

CHAPTER 18 -The beasts of Tarzan

In Chapter 18 of "The Beasts of Tarzan," titled "Paulvitch Plots Revenge," the narrative focuses on Alexander Paulvitch's scheming for retribution against Tarzan and Jane. Harboring a deep-seated vendetta, the Russian plots various means to thwart the couple's escape but struggles with practical execution. Paulvitch's plans are driven by a blend of impractical ideas and a thirst for vengeance that his distorted reasoning fuels, failing to recognize his role in the conflict with Tarzan. Eventually, he decides the only feasible approach is to traverse the dangerous journey to retrieve a canoe and return to confront his adversaries.

Determined, Paulvitch navigates through the jungle towards a village, aiming to secure a canoe but is met with hostility due to his past actions associated with greed and cruelty. After being chased away, he stealthily watches for an opportunity to steal a canoe, which presents itself when a local youth unsuspectingly crosses paths with him. Paulvitch coldly murders the boy, steals his canoe, and sets off towards the Kincaid.

Upon reaching the Kincaid under the cloak of night, Paulvitch plans to recruit the ship's disgruntled crew to seize control from Tarzan. He sneaks aboard and attempts to allure one of the crew members with his scheme but is met with resistance and disdain for past grievances. Faced with the threat of being handed over to Tarzan or navigating the perilous jungle alone, Paulvitch opts for the latter, after unsuccessfully trying to bribe his way out with his possessions.

Making his way to his cabin to collect his things, Paulvitch retrieves an infernal machine—a bomb designed during his time with the Nihilists—and sets it with the intention of annihilating Tarzan and his allies on the Kincaid. He conceals the device, leaves with the coerced "payment" for his freedom, and departs the ship, leaving the crew and the protagonists unaware of the imminent danger that lurks aboard.

The chapter vividly portrays Paulvitch's descent into further villainy, illustrating his cunning and desperation, setting a tense stage for an impending confrontation fueled by revenge.

