

# AFRICA FLIGHT

By VAL GIELGUD

## "YOUR DAUGHTER IS HERE"

Sir George's brother was a man of perhaps fifty, excessively tall, inclined to baldness, round-shouldered and spectacled. He peered absently about him, as if not very sure why he had come.

"I'm sorry if I'm late, George," he said apologetically, "but Janet refused to let me come out in my old work. She's fussy about the most trifling things."

Sir George nodded, introduced Larrimore abruptly and began to unroll a map which he took from one of the drawers of his desk.

The Professor gave a hand to Larrimore, and looked at him with

inoffensively naive curiosity.

"Larrimore," he repeated, and scratched his jaw, "seem to know the name. Have I met you before?"

"Possibly in print," retorted Larrimore sardonically.

"Ah, yes," said Hubert Manson. "I think I recall an article in the 'British Medical Journal.'"

"Hardly that," grinned Larrimore. "My servant invited to meet you."

Sir George looked at the quaintly-attired pair, and all at once became oppressively the practical man of affairs.

"Suppose we get down to brass tacks," said he. "I just want to get the general scheme settled, and then hand over to you, I understand 'The Star of the East' will be ready for her trials in about ten days. By the way, I hope you like the name?"

"I'll look pretty on the headlines," said Larrimore. "But if you're not coming, Sir George, who is to be the Third Wise Man?"

"Sir George did not rise to the pleasantry.

"What trials will you need?" he asked brusquely. "Will you be ready to leave for Africa in three weeks?"

"Surely—if the machine isn't a dud."

"My company doesn't make dud machines—can't afford that sort of luxury."

"I'd like," said Larrimore, "to know the composition of the party."

"My brother Hubert here. His wife, His Secretary, Antony Sothorn. His servant. One of our pilots or your reliefs."

Larrimore turned to the Professor. "May I know your reason for making the trip?"

"I'm afraid it's Larrimore. You know I find it hard to do anything at all without her. The study of science is apt to make one a trifle oblivious of the minut details of living."

"Then why take a secretary?"

"My dear Larrimore," Sir George interrupted impatiently. "My sister-in-law wants to make this trip and when she wants anything it saves a great deal of trouble all round to let her do it."

"I just wanted to know," Larrimore pressed up the map, and jerked an expressive finger across the expanse of the Sahara.

"You realize of course that there is a considerable risk involved?"

"Risk?" repeated Hubert. "Your mean—we might come to grief?"

"We might crash," said Larrimore deliberately, "or we might come down in the middle of the desert."

"Oh quite. But that would only increase the interest from my point of view. There are considerable tracts of the Sahara which still remain completely unexplored."

To which Larrimore could only reply with a helpless shrug of the shoulders. None of his own lunacies had been as wild as this.

And suddenly he had what he described not long after as "a rush of commonsense to the head." His attitude of not caring a hoot what might happen to him was in part perfectly genuine. But it was also partly an effective pose, as Rupert Larrimore in his heart knew perfectly well. And there was a basic professional honesty in Larrimore which prevented him from sacrificing a job of work on the altar of his own vanity with great effort he pulled himself together.

"One other thing, Sir George," he said. "Who is to run this expedition?"

Sir George looked a trifle uncomfortable, and exchanged glances with Hubert Manson.

"I suppose my brother—" he began, a little lamely.

"No!" said Larrimore decisively. "I want his perfectly clear. I think the notion of the flight is mad, the motive a despicable form of advertising, and the personnel of the expedition grotesque. But I'll take it on—and bring it off—so long as it's clearly understood that I run the show. And that's final!"

Sir George frowned. Hubert Manson blinked ambiguously. "I think I should prefer the arrangement suggested by Mr. Larrimore," said the latter. "You wouldn't object to my taking photographs from the plane?"

"Bring a battery of film-cameras, if you like, Professor!"

"There was a knock at the door, and Miss Wright put her head round it's corner.

"I'm sorry to interrupt you, Sir George, but your daughter is here."

She was given no opportunity to complete the sentence by Carol Manson, who pushed past the secretary, walked straight up to her father, kissed him, and sat down on the corner of his big desk, swinging a pair of extremely pretty legs, and powdering her nose without the slightest suspicion of self-consciousness.

For the moment nobody spoke. Hubert Manson matted his hair on his shoulder. Sir George looked disapproving, and Larrimore merely irritated.

"Well," said Carol, "you all look very solemn. Am I in the way?"

Larrimore ignored her absolutely.

"I think, Sir George, that if you'll let me a preliminary check-up, I'll be on my way. I've a good deal to do in no very much time."



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Sir George scribbled the cheque. As he handed it to Larrimore, Carol put her powder-compact in her bag, and looked up.

"I think, Daddy," she said, "that I should rather like to be introduced."

(To be Continued)

## Massey-Harris Reduces Prices

**TRACTOR PRICE REDUCTIONS RANGE AS HIGH AS \$84.00**

TORONTO, November 2nd.—Today Massey-Harris Company, through its vice-President and General Manager, J. S. Duncan, announced price reductions on its line of farm equipment. "The Company is pleased to announce," states the message, "substantial list price reductions on Osters. Since statuettes sellers of Antwerp, Belgium, were ordered to clothe their 'nudes,' they advertise Venus, modestly draped, at 28 francs without chemise."

and General Farm Machinery, effective November 1st, 1938.

"The reductions are the result," says Mr. Duncan, "of a desire on the part of the Company to share with its customers the benefits of economies effected together with the savings resulting from the present slight decreases in prices of raw materials."

Reductions on Tractors range as high as \$84.00 and on Grain Binders with enclosed gears the reductions range up to \$9.75, and on the Open Gear Binder up to \$30.00.

Flows show a reduction up to \$7.00 and Grain Drills up to \$8.00 according to sizes.

In his announcement, Mr. Duncan says, "The Company is gratified to be able to make these reductions at this time," and states that from the substantial nature

of them "they will be of material benefit to the farmer who needs to replace his machinery."

"We have a very real appreciation," states Mr. Duncan, "of the difficulties which confront the farmer and are unceasing in our efforts to provide him with machinery at the very lowest possible price. More than that, our desire to make farming more profitable has led to the development of newer types of machines, such as the Power-Take-Off Mower, the One-Way Disc and the new small Power-Take-Off Reaper-Thresher Combine which reduces the cost of harvesting by from ten to fifteen cents a bushel. These, and the new lower-operating cost Tractors are an indication of the effort the Implement Industry is putting forth to make farming more profitable."

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