

CHAPTER 9 -The beasts of Tarzan

In "Chivalry or Villainy," the ninth chapter of "The Beasts of Tarzan," Jane Clayton finds herself in a precarious situation aboard the Kincaid, isolated and at the mercy of the vile Nikolai Rokoff. After being marooned on Jungle Island, her husband, Tarzan, is now nowhere to aid her. Jane, trapped on the ship, receives unwelcome visits from Rokoff, who proposes to "save" her from her "savage" husband, Tarzan, in exchange for her affections—an offer she vehemently rejects, demonstrating her unwavering loyalty to Tarzan and her moral integrity.

Rokoff, infuriated by Jane's rejection, threatens the life of their son, aiming to bend Jane to his will. However, Sven Anderssen, the Kincaid's cook, becomes an unexpected ally for Jane. Despite his limited English and seemingly simple-minded demeanor, Sven reveals a surprising depth of courage and cunning. He overhears Rokoff's threats and plans, deciding to aid Jane due to her kindness towards him, contrasted with Rokoff's cruelty.

Late one night, Sven secretly prepares to escape with Jane and her baby. Disguising his true intentions with his usual nonsensical remarks about the weather, he cleverly smuggles Jane and the child off the ship and into a small boat, guiding them away under the cover of darkness. Their destination is unknown to Jane, adding to her anxiety and fear for her child's safety despite the relief of escaping Rokoff's clutches.

Navigating through the dark, treacherous waters of the Ugambi River, they encounter the wild sounds and dangers of the jungle. Their journey leads them to a village where Sven has prearranged for their arrival. Despite the harsh living conditions and the presence of curious villagers, Jane finds a moment of peace, cherishing the baby she fought so hard to protect. Sven's unexpected heroism and the kindness from the villagers highlight themes of courage, resilience, and the unexpected forms that help can take in dire situations.

This chapter not only advances the plot by moving Jane and her child away from immediate danger but also deepens the exploration of character relationships under extreme stress. Jane's strength and determination are matched by Sven's surprising complexity and the simple yet profound humanity of the African villagers, setting the stage for the unfolding of further adventures and challenges in the wild heart of the jungle.