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A SHARK IN THE SURF A PEARL BUYER IS TOSSED INTO THE SEA AS FOOD FOR IT. A Traveler Tells a Story of What He Saw One Day in the Harbor of Madras—The Dapper Young Buyer and the Rascally Parsee Merchant. A wild sea was running high in the open harbor of Madras. The sea always runs high there, and in the last two miles must always be made in surf-boats. The morning when the steaming Tigress dropped anchor and ran up her signal for the boats, great angry waves were bowling along before a fresh moonset, and even the surfboats found it hard to keep dry. Among our passengers from Ceylon for Madras was a dapper young fellow, who was as good a judge of pearls as I ever saw. He had been to Ceylon buying for an English house, and was now on his way to the Persian gulf to put to sea his stock. He was to leave us at Madras to go overland to Bombay. He knew how to buy pearls, but he did not know how to take care of them. Before he had been on board a day he had told me all about his luck in Ceylon and was a Parsee, who was forever going between Ceylon and Madras, for what purpose I could never discover, though I had met him several times. Whatever else he was I was sure that the Parsee was a great rascal, and I was surprised to find him making a most intimate friend of the fellow. Together they stepped down the ladder to enter a surfboat as we neared Madras. The young man went down first with his case of precious pearls in his hand. The Parsee was stepping in to the boat when he paused and spoke to its black captain. "I have forgotten something," he said, turning to the younger man. "I must come by another boat; I will meet you at the hotel." He gave the surfboat a push with his foot and began to climb the ladder. A sailor who was standing by me muttered: "There's a shark in the surf yonder." But instead of looking down upon the Parsee and then at the young pearl man. Of course there was a shark in the surf. There are always sharks in that surf, but to me the sailor's sentence meant something more than that. The Parsee walked behind the saloon house, stood there two or three minutes, then left the steamer by another boat. My curiosity was thoroughly aroused. Glass in hand I watched the still boats, a quarter of a mile apart, still wondering what the sailor meant by "a shark in the surf." Presently one of the great waves lifted the first surfboat, but instead of taking the usual advantage of it to dip their oars and pull I distinctly noticed the boatman sitting like a statue. The Parsee and his fellow standing in the stern, with a long oar to guide the craft, suddenly leaned upon the oar, and the boat turned, was caught broadside on the wave and the next instant was capsized. I saw the passenger, with the pearl case still in hand, plunge head first into the water. Like so many cels the black boatman wriggled about in the water till they righted their boat, then clambered over the side and began to wade. Not one of them seemed to give a thought to their passenger. The next moment a piercing shriek sounded even as far as our steamer, and to my horror I saw the young fellow's body lifted out of the water no ten feet from the surfboat. It made one whirl in the air, disclosing the head of a shark holding it across the back, then sank again. As the next boat passed the place I saw the Parsee throw something overboard that left a white spot. But he was quiet, his countenance as long as I watched it, convincing me that it was a buoy of some sort set for some purpose. A few days later we were anchored in the Hoogly river, off Calcutta. I was walking down the principal English thoroughfare when I saw the Parsee emerge from the door of a lapidary. He evidently recognized me, but he turned quickly in the opposite direction and walked away. "A shark in the surf," I muttered, and my mind began to form an idea. I inquired of the dealer if he had an assortment of pearls on hand. "How fortunate!" he exclaimed. "I was never so low this morning. Pearls are in very great demand here. I have just purchased a large lot of the finest pearls I ever saw. I purchased them very low for cash, and I cannot only give you the first choice of this magnificent collection, but a great bargain besides. They are beautiful! Yes!" "Yes," I replied, "they are beautiful, especially this one with a dot of blue upon one side. Too bad that it has the flaw." I knew then why the Parsee went down to the surfboat and spoke to the captain, but went ashore by another boat. I knew why he left the white flog in the water. I knew why he continually journeyed between Ceylon and Madras, and I knew what the sailor meant when he watched him and muttered, "There's a shark in the surf."—Atlanta Constitution. Henry IV of France was stabbed in his carriage by Ravalline just as he was preparing to carry out a scheme of conquest. A Great Saying: Aunt Dinah—Whofah you wears black, Dakun Ebony? You an not a wailer. Deacon Ebony—Is economical, honey. One brush do me fiah a hat brush, but I brush clothes brush, shoe brush and fiah brush.—New York Weekly. A Dangerous Question: Little Girl—How old are you? Miss Antique—I—er—how old do I look? Little Girl (after reflection)—Dont a hundred.—Good News.

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