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The chapter opens with Ruth and Phil rejoining their companions after the rescue of the girl from the lions' pit. The party seeks refuge in a large straw hut surrounded by a wall of straw. Phil, however, is indignant at the action of the Indians, and determines to steal from the place of safety to the beach to secure aid from the White Rider's yacht. After he has been gone for some time, Julia Wells decides upon a plan and confides with her allies. Leaving the hut, she seeks Brown Panther and tells him that she will see that Ruth is left a captive if he will permit the rest of the party to go free. The Indian chief consents and Julia returns to the hut to tell the news to her friends.

Ruth, meanwhile, has fallen into a tired sleep, and, before leaving the girl to her fate, Julia manages to steal the Wampum Belt from her. The party encounter the Indians outside the walls, but seeing that Ruth is not among them, Brown Panther permits them all to pass. Calling his Indians together, Brown Panther tells them that their moment of vengeance has come. He fits a flaming arrow to his bow and shoots it in the direction of the hut. Another arrow is sent and then another. Ruth is soon awakened by the thick volumes of smoke, stumbling about the hut, she attempts to escape, but all the ways are blocked by smoke and flames. She then falls against a pole in the middle of the hut, and finding it upon it, climbs up to the opening in the roof, with smoke swirling round her on all sides.

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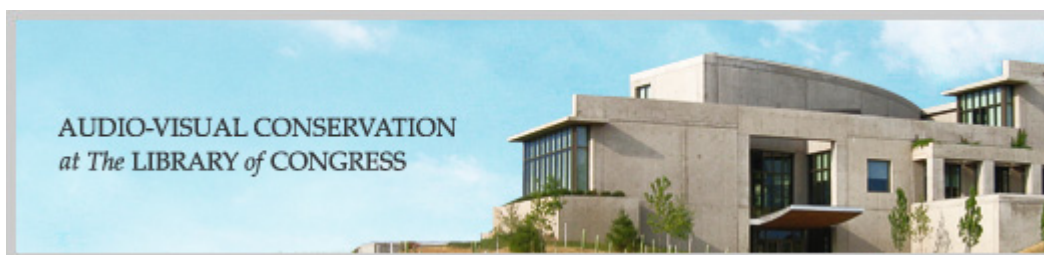
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