

# 6 TO KILL!

In Chapter 6 of "The Monster Men," tension escalates dramatically as multiple parties converge with their own agendas, leading to a climactic series of events on the island. The Rajah Muda Saffir, frustrated by the delays and excuses from Bududreen, decides to take matters into his own hands. He suspects Bududreen, the first mate of the Ithaca, of betraying him by seeking to keep the beautiful maiden, promised to the Rajah, for himself. To this end, Muda Saffir, along with over five hundred fierce Dyaks, lands secretly on the island, preparing to capture the girl.

Meanwhile, suspicious movements unfold as von Horn leads Virginia Maxon away from probable safety, and Bududreen signals a stealth attack by his men, motivated by greed and the prospect of holding both a valuable chest and the maiden for themselves. Their treachery aims to eliminate any resistance and claim their desires under the cloak of night.

At the same time, Number Thirteen, the creation of Professor Maxon, is tormented by his own existence and the rejection he anticipates from Virginia. He yearns for her company yet grapples with the morality of his existence and actions, particularly contemplating the murder of his creator, whom he blames for his miserable condition. This internal conflict highlights his struggle with undeveloped moral standards and his profound desires for acceptance and love.

The chapter reaches its peak as simultaneous attacks on the Professor's camp begin. Bududreen and his men aim to steal the chest, while Muda Saffir's men engage in a brutal attempt to abduct Virginia. As violence erupts, suspicions of treachery lead to chaos among the attackers. Number Thirteen, witnessing the assault and recognizing the peril to Virginia's father, intervenes. His actions, driven by a newfound sense of protection and justice rather than vengeance, demonstrate a pivotal shift in his

character. He battles the attackers, saving both Professor Maxon and Sing, showcasing his strength and determination amidst a chaotic and violent struggle.

This chapter vividly portrays the clashing motives of its characters—greed, betrayal, loyalty, and the quest for identity—against a backdrop of dark intrigue and violent confrontation. The complexity of relationships, both human and created, sets the stage for subsequent developments, leaving the reader questioning the true nature of monstrosity and humanity.

