

A True Story in Pictures Every Week



Next Week: Walter Hinton-Front-Page Flyer



FAR to the north of any civilization, locked in the jaws of the glaciers of the Ice Pole region, lies the mysterious, unknown island called the Smoking Land. For two bitter years Smoky Cassidy had sought in vain for a trace of it, restlessly occupied with the quest to which he had devoted his life—the search for his missing friend, the scientist Cleveland Darrell. And then for eight months, having learned where it might be found, he had journeyed over the frozen, berg-locked sea until he had reached the island where time was dead.

A strange and terrible place it was. The people dressed in the garb of sixteenth century England, and spoke the archaic tongue. But in the subterranean caverns where they lived, there was electricity, machine-power, and scientific progress advanced to an unheard-of degree.

FROM Sylvia, priestess of the nameless goddess, Smoky learns that the wise men who live in the core of the flaming mountain can tell him about Cleve Darrell. She offers to lead him there, past the Fountain of Life, which is nothing more than an open

Smoking Land

By GEORGE CHALLIS

volcanic crater. To save her from suddenly up-spurting lava, Smoky carries her beyond the portal which is forbidden to all priestesses of the goddess.

For this, Sylvia is put on trial for her life—and one of the three judges is Cleve Darrell, prematurely white-haired and with a haunting fear in his eyes and a bitten hardness on his face that Smoky does not recognize.

When Smoky explains what has happened in an effort to save the girl, Cleve Darrell rises and says:

"The verdict is clear. The law is broken. Here is the girl who broke it—and the man who aided her. To the headsman with them both!"

Cassidy, stunned and unbelieving, trembles where he stands.

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