

She Shot Her 25th Husband

Peter Goullart, a Shanghai businessman, stared in astonishment when he arrived at Yungking, a small town in Szechuan province, annexed from Tibet to China. Everyone was bawling in the busy main street. Groups of men gesticulated, shouted and fought. Women sored, sobbed and beat each other with sticks.

The explanation for their behaviour was that something in the local water made people so highly sensitive and irritable that Yungking was the most quarrelsome town in Szechuan.

He made other strange discoveries when he reached Tachienlu, the capital, to work for the Chinese Industrial Co-operative. Far from being subservient to her husbands, Tibetans wives there did all the commercial business.

They sold goods imported from India via Tibet to Chinese merchants, tea and other merchandise bound for Szechuan. They were merely the agents who supervised the caravans and delivered the wife's goods to women merchants in Lhasa.

Not knowing where to go or what price to ask, he usually accepted the offer from a husband. Thanks to her wealth, beauty and charm, she did a roaring trade, sometimes cornering the market in saffron or dry chrysanthemum brought from the highlands by Tibetans who would rather sell their goods a little cheaper than risk a higher price to beauty than a less attractive woman.

The girl-porters had the business fever, too. When not engaged in tea-carrying, they kept a company arriving stranger, especially one coming from the highlands. They would their goods a little cheaper than ask him if he had gold dust, a few ounces of saffron or corn to dispose of.

But this entailed no disruption of family life, Goullart explains in a remarkable account in "Princes of the Black Bone". In Lhasa the husband was hospitably entertained in all respects by a lady friend, perhaps the one entrusted with the disposal of his wife's caravan. The Tachienlu wife was usually secluded in turn by the Lhasa lady's husband who had brought her goods to sell in Tachienlu at either end, and when the children of both families visited travelling agents they reached each other in turn.

One such dealer was the rich Princess Aja Pentso belonging to a noble family. Pretty, slim and delicate, with powdered face and rouged lips, she walked through the streets on high-heeled shoes, accompanied by husband's carrying her merchandise.

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Jiffy Stoles

So luxurious! Fashion loves the stole - soft, smart, warm with dresses and separates. One stole to knit, one to crochet - both JIFFY to make in knitting worsted with large needles. Lacy, lovely gifts. Pattern 976: simple directions.

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The Dowager had a cape made of more than three thousand perfectly matched pearls, each perfectly matched in size, linked by two pure jade clasps. Her hair ornaments and shoes were encrusted with jewels, a she wore gold and jade fingernail protectors.

No collection of jewels in the world could equal hers, it was said. There were three thousand boxes of them in one room for everyday wear. Many others were kept in a safety room for special occasions. Her favourite was a pearl necklace as large as a hen's egg.

Best of all Yu loved the much finer Summer Palace, where she lived in a pavilion now a tea-house on the lake's edge. In this palace they were not permitted to laugh aloud, but in the pavilion rooms were slightly relaxed.

Normally they rose at five o'clock and at six sharp they lined up in the ante-chamber to the Dowager's bedroom - the Young Empress, the favourite, and the ladies-in-waiting. The princesses outside came only on feie days. They then went to the Dowager's bedroom - the Young Empress, the favourite, and the ladies-in-waiting.

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My favourite was a small grey monkey which I bought from a washerwoman, Carmen, during my first year in Paraguay, when I had yet to acquire the knack of handling wild animals. Monkey Carmen offered me a strange bargain and did not like me when I took it in my arms.

I put Dodo, as I had decided to call my new pet, into a box, and went about my chores. Returning an hour later, I picked him up and was badly bitten for my pains!

My indignation cries brought me to the scene. "Now," he said, "you can see how tame your dear little monkey really is."

He then told me about a dodge the natives have when they want to sell a wild animal to a foreigner. They give it cana, a potent rum made from sugar cane, and it stays doped for an hour or so. After which the animal - suffering from a hangover - reverts to its wild state, only more so.

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Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

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Writen By Monkey

With a Hangover

Many and various were the pets which I kept during my days in Paraguay. As I do not like birds or animals in cages, they always had the run of the house and garden.

My favourite was a small grey monkey which I bought from a washerwoman, Carmen, during my first year in Paraguay, when I had yet to acquire the knack of handling wild animals. Monkey Carmen offered me a strange bargain and did not like me when I took it in my arms.

I put Dodo, as I had decided to call my new pet, into a box, and went about my chores. Returning an hour later, I picked him up and was badly bitten for my pains!

My indignation cries brought me to the scene. "Now," he said, "you can see how tame your dear little monkey really is."

He then told me about a dodge the natives have when they want to sell a wild animal to a foreigner. They give it cana, a potent rum made from sugar cane, and it stays doped for an hour or so. After which the animal - suffering from a hangover - reverts to its wild state, only more so.

"You'd better get rid of it," he told me.

His suggestion merely made me more determined than ever to keep the little monkey. It took a long time and much patience to train it, but after some weeks Dodo could not bear me out of his sight, and would constantly ride on my shoulder, with his arm round my neck. He was always up to some mischief, and one of his pranks almost cost him his life.

He got into our medicine cupboard and although unable to unlock any of the bottles, managed to open a tube of laxatives and eat about half of the contents. That night he was a very miserable monkey, and nearly passed out! But he had learned his lesson and never went near the medicine cupboard again.

We lost Dodo when we left him in Paraguay while on holiday in England. The natives informed us that Dodo went into the forest one day and did not return. I very much suspected he was rescued, as a tame monkey with such amusing tricks fetched a good price in the capital, writes Joan Bottrell in "Tribes".

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Laughter Banned In The Palace

When novelist-playwright, Dombela Cusack recently toured China she met an Imperial GUARDS general's wife and lady-in-waiting to the Empress Dowager, Tsui Hsi.

In her talk with Miss Cusack, quoted in "Chinese Women Speak" she said: "The Court dazzled us with its richness and splendour. By then the Empress Dowager was in sole control. Dowager Kwang Hui (the Emperor) had been put under house-arrest in a pavilion in the Sea Palace in the women's quarters. To go to the Emperor's Palace would have brought punishment undreamed of."

The Dowager had a cape made of more than three thousand perfectly matched pearls, each perfectly matched in size, linked by two pure jade clasps. Her hair ornaments and shoes were encrusted with jewels, a she wore gold and jade fingernail protectors.

No collection of jewels in the world could equal hers, it was said. There were three thousand boxes of them in one room for everyday wear. Many others were kept in a safety room for special occasions. Her favourite was a pearl necklace as large as a hen's egg.

Best of all Yu loved the much finer Summer Palace, where she lived in a pavilion now a tea-house on the lake's edge. In this palace they were not permitted to laugh aloud, but in the pavilion rooms were slightly relaxed.

Normally they rose at five o'clock and at six sharp they lined up in the ante-chamber to the Dowager's bedroom - the Young Empress, the favourite, and the ladies-in-waiting. The princesses outside came only on feie days. They then went to the Dowager's bedroom - the Young Empress, the favourite, and the ladies-in-waiting.

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