

THE REVOLT OF THE OYSTER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649279012

The revolt of the oyster by Don Marquis

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DON MARQUIS

**THE REVOLT
OF THE OYSTER**

THE REVOLT OF
THE OYSTER

BOOKS BY DON MARQUIS

CRUISE OF THE JASPER B.
DANNY'S OWN STORY
DREAMS AND DUST
HERMIONE AND HER LITTLE GROUP OF
SERIOUS THINKERS
POEMS AND PORTRAITS
PREFACES (DECORATIONS BY TONY SARG)
SONNETS TO A RED-HAIRED LADY AND
FAMOUS LOVE AFFAIRS
THE OLD SOAK AND HAIL AND FAREWELL
THE REVOLT OF THE OYSTER

THE REVOLT OF
THE OYSTER

BY
DON MARQUIS



GARDEN CITY NEW YORK
DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY

1922



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1922

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES
AT
THE COUNTRY LIFE PRESS, GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

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THE REVOLT OF
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THE REVOLT OF THE OYSTER

"Our remote ancestor was probably arboreal."—*Eminent scientist.*

FROM his hut in the tree-top Probably Arboreal looked lazily down a broad vista, still strewn with fallen timber as the result of a whirlwind that had once played havoc in that part of the forest, toward the sea. Beyond the beach of hard white sand the water lay blue and vast and scarcely ruffled by the light morning wind. All the world and his wife were out fishing this fine day. Probably Arboreal could see dozens of people from where he crouched, splashing in the water or moving about the beach, and even hear their cries borne faintly to him on the breeze. They fished, for the most part, with their hands; and when one caught a fish it was his custom to eat it where he caught it, standing in the sea.

In Probably Arboreal's circle, one often bathed and breakfasted simultaneously; if a shark or saurian were too quick for one, one sometimes was breakfasted upon as one bathed.

In the hut next to Probably Arboreal, his neighbour, Slightly Simian, was having an argument with Mrs. Slightly, as usual. And, as usual, it concerned the