

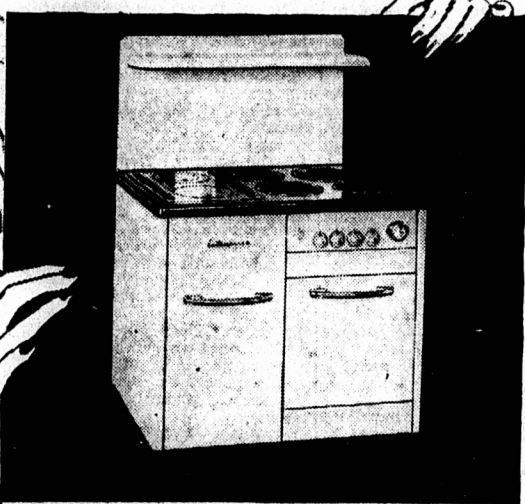
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Slow Boat From Marseilles

By Michael Hastings continued VANVA

Dautry emerged from the distant shadows, carrying two leather grips. Behind him was Jim Crow, people came into view. Oliver recognized Dr. Prinz. There were three others, Dr. Rutter, of course, and the two special passengers about whom Lacoste had tried to pump him during the day.

"Surely Dr. Prinz told you—as no engaged you," Lacoste had said. Oliver felt that some gesture was required, so he hurried from the deck and went down to the gangway standing aside as the negro and Dautry came up it. They set down their loads quickly.

"There are more to bring, huh," Jim Crow explained, and the French youth nodded his head in confirmation.

"Right, Don't be too long," said Oliver. They hurried away. Oliver went down the gangway to receive the little party. Dr. Prinz left the others and hurried towards him.

"Everything in order, Mr. Oliver?" he asked. His voice was quieter than usual.

"Everything, doctor." "Where is the captain?" "On the bridge. I didn't think it necessary to disturb him."

"Quiet correct," said Prinz. He had a small case in his hand and he hurried up the gangway with it. Oliver was left to face the others. There were, he saw two men and a girl. The first, he guessed immediately, was Dr. Rutter. He wore a long, heavy coat and a scarf. His dark homburg hat was pulled low. Very little of his face could be seen apart from a trim black beard and the tinted glasses which he was wearing. He came up to Oliver and said: "What became of Dr. Prinz? I missed him."

"He went on board—doctor." "Good." He turned away, and then stopped. Slowly, he looked back at Oliver. "We have not met before," he said thoughtfully. "And yet you seem to know that I am Doctor Rutter. How is that? Has somebody described me to you?"

"No, doctor. I'm—well, I just guessed."

For a moment Rutter stared at him. Then he nodded his head. "I see," he said. "Of course. And what is your name?"

"And are you the new first mate?" "John Oliver, doctor."

"And are you the new first mate?" "That is correct, doctor."

Rutter nodded his head again. "You seem to have everything ready for us," he said.

"Everything is ready, doctor." "Excellent." Rutter continued on his way. Apart from glancing back and saying: "You all right, Milany?" he seemed very little concerned about the two passengers.

"Quiet all right Dr. Rutter," said the man thus addressed.

Oliver looked at the two passengers. The man, he could see at once, was both elderly and ailing. The girl was holding him by an arm supporting him slightly. In her free hand she had a small case. Looking at her, he had the swift impression of very clear grey eyes, of fine but delicate features. Her hat did not completely cover her dark hair.

Oliver stepped forward. "May I help you?" he offered.

Before she could say anything he had taken the absurdly light case from her hand.

"Thank you," she said.

Two words; but they were sufficient to set up a pleasurable tingling sensation within himself. He wanted to hear her speak again. And at the same instant he realized how out of keeping she was with the shabby tramp steamer and the mingled rabble of a crew. It was he felt, no place for her. However, that was not his fault.

"Perhaps I might assist the gentleman," he suggested.

"It is very kind of you," said Milany. He had the weak shaky voice of an invalid. "I fear I am rather a burden for my daughter."

"You are nothing of the sort," said the girl swiftly. To Oliver she explained. "He is recovering from an illness."

"The voyage should do him good," said Oliver. He took Milany by the arm and led him up the gangway. The girl followed. As they reached the alleyway Dr. Prinz came bustling up to them.

"There should be some other cases," he said to Oliver.

"Two of the men are bringing them, doctor. They had to make a second journey."

"I see. If you will take M. Milany and his daughter to the saloon I will check the rest of the luggage."

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

There is a remarkable creature in Anchorage, Alaska, that is half dog and half bear. Its owner, George Wagner, an Alaskan Railroad employee, says his bitch mated with a bear so "Horse", as he has named this unique offspring, is a huge shaggy fellow with the fur, face and figure of a black bear but barks like a dog.

Scientists say it is impossible for a dog and a bear to mate. But, declares Wagner, "He's half bear no matter who says it's impossible".

Strange as it may seem, sixteen persons in Canada die from T. B. every day in the year. Although this figure represents a large decrease from a few years ago it is still pretty high for a disease which, if discovered early, can almost always be cured. Chest X-rays locate T. B. germs before outward symptoms become apparent. Have one as soon as you can. Delay may endanger your own life as well as the lives of others.

Glacier ice being highly compressed, melts slower than other ice. Melting waters of a glacier seek lower levels just the same as other streams do but the Through Glacier near Hyder, Alaska, has a stream that flows one quarter of a mile through an ever deepening ice channel, plunges down a fall another hundred feet or so and then builds itself up into a new ice formation.

Squirrel-tail grass is quite common in the neighborhood of the upper Great Lakes. In the south and the west the flowers are greenish in color and each produces a prickly bristle two inches long. This weed often embeds itself in the hides of sheep and gets into their throats causing choking and death.

Ever hear of a squirrel monkey? Well, this species of monkey lives in Brazil. It resembles in general appearance and in size our common squirrel.

The Aleutian Islands have a bird population that mounts into astronomical figures. Some 240 species—some migratory and others year-round dwellers, have been observed and classified by Ornithologists working on the islands. The museum exhibit at New York is typical of the Bering Sea shore cliffs during the nesting season when literally millions of sea and shore birds come as far as the Arctic to lay their eggs and rear their young. When the sun breaks across the horizon the whole place becomes a screaming, bickering community of bird dwellers.

Loons are rarely found on land except during the nesting season, and then never far from shore. The loon is a heavy bird with short wings, cannot take flight from the ground but is very swift and agile in water. It builds its nest close to the water's edge so as to permit quick escape from its enemies. No attempt is made to hide the two eggs which every nest contains, because their brownish color blends well with the place. Solitary birds they are, usually found singly or in pairs.

The famous Strassburg Clock built into the tower of when it arrives.

"Right, doctor." They came to the saloon and as soon as he entered it Oliver looked about him with amazement. The other passengers were gathered there, seeming to have made no attempt to move. A worried-looking Lacoste was leaning against a table and scowling.

Oliver was shocked at the condition of the people who had come aboard. Seen from above they had been little different from anybody else, apart their furtive behaviour. Now, the lights of the saloon, dealt cruelly with them, revealing the full detail of their ragged clothing, their thin, under-nourished bodies. He felt queerly ashamed of his own physical condition.

Lacoste came over to him. "I can't do anything with them," he said. "They do not go to their cabins. They just stand like dumb animals."

"They'll be different later," Oliver said. "Relief can bring its own form of shock, you know."

Lacoste stared at him. It was something beyond his powers of understanding.

Oliver turned away from Lacoste to look at the girl. In the lighted saloon he was able to obtain more impressions of her. She had the bearing of a first-class passenger, a hint of self-possessed elegance. But her clothing had seen much wear. There had been painstaking repairs. Her make-up was reduced to a minimum, probably due to a measured eking out of sadly-limited supplies.

To be continued

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