

# The BLACK LILY

By **CORA BALL MOTEN**  
Nationally Known  
Serial Writer

## A Story of Romance and Daring, Laid in the Intrigue of a Strange South American Cult

### Dolores is Frightened as She Watches the Fearsome Tribal Ritual

#### WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

John Northington, young Howard graduate and athlete, helping his millionaire South American class-mate, Ramon Montez, to save his fiancée from the clutches of THE PRIESTS OF THE BLACK LILY, is wounded by a poison arrow. DOLORES MONTEZ, Ramon's fiancée, trying to warn him of a trap set by the priests, has escaped clad only in an altar cloth. She is in time to suck the wound free of poison.

With Northington she makes her way to within a short distance of the camp where Ramon is waiting only to find him being put to the torture by his subjects. She and Northington find a pirogue, and after he has slain the guard and taken his accoutrements they embark.

Seeing a man peering from the underbrush as they are about to get away, Northington is startled into an attack, as the man rushes into the water past a crocodile and grasps the side of the pirogue. The man is Ramon. Although Northington strikes before he is aware of Ramon's identity, he only wounds him.

He floats in the pirogue on down stream to a spot where he sees a guard hidden. By a ruse he slays him, and, to hide the trail, takes the body into the boat where he faints from exhaustion.

#### INSTALLMENT IV

With a little gasping cry Dolores sprang to the fallen man's side. Ramon, with quick presence of mind instantly retrieved the fallen paddle as it bumped uncertainly against the pirogue in the waves set up by its own force as it fell.

He leaned across the stiffened body of the grey-clad captive to reach the paddle. As he straightened up he noted that a bloody froth had gathered on his lips. Ramon's own tightened and a look of relief dawned in his eyes. "Is he"—? The relief changed to anxiety. He looked toward the place where Dolores leant

finer of the crowded pirogue made the transfer an awkward maneuver.

"Just a minute, Querida, mia, this"—Ramon pointed to the still figure of the guard—"the poison arrow found its mark. We must get rid of this. But we must leave no traces. The call will bring them in our direction but—he had not time to tell them the exact spot. I was too quick for that.

"They will wonder why the answer did not come to that last question of the drums. They will know that only death or gagging hands could stop it. They will search, until they find but there is always the 'black death.'" He pointed to a black snout floating near the surface like an old log.

#### The "Black Death"

Dolores, pillowing John's head on a

to the water without looking—"is useless if we leave things as they are."

A gleam of indomitable courage sprang into the eyes of Dolores. "I can do anything for you, caro mio," she whispered. Seizing the heavy paddle in her hands she set to work and although every movement sent waves of pain shooting through her wounded arm she closed her lips grimly and bent to the task.

Back at the spot where Northington had dragged the scratching, screaming guard into the boat. Ramon by almost herculean efforts clambered out onto the point of land. At his request, Dolores handed him the single dirty sandal that he had taken from the foot of the slain pursuer.

He carried it up the torn and muddy path to the spot where the great black head had lain half submerged in the slimy mud. Here he very deliberately lay down and with much turning of his body and thrashing of his good arm and both legs created the semblance of a frantic battlefield. Then dragging himself painfully in a prone, half crawling position along the way of the prints left by the saurian creature, he came to the edge of the infested water.

At this point a grave danger threatened. Off shore, moving swiftly with the stream another sinister black body was approaching. At sight of the prone figure of the man wriggling slowly toward the shore it

## Does a Father Always Know Best?

Have you a puzzling love affair on which you need friendly advice? Write to Julia Jerome, care of this newspaper. If you wish a personal reply please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

*Julia Jerome*

By JULIA JEROME

A young grass widow of New Orleans is all full of problems this week:

Dear Mrs. Jerome:—

I am twenty-five and have been separated from my husband for two years and living with my parents.

My father is very difficult to get along with. I know he loves me but he makes life miserable for me. He objects to my going out with men, no matter how nice the man is, he even quarrels when girl friends call upon me. He wants me to have nothing to do with anyone except himself and mother.

Now, I have fallen in love with a fellow who wants to marry me and who is well fixed but I have to get a divorce first and I know my parents will make trouble. What shall I do?

WORRIED.

Have your young man to go to your father and talk to him man to man. If that doesn't bring him around then leave home.

You are much too mature in age

over, they looked up to see the pirogue with its unconscious occupant slowly drifting out to the center of the stream.

#### The Questing Call

The two wounded fugitives sent a despairing glance after the vessel as the crocodile infested water widened between them and it. As they looked, a piercing call keened high and far across the water.

Without more ado, the two shrank back and making a slight detour so as to enter the undergrowth from the nearest point, they disappeared into the deep shadows of the forest just as the cry shrilled out a second time.

A third time it sounded. Almost it seemed that it was upon them so close it vibrated through the hot air. They shrank closer together.

"The questing call!" Ramon whispered the word breathlessly.

The girl nodded. Her eyes were wide with the straining effort of listening.

Again the drum beat was heard. This time it was quickened. Menace seemed to breathe from it through the forests.

"They have found his last trail mark. It will not be long now. We must get away from this spot. The dead guard that Jack left, despoiled, has aroused their anger. God pity him if they find and take him, now. They will know that it was an outlander who dared lay hands on the sacred person of a priestly guard. Even I would not thus have awakened their unreasoning and fiendish enmity."

Ramon was gradually moving farther into the shelter of the thick afternoon darkness beneath the trees as he talked. The girl followed.

#### Almost Trapped

At the next step he tripped in a huge vine and fell with a groan on his wounded arm.

With difficulty Dolores helped him to his feet. Her own wound was throbbing and burning with feverish

Continued on Page Four

and judgment to be minding your parents. Your life depends upon your own efforts and if you don't learn to act independently of your parents now, what will happen when they die? You will be a grown-up child without either judgment or will power.

It is well to remember that fathers are human beings like others and not miniature gods whom it is blasphemous to disobey. Where their daughters' suitors are concerned fathers often manifest jealousy. The emotion is not so pure as it might seem. Psychologists tell us it is simply a disguised wish to keep the daughters' love for themselves.

A man is first of all a male and then a father. Many daughters' lives have been ruined by just such a domineering, selfish parent who would rather see his daughters take the domestic "veil" and become old maids than see them happy with other men.

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With a mighty effort he drew himself erect just as the black snout emerged.

above his friend.

"It is only a swoon." Dolores cut in, hope breathing in her softly spoken words. "Zee heat and exhaustion. Can you help me weez zee shelter for heem, Ramon, mio." She was re-adjusting the rude shelter that had shaded her and Ramon, over John Northington. The narrow con-

soft roll of fur, turned to the grim task of helping the speaker in what he was doing to the sinister thing in the bottom of the boat. His left arm dangling helplessly because of the broken bone, Ramon tugged at the body with his strong right, until he had it near the edge. Then he carefully removed one sandal and with the help of the girl lifted the body and slid it with a sickening splash into the more rapidly flowing waters.

A flash of black—a crunching, grinding sound, heard above the slashing glug-glug of the water—and the body disappeared with a jerk under the surface. Both of the two turned their heads away in a shudder of horror at the sounds and sight of a slowly reddening space of water that gradually became only an attenuated pink.

"We must make the work complete before we leave," said Ramon, scanning the point of land at his right carefully. Here—pull back, and in, to the same place where John landed. "Do you think you can?" He looked anxiously at the frail girl.

"You know with only one arm I cannot paddle. But that"—he pointed

turned inward.

Dolores saw it. She screamed. Just at the edge of the water, Ramon sensed his danger. With a mighty effort he drew himself erect just as the black snout emerged at a point almost directly in front of him.

At the same moment a shot rang out. The reptile sank slowly back into the water. Dolores, with Northington's smoking gun in her hand, was at Ramon's side helping him. When the first panic of fear was

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