

ON TIPTOE

By Stewart Edward White
Illustrations by Henry Jay Lee
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CHAPTER III A Prophecy

Simmins' agile mind saw the point, and he realized that if this young man were supposed to have offered his services in going for help, there would have been no earthly object in returning to the fire. He would simply have turned around and headed for Tecolote and its garage.

"Yes, sir, certainly, sir," he answered Mr. Grimstead's remark. "But, sir, although our tank is ruined, sir, it occurred to me that by filling the vacuum tank by hand every few miles we would be able to work our car to Tecolote, sir, in not over two hours. We would have to borrow from this gentleman only about two and a half gallons of gasoline. I hope I have done right, sir," ended Simmins virtuously.

He managed by his manner to convey the impression that all those details had been considered and discussed with his new companion. As a matter of fact Simmins was spinning it out as he went along.

"Quite right Simmins," Grimstead said.

But Miss Burton stirred.

"I suppose this gentleman has that much gasoline to spare," she threw in, apparently idly.

That was the weak point. Simmins did not know.

"It's too bad, but I have no gas," the stranger announced calmly.

"Well, distillate, alcohol, kerosene, whatever it is," said Grimstead a little impatiently.

"My car will run on them, at a pinch."

"Not a single drop," repeated the man; "I run on—well, electricity."

"Electricity!" cried Grimstead and Gardner in unison. Where do you—

But the technical discussion was sidetracked. The Irish terrier, who had been sitting atop the pack, reverted his gaze on Punketty-Snivvles and went into action, seized that person's ear in his mouth and deposited his burden in his master's hand.

"Come here, you old idiot, ordered his master. "This is a

dog. I know it doesn't look it; but smell of it. You see," he explained, looking up. "I am naturally of a lazy but curious disposition, so I have trained Rapsallion to bring me in anything strange he runs across in the woods as long as it isn't skunks. But he ought to know a dog when he smells it!"

"Oh, shut up!" the young man addressed him, and cuffed the atom smartly.

Never before had Punketty-Snivvles felt the hand of authority. But now Punketty-Snivvles did shut up.

"If you have quite finished punishing my dog, will you kindly return me my property?" Burton asked coldly, after a moment.

"Why, certainly," acquiesced the young man. "Do you really care for it?"

And then a queer thing happened. Burton opened her mouth, intending to squeak this upstart, but as she looked up straight into his laughing eyes something ingeniously expected in the depths of them caused her to snap:

"No, I despise it!"

"I thought you would!" responded the young man in sympathetic tones.

"Well, great is the power of fashion! Here, Simmins," he ordered, "take this nuisance away somewhere. You ought to get a real dog. Here, Rapsallion; you've got to apologize to the lady. First show her your paws are clean."

Rapsallion extended his right paw, keeping the other still rigidly elevated. Nobody could have resisted him. Burton did not.

"You darling!" she cried, dropping on her knees before him.

At this moment Grimstead's booming tones broke in.

"Young man," said he, "it's an imposition, I know; but you see how we are situated. Could you drive back to Tecolote and get us help?"

"Surely! 'I'll do anything I can," agreed the young man heartily. "My name is Davenport."

"Grimstead is mine. That's fine! Get them to send a touring car tonight; and then tomorrow we can make arrangements for repairs."

But Davenport shook his head doubtfully.

"Not tonight," he decided. "Tomorrow."

Grimstead flushed.

"It would be rather a hardship on my daughter—" he began stiffly.

Davenport laughed aloud.

"It's going to rain; and it's going to rain hard! I probably wouldn't make Tecolote, and you'd all be very wet and uncomfortable."

"Rain!" cried Gardner contemptuously.

"The wind's due north, and

has been all day," Grimstead pointed out, "and, besides, it's the dry season."

"Look at the stars! It's a heavenly night," contrituted Burton.

"Apparently that is so," smiled Davenport. "Nevertheless we are in for a storm and a very heavy one. I think it would be better for me to wait here until morning and help make you comfortable. I have a camp stove and plenty of supplies."

"I suppose," said Gardner sarcastically, "that you can tell us just when it's going to rain and how many inches we will have."

"I might," replied Davenport unexpectedly. "Wait a minute."

He stood upright and stared off into space for a couple of minutes—five minutes either way. I could not tell you exactly how many inches will fall; but it will be a very heavy and continuous downpour with high wind—a tempest. On a guess for that sort of a storm, lasting that long, five inches."

"Five inches! A cloudburst!" Gardner snorted.

"Yes, this is a bad storm," agreed Davenport seriously.

"Another thing; that tree just beyond your car, the one near the edge of the road, will be blown down, so we'd better move the car, and be careful where we pitch camp."

Gardner muttered contemptuously to himself.

"How do you claim to know these things so accurately?" demanded Burton bluntly.

"Suppose we wait, until morning and see if I do know them," smiled Davenport.

"Yes, that's a good idea," approved Grimstead drily. "And if we really are to stay here all night, suppose we see what we can do toward making ourselves comfortable."

CHAPTER IV
"Put up or Shut up!"

Davenport unleashed the camping outfit from his car and they made their way to the lower end of the meadow, where Simmins built a fire.

The shelters up, Davenport started Simmins to digging semicircular ditches around their upgrade sides. This was, he explained, to carry aside the flood waters; at which Gardner, unable to contain himself further, uttered an exclamation of impatience.

"I beg your pardon?" said Davenport.

"I said nothing," Gardner told him, "but I'd as soon say now that it would be well to drop this childish foolishness and get down to business. It's getting late."

"By childish foolishness you refer—"

"All this heavy digging and elaborate buffoonery. There's about as much chance of rain as there is of snow. You must take us for easterners or fools. We know something of the California climate!"

Davenport sauntered carelessly over to where Gardner stood. Gardner drew himself up. When within hand distance Davenport came to a halt. The men stared each other in the eye.

"You are not overly polite," remarked Davenport. "and I don't believe I like you anyway. But I'll just lay you a little bet that it does rain and that the redwood younder falls."

Gardner's face flushed at the other's tone. He made his de-

termination. (Continued to back page)



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ON TIPTOE

...ciston to teach this upstart a lesson. "I'll take you," he said suddenly, "on condition that I name the bet." "All right." "Very well, then ten thousand dollars!" Burton uttered a little cry of reproach. Grimstead, who had been listening amusedly, interposed. "That's beyond a joke, beyond all reason, Gardner," he objected. "Have some sense of proportion—" "Thank you, Mr. Grimstead, but don't bother," Davenport cut in, "I'll take that bet. I'll just get it down in writing and get you to witness it, if you will; so we'll have a little record of the transaction."

CHAPTER V On Time By the time this bet was all arranged, one good-sized storm had broken and cleared, anyway. Burton had told her father plainly that she was of age and mistress of her own fortune. Gardner had appealed to Davenport's better nature not to take advantage of an "emotional young girl."

...her head and shoulders through. The roar of the surf was now even more plainly to be heard. A warm drop splashed her forehead; another her cheek. Airs were stirring, soft as velvet. The man at the fire was not Gardner, but Davenport. The young man had on a yellow slicker and sou'wester hat. He looked up and caught her eye. "She's coming," said he cheerfully. "Listen to her!" And then Burton suddenly realized that the roar was not of the surf, but of the tempest hurling through the forest.

CHAPTER VI On Time Some time later she came to herself with a start, lighted a match and glanced at her wrist watch. One-fifteen! Fifteen minutes remained before the conclusion of this fantastic bet; and there, through a slit in the tent shone a star in its patch of heaven. A profound disappointment seized her.

...They turned together to the tent. One of the figures under the shelter stirred uneasily, some faint echoes of the turmoil penetrating his dreams. "When the wind comes before the rain Hoist your topsails up again. When rain comes before the wind, Topsails down and halliards minds!" chanted Davenport in a full voice. Overhead Burton heard a hurried patter as though many little feet scurried across the canvas; then succeeded a drumming. "Roll out! Roll out!" yelled Davenport. "Roll out and see it rain! At a thousand drops for a cent my ten thousand would be overpaid a thousand times!" (Continued Next Week)

...Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the shareholders of the First State Bank, Munday, Texas, will be held in the directors room of said bank in Munday, Texas, Tuesday, January 10, 1928, 1:30 p. m., for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year and the transaction of any other business proper to come before said meeting. E. DUVAL, Pres.

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With Kind Remembrances of 1927 And the new friends and patrons the year brought to us, we look over the year seeing much to feel thankful for. And as the New Year dawns we are looking forward in anticipation of continued pleasant relations with our old patrons and many new ones as well. HANEY GROCERY Munday, Texas

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We Welcome 1928 The New Starting Point Every New Year brings us the opportunity to "start over again"—to make new resolves. Our first resolution is that we are going to do our dead level best to serve our patrons during 1927. We thank you, kind friends, one and all, for your patronage, large and small. May the New Year crown your efforts with success and satisfaction. First State Bank MUNDAY, TEXAS

As You Thumb the Calendar Leaves of 1928 May you find each day brighter, happier and more fruitful of good. That is our wish for those who have been so loyal to us in the year just closing. To us it has been a pleasure to be in business in a city where we could deal with such a citizenry as have come our way. We have been inspired by your generous support to strive to attain the maximum in value giving and service and in addition to do our utmost to scatter sunshine along the way as we come in contact with our patrons. We ask that you accept the gratitude that we today feel in our hearts. You have enabled us to get a broader vision of our opportunity for usefulness. On each transaction during the coming year we pledge you the best that is in us. Eiland's Drug Store "If It's From Eiland's It's Right"

A New Year's Message To Our Friends Now, as the curtain is being drawn back on a new year we come with our good wishes for you. We trust that your associates, in whatever line you follow, will be agreeable and kind, that those near and dear to you will be happy and contented. And in it all and through it all may you go smiling through the year because you have been blessed with all manner of good things. First National Bank MUNDAY, TEXAS

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