

ATHLETIC COMMAND

By JOHN A. STUBART

Copyright, 1923, by John Alexander Stewart. He wrung his hands and would have wept but that the point of a dagger made him leap in the air. "That has forgotten that we are in a hurry," said Suleiman. "Go on."

straight passage. At the farther end, through a dim vista of masonry, we got a glimpse of two women, whom we had not hitherto seen, disappearing into the night with flying tresses that told of distress. "This she!" cried Baruk excitedly. Then to himself, though loud enough to be audible to all: "Glory be to heaven, she will escape! She will escape!"

There he ropes where riches so abound, my gazelle," he said, turning to Baruk. "Yes, my lord." "Take him and bring a rope," said Suleiman to a man at his side. "If you can find them, and make them best of their kind."

Baruk came creeping back again, declaring he would be missed and slain. "That shall go straight to paradise, Baruk," she replied soothingly. "I am on a little space more, and he went away again. "Now art thou going to stay?" "Not if I can help it," I blurted, almost without knowing what I said.

"It is not," she said with a little rocking motion of delight. "If there is no time to tell everything now. If thou goest take me with thee. Let them not keep me to do their will. Pollution—that is it. Thou wilt save me, and I will love thee forever. Listen. I was performing the pilgrimage, they captured the caravan and slew my father. There was one—but there is no time to tell it. It was Amood Sin that was wicked, and now I know he has been punished by the gods. A little perchance. Wert thou in it?"

"I answered in the affirmative, getting ever deeper involved in the mysteries surrounding this strange woman. "And I had thought that you were like thyself! Hush, hush!" "Baruk came again, saying he would risk his life for us no longer. "Good Baruk, thou wilt not die," said my companion. "I will turn upon one like thee. That is it. The night is cool. Thy mind will be at ease."

"I returned to my place and presently got a word with Baruk. "What is this strange thing that the Indian princess saith?" I asked, putting my mouth close to his ear, for there was need of dead secrecy. "Nay, I am not a magician," he answered, with the oily easiness of the oriental who is chary about committing himself. "Let us have no pretense of ignorance."

"My lord! I am not a magician," he answered, with the oily easiness of the oriental who is chary about committing himself. "Let us have no pretense of ignorance." "I said, feigning anger. "What do they mean?" "My lord! I am not a magician," he answered, with the oily easiness of the oriental who is chary about committing himself. "Let us have no pretense of ignorance."

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