TOO...

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, GIR?



PERHAPS I MIGHT ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.

WELL, THIS IS COLONEL SAFT AND I AM FRITZ VON TARLENHEIM. WE ARE BOTH IN THE SERVICE OF THE KING OF SURTANIA.





AT THAT MOMENT, A RINGING VOICE  
SOUNDED FROM THE WOODS BEHIND US.

SAPPY PRIZE!  
WHERE ARE YOU?

IT'S THE  
KING!



COLONEL... PRIZE!  
WHO IS THIS  
GENTLEMAN?

FOR AN INSTANT, WE STOOD MOTION-  
LESS, LOOKING AT EACH OTHER. IT  
SEEMED AS THOUGH WE HAD BOTH  
LOST THE POWER OF SPEECH, FOR IF  
IT WERE NOT FOR THE HAIR ON MY FACE,  
THE KING OF BURITANIA MIGHT HAVE  
BEEN RUDOLF RASSENDYLL, AND I,  
RUDOLF THE KING!



FINALLY, I FOUND MY VOICE.



I'M RUDOLF RASSENDYLL, A  
TRAVELER FROM ENGLAND.  
I'M ON MY WAY TO THE COM-  
MUNION. MY BROTHER IS  
NOW LORD BURLESTON, SIR!

RASSENDYLL!  
RASSEN-  
DYLL OF THE  
BULES-  
DOG-  
BARK!

WELL, WELL! THEN YOU'RE MY  
COUSIN! BY JOWE, YOU COULD  
BE MY BROTHER! RUDOLF, A  
HEARTY WELCOME TO BURITANIA!  
COME ON, COLONEL! WE'LL  
GO TOGETHER AT THE LODGE.



EMERGING FROM  
THE WOODS, WE  
CAME ON THE  
SMALL AND RUSTIC  
HUNTING LODGE.  
A SERVANT  
CAME TO MEET US.



IS DINNER  
READY,  
JOSEPH?

IT IS,  
SIR.





WE SOON SAT DOWN TO A PLENTIFUL MEAL. PRESENTLY, JOSEF PLACED BEFORE THE KING A BOTTLE OF WINE AND A SILVER CUP.

DUKE MICHAEL SENT YOU THIS, SIRE.

WELL DONE, BLACK MICHAEL!

MY FRIENDS, EVERYTHING IS YOURS, EVEN HALF MY KINGDOM! BUT ASK ME NOT FOR A SINGLE DROP OF THE WINE, WHICH I'LL DRINK TO THE HEALTH OF THAT SLY RASCAL, MY BROTHER, BLACK MICHAEL!



PLEASANT DREAMS TO HIS MAJESTY.

THE DAY'S EXCITEMENT HAD WEARIED ME AND THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER OF THE EVENING. WHETHER I HAD SLEPT A MINUTE OR AN HOUR, I KNEW NOT. I AWOKE WITH A START, MY CLOTHING DRIPPING WET, TO FACE SAFT AND FRITZ...

YOUR JOKE GOES TOO FAR!

THIS IS NO JOKE, RASSEMBYLL... IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING!



THE KING HAD BEEN DRILLED! IT WAS BLACK MICHAEL'S WINE! GETTING THE KING OUT OF THE WAY WAS A PART OF THE PLAN BY WHICH BLACK MICHAEL HOPED TO SEIZE THE THRONE!





FATE SENT YOU HERE AND FATE SENDS YOU NOW TO STRELSAU TO TAKE THE KING'S PLACE IN THE CORONATION.

NO! NO!

ALL IS LOST IF PRINCE RUDDOLF DOES NOT APPEAR IN STRELSAU TODAY... I KNOW BLACK MICHAEL WILL!

YOU MUST GO, RAGSENDYLL, AND SAVE THE THRONE FOR THE KING!

VERY WELL, WHETHER OR NOT THE KING FORGIVES ME, I'LL GO!



WHILE I SHAVED OFF MY BEARD, RITZ AND SAPT INSTRUCTED JOSEF...

WE'RE LEAVING THE KING IN YOUR CARE, JOSEF. TAKE HIM TO THE WINE CELLAR AND KEEP HIM HIDDEN!

AND IF BLACK MICHAEL'S MEN SEE THROUGH OUR PLAN AND COME LOOKING FOR THE ROYAL KING, PUT THEM OFF.



BY JOVE, WE'LL GET AWAY WITH IT! HERE'S THE KING'S UNIFORM. WE'LL GO ON HORSEBACK TO BOARD THE STRELSAU TRAIN. HURRY!

BOUSTS AND FEARS FILLED OUR MINDS, BUT THE GREAT YAG BODINI! SAPT COINED ME ON THE CUSTOMS OF THE COURT, UPON OUR ARRIVAL IN THE CAPITAL, THE BELLS OF THE CITY RANG JOYOUSLY, THE KING HAD COME TO STRELSAU FOR HIS CORONATION! WE WERE MET BY MARSHAL STRAKENCZ AND A ROYAL GUARD TO ESCORT US TO THE CATHEDRAL.



A LUSTY GREETING FROM THE PEOPLE, MARSHAL STRAKENCZ!

INDEED, YOUR HIGHNESS? THEY HOPED FOR THIS A LONG WHILE!

GOD SAVE RUDDOLF! IF HE'S RED, HE'S RIGHT!



"THAT WOMAN IN THE BALCONY! MY COMPANION ON THE TRAIN! SHE RECOGNIZES ME! SUPPOSE SHE SHOULD CRY ALOUD, 'HE'S NOT THE KING!'"

"WHO CAN HE BE? WHY IS HE THERE IN THE KING'S PLACE? WE SHALL SOON FIND OUT!"



"COLONEL GART, WHO IS THAT WOMAN? THE ONE IN THE BLACK LACE DRESS? UP THERE ON THE BALCONY?"

"THAT'S MRS. ANTOINETTE DE MALIBAN, A WEALTHY FRENCH WOMAN, WHO'S IN LOVE WITH BLACK MICHAEL!"



"SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD!"

AT LAST WE WERE AT THE CATHEDRAL, AS I WALKED UP THE AISLE, WITH THE PEALING OF THE ORGAN IN MY EAR, AND IN THE MIST OF THAT THRONG, ONLY TWO FACES STOOD OUT CLEARLY—THOSE OF MY BLOSSOMED BROTHER, BLACK MICHAEL, AND THE PRINCESS FLORA, PALE AND LOVELY—THE GIRL I WAS SUPPOSED TO MARRY.



"HOW—FI CAN'T UNDERSTAND THIS!"

"MICHAEL! WHAT IS THE TROUBLE? YOU LOOK SO PALE!"



"NOTHING—NOTHING—JUST THE EXCITEMENT OF THE OCCASION, I GUESS! IT'S SO NECESSARY FOR THE KING TO PLAY HIS PART WELL!"

"I'VE NEVER SEEN THE KING PLAY HIS PART—SO WILL NOT HAVE I EVER SEEN HIM LOOK SO ATTRACTIVE!"



WHEN I APPLIED FOR THE CEREMONY WAS BRIEF. AFTER I HAD TAKEN THE OLD OATH OF THE KING, AND HAD PLACED THE CROWN UPON MY HEAD, THE WORDS OF THE CARDINAL PROCLAIMED ME...

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I NOW PROCLAIM YOU RUDOLPH, KING OF RUSTANIA!

THEN ACCORDING TO CUSTOM, FLAVIA, WHO HAD RESUMED TO BECOME WIFE OF THE KING, CALLED HER LIPS TO MINE. WE KISSED AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ENGAGING IN THE TO ME... FANTASTIC DREAMS OF THE CEREMONY, I REGRETTED THAT THE PART I WAS PLAYING WAS A MASQUERADE.



WHEN AS WE ROSE TOWARD THE PALACE AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE SWEETNESS OF HER KISS LINGERED IN MY MEMORY

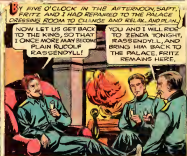
LONG LIVE THE KING!

DO YOU KNOW, RUDOLF, YOU LOOK SOMEHOW DIFFERENT TODAY! THERE'S SOMETHING NEW... EXCITING ABOUT YOU! YOU WERE WONDERFUL AT THE CEREMONY!

THANK YOU FLAVIA, I HOPE I MAY ALWAYS PLEASE YOU!



AND SO IT'S DONE! ON BEHALF OF RUDOLF & THE RIGHTFUL MONARCH, I TAKE POSSESSION OF THE HOUSE OF HIS ANCESTORS, AND HOLD FOR HIS HAND AND HEART THE BEAUTIFUL FLAVIA!



BY FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON, SAFF, FRITZ AND I HAD REPAIRED TO THE PALACE DRESSING ROOM TO GULAGE AND RELAX AND PLAN.

NOW LET US GET BACK TO THE KING, SO THAT I ONCE MORE MAY BECOM PLAIN RUDOLF RAS'GENDYLL!

YOU AND I WILL RID TO ZENDA TONIGHT, RAS'GENDYLL, AND BRING HIM BACK TO THE PALACE, FRITZ REMAINS HERE.

KEEP THE KING'S BEDROOM DOOR LOCKED AND ALLOW NO ONE TO ENTER IT. SAY HE'S RETIRED AND CANNOT BE DISTURBED UNTIL TOMORROW! DO YOU GET IT, FRITZ?

I UNDERSTAND.



THAT DISGUISE SHOULD BE ENOUGH, RASSENYLL, BUT IF ANYONE SHOULD QUESTION US, REMEMBER YOU'RE MY ORDERLY. WITH LUCK, WE SHOULD REACH THE HUNTING LODGE BY MIDNIGHT.



WHEN WE OPEN THE DOOR OF THIS SECRET PASSAGE, WE'LL FIND OURSELVES OUTSIDE THE PALACE GROUNDS. THERE WE'LL MEET A TRUSTED SERVANT WAITING WITH OUR HORSES!



AND NOW, RASSENYLL, PRAY TO HEAVEN THAT OUR MISSION WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.



OUR TRIP WAS UNEVENTFUL. WE MADE GOOD TIME, BUT WHEN WE REACHED THE LODGE, IT WAS DARK AND ALL WAS STILL AS DEATH.

WHERE IS JOSEF?

AND WHERE'S THE KING?



WE LEFT OUR HORSES IN BACK OF THE LODGE. THE DOOR OPENED EASILY AND SAFT LIT A LANTERN.

LOOK THERE, SAFT! BLOODSTAINS ON THE CELLAR STAIRS!

COME ON, WE'LL SOON FIND OUT WHAT THAT MEANS!





SAPT! IT'S JOSEF! HE'S DEAD!

SLAIN WHILE GUARDING THE KING!



AND THE KING IS NOT HERE!

WE'VE GOT TO BE SURE!



WHAT NOW, SAPT!

WE MUST RETURN TO STRECAL AND KEEP UP THE HOAX. OTHERWISE, MICHAEL WILL TELL THE PEOPLE THAT THE KING HAS DISAPPEARED AND WILL CLAIM THE THRONE AND FLAVIA!



FIRST WE MUST BURY JOSEF!

THERE ISN'T TIME. THEY'LL BE BACK. I HEAR THEM NOW!



WE FLED TO THE HORSES AND WAITED QUIETLY AS THE PARTY APPROACHED... FOUR MOUNTED, FOUR AFOOT, ARMED WITH SPADES TO CARRY OUT THE BURIAL.

YOU SEE, THEY'LL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!

YES, AND BY HEAVEN, I'LL NOT LEAVE UNTIL I'VE STRUCK A BLOW AT THEM!



IF YOU MUST! NOW THEY ARE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE LODGE. LET'S GO!

**A**ROUND THE SIDE OF THE LODGE WE RUSHED HEADLONG... FELLING INTO THEIR MIST, TAKING THEM BY SURPRISE SO THEY COULD NOT DRAW THEIR GUNS, AND USING OUR SWORDS WITH TELLING EFFECT!



I WRESTED AN AXE FROM AN ADVERSARY, FOR I SAW MY SWORD WOULD BE UNLIKELY AGAINST SUCH A WEAPON.



THERE'S APT TO BE MORE THAN JOSEPH'S BURIAL TONIGHT, I PROMISE YOU!

I DROPPED MY OPPONENT AND TURNING MY HORSE, OBSERVED THAT SAFT WAS DIVING A GOOD ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF.



GET HIM, SAFT! WE'LL WIPE THE GROUND WITH THESE RATS!

**B**UT SUDDENLY...



SAFT! SAFT! LOOK OUT!

YOU SAVED ME THAT TIME, MY FRIEND!

WE'VE AVENGED JOSEPH'S DEATH, (SAFT) BUT WE CANNOT FIGHT AGAINST GUNNERS! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!

LOOK! IT'S THE KING! THE KING!



3 I WAVED MY HAND IN FAREWELL, BUT QUICKLY DROPPED IT AS A BULLET GRAZED MY FINGER. AFTER RIDING HARD SOME DISTANCE, WE STOPPED TO BANDAGE MY HAND.

BETWEEN US WE ACCOUNTED FOR THREE CASUALTIES

GOOD! WE'LL GIVE BLACK MICHAEL SOME ADDITIONAL WORRIES BEFORE WE'RE DONE!

THIS ACCIDENT MAY PROVE TO BE AN ADVANTAGE, RASGENDYLL.



*In fact, I did turn my injury to good advantage. Having arrived at the palace at daybreak, I found they all was well and breakfasted with Sapt and Fritz. I turned my attention to a large pile of documents on my desk awaiting the royal signature.*

WITH THIS INJURED HAND, I'M EXPECTED TO MAKE ONLY A CROSS. THEREFORE, NO ONE CAN PROVE THE KING'S SIGNATURE TO BE A FORGERY!

I MUST WARN YOU TO BE EXTRA-CAREFUL NOW. THREE OF "THE SIX" ARE IN STRELSAU.

ONLY HALFBRE YOU SURE? THEN THE KING LIVES, BECAUSE THE OTHER THREE MUST BE GUARDING HIM AT ZENDA, WHO ARE HERE?

DE GAULTE, BERSONN AND DETCHARE, LAUSINGRAM, KRAPSTEIN AND RUPERT HENTZAU MUST BE AT ZENDA!



WHO ARE "THE SIX"?

THEY ARE SIX GENTLEMEN OF MICHAEL'S HOUSEHOLD. MICHAEL NEVER GOES ANYWHERE WITHOUT SOME OF THEM AND THEY WOULD ALL CUT A THROAT IF HE TOLD THEM!

4 *AND I SPENT THE MORNING LEARNING ABOUT MY ENEMIES. THAT AFTERNOON, I CALLED ON FLORA.*

YOU HAVE CHANGED SINCE BECOMING KING, SIRE.

I ASK YOU TO SPEAK NOTHING BUT WHAT YOUR HEART TELLS YOU, AND TO CALL ME BY MY NAME.





THANK YOU, RUDOLF, BUT IF ANY HEART TELLS ME I HATE MICHAEL, MUST I STILL RECEIVE HIM?

YOU MUST RECEIVE ONE UNLESS YOU LIKE, AND I HOPE THAT ADMITS ME! BUT LISTEN!



JUST THEN, WE HEARD THE TRAMP OF FEET, FLAMMA RAN TO THE WINDOW.

IT'S MICHAEL, AND THREE OF 'THE SIX' TO ADD UNPLEASANTNESS, 'D BETTER LET HIM IN! WHAT CAN HE WANT? COME, WE'LL GO AND MEET HIM.



GREETINGS, SIRE. YOU'RE LOOKING EXTREMELY WELL, BUT YOUR HAND IS HURT!

IT WAS BITTEN BY A LOWLY CUR! THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST, BROTHER!



AND HE'S APT TO BITE AGAIN!



THESE GENTLEMEN ARE THE MOST DEVOTED AND LOYAL OF YOUR MAJESTY'S SERVANTS - AND ARE MY VERY PATRIFUL FRIENDS: DE GAULST, BERSONN AND DEICHARD.

I'M VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU, SIRE!



IN FACT, I WAS PLEASED TO KNOW WHO AN ENEMIES WERE, AND OF COURSE, MICHAEL WAS ACCOUNTING HIS MENCHING WITH ME, SO THAT THEY WOULD KNOW ME WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT. ALTHOUGH I EXPECTED THEM TO STRIKE, I DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE SO SOON. THE VERY NEXT DAY, I RECEIVED A LETTER.

IT CAME WHILE SAFT AND I WERE RELAXING AT CHESS.

WHO SENT IT, BASSENDYLL?

IT'S SIGNED "A"! YES, MY ZONE, THAT'S ANTOINETTE DE MAUBAN, MY FELLOW PASSENGER ON THE TRAIN! SAFT, WE'VE RUN INTO A STALEMATE... BUT IT'S NOT ON THE CHESSBOARD!



*Do as this finds you, go to the house at the end of New Avenue at midnight... and along with the gang in the walk back to the garden, turn to the right, walk to the summer house if you find your life will be in danger.*

SAFT, I'M GOING!

ARE YOU CRAZY! UNDOUBTEDLY MICHAEL DICTATED THE LETTER! DO YOU WANT TO WALK RIGHT INTO A TRAP?

TRAP OR NO TRAP, I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT THE LETTER MEANS!



TONIGHT, SAFT AND I LEFT FRYE ON GUARD AT THE PALACE AND ROSE TO THE END OF NEW AVENUE.

WAIT FOR ME HERE, KEEP THE HORSES READY FOR A FAST GETAWAY!

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, LAD. GOOD LUCK!



OUT THE HOUSE, ANTOINETTE DE MAUBAN AWAITED ME.

HURRY! THERE'S NO TIME! COME IN AND CLOSE THE DOOR!



I KNOW YOUR BASSENDYLL! LISTEN TO ME! MICHAEL FORCED ME TO WRITE THE LETTER IN ORDER TO TRAP YOU HERE! HIS MEN FOLLOW YOU EVERYWHERE! IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, THREE OF HIS MEN WILL BE HERE TO KILL YOU! MICHAEL WILL THEN ARREST YOUR FRIENDS, ORDER THE KING'S MURDER, PROCLAIM HIMSELF KING, AND MARRY FLAVIA!

A PRETTY PLOT! BUT WHY, MADAM, DO YOU...



I LOVE BLACK MICHAEL! WOULD I WANT TO SEE HIM MARRIED TO FLAVIA! UNKNOWN TO HIM, WHEN I WROTE THE NOTE, I SET THE TIME AHEAD FIFTEEN MINUTES, IN ORDER TO WARN YOU! GO PAST THE SUMMER HOUSE FOR ONE HUNDRED FEET AND YOU'LL FIND A LADDER AGAINST THE WALL. GET OVER IT AND FLY FOR YOUR LIFE!

I HEAR THEM NOW! MADAME, WHATEVER MAY COME, YOU HAVE SERVED THE KING WELL TONIGHT.



MR. RA SSENAYLL! WE OFFER YOU A SAFE CONDUCT TO THE FRONTIER AND FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS ENGLISH IF YOU LEAVE RUSTANIA AT ONCE!

MADAME! KEEP AWAY FROM THE DOOR! STAND CLOSE TO THE WALL AND WATCH!



I FIRST QUIETLY PULLED BACK THE BOLT ON THE DOOR, UNLOCKING IT, THEN CALLED GENTLEMEN, I ACCEPT YOUR ORDER! THE DOOR IS UNLOCKED, BUT IT WILL NOT BUDGE. PUT YOUR WEIGHT AGAINST IT!





THAT OUGHT TO BE  
A LESSON TO MY  
WOULD-BE  
ASSASSIN!



THANK HEAVENS, IT  
IS HERE! SHE WAS  
NOT DECEIVING ME!



YOU'RE SAFE!  
I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
DONE FOR!

IT'S JUST GOOD LUCK  
THAT BROUGHT ME  
THROUGH, COME HOME  
I'VE GOT THE FINEST  
STORY YOU EVER  
HEARD! AHA-HA!



WHAT ARE YOU  
LAUDING AT!

FOUR GENTLEMEN  
AROUND A TEA  
TABLE! YOU  
SHOULD HAVE  
SEEN IT, GART!

A Marble River Scene



ON THE  
FOLLOWING  
DAY, GART,  
ACCORDING  
TO CUSTOM,  
SUMMARIZED  
FOR ME THE  
NEWS FROM THE  
DAILY POLICE  
REPORT. I WAS  
ANXIOUS TO  
KNOW IF  
THERE WAS  
NEWS OF  
A CERTAIN  
FRACAS.

WELL, WHAT  
GOES IN  
STRELGAU!

MICHAEL, DE  
GAUDET,  
BERGONIN AND  
DETCHARD,  
THE LAST WITH  
HIS ARM IN A  
SLING, HAVE  
LEFT FOR ZENDA.  
MME DE AUBRIAN  
HAS BOUGHT A  
TICKET FOR  
ORSEDELLE.

FINALLY, SINCE THE KING IS MUCH  
CRITICIZED BY THE PEOPLE FOR  
TAKING NO STEPS ABOUT MARRIAGE  
TO THE PRINCESS FLAVIA, I'VE  
ANNOUNCED THAT HE GIVES A BALL  
TONIGHT IN THE PRINCESS' HONOR!

HANG IT  
BOYS, THIS  
IS NEWS  
TO ME!

I'VE ALREADY  
MADE THE  
NECESSARY  
PREPARATIONS!

THE BALL WAS A SURPRISSING AFFAIR, AND FLAVIA'S DANCING RHYTHMIC PERFECTION, SO THAT MY HEART BEAT WILDLY AT HER NEARNESS, I COULD TELL FROM HER OWN QUICK BREATHING THAT SHE KNEW HOW I FELT.

YOUR DANCING WAS SOME NEW SPIRIT IN IT, RUDOLF... IT'S AS IF YOU ENJOYED IT!

I COULD DANCE WITH YOU FOREVER... HOLDING YOU CLOSE IN MY ARMS!



AT THE DINNER TABLE, THE SPELL OF HER LOVELINESS CONTINUED TO ENTRAP ME. SUDDENLY, ON AN IMPULSE, I RISE, AND TAKING MY BISHOP OF THE RED ROSE OF MURTAGNA...

MY DEAR FLAVIA, IT'S YOU MORE THAN I WHO SHOULD WEAR THE EMBLEM OF PURITY, COURAGE... AND TRUE LOVE.



LATER, ALONE ON THE TERRACE, I FOUND IT MUCH TOO EASY TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY MENTORS. THIS WAS NO ACT, I NOW KNEW, I WAS IN LOVE WITH THE WISANT CREATURE, AND I HAD NO RIGHT TO BE!

FLAVIA, I LOVE YOU! MORE THAN LIFE OR TRUTH... OR HONOR!

OH, IF YOU WERE NOT THE KING! THEN I COULD SHOW YOU HOW I LOVE YOU, RUDOLF! HOW IS IT I LOVE YOU NOW... I NEVER DID BEFORE...



THE NEVER DO BEFORE! PURE TRIUMPH CALLED ME. IT WAS I WHO HAD WON HER, HERE WAS MY CHANCE! I LED HER TO A SEAT, AND HOLDING HER HANDS IN MINE, DROPPED ON MY KNEES BEFORE HER AND WHISPERED...

IF I WERE NOT THE KING! IF I WERE ONLY A COMMONER FLAVIA, I HARDLY KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU... BUT I'VE NOT...

YOUR HIGHNESS!



HOW LONG SAFT HAD BEEN LISTENING I KNOW NOT, BUT HE INTERRUPTED US IN THE MICK OF TIME!

A THOUSAND PAROISSE, SIR, BUT HIS EXCELLENCE THE CARDINAL HAS WAITED A QUARTER OF AN HOUR TO BRING ADIEU TO YOUR MA. JETTY.

OH, FLAVIA, MY ALIST... NOT EVEN HIS EXCELLENCE! WAITED!



AT LAST, THE BRILLIANT AFFAIR WAS OVER. I ESCORTED FLAVIA DOWN THE STAIRS TO TAKE HER TO HER CARRIAGE. WE WERE GREETED WITH CHEERS BY AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

IN JOY AND SORROW, IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD, GOD SAVE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS!



I AM TOUCHED BY YOUR SINCERITY, RUDOLF. WILL YOU KEEP THIS ROSE AS A TOKEN OF THIS WONDERFUL NIGHT?

I SHALL TREASURE IT ALWAYS, AND REMEMBER THAT IT'S FREEDOM CAN ONLY APPROXIMATE THE SWEETNESS OF THE ONE FROM WHOM IT CAME!



BUT THREE IN THE MORNING, WHEN THE COLD LIGHT OF DAWNING DAY BEGAN TO STEAL IN, I SAT IN MY DRESSING ROOM AS A MAN DAZED. THAT NIGHT, I HAD FACED ALL STREBALU AS THE KING AND THE ACCEPTED SUITOR OF THE PRINCESS FLAVA. MY OWN LOVE FOR THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN HAD FORCED ME ON, AND THE WAY BACK HAD CLOSED BEHIND ME. IN DESPERATION, I SAID...

COLONEL SAFT, UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO BECOME A VILLAIN, WE MUST ACT QUICKLY! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, LET'S GO TO ISHDA AND CRUSH THE MICHAEL AND BRING THE KING BACK TO HIS OWN AGAIN!



ALL RIGHT, WE'LL GO TO ISHDA FROM WHAT I SAW TONIGHT, I BELIEVE THAT WOULD BE WISDEST!

THE RESOLVE I HAD MADE IN THE BLACK DESPAIR OF THE NIGHT BEFORE FADED AWAY WITH THE COMING OF A NEW DAY. WHY SHOULD I GIVE UP THE WOMAN I LOVED TO A KING WHO MEANT LITTLE TO ME AND LESS TO HER? HAD SHE NOT TOLD ME THAT SHE LOVED ME? THE NEXT MORNING, AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT, I WALKED TO FLAVA'S HOUSE AND FOUND COUNTESS HELGA, NEW LADY-IN-WAITING, IN THE GARDEN.

NO WONDER BLACK MICHAEL IS IN LOVE WITH HER! AND THE KING, TOO!

BRING HIS MAJESTY UP TO MY RECEPTION ROOM, HELGA!



COUNTESS HELGA LED ME TO HER MISTRESS... WHEN WE WERE ALONE...

OH, RUDOLF, I HOPED YOU WOULD COME! I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED!

FLAVA, MY DEAR, IS BY ONE'S WORRIED? WHY?



IT'S BECAUSE OF THESE TWO LETTERS I RECEIVED. THE FIRST IS FROM BLACK MICHAEL, ASKING ME TO SPEND A DAY AS HIS GUEST AT ISHDA CASTLE. SHALL I GO, RUDOLFF? I DON'T WANT TO!

IT IS ORDERED BY THE KING THAT YOU SHALL NOT GO, MADAME!



FLAVIA LAUGHED AND THEN BECAME SERIOUS, AS SHE HANDED ME THE OTHER LETTER TO READ.

*I have no reason to help you, but I will get into the power of Duke Michael, except no mention of this! It matters without a large guard. How this if you can, to him who reigns in Stralsund.*

AND THEN AT LAST I KNEW THAT I MUST GO. I TOOK FLAVIA IN MY ARMS, AS WE RISSID, MY TEARFUL FOLDED FOR THE VERY LOVE OF HER.



EACH DAY I'LL SEND YOU A COURIER. IF NONE APPEARS FOR THREE DAYS, IT WILL MEAN THE KING IS DEAD AND YOU'RE TO PROCLAIM THE PRINCESS FLAVIA AS QUEEN!

YOU'VE BEEN A WISE KING AND A BRAVE MAN. I PRAY YOU KEEP YOURSELF SAFE ON THIS MISSION.



THERE WAS NO SIGNATURE, BUT THE HANDWRITING WAS ANTONETTE DE MALBRAN.

WHY DOESN'T THE LETTER SAY "THE KING? IS IT A HOAX?"

FLAVIA, TRUST ME! AS YOU VALUE LIFE AND MORE THAN LIFE, MY QUEEN, OBEY IT TO THE VERY LETTER! A REGIMENT SHALL CAMP AROUND YOUR HOUSE TODAY. SEE THAT YOU DO NOT GO OUT UNLESS WELL GUARDED!



I TORE MYSELF AWAY FROM HER AND WENT AT ONCE TO THE HOME OF MARSHAL STRANZENZ, FOR I KNEW THAT TO LONGER SAY LONGER UNDER THE SPELL OF FLAVIA'S LOVE WOULD WEAKEN ALL MY GOOD RESOLVE, AND I WOULD FIND MYSELF, TOO, AN ENEMY OF THE KING!



MARSHAL, I'M LEAVING STRALSUND FOR A FEW DAYS. I'M PLACING THE SAFETY OF THE PRINCESS IN YOUR HANDS. LET NO ONE APPROACH HER—ESPECIALLY NOT DUKE MICHAEL OR HIS COUSINS!

I SHALL GUARD HER PERSONALLY, SIR!



WHILE MARSHAL STRANZENZ KNEW NOTHING OF MY MASQUERADE, HE DISTRIBUTED BLACK MICHAEL, AND WAS AWARE OF THE MAN'S DESPERATE NATURE.

YOU MAY LET IT BE KNOWN THAT I'M GOING BOAR HUNTING.

MAY GOD PRESERVE YOUR MAJESTY!



EQUIPPED FOR A BOAR HUNT, OUR PARTY JOURNAYED TO TARLENHEIM, ACROSS THE VALLEY FROM ZENDA CASTLE, FRITZ' FAMILY ESTATE, WHICH HAD BEEN OFFERED FOR OUR USE. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SAFT, FRITZ, AND TEN GENTLEMEN WHO KNEW ONLY THAT MY LIFE WAS IN DANGER, AND THAT SOMEONE WAS TO BE RESCUED FROM ZENDA CASTLE.



HERE WE ARE! WELCOME TO TARLENHEIM, SIRE!

THANK YOU, FRITZ!

IMMEDIATELY, WE BEGAN TO PLAN THE STRATEGY FOR THE RESCUE OF THE KING.

BY NOW, BLACK MICHAEL KNOWS OF OUR COMING! THE SIX ARE ALL AT ZENDA, AND WILL WATCH EVERY MOVE WE MAKE. THE SAFETY OF THE PRISONER OF ZENDA MUST BE OUR FIRST CONSIDERATION!



WE HAD NOT BEEN IN THE HOUSE AN HOUR.

THREE VISITORS TO SEE YOUR MAJESTY, LAJENGRAN, KRAFTSTEN, AND RUPERT BRITZAU!

THREE OF "THE SIX" SHOW THEM IN!

UNDER WHAT PRETEXT DO THEY COME? THEY'LL WANT TO RECOGNIZE US WHEN WE MEET IN THE FUTURE! WILL THAT CAN WORK BOTH WAYS!



WELCOME TO TARLENHEIM, GENTLEMEN! YOU MUST DINE WITH US AND TELL US ANY NEWS OF MY BROTHER!



URGENT DUTIES AT THE CASTLE PREVENT OUR ACCEPTANCE, YOUR MAJESTY. DUKE MICHAEL PRAYS THAT YOU WILL PARDON HIM FOR NOT GREETING YOU IN PERSON, BUT SCARLET FEVER RAGES AT ZENDA, AND HE WOULD NOT EXPOSE YOU, NEVER. THEREFORE, MAY WE SOON BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED!





**S**OMETHING ABOUT THE JEERING SCORN IN HENTZAU'S FACE MADE ME REALIZE THAT WE MUST SET OUR PLAN GOING AT ONCE! AFTER A HASTY CONSULTATION WITH SAFT AND FRITZ, WHEN OUR GUESTS HAD GONE...

YOU MUST EXCUSE FRITZ AND ME FROM DINNER, GENTLEMEN! WE HAVE AN ERRAND TO DO AT THE INN IN THE TOWN OF ZENDA!



**A**CCOMPANIED BY A GROOM, WE SET OUT. ON THE WAY I GAVE FRITZ INSTRUCTIONS...

TELL THE INNKEEPER WE ARE TWO GENTLEMEN OF THE KING'S HOUSEHOLD, AND I AM SUFFERING SEVERELY FROM A TOOTHACHE. ORDER A PRIVATE ROOM AND DINNER FOR TWO!

BUT THEY'LL RECOGNIZE YOU.



NOT IF I PROTECT MY ACHING TOOTH FROM THE NIGHT AIR! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PERSUADE THE PRETTY DAUGHTER TO SERVE US!

I'LL DO MY BEST!



**U**RECOGNIZED WE WERE USHERED INTO A PRIVATE DINING ROOM. PRESENTLY, THE YOUNGER DAUGHTER APPEARED. SHE PAID NO PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO US UNTIL SHE HAD SET DOWN THE TRAY OF FOOD. THEN...

OH! OH! THE KING! IT WAS THE KING THEN WHO WAS HERE BEFORE! OH, SIRE, FORGIVE ME FOR THE THINGS WE SAID! I MUST GO AND TELL MOTHER!

STOP! NOT A WORD OF THE KING'S BEING HERE!



**B**ACK THE INNKEEPER'S DAUGHTER DREW UP A CHAIR AND SIT DOWN. THEN I ASKED HER ABOUT JOHANN...

SIRE, I TOLD JOHANN HE CAME TOO LATE, AND WE HARDLY SEE HIM NOW!

IF YOU WISH TO SERVE THE KING, TELL JOHANN TO MEET YOU AT THE SECOND ALLEYWAY OUT OF ZENDA TOMORROW EVENING AT TEN O'CLOCK!





AND WHAT SHALL I DO, THEN, SIR?

TELL JOHANN YOU'LL BE THERE AND WILL WALK HOME WITH HIM... SEE THAT YOU DO AN I BID YOU... AND MIND, NO ONE IS TO KNOW THAT THE KING HAS BEEN HERE!



GAVE THE GIRL AN EXPENSIVE GIFT AND WE RODE DIRECTLY TO TAULEN-HEIM... SAFT RUSHED OUT TO MEET US...

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE SAFE! OUR MAN BERNSTEN STROLLED OUT ALONE AFTER DINNER AND NOW LIES UPSTAIRS WITH A BULLET THROUGH HIS ARM!

"THE BIV" I NOW I WON'T LEAVE SIBERTANIA UNTIL I'VE EVENED THE SCORE!



ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, PLEASED WITH WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THIS FAR, I SAT IN TAULENHEIM'S PRIVATE PARK, ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE, WHEN SUDDENLY THERE CAME THE SOUND OF HORSE'S HOOPS...

RUPERT MENTAU, AS I LIVE!



YOUR MAJESTY, I'D LIKE TO SPEAK PRIVATELY WITH YOU, IN ORDER TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM MIKE MICHAEL.

PLEASE WITHDRAW, AS I WISH TO BE ALONE WITH THIS GENTLEMAN.



THE KING OFFERS YOU MORE THAN I WOULD, RASSENHOLL! IT IS SAFE CONDUCT ACROSS THE FRONTIER... AND A MILLION CROWNS... IF YOU'LL LEAVE THE COUNTRY!

TELL HIM THAT I REFUSE! BUT, BEFORE YOU GO HOWE YOUR PRISONER!



HE IS ALIVE NOW I BID YOU GOODBYE... LET US SHARE HANGES...

WHEN CAME THE MOST ALDADOUR THING I HAVE KNOWN IN MY LIFE...

I BOWED, AND DID AS HE HAD FORE-SEEN; I PUT MY HANDS BEHIND ME! QUICKER THAN THOUGHT, HIS LEFT HAND DARTED OUT AT ME AND A SMALL DAGGER FLASHED IN THE AIR, I SWERVED AND HE STRUCK ME IN THE SHOULDER.



WITH A CRY, I STAGGERED BACK, WITHOUT TOUCHING THE STRIKER, HE LEAPT ON HIS HORSE AND WAS OFF LIKE AN ARROW, PURSUED BY SHOUTS AND SHOTS, THE LAST AS USELESS AS THE FIRST.



F AINTED, AND AFTER WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN MANY HOURS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS, I AWOKED TO FIND MYSELF IN MY OWN ROOM. FRYTZ TOLD ME THAT MY SHOULDER WOUND WOULD SOON HEAL. ALL A ID DONE. WELL, FOR JOHANN HAD KNOWN OF MY MASQUERADE, HAD FALLEN INTO THE TRAP HE HAD LAID FOR HIM, AND WAS EVEN THEN IN THE HOUSE.

JOHANN SEEMS TO BE GLAD OF THE CHANCE TO BE ON OUR SIDE.

BRING THE FELLOW IN.



HAPT LED JOHANN TO A CHAIR AT MY BEDSIDE.

JOHANN, WE'LL PAY YOU A LARGE REWARD IF YOU'LL TELL US ABOUT THE KING!

I'LL HELP YOU SEE! AT THE END OF THE DRAWBRIDGE A FLIGHT OF STONE STEPS LEADS TO TWO ROOMS, WHERE THE KING IS IMPRISONED AND GUARDED BY 'THE SIX'.



SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY TO DISPOSE OF THE KING, 'THE SIX' NEED BUT TO REMOVE THE MASS OF HIS CELL WINDOW AND FORCE HIS WEIGHED BODY THROUGH THE OPENING INTO A LARGE BARTHENWARE PIPE, KNOWN AS JACOB'S LADDER, WHICH LEADS FROM THE CELL WINDOW INTO THE MOAT!

AND NOW, GOODBYE! JOHANN, HERE'S YOUR REWARD! REMEMBER, NOT A WORD TO ANY ONE CONCERNING THE PRISONER!

THANK YOU, SIR—THANK YOU!



AFTER OUR INFORMER HAD GONE, WE TALKED FAR INTO THE NIGHT...

MOREOVER, JOHANN SAYS THAT THE KING'S HEALTH IS BREAKING DOWN!

GENTLEMEN, IF WE HAVEN'T COME ON A POOL'S DRAMA, WE MUST ACT, AND ACT QUICKLY!



THE NEXT DAY, I FELT WELL ENOUGH TO GET UP, SUDDENLY...

A FAIR VISITOR TO SEE YOU, SURE! IT IS NONE OTHER THAN THE PRINCESS FLAVIA!

GOOD HEAVENS!



AND THEN SHE WAS KNEELING BEFORE ME AND ALL ELSE BUT HER SWEET PRESENCE WAS FORGOTTEN...

OH, MY DARLING! IN ONE BREATH I ASK, "WHY DID YOU COME?" YET IN THE NEXT, I THANK HEAVEN YOU ARE HERE!

WORD CAME TO STRELEAU OF YOUR INJURY, DEAREST ONE! AND I BECAME A GRIEV AND A VIXEN UNTIL THEY BROUGHT ME TO YOU!



WITH FLAVIA'S CARE, I RECOVERED QUICKLY, AND I KNEW I MUST STRIKE SOON. ONE EVENING, SEVERAL DAYS LATER, I SAW FLAVIA TO HER APARTMENTS. I COULD NOT TELL HER TONIGHT WAS THE NIGHT! INSTEAD, I ASKED HER TENDERLY TO EXCHANGE RINGS WITH ME.

WILL YOU PROMISE TO WEAR THIS RING, FLAVIA, EVEN THOUGH YOU WEAR ANOTHER WHEN YOU ARE QUEEN!

THIS RING WILL I WEAR TILL I DIE AND AFTER!



IMMEDIATELY UPON LEAVING FLAVIA, I CHANGED MY CLOTHES AND CALLED SARTANI INTO...

GET THREE GROOMS AND THE HORSES! THIS IS THE NIGHT!



I RODE AROUND THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN AND UP THE HILL TO ZENDE CASTLE AND SO A WAR BEGAN BETWEEN THE KING'S BROTHER AND THE KING'S WARDEN. FOR THE LIFE AND PERISH OF THE KING!



**A**BOUT A QUARTER OF A MILE FROM THE CASTLE, HE DISMOUNTED.

WAIT FOR US HERE WITH THE HORSES! WE'LL BLOW A WHISTLE IF WE NEED YOUR HELP!

YES, SIRE!

**W**E PROCEEDED ON FOOT TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOAT, WHERE SAFT TIED HIS ROPE AROUND A LARGE TREE.

NOW, I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT JACOB'S LADDER!

**C**AUTIOUSLY, I LOWERED MYSELF INTO THE WATER...

THE LIGHTS IN THE CHATEAU WILL HELP ME GET A BETTER VIEW...

**I** SWAM AROUND THE GREAT CASTLE WALLS WHICH CROWNED ABOVE ME. SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE DARKNESS, I LOOKED A SHAKE! ONLY I SAW THE PIPE, CURVING FROM THE WINDOW TO THE WATER. THE FOUNDATION OF THE CASTLE MADE A LEDGE... AND STANDING ON THIS, I LOOKED OVER JACOB'S LADDER. ON THE OTHER SIDE WAS A SMALL BOAT, IN WHICH SAT A MAN ASLEEP! MY HAND STOLE TO MY BELT. I DREW OUT MY KNIFE...

IT'S MAX HOLF. JOHANN'S BROTHER. JOHANN SAID THAT HIS BROTHER WAS ON GUARD THERE.



1 QUIETLY STOLE UNDER THE PIPE TO THE BOAT, AND

THIS IS WAR, AND THE KING'S LIFE IS THE STAKE!



IT WAS MY LIFE OR HIS, AND I WOULD BE POOR HELP TO THE KING WITH A BULLET IN MY!



2 NEXT, PLACING MY EAR TO JACOB'S LADDER, I COULD HEAR VOICES.

FEAR MY BROTHER TO KILL ME I'M DYING BY INCHES HERE!

HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO ASK, SIR, BEFORE I GO?

THE KING'S VOICE! AND DETCHARD'S! WE MUST MAKE HASTE!



3 I DID NOT TRY TO SPEAK TO THE KING. THE RISK AT THIS TIME WAS TOO GREAT! I CLIMBED INTO THE BOAT AND ROWED AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE AROUND THE MOAT.



4 I HAD ALMOST REACHED MY DESTINATION, WHEN A VOICE CRIED FROM THE VICINITY OF THE CHATEAU

HELLO, MAX!

NOW THEY'LL BE SEARCHING FOR HIM. I MUST HURRY!



5 WHEN I REACHED THE WALL, I TIED THE ROPE AROUND THE BODY OF MAX HOLF, AND SART AND FRITZ HALLED IT UP. THEN SUDDENLY, THERE WAS THE FAINT SOUND OF HORSEMEN APPROACHING!

I HEAR THEM COMING!

WHEN I QUICKLY CLIMBED UP THE ROPE...

SAPT, WHISTLE FOR OUR MEN! AND DON'T TALK. THE ENEMY MAY NOT FIND US HERE IN THE DARK!



IT WAS APPARENTLY THREE OF "THE SIX" THEY SEARCHED ABOUT BUT COULD NOT FIND US. PRESENTLY OUR MEN, HAVING HEARD SAPT'S WHISTLE, CAME UP WITH A SHOUT.

ALL RIGHT, MEN! LET'S GO!



THEY FOLLOWED A BRIEF, BUT FIERCE ENCOUNTER.



I'M DONE, SUPPORT! THEY'RE THREE TO ONE! SAVE YOURSELF!

HA-HA! 'TIS THE PLAY-ACTOR!

AT LAST!

I THOUGHT I HAD HENTZAU, BUT HE, SEEING SAPT AND FRITZ RUNNING TO MY AID, JUDGED DISCRETION THE BETTER PART OF VALOR, AND LEAPED TO HIS HORSE, WITH ONE GLEAM OF MOONLIGHT WE COULD HAVE RIDDEN HIM WITH BULLETS, BUT THE DARKNESS WAS TOO HEAVY...

THE DEVILS TAKE HIM! WELL, WE GOT TWO OF THEM! WHO ARE THEY?



LAUENGRAM AND KRAFFTEN!

GOOD! THAT REDUCES "THE SIX" TO "THE FOUR."

BUT WE MUST GET AWAY BEFORE HENTZAU RETURNS WITH MORE MEN!



WE DISPOSED OF THE BODIES OF LAUBENGRAM, KRAPFSTEIN AND MAX HOLF BY THROWING THEM INTO THE MOAT.

IN THIS WAY, THEY'LL BE FOLIO AND GIVEN DECENT BURIAL, BUT NOT UNTIL WE'VE MADE GOOD OUR ESCAPE.



WHEN WE RODE OFF DOWN THE HILL, GLAD THAT ALL IN OUR PARTY WERE SAFE, YET EVEN MORE UNEASY CONCERNING THE KING.



THE NEXT DAY, I FOUND THE HAPPY CHANCE TO RIDE WITH FLAVIA, ALTHOUGH FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, MARSHAL STREACENCE AND A CROOM WENT WITH US AS WE REACHED THE FOOT OF ZENIA HILL.

THE DEATHS OF WHICH YOU ASK, SIRE, ARE THOSE OF MY FRIENDS, ALBERT OF LAUBENGRAM, KRAPFSTEIN AND MAX HOLF. THEY LOST THEIR LIVES LAST NIGHT AS THE RESULT OF A QUARREL!

I DEEPLY REGRET THE UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR! A STERN RULING AGAINST DUELING MUST BE ISSUED A ONCE! JUST ONE MOMENT, HENTZAL!

A FUNERAL PROCESSION! I WONDER WHO IT CAN BE.

RUFERT OF HENTZAL RIDES AT THE HEAD.

FREYLAN, SO ASK MY LORD RUFERTS WHOM THEY ESCORT.



MARSHAL, I MUST SPEAK A WORD TO LORD HENTZAL, WILL YOU RIDE ON A FEW PACES WITH THE PRINCESS?

MOST CERTAINLY, SIRE.









IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, I CALLED A MEETING TO DISCUSS OUR NEXT STEPS...

I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO DO ONE THING TO HELP THE KING, AND IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING... ANTONETTE DE MAUBAN

I'LL ANSWER THE DOOR!

KNOCK! KNOCK!



COME IN MARSHAL STRAKENCE, DRAW UP A CHAIR.

WE COME TO TELL YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS, THAT THE PEOPLE DEMAND THAT YOU SET A DATE FOR YOUR BETHROTHAL TO PRINCESS FLAVIA!



I HEREBY SET THE DATE OF MY BETHROTHAL FOR TWO WEEKS FROM THIS DAY, THE PLACE, THE CATHEDRAL IN SYRELSAU! WILL THAT PLEASE THEM?

IT WILL, EXCELLENCE, YOUR MAJESTY.



NEWS OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT SPREAD GREAT JOY THROUGHOUT SUBTANIA, NOW I HAD TO MAKE GOOD MY PROMISE OF THE KING OR GIVE UP!



THREE DAYS LATER, JOHANN, FEARFUL FOR HIS LIFE, YET GREEDY FOR MORE MONEY, AGAIN FOUND AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEAL JEMMY FROM ZENGA AND VISIT.

THE KING IS VERY SICK. A DOCTOR HAS BEEN SENT FOR MADAME DE MAUBAN IS BEING ALLOWED TO CARE FOR HIM!

HERE ARE TWENTY THOUSAND CROWNS, YOU SHALL HAVE FIFTY THOUSAND MORE IF YOU DO AS I ASK YOU!



I WILL TRY, SIR!

DELIVER THIS SEALED NOTE TO MADAME DE MAUBAN, THEN AT TWO O'CLOCK TOMORROW MORN, PLING OPEN THE DOOR OF THE CHATEAU! DON'T FAIL BY AN INSTANT!

AFTER JOHANN HAD LEFT, WE MADE PLANS UNTIL LATE IN THE EVENING...

WHEN JOHANN OPENS THE CHATEAU DOOR AT 2 A.M., SAFT AND HIS MEN RUSH INSIDE AT THAT MOMENT, ANTONETTE DE MALIBAN HAS ORDERS TO SHOUT, "HELP, MICHAEL! HENTZAU!" WHEN THEY COME TO HER AID, SAFT STRIKES THEM DOWN.

VERY WELL, SAFT AND I GO... BUT YOU STAY HERE, RASSEN EYLL... AND CARE FOR THE PRINCESS!

YES, WE WOULD GET MICHAEL ONE WAY OR ANOTHER... IT WOULD HARDLY HELP MATTERS IF YOU SHOULD BE KILLED!

I'M IN THIS AS DEEPLY AS YOU! AND I'M GOING... NOW GET YOUR MEN TOGETHER AND HEAVEN HELP US ALL!



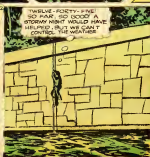
AT MIDNIGHT SAFT'S COMMAND LEFT DORLENNER BY A ROUNDABOUT ROUTE THAT WOULD GET THEM TO THE CHATEAU AT 2-45, GIVING ME A CHANCE TO SET THE STAGE AT ZENDA CASTLE.

THE NIGHT WAS FINE AND CLEAR AND I ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY IN REACHING THE CASTLE.



I TOOK THE ROPE WHICH I HAD CARRIED ROUND AROUND MY WAIST AND TIED IT SECURELY TO THE TREE...

TWELVE-FORTY-FIVE! SO FAR SO GOOD! A STORMY NIGHT WOULD HAVE HELPED, BUT WE CAN'T CONTROL THE WEATHER.





IF I KEEP CLOSE TO THE CASTLE WALL, HOWEVER, I MAY NOT BE DETECTED!



MICHAEL'S APARTMENT IS BRIGHTLY LIGHTED, AND ANTOINETTE DE MALIBAN IS STANDING AT THE WINDOW!



AND NOW RUFERT OF HENTZAU STANDS BESIDE HER, AS I LIVE!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, HENTZAU! I COMMAND YOU TO LEAVE IN TEN MINUTES. THE DRAWBRIDGE WILL BE DRAWN UP, AND I PRESUME THAT YOU HAVE NO WISH TO SWIM TO YOUR BED.

IF YOU WILL, OF COURSE, I COULD NOT LEAVE THE LADY ALONE. BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE...



DE GALETTE! UNLESS YOU WANT A BATH BEFORE YOUR BED, COME ALONG!



IN A SPIRIT OF MISCHIEF, HENTZAU BEGAN SHOOTING AT SOME IMAGINARY OBJECT IN THE WATER. BEHIND JACOB'S LADDER I CROUCHED FOR SAFETY, WHILE BULLETS RAINED ALL ABOUT ME. SUDDENLY, A VOICE CRIED...

BEWARE, BRIDGE!

COME ON HENTZAU! GET FODDLING! THE BRIDGE IS GOING UP!

**W**HENTZAU AND DE GALTET RAN FOR THE CASTLE, AND AS THE DRAWBRIDGE WENT UP, THE CASTLE CLOCK STRUCK 1:15. ALL WAS QUIET FOR A FEW MINUTES, WHEN SUDDENLY, A MAN APPEARED AT THE DOORWAY LETTING ONTO THE BRIDGE. IT WAS RUPERT HENTZAU...



WHAT CAN HE BE UP TO NOW?

**R**UPERT HENTZAU DIVED INTO THE WATER, AND SWAM ACROSS THE MOAT TO THE CHATEAU.



WHEN HENTZAU HAD SWUM THE MOAT, HE CLIMBED A FLIGHT OF STONE STEPS ON THE CHATEAU SIDE, SIMILAR TO THE ONE HE HAD DESCENDED FROM THE CASTLE INTO THE WATER. I RAN SOMEHOW HE WOULD ENTER THE CHATEAU.

TO WATCH HENTZAU FROM A BETTER VANTAGE POINT, I EDGED MY WAY TO THE STEPS AND CLIMBED THE LEDGE, WHERE I HAD FIRST SEEN HIM. BUT THE MAN HAD DISAPPEARED WERE THE CHATEAU, I SAW A LIGHT BURNING IN ANTONETTE'S APARTMENTS, THEN SUDDENLY I HEARD...

HELP! MICHAEL!  
HENTZAU!

BUT WHY? WHY IS HE COMING TO THE CHATEAU!



THE SIGNAL CRY WHICH I HAD TOLD ANTOINETTE TO CALL IN THE NOISE! BUT THE CLOCK IN THE CASTLE HAD JUST STRUCK 3-30! SHE CLAMOR A HALF HOUR TOO SOON! SAFT AND HIS MEN COULD NOT HAVE ARRIVED AS YET! AS I HASTILY CHECKED MY WEAPONS, I SUDDENLY HEARD FROM THE CHATEAU...

OPEN THE DOOR! WHAT'S THE MATTER!

THAT'S BLACK MICHAEL'S VOICE!



FROM MY VANTAGE POINT ON THE LEDGE ABOVE THE MOAT, I COULD HEAR THE CLASH OF STEEL AND THE ANGRY CRIES OF THE MEN, AND ABOVE IT ALL THE FIENDISH LAUGH OF RUPERT DE MENTZAU, WHOSE LOVE FOR BATTLE WAS EXCEEDED ONLY BY HIS LOVE FOR BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS, MENTZAU LUNGED WITH AMAZING SKILL AT MICHAEL AND HIS RESCUERS, AND THEN HE LEAPT INTO THE MOAT.

HELP!

AH, JOHANN, HERE'S ONE FOR YOU! COME ON, MICHAEL!



AT THAT MOMENT, THE DOOR TO THE CASTLE OPENED, AND A FACE APPEARED...

I STRUCK HIM WITH ALL MY STRENGTH AND HE FELL DEAD WITHOUT A WORD! THEN I TOOK HIS KEYS, AS THE DOOR HAD AUTOMATICALLY LOCKED!

BE GALTHER! HERE'S MY CHANCE!



TURNING THE KEY IN THE LOCK, I WENT IN TO FIND MYSELF AT THE HEAD OF A FLIGHT OF STEPS AT THE FOOT OF WHICH I COULD SEE A DOOR!

NOW FOR THE KING'S CELL! NO DOUBT IT IS WELL GUARDED!

I FLUSHED HEADLONG DOWN THE STAIRS AND INTO A LARGE ROOM TO FIND BERGSONN WITH SWORD IN HAND AND POISED FOR FIGHT.

I FIGHTED BRAVELY AT BERGSONN. I GAVE HIM NO QUARTERS!

IN A MOMENT, BERGSONN LAY DEAD ON THE FLOOR BEFORE ME. SURELY THE KING WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR ONE DEVOTED MAN, WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS SOVEREIGN. NOW WHEN I FORCED OPEN THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH DETICHARD HAD JUST GONE.

THE DOCTOR DETICHARD HAD KILLED HIM.



IT'S COUSIN RUDOLF!  
I'LL TRY TO HELP  
YOU, COUSIN!

DRIVE THE  
CHAIR AGAINST  
HIS LEGS!



HE FOUGHT SILENTLY DESPERATELY! THE KING APPROACHED FREELY WITH HIS CHAIR. DETACHED TURNED SUDDENLY AND DEALT HIM A SHARP BLOW AS THE KING FELL... I CLOSED IN...



NOW TO SEE IF  
THE KING IS  
DEAD OR ALIVE!



THE KING STILL LIVED BUT SEEMED VERY NEAR DEATH. THE SOUND OF THE DRAWING ROOM DOOR DOWN HALL HE REALIZE THAT THERE STILL WERE OTHER PRISONERS TO CONSIDER! I DARED NOT STOP THEM TO REPORT TO THE KING...

I MUST LEAVE  
YOU NOW, YOUR  
MAJESTY, BUT  
I SHALL RETURN  
VERY SOON.



FIRST I BOUND  
UP MY  
WOUND WITH  
A HANDKERCHIEF  
AS I ENTERED  
THE OUTER  
ROOM, I SAW  
ON THE  
MANTLE SHELF  
TWO PISTOLS  
WHICH BERTRAND  
AND DETCHARD  
HAD BEEN  
UNABLE TO  
RETRIEVE  
WHEN MY  
ENTRANCE  
TOOK THEM  
BY SURPRISE.  
I SEIZED  
THEM...



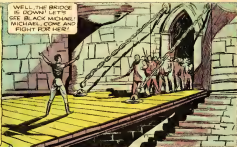
WHEN I  
DASHED  
UPSTAIRS  
TO THE  
VESTIBULE,  
AS I WENT,  
I HEARD  
THE CLOCK  
STRIKE 3'30.  
WHAT HAD  
HAPPENED  
TO MY  
MEN? HAD  
THEY  
THE DOOR  
TO THE  
CHATEAU  
BEEN  
OPENED  
FOR THEM?  
HAD THEY  
SEARCHED  
AND NOT  
FOUND  
ME?





THESE AND MANY OTHER DOUBTS AND FEARS, WERE CROWDING MY MIND WHEN I HEARD A LAUGH, AN EASY, SCORNFUL, DEFIANT LAUGH! I RAN TO THE DOORWAY AND LOOKED OUT. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BRIDGE STOOD HENTZAU!

WELL, THE BRIDGE IS DOWN! LET'S SEE BLACK MICHAEL! MICHAEL... COME AND FIGHT FOR HER!



DEAD? HA! I STRUCK BETTER THAN I KNEW! DOWN WITH YOUR WEAPONS, THERE! IN YOUR MASTER'S, NOW!

HE'D DEAD! GOOD HEAVENS! BLACK MICHAEL IS DEAD!



SUDDENLY THE GROUP OF RETAINERS SEPARATED AND ANTONETTE DE MAURAY APPEARED WITH A REVOLVER IN HAND SHE FIRED, BUT WILDLY.

FAITH, MADAME, HAD YOUR EYES BEEN NO MORE DEADLY THAN YOUR AIM, DUKE MICHAEL WOULD NOT BE DEAD!



SHE SAID NO NEED TO HIM, VERY DELIBERATELY, SHE BEGAN TO RAISE HER ARM AGAIN, TAKING MOST CAREFUL AIM, BUT BEFORE ANTONETTE COULD STOP HIM, HE LEAPED LIGHTLY INTO THE MOAT.





THEN MY HEART LEAPT UP! I HEARD SART'S VOICE. MY MEN HAD COME, AND I KNEW THE KING NEEDED ME NO MORE.



HENTZALI LOOKED OVER HIS SHOULDER BUT KEPT ON SWIMMING, SEEKING A WAY TO GET OUT OF THE MOAT. SUDDENLY HE CAME UPON MY ROPE HANGING FROM THE WALL...



**I** HAD HOPED TO LURE HENTZAU INTO MY CLUTCHES, BUT JUST AS I REACHED THE BANK, THE GREAT BELL OF THE CASTLE BEGAN TO RING FEROCIOUSLY AND LOUD SHOUTS REACHED US FROM THE DISTANCE...

WAIT, HENTZAU! WAIT!

I'D LIKE TO, BUT THOSE BELLS MEAN SOMETHING! AND IT WOULD BE TOO HOT!



**A** MOMENT LATER ALBERT TURNED TO THE RIGHT AND WAS LOST FROM MY SIGHT. DAY WAS DAWNING AS THE CLOCK STRUCK THREE. EXHAUSTED, I SANK TO THE GROUND.



**I**N A MOMENT I AROSE, FOR A SCREAM CAME THROUGH THE FOREST. A WOMAN'S SCREAM! SUTTING FORTH THE LAST OF MY STRENGTH, I RAN TO THE PLACE WHERE ALBERT HAD TURNED OFF...



**I** SAW HENTZAU SOME DISTANCE AWAY, LEITING A GIRL DOWN FROM HER HORSE...

LEAVE ME ALONE! YOU CAN'T HAVE MY HORSE! HELP!



**T**HEN HE JUMPED ON THE HORSE...

HERE ARE SOME COINS TO PAY YOU!



**T**HEN HE CAME RIDING SLOWLY TOWARD ME...

NOW THAT I'VE GOT A HORSE FOR A GIBBONNY, I CAN LISTEN TO YOU. SEE, WHAT DID YOU DO AT THE CASTLE?

I FOUND THE KING AND SPY! THAT HE LIVES. ALSO, I KILLED THREE OF YOUR FRIENDS. BUT I SPARED YOUR LIFE, HENTZAU! WHY I'LL NEVER KNOW. BUT I WAS BEHIND YOU ON THE BRIDGE WITH A PISTOL IN MY HAND!



I WAS BETWEEN TWO FIRES, ALL RIGHT! BUT TELL ME, NOW YOU DECIDED TO TAKE UP MY PARTNER'S OFFER ABOUT SPLITTING THE KINGDOM?



BY THE VERY DANCE OF MY STRENGTH, I RUSHED AT HENRIAU!

NO, COMPLAINING YOU! I WON'T BE PART OF YOUR SCHEME! GET OFF YOUR HORSE AND FIGHT LIKE!

BEFORE A LADY? YES, YOUR MAJESTY!



THE MADDENLY ENOUGH BY MY FEET, I STRUCK AT HIM AGAIN AND AGAIN, HE REARED AND THROST AT ME, I FELL BACK A FEET, BUT THIS TIME, I REACHED HIS FACE AND LAD HIS EYEBROW ONLY, AND STARTED BACK BEFORE HE COULD STRIKE ME. I SAKE ON MY KNEE, EXPECTING HIM TO KICK AT ME, BUT AT THAT MOMENT...

PRITE! YOU'VE COME JUST IN TIME!

AJ, BRIVON, BUDOLF (SHAKENOFF)!!

PRITE, IS THE KING ALIVE?

YES, THANKS TO THE MOST BRILLANT GENTLEMAN WHO EVER LIVED, NOW YOU MUST GOAT, AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED!



FOR WHAT PRITE TOLD ME AND WHAT I LATER LEARNED THIS IS WHY I WARRIED... BECAUSE OF JOHANN GOING TO THE DEFENSE OF BLACK MICHAEL, HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO OPEN THE CHATEAU DOOR AT THE AGREED TIME, WHEN GART HAD FINALLY GAINED ENTRANCE TO THE CHATEAU AND FOUND BLACK MICHAEL DEAD, HE IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED TO CARRY OUT OUR PLANS, HAVING SEEN GARDINETTE AND JOHANN TO SEEDRICK, MEANTHILE, FLAVA HAD REQUESTED THAT MARSHAL BRANDEGE BRING HER TO ZENDA CASTLE WHERE, AS SHE HAD TOLD, THE KING LAY WOUNDED.



BY THE ROAD OUTSIDE ZENDA CASTLE, THE PARTY WAS ACCOSTED BY THE PEASANT GIRL, WHO SEEMEDLY HOPED TO REEARN SOME REWARD FOR THE SURE OF HER HORSE BY INFORMING TO FLAVA IMPORTANT INFORMATION...

THE KING IS YONDER, MAY I TAKE YOU TO HIM?

NONSENSE, CHILD, THE KING LIES WOUNDED IN THE CASTLE!

IS HE IN TWO PLACES, OR ARE THERE TWO KINGS? HOW SHOULD HE BE HERE?





HE PURSUED A GENTLEMAN AND THEY FOUGHT UNTIL COUNT PRITZ CAME! THE OTHER GENTLEMAN TOOK MY FATHER'S HORSE AND RODE AWAY! WHY, MADAME... IS THERE ANOTHER GENTLEMAN IN BURTONIA LIKE THE KING?

NO, MY CHILD, I'LL GO AND SEE THE GENTLEMAN.



THIS GIRL SAYS THE KING IS NOT IN THE CASTLE, COLONEL SAFT, BUT YONDER WITH COUNT PRITZ! I'M GOING TO SEE HIM!

BUT... BUT...



WAIT, WAIT, FLAVIA! THIS IS NOT THE KING.



LOOK AT ME, RUDOLF! LOOK AT US! TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS!

IT MEANS... SOO FORGIVE ME, MADAME! I AM NOT THE KING.



I FELT THE TREMBLORS OF HER BODY IN MY ARMS AND HEARD THE CRY OF HER MISERY. THEN SUDDENLY HER FACE WAS CALM IN A INSTANT AND TENDERLY I PRESSED MY LIPS ON HERS...



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, I WENT TO SAY FAREWELL TO THE KING...

COULD RUDOLPH, THEY TELL ME I MUST NOT TAKE YOU TO STEELGALL... THAT THE SECRET MUST BE KEPT. WHEN THE PEOPLE SEE ME AGAIN, I HOPE THEY FIND ME THE KING OF BULGER YOU HAVE BEEN.

IF I HAVE SERVED YOU, SIR, I AM GLAD.

AFTER I'D LEFT THE KING, ERIC LED ME TO FLORA'S APARTMENTS, TELLING ME THAT SHE HAD WAITED FOR ME.

WHEN I CAUGHT HER IN MY ARMS AND PRAYED HER TO COME WITH ME, AFTER A WHILE SHE SAID.....

FLORA! I DID NOT LIE! I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL! BUT GOD FORGIVE ME THE WRONG I'VE DONE YOU!

IT WAS A DUTY FORCED ON YOU! IT WOULD HAVE MADE NO DIFFERENCE IF I'D KNOWN! IT WAS ALWAYS YOU! NEVER THE KING!

YOU HOLD MY HEART IN THE HOLLOW OF YOUR HAND, BUT IS LOVE THE ONLY THING THAT HONOR BRINGS A WOMAN, TOO BLOOD? MY HONOR, LIFE IN BEING TRUE TO MY COUNTRY. I DON'T KNOW WHY GOD HAS LET ME LOVE YOU, BUT I KNOW THAT I MUST STAY!



THEY OUR LIFE BUT IN A FAREWELL KISS, AND THE ECSTASY OF THAT KISS WE WOULD EACH HOLD WITHIN OUR HEARTS FOR EVER AND EVER.



ER  
The prince has gone by now and I love for that the best way my annual waiting over truly in passion. There I give a new rose to take to my father's palace... it now first give to my lips and from they they pressed close to the lips of Flora.  
And with my heart he gives me another I give to that for my thinking all the way that speak in each others hearts to be as one in each others heart!

THE END

I LEFT AS I HAD COME, WITHOUT FAIRFAX, YET KNOWING SO MUCH OF ME WAS LEFT BEHIND IN BERKSHIRE, THAT I FELT THAT IT WAS BUT AN EMPTY SHELL, SAYING.....

GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS.

GOD BLESS YOU, LORD! YOU ARE WORTHY OF THE CROWN AND ALL IT MEANS— THAT YOU CANNOT BEAR!



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## ANTHONY HOPE

THE swashbuckling tale of romance and high adventure, *Prisoner of Zenda*, was the product of the imagination of a young Englishman, whose full name was Anthony Hope Hawkins. The novel took the country—and the world—by storm in 1894, when it was first published, and has since then become a classic in adventure fiction.

From the swift pace and highly imaginary nature of the novel, one would not attribute its origin to a member of the Middle Temple, part of England's court system. Yet for a period of seven years, from 1877, until the publication of *Prisoner of Zenda*, Anthony Hope Hawkins was just that, one of England's practicing lawyers.

It is not too difficult to visualize the young lawyer, by day pouring over ponderous and dusty volumes of legal cases, or searching for some technical truth in voluminous tomes, and by night giving his richly imaginative mind full play in creating such romantic characters as Rudolf Rassendyll, Black Michael, beautiful Princess Flavia and the arrogant Rupert of Hentzau.

Be that as it may, *Prisoner of Zenda* set a pattern for romantic fiction of the day, a pattern so pronounced as to be called "Ruritanian romance" after the imaginary country, Ruritania, where the setting of the novel was placed.

The story of Anthony Hope Hawkins is not unfamiliar to those who have studied the biographies of famous men and women, for it is that quality of being able to envision new worlds out of commonplace surroundings that marks the man of imagination. Who would expect, for instance, that this child born February 9, 1863, the son of so estate a person



as the Rev. E. C. Hawkins, vicar of St. Brides, Fleet Street, London, would one day grow into a teller of such a tall tale of "magical mayhem" as *Prisoner of Zenda*?

There is, of course, a clue: the very name, Fleet Street, explains much. For Fleet Street is London's "newspaper row" and there the embryo novelist first learned the power of the printed word. But he tried valiantly to become the conservative English lawyer, such as would do credit to the son of a vicar, and conscientiously gathered his education at Marlborough, and Balliol College, Oxford, and dutifully took his place in society as would befit one of Victoria's modest subjects.

It is to his everlasting credit that at last he did follow his bent, for in giving the world *Prisoner of Zenda*, he has left the heritage of pleasure to millions, and will do so to many millions more.

Although none of his subsequent works have lived as long as his first novel, he wrote many other novels and essays, some in a lighter vein, many with a serious message. And in mentioning the foregoing, it is interesting to note here that the novel next in popularity, written by this author, was *Rupert of Hentzau*, a sequel to *Prisoner of Zenda*, published in 1898 and built around the exploits of the colorful villain of the earlier novel.

In 1918, Anthony Hope Hawkins was knighted. In 1933, on the 8th of July, he died at the age of seventy years. His was the imaginative spirit that lifted him out of the humdrum of every-day living into a world of fantasy and excitement; his was the gift that allowed others, through the written word, to share that spiritual experience with him.



FAMOUS OPERAS  
**PELLEAS AND MELISANDE**

By Claude Debussy

**W**ANDERING through a dense forest, Golaud, grandson of Arkel, King of Allemonde, becomes lost. Coming upon a spring, he sees a lovely young girl weeping. He questions her, but her answers are vague. She has dropped a golden crown into the spring and will not allow Golaud to retrieve it for her. She finally tells him her name is Melisande. As night falls, Golaud persuades Melisande to follow him to seek shelter for the night. Timidly, she goes with him.

Six months elapse. We find Golaud's mother, Genevieve, reading a letter from Golaud to Arkel, in which he tells of his marriage to Melisande. Not receiving the king's consent to his marriage, Golaud fears to return. Arkel instructs Pelléas, Golaud's brother, to place a signal light for Golaud to return. Soon after, Golaud returns with his wife to Arkel's castle.

It is summer, and in order to escape the heat, Pelléas takes Melisande to a deserted fountain of miracles. Pelléas recalls that Golaud, too, had met Melisande by a fountain. She, in the meantime, amuses herself by throwing a ring Golaud gave her into the air despite Pelléas' warnings. Just as the chimes strike twelve o'clock, the ring falls into the fountain and disappears.

Later, Golaud, who has been injured, tells Melisande that he came by his injuries in a strange way. His horse ran away just as the chimes struck twelve o'clock. Melisande bursts into tears when she hears this and says she wants to leave the castle. She is frightened and unhappy by the gloominess and the darkness that pervades the castle. Golaud, trying to console her, takes her hand and notices that the ring is missing. When he questions her about it, she tells him that she lost it in a grotto by the sea, although she lost it in the well.

Golaud angrily sends her out into the night to find it. Pelléas accompanies her, because he wants her to

be able to describe this fictitious grotto to Golaud if she must.

One evening, Pelléas sees Melisande combing her hair. He comes up to her and entwines himself in her flowing tresses. In his ecstasy, he claims that he will hold her thus forever. Golaud, coming down the path, sees the two and tells them to stop their childish play. He is suspicious and jealous of their friendship.

Finally, Golaud, overcome with jealousy, warns Pelléas to avoid seeing Melisande. He orders Pelléas to leave.

Pelléas arranges to meet Melisande at the well to say farewell. In the meantime, Arkel sees Melisande and feels pity for her. Golaud, infuriated, feels differently and grabs Melisande by her long hair and drags her across the floor. Arkel restrains him and restores peace.

At midnight, Pelléas meets Melisande at the appointed place. He tells her that he loves her. She also declares her love for him. They are overwhelmed with remorse that they must part.

In the distance, they hear the castle gates close. There is a rustling in the bushes behind them. Golaud rushes out and slays Pelléas and pursues the fleeing Melisande.

Later, in the castle, Golaud persists in questioning the ailing Melisande about her feelings for Pelléas. She declares her love for Pelléas and affirms its innocence. She does not remember that he has been slain and asks for him.

The darkness of the castle overwhelms Melisande. She asks that the windows be opened. Although the air is cold, she would like to see the sunset once again.

Silently, the serving women enter Melisande's room without having been called. Melisande dies as Arkel takes her newborn daughter from the room of death, for it must live now and take Melisande's place.





# PIONEERS OF SCIENCE ROALD AMUNDSEN

Discoverer of the South Pole

**R**OALD AMUNDSEN is best remembered as the discoverer of the South Pole. Yet, on an earlier voyage, he accomplished something that had been the goal of explorers for 400 years. In 1905, he sailed his ship, the "Gjøa" through the Northwest Passage, sought by European countries since the sixteenth century as a short route to Asia. The route is from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific by way of the Arctic Ocean along the north coast of North America. The nearest completion of a successful passage before Amundsen's journey was made by Sir John Franklin during the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, Franklin and his crew perished on the frozen wastes before they could obtain their goal.

Amundsen was born in Borge, Norway, in 1872. He was educated for the naval service, and became a second lieutenant upon graduation. Promoted to first mate of the ship "Belgica," he engaged in Antarctic explorations in 1897-1899. He brought back valuable information about Graham Land.

On June 17, 1903, as captain, Amundsen sailed from Norway in the ship, "Gjøa," with the purpose of relocating the position of the North Pole to the north of the American mainland and making a magnetic survey of the region. Although Sir James Ross, in 1831, had calculated that the fixed position of the North Pole was on the west coast of Boothia, Amundsen believed that the pole was not stationary.

Making his headquarters on the south east side of King William Land, Amundsen, by many experiments proved that the pole did not remain in one position. However, the Norwegian explorer was not successful in discovering the Pole. But, it was on this voyage that Amundsen was able to go through the Northwest Passage. His ship the "Gjøa" was the first to go from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean through this short northern route.

On August 9, 1910,



Amundsen announced his plans to discover the South Pole. He quickly got himself a rival from England, Captain Robert Scott, who also began making preparations to attempt to discover the Pole. It was now a race with time.

On the ship, "Fram," Amundsen arrived at the Bay of Whales on Jan. 14, 1911. Here he made his base. Using dogs and sleds, he drove over the ice leads and pitched his winter camp on the Great Ice Barrier. Meanwhile, the British explorer, Scott, was following his trail.

In October, 1911, with four companions, Amundsen left his camp and started his dash to the Pole which he reached on Dec. 16, 1911, about a month before Scott. Amundsen's success was due not only to his superb courage and endurance and to favorable weather conditions, but also to his clever usage of dogs and sleds.

In 1925, Amundsen made an unsuccessful attempt to fly over the North Pole in an airplane. Starting from King Bay, Spitzbergen, on May 21, he was forced down 136 miles from the pole and had to abandon the flight. But on May 13, 1926, in the dirigible "Norge," Amundsen flew over the Pole and landed at Teller, Alaska, two days later. Among the men on the dirigible was Capt. Oscar Wisting, the man who had accompanied Amundsen on his South Pole expedition. Therefore, these two men were the first to have seen both Poles.

On June 18, 1928, Amundsen and five companions flew from Tromsø, Norway, in an attempt to rescue the wrecked plane survivors of the Italian Nobile expedition. Amundsen and his crew were lost in the Arctic regions and were never seen again.

Fortunately, Amundsen left to posterity the stories of his expeditions, in the books he had

time to write between journeys. His better known works are *To the North Magnetic Pole*, *First Crossing of the Polar Sea*, *The South Pole* and *My Life as an Explorer*.



## "LADY," A BEAGLE HOUND



**I**N THEIR home at 693 Park Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, the Cleary family slept soundly on the morning of June 21, 1956. James Cleary, 6, and his sister Helen, 15, were both

dreaming of the promised family trip to Coney Island with their mother, Mrs. Catherine Cleary. It was a trip they had looked forward to with a great deal of pleasure. They had been planning it ever since the closing of school loomed, and in both sleeping children's heads were visions of Coney's famous rides, the roaring surf, and red hot frankfurters.

James dreamed that his dog, Lady, a beagle hound, accompanied him into the surf. He smiled in his sleep as the black and white hound frisked about him on the sand chasing a rubber ball. Then the six-year-old boy coughed, and coughed again, and fell into deeper, dangerous slumber as a cloud of escaping refrigerator gas entered his bedroom.

In her own room, 15-year-old Helen Cleary also dreamed pleasantly. She had gone to sleep with many plans for her summer vacation and all of those plans had contributed to a sound night's rest. But now, as the morning approached, Helen tossed and turned as though some premonition of danger entered into her subconscious mind. Then faintly, as though from far off, she heard a barking dog. Helen paid no attention to it. Many of their neighbors had dogs. The sound of the barking dog continued. Helen strove to shut out the noise and to resume her sleep. Then, somehow, she connected the barking with their own dog, Lady. Helen listened. She opened her eyes. She listened again. It was Lady! Helen tried to get out of bed.

She found it an effort. Helen felt dizzy as she reached for the support of the chair near her bed, and stumbled! The room seemed to swirl about her. She felt unaccountably weak — helpless! There was a strange odor

in the room—gas! Helen's thoughts went back to the evening before. At that time, she recalled there had been some trouble with the refrigerator. Would this overpowering gas be from the refrigerator? It didn't seem possible to her. Helen tried to shriek a warning to her mother who was sleeping in the next room. The sounds refused to leave her throat. Only the barking of Lady disturbed the quiet of the Cleary household. Frantically, Helen sought to make her way to her mother's room. She felt herself growing weaker. She tried to hurry and stumbled. She stumbled again and reached for the bedroom wall to steady herself—and collapsed! The last sound Helen heard before lapsing into unconsciousness was Lady's barking.

In her own room, Mrs. Cleary awakened suddenly at the sound of her daughter's falling body thudding against the bedroom floor. Quickly, Mrs. Cleary jumped from bed and made her way to her daughter's room. The odor of escaping gas struck her and she hastily opened the windows of the apartment. In the kitchen, the dog continued barking until reassured by his mistress. Next Mrs. Cleary telephoned the Clymer Avenue police station. In a matter of minutes, a siren sounded the arrival of a police emergency crew. Both children, Helen and James, were given oxygen on the spot and then removed to Brooklyn's Cumberland Hospital where they made a rapid and complete recovery.

In the apartment on Park Avenue, the black-and-white beagle hound, Lady, soon found herself the idol of the neighborhood as Mrs. Cleary told of the dog's part in the rescue. In fact, Lady found herself a celebrity as newspaper photographers arrived from the big town's biggest newspapers and front-paged this intelligent, heroic dog, Lady, a beagle hound. As for that trip to Coney that the kids

were dreaming about — well, that took place too. And as for the refrigerator that leaked the gas and caused all the trouble — well, that's been fixed too. And all's well in the Cleary household again.



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