

THE TIGER TRAIL

by Edison Marshall



CHAPTER I.

Tampa is always quiet in mid-afternoon. It is always a tranquil time of day, and the best way to spend it is to sit and drink many cold drinks of lime and lemon.

I used to spend it that way except when out on calls. Jefferson Davis Lincoln who watches over me and answers my bells and sweeps my office and with intimate bows guides my patients to their chairs, can make as refreshing a concoction out of a little lime juice and mint and seltzer water as can be imagined.

Perhaps the story of Southland Downs should begin with that August afternoon beside Uesappa Island. Alexander Pierce and I were tarpon fishing.

When I think of Alexander Pierce it is always with a fishing-rod in his hand. He was at his best then. To see him on the street one could easily guess that he was a fisherman, but never a detective. There is no practice in the world that leaves its mark upon a man's face more clearly than fishing. Pierce had that mark. He had singularly quiet eyes—eyes that looked farther than most telescopes but yet not seemingly keen or alert. He had a lean, weather-beaten face, scribed and rescribed with lines. His hair was curiously thin—and people rather expected it to be gray. But when he removed his hat it was seen to be rather light brown and fine.

"So you go back to your work tomorrow," I said. "I'm sorry you can't stay any longer."

"Not as sorry as I am, doc," he replied. "If it's between fish and thieves, I choose fish every time. They are more gentlemanly, and require a finer art. One's daily bread, you know. But why won't you stay and fish without me?"

"Fishing for tarpon with anybody except Alexander the Great would give me no thrill at all," I told him. "I'd sooner go to my house party."

"Dancing around in a ballroom when you could be dancing around on the sea with a tarpon. By the way, where did you say you were going for this riotous week?"

"To my old manor house in the interior—Southley Downs."

"Southley?" he muttered. "His name doesn't happen to be Peter Southley, does it?"

"That happens to be his name."

"An old man—seventy-five years of age—white-haired, heavily built, about as tall as you, with a peculiar nervous twitch to his eyes?"

"That's Peter Southley. I don't know him well. I met him at my club in Tampa when he was visiting the Martins. And I can't un-

derstand about what made him ask me. I got the letter a couple of days ago and he promises fishing and shooting and golf of the best. Asked me for a full week and even seemed a trifle hectic about it—as if he wanted me very badly. I'll stay a day or two at least."

"Queer thing," he muttered. "Such a queer thing. But there doesn't seem to be any further doubt."

I was scorched by curiosity, but I knew enough not to ask questions.

"You're a sort of trustworthy quack, Long," he remarked at last. I began to be hopeful; but I knew my cue.

"Very blundering. I'm afraid, Alex."

"Of course your years are against you—only thirty-three. Yet they say that you have a cool hand with a scalpel. Steady hand means steady nerves. Steady nerves means you're to be trusted in a pinch. You handled that Wild-marsh problem pretty well, too. Tell me—have you any deep, personal regard for this man Southley?"

"Not really. I'd barely met the man. I did think he was a kindly old chap; very agreeable and with a fine taste for vintages."

"I rather thought that might describe him. Long, I want you to keep your eyes open when you are at his house. I want you to watch—all the time."

"Alexander, you are the last man in the world to ask me to do anything that is the slightest breach in loyalty between a guest and his host."

"I rather hope I am Long, yet

a detective gets remorseless. I must guard against it. In this case—well, in this case, I should say it was quite otherwise. Maybe you don't know what I mean. I'm not sure that I know myself. I have rather vague ideas—instincts. I guess you would call them that. I can't tell you what prompts them. I don't know myself. Anyway, you can be sure that I don't want you to take any position unbecoming a guest."

"Then tell me—What am I to do?"

He went on as if I hadn't questioned him. "Perhaps I'm playing a blind lead, but my instincts tell me otherwise. It is simply tips. Less than a year ago the detective agency with which I have unofficial connections would have paid me the biggest fee of my lifetime to find this same Peter H. Southley. Only his name isn't that or anything like it. It is in reality Andrew Lasson."

"You mean—that the old man is going under an alias?"

"I'll correct that a little. I don't know that his real name is Andrew Lasson. I don't know that it isn't Southley. Names don't much matter, you know. At sundry times I've been known through the West as Amos Schmidt. His real name may be Southley, and it may be Lasson or something else. All I know is for a long period of time the man who calls himself Southley was known as Andrew Lasson. I know that he landed in America forty years ago as Andrew Lasson. What his name was before that I don't know. I know that about a year ago inquiries came from a certain man in England to find at all costs Andrew Lasson. The fee was to be tremendous, most of which was to be paid a year after we found him. The man's name was Roderick—at least, that's what he told us. His signature was that of an old man. After a while his son—a big, dark, good-looking man of about thirty-five—came to see us personally. Well, we started to work. We traced just long enough to discover that Andrew Lasson had moved south from New York as Peter H. Southley—when Roderick called us off. He said he had found his party himself."

"Perhaps it was just some legal mix-up—be it an estate or something? Southley is tremendously wealthy."

"Possibly. But I did get interested. I never saw such a tireless pair of hunters as these Rodericks were. And when you're down for this week-end party I want you to keep ears and eyes wide open—and of course, lips closed."

The journey to Southley Downs is distinguished by some of the most beautiful scenery in Florida, but I didn't look at it.

The porter showed me my seat at the seashore station and it is unbelievably true that ten minutes had passed before I ever noticed the dainty little hat on a girl almost the length of the car ahead. And it is a queer thing that my first thought after noticing it was that ten minutes had been wasted. There is no accounting for the vagaries of the human mind. It wasn't that I'm the kind of man that can stand before a shop window and spend an enjoyable ten minutes gazing at creations of millinery.

There was a feeling from the first that if it should only be lifted off it would reveal a great, lovely heap of shimmering brown hair, arching a face as pretty and piquant as the eyes of man could wish to see. It was just that kind of a hat.

The train stopped at a station and a man in the opposite row of

seats from mine left the train. His chair was considerably nearer the front of the car than mine, so I slipped into it. The girl's profile was plainly visible to me now.

She wore a little tailored suit of blue, and her silet bag indicated a week-end visit with a girl friend on the shore. It was one of those pretty conceits that girls love, cut up into a hundred delectable pockets for toilet articles. I could not watch her so intently now. I pretended to gaze out of the window but the panorama slipped by me without leaving a single impression in my memory. Then, turning once more, our eyes met.

All at once I saw that her color was gone. I watched her more intently. The fatigue of the journey combined with some nervous strain that I could not understand, were having an actual, tangible effect on her physical being. I began to feel glad that I was a doctor. Her position had changed too, I had to look twice to see what she was doing.

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.)

LAZBUDDY STUDY CLUB.

On May 17 the regular meeting of the Lazbuddy Study Club was held at the home of Mrs. Raymond Treider.

Sixteen members responded to the roll call.

The subject for the day was Cleaner Homes, and surroundings as a means to better health and prevention of contagious diseases. Mrs. C. E. Merriott was on the program for "The importance of disposing of garbage."

Mrs. W. S. Menefee for "Better Habits and Diet for the School Child."

Mrs. Ed Steinbock on "Better Drainage and Disinfectants."

Then we had a general discussion on "Good Health."

We installed the new secretary and treasurer who was elected May 3.

After adjournment, an hour was spent socially, during which we gave our beloved president, Mrs. Loyal Lust, a surprise shower of miscellaneous articles which were both beautiful and useful.

The presents were presented in Boston bags and the surprise that shone of Mrs. Lust's face was so genuine that everyone felt that we had put over a most delightful surprise.

During the social hour refreshments were served to the ladies, consisting of cake in pink and white with peaches.

Many thanks to our hostess for a very pleasant afternoon.

Our next meeting will be with Mrs. George Treider on June 7, A. D. 1928.

CLUB REPORTER.

PAINFUL ACCIDENT.

Inness Cummings received a painful and serious wound on his hand while working last Saturday.

Mr. Cummings was driving his tractor on his farm east of the Syndicate Hotel, when he was in some manner thrown from his seat. In the fall his hand was caught in some manner and seriously injured.

TO RECEIVE BIDS.

The Star is authorized by the board of trustees of the Friona school that, in order to give to all who may care to do so, a chance to secure the job of transporting the pupils of the district, bids for such work will be received by the board up to and including Wednesday, June 6.

Bids for a two-year contract will be considered. Place bids in the hands of A. S. Curry, president, or F. N. Welch, secretary.

DIAMOND SPARKLES.

Perhaps the most interesting ball game to be played on the Friona diamond this season will be played Saturday afternoon, June 9, beginning promptly at 2:30 o'clock.

The game will be played by the Stylish Stouts vs the Flappers, two baseball clubs organized by members of the Friona Woman's Club. Mrs. R. H. Kinsley is captain of the Stylish Stouts and Mrs. J. C. Wilkison is captain of the Flappers.

The captains promise us one of the most interesting and the most fiercely contested game for the leading score from start to finish that ball fans of Friona have ever witnessed. The admission fee will be only 10c for children and 25c for adults. Do not forget the date—Saturday, June 9, at 2:30 p. m.

The Friona baseball club has reorganized for the season with A. E. (Slim) Taylor as manager and the boys will play their initial game this Sunday with the Bovina team on the Bovina diamond.

Manager Taylor has promised the Star a good write up of each game played during the season, which we will be glad to offer to our readers through our columns. Here's wishing the team a most successful season's playing.

CALIFORNIA PEOPLE HERE.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hart, of Laundale, California, arrived at Friona Wednesday night of last week for a visit of a few weeks with relatives.

Mr. Hart is a brother of our highly esteemed citizen, L. H. Hart, whose farm home is one and a half miles north of town and while in Texas he will also visit relatives and friends at Floydada where he owns property.

Arthur Rose of Tucumanari is in Friona this week.

"Fat" Fallwell of Hereford was in Friona on business Saturday.

Mrs. H. P. Eberling was a business visitor in Amarillo Thursday.

Mrs. Hicks, mother of Messrs. Frank and Bob Hicks, is here from San Saba visiting her sons and will remain for the summer.

R. W. Thompson of Amarillo was transacting business here Tuesday.

Mrs. J. L. Landrum and children spent Wednesday in Hereford. Miss Dorothy remained to take some treatments from a doctor there.

Nat Jones, accompanied by Misses Edith Galloway, Bonnie Curry, Nova Jones and Juanita Curry, spent Thursday in Farwell and while there the young ladies motored to Clovis where they spent the afternoon.

HAPPILY SURPRISED.

Mrs. Rushing was most happily surprised Wednesday evening when her sister, Miss Emma Carrington and her friend, Miss Terry, both of Long Beach, California, dropped in on her unannounced.

It was the first time the sisters had met in four years. The surprise was complete and Mrs. Rushing was unable to express her great joy at the meeting.

The two young ladies will go on for a few weeks visit with relatives and friends in Oklahoma and Arkansas, when they will return to Friona for a more extended visit with Mrs. Rushing.

MRS. LIVING'S ENTERTAINS.

A surprise shower was given in the home of Mrs. G. P. Livings Thursday, May 24, with Mrs. Livings and Mrs. Galloway as hostesses, honoring Mrs. Clarence Day, Mrs. Sloan Osborne and Mrs. Cayson Jones. The afternoon was very enjoyably spent in games and contests. The many gifts which they received were both beautiful and useful. Refreshments of punch and wafers were served, presided over by Misses Edith Galloway and Bonnie Curry.

B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM.

Devotional meeting.
Problems of Daily Work.
The World began with work—Thelma Weir.
Jesus and the carpenter's trade—Mabel Wimberly.
Why so many years in school?—Opal Baker.
Why strikes and the bread line?—Thermon Hobson.
Problems solved in the right way—Blanche Hobson.
Young people's problems—Roscoe Parr.

STAR THEATRE

Monday - Tuesday
June 4-5

BILLIE DOVE



Yellow Lilly



Jackman's

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STAR THEATRE

Monday and Tuesday
JUNE 4-5

BILLIE DOVE

in
"The Yellow Lilly"

Wednesday and Thursday
JUNE 6-7

"Detectives"

with
KARL DANE AND GEORGE K. ARTHUR.

Friday and Saturday
JUNE 8-9

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

in
"The Circus"

Time of Shows... 7:30-9:00 p. m.
Saturday Matinee... 2:00-3:30 p. m.

Cast of Principal Characters in This Mystery-Romance Story

Dr. Long	The Narrator
Alexander Pierce	The Detective
Josephine Southley	The Girl
Ahmad Das	A Hindu
Peter H. Southley	Host at Southley Downs
Ernest Southley	His Son
Mr. Hayward	Guest at Southley Downs
Vilas Hayward	His Son

—and THE TIGER!

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TURNER-PARR TRADING COMPANY.

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Doctors Prescriptions Carefully Compounded. Registered Pharmacist Always In Charge.

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Friona, Texas.

Our Happy Home

The new home of our Friona plant is rapidly nearing completion and will soon be ready for occupancy, where we will be pleased to greet our many friends and patrons, and from which we will be always prepared, as usual, to supply you in wholesale lots, either large or small, with any of the standard line of

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